



**ASLA HP-PPN HALS Subcommittee
2020 1st Quarter Conference Call
Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 12 Noon ET**

HALS Subcommittee

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Meeting Notes

1. Old / Continuing Business

- a. Status of the Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Professional Qualification Standards

Update from John Renaud, State, Tribal, and Local, Plans & Grants Division, "There was not much activity over the holidays. The current draft of the Standards and Guidelines is undergoing an independent review. I will let you know what comes out of that review." With the long length of time and the number of folks that have reviewed the current draft of the Standards, many of whom have since retired, it was decided current draft is not legally sufficient. The NPS has brought in an independent review to help move the project along. Our feeling now is that problems are being solved regarding wordsmithing and clarity. Once the independent review is complete, the current leadership and internal NPS Subject Matter Experts will need to sign off. Once that is complete it will go to the federal register for review and comment.

- b. The Restore Our Parks Act

ASLA reports that the Restore Our Parks Act was reported out of the House Committee on Natural Resources, but ASLA still needs your help to put the bill to a floor vote, and it still needs more cosponsors in the Senate. This bill would address the \$12 billion in deferred maintenance by dedicating up to \$6.5 billion over five years and cost nothing to tax payers. Tell Congress they must support The Restore Our Parks Act so our communities may safely continue to enjoy our public lands.

<https://www.asla.org/advocate.aspx?vvsrc=%2fcampaigns%2f71231%2frespond>

<https://www.asla.org/FederalGovernmentAffairs.aspx?id=54959>

- c. Support National Parks in Your State

For the fourth straight year, the National Park Service (NPS) received over 300 million park visitors who spent \$20.2 billion and added \$40.1 billion to the national economy. This economic output benefited all 50 states and DC, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs. Unfortunately, the economic benefits to state and local economies is threatened by NPS's \$12 billion in deferred

maintenance.

Every state has been negatively impacted by this backlog, as it threatens visitor safety and their ability to get to a park, and thusly hurts state and local economies. Urge your governor to support federal efforts to fund NPS to ensure a strong state economy.

<https://www.asla.org/advocate.aspx>

- d. Chris Stevens assumed the role of Acting Chief of HALS in August. The 120-day acting role was extended another 120 days in December and will likely be extended many more times as there are no current plans to fill the position permanently. The only two staff architects assigned to HALS are term employees – one with 18 years of experience, and the other with 9. Their term positions expire this summer. Time and hope are running out to save their positions. The HALS Subcommittee will work with ASLA to draft a letter to advocate for all of these positions.

2. New Business

- a. Welcome Helen Erickson as the new HALS coordinator!!! The coordinator serves for a two-year term and may serve up to three consecutive terms. We could use more members of the HALS Subcommittee – we need two additional representatives from both the Public and Academic sectors.
- b. HALS Liaison and Documentation Updates:
 - i. There are only three Vacant Chapter HALS Liaison positions: Kansas (Prairie Gateway), Oklahoma, and Wyoming.
 - ii. Recent new HALS Liaisons include Kimball Erdman-Arkansas; Amy Hoffman CA-San Diego; Ken Horinko-Illinois; Patrice Slaven-Nebraska; Juliet Swanson-Potomac; and Rebekah Lawrence-South Carolina.
 - iii. There are only three states without any HALS documentation: Montana, North Dakota, and New Hampshire. Folks in Montana recently expressed interest into completing HALS documentation there.
- c. 2020 Documentation competitions:
 - i. 2020 HALS Challenge: *Lost or Vanishing Landscapes*
https://www.nps.gov/hdp/competitions/HALS_Challenge.html
 - ii. Charles E. Peterson Prize
<https://www.nps.gov/hdp/competitions/peterson.htm>
 - iii. Leicester B. Holland Prize
<https://www.nps.gov/hdp/competitions/holland.htm>
- d. NPS CRGIS produced a new story map that showcases the importance of HABS/HAER/HALS documentation. It is especially timely given the Australian bush fires.

The Impacts of the California Wildfires on Historic Features

<https://www.nps.gov/gis/storymaps/mapjournal/v2/index.html?appid=63017e1b4e294b889414d2081fae5c0a>

This story map follows up on one produced immediately after the fire at Notre Dame:

Why Document Historic Resources?

<https://www.nps.gov/gis/storymaps/mapjournal/v2/index.html?appid=00513adce18c4f2080ab884d827a3aa8>

NPS CRGIS also just debuted an impressive story map that highlights some of the important work undertaken by the National Park Service's Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science Directorate related to the theme: *Commemorating 400 Years of African-American Heritage*
<https://nps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=983a0d0450bf40d29e1c9a54d33dc72f>

The Harold S. Gladwin Residence (Jon B. and Lillian Lovelace Residence) HALS CA-129 is featured in the first two story maps, and The Smokey Hollow Community (HALS FL-9) is featured in the last!

- e. Reininvigorate HALS – Discuss Ideas
 - i. Wider presence in college programs / curricula;
 - ii. HALS Toolkit - best practices, consistency in message, presentations to members, share PowerPoints;
 - iii. Continuing education credit for completing HALS reports or having HALS workshops (idea championed by David Driapsa);
 - iv. Funding from ASLA chapters to HALS groups (e.g. perhaps a firm could host a few interns in their office, funded by chapter, to complete summer documentation);
 - v. Funding from local historical commissions;
 - vi. Look for small foundations to support HALS documentations;
 - vii. Grants or academic partnerships for editing HALS documentation;
 - viii. ASLA advocacy: Seek ASLA advocacy to fill HALS Chief position and the threatened term positions;
 - ix. Share success stories from HALS liaisons / start a liaisons newsletter;
 - x. Publish articles on historic landscapes in LAND and THE FIELD and LAM;
 - xi. Annual SHPO HALS newsletter to share HALS documentation Library of Congress urls, highlighted projects and exhibitions like story maps;
 - xii. Discuss HALS advocacy with potential partners TCLF, AHLP, NAPC, etc.
 - xiii. Reformat CLRs, NR nominations, EC drawings, and/or period plans to HALS. Work with students or interns. Document more with less by picking the “low hanging” fruit. Clients often want something HALS-like. Convince them to use the HALS format or include funds to reformat to HALS later. Ideal student intern project.

3. Other Business / Open Discussion

- a. There has been “deep silence” on last year’s proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act that would impact mitigation and the National Register process. Perhaps this is good news? Maybe not according to this article from TCLF:
<https://www.tclf.org/obama-presidential-centers-most-crucial-ally-donald-j-trump>
- b. Helen suggests that we have a face to face working group meeting at ASLA Miami.

4. Closing Comments – Next HALS Subcommittee Teleconference Meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 12:00 noon (EST)