The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is a Federal law passed in 1990. NAGPRA provides a process for museums and Federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items -- human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony - to lineal descendants, culturally affiliated Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

The National NAGPRA program assists the Secretary of the Interior with some of the Secretary's responsibilities under NAGPRA, and focuses on NAGPRA implementation outside of the National Park System.

Among its chief activities, National NAGPRA develops regulations and guidance for implementing NAGPRA; provides administrative and staff support for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee; assists Indian tribes, Native Alaskan villages and corporations, Native Hawaiian organizations, museums, and Federal agencies with the NAGPRA process; maintains the Native American Consultation Database (NACD) and other online databases; provides training; manages a grants program; and makes program documents and publications available on the Web.

National NAGPRA Contact Information
Mailing Address (U.S. Postal Service):
National NAGPRA Program
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW (2253)
Washington, D.C. 20240

Delivery Address (commercial delivery service):
National NAGPRA Program
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW (8th floor)
Washington, D.C. 20005

Telephone: 202-354-2201
FAX: 202-371-5197
E-mail: NAGPRA_Info@nps.gov

National NAGPRA Organizational Chart:
Secretary of the Interior
  Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
  Director, National Park Service
  Associate Director, Cultural Resources
  National NAGPRA program
National NAGPRA Program Staff:

National NAGPRA Program Manager
Sherry Hutt
202-354-1479
Sherry_Hutt@nps.gov

Program Secretary
Robin Coates
202-354-2201

National NAGPRA Program Officers
National NAGPRA program officers provide information and technical assistance in their specific areas of responsibility.

Jaime Lavallee - Federal Register notices
202-354-2204
Jaime_Lavallee@contractor.nps.gov

Tim McKeown - Regulations, Review Committee, and Federal Register notices
202-354-2206
Tim_McKeown@nps.gov

Cynthia Murdock - Databases, Federal Register notices, NACD and Tribal Contacts, and culturally unidentifiable human remains inventory
202-354-2205
Cynthia_Murdock@nps.gov

Michelle Joan Wilkinson - Grants
202-354-2203
Michelle_J_Wilkinson@contractor.nps.gov
About the Review Committee

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee was established under NAGPRA "to monitor and review the implementation of the inventory and identification process and repatriation activities." They have requested that information on compliance with the law be maintained and they make annual reports to Congress. They also hear disputes on factual matters to resolve repatriation issues between Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages and corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations. The Review Committee is an advisory body under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Questions regarding Federal agency procedural practice are addressed by the Administrative Procedures Act, 5 U.S.C. Section 501 et seq. Review Committee members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior from nominations by Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, traditional Native American religious leaders, national museum organizations, and scientific organizations. Review Committee information includes:

Membership
Announcements (including upcoming meetings)
Charter PDF or Text
Procedures
Meeting Minutes
Findings and Recommendations
Reports to the Congress

The National NAGPRA program provides administrative and staff support to the review committee on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. The Manager, National NAGPRA program, serves as the Review Committee's Designated Federal Officer.
PURPOSE: Monitor and review the implementation of the inventory and identification process and repatriation activities required under the Inventory, Summary, and Repatriation sections of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

AUTHORITY: 25 U.S.C. 3006

TERMS: 4 or 6 years.

Dr. Garrick Bailey
Professor, Department of Anthropology
University of Tulsa
600 South College
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104
telephone: (918) 631-3026
fax: (918) 631-2540
email: garrick-bailey@utulsa.edu
term expiration: November 11, 2006
nominating source(s): American Anthropological Association

Mr. Willie Jones
Vice Chairman, Lummi Indian Business Council
2616 Kwina Road
Bellingham, Washington 98226
telephone: (360) 384-2288
fax: (360) 312-0367
email: williej@lummi-nsn.gov
traditional religious leader
term expiration: May 20, 2008
nominating source(s): Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation, Washington

Mr. Colin C. Kippen
Executive Director, Native Hawaiian Education Council
3075 Kalihi Street #4
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
telephone: (808) 845-9883
fax: (808) 845-9984
email: c-kippen@hawaiian.rr.com
term expiration: August 8, 2009
nominating source(s): Concurrence of all committee members
Mr. Dan Monroe
Executive Director and Chief Executive, Peabody Essex Museum
East India Square
Salem, Massachusetts 01970
telephone: (978) 745-9500 ext. 3103
fax: (978) 741-8951
e-mail: dan_monroe@pem.org
term expiration: May 20, 2008
nominating source(s): American Association of Museums

Mr. Lee Staples
Spiritual Advisor to the Mille Lacs Band
1645 Old Highway 61 North
Hinckley, MN 55037
telephone: (320) 630-2483
fax: (320) 532-5800
traditional religious leader
term expiration: October 27, 2007
nominating source(s): Mille Lacs Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota

Dr. Vincas Steponaitis
Director, Research Laboratories of Archaeology
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27559-3120
telephone: (919) 962-3846
fax: (919) 962-1613 “to Dr. Steponaitis”
e-mail: vin@unc.edu
term expiration: May 20, 2008
nominating source(s): Society for American Archaeology

Dr. Rosita Worl
President, Sealaska Heritage Institute
One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 201
Juneau, Alaska 99801
telephone: (907) 463-4844
fax: (907) 586-9293
e-mail: rosita.worl@sealaska.com
term expiration: November 21, 2006
nominating source(s): Huna Heritage Foundation

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