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AZSITE Ad Hoc Advisory Committee July 1, 2021 3-4:45 PM Meeting Minutes Meeting Held Via Zoom

Present: Caroline Klebacha, Ian Milliken, Mark Reavis, Michael O'Hara, Steve Swanson, Reylynne Williams, Gabe McGowan, Carrie Schmidt

Not Present: Margaret Hangan, Ryan Arp, Theresa Coleman, Tina Thompson

1. Welcome

- Gabe McGowan gave the committee a general AZSITE update. There have been some changes to the backlog process. Gabe McGowan and Carrie Schmidt are now uploading past projects in bulk, and plan to catch up with associated archaeological sites at a later stage. Project batches for 2009-2012 and 2017 are uploaded. Adding projects in bulk also seems to somewhat speed up the review and ingest of site information. About 60% of the backlog has been addressed. Everything submitted under the new ARO fee structure (2018 onwards) is handled more efficiently and may already be in AZSITE, but there is a lag from submittal to AZSITE integration and the advance sites layer fills the void. Gabe requested that ASU build module in AZSITE attribute search that shows site recordings associated with projects and also advanced site points – this will be a great addition to the interface and meets one of the committees requested enhancements. Also requested are improvements to the NRHP information tab in AZSITE.

2. Status of Public AZSITE proposal

- Gabe McGowan gave the committee an update on funding of the proposed public AZSITE. AZSITE had submitted an NPS grant request, and those funds are only for the web entry model development. AZSITE hopes to secure SHPO CLG funding to modernize the member mapping application, these improvements could then be the basis of the public map. Up to \$20,000 could be awarded to be expended by Fall 2022. Dan Garcia suggested AZSITE Board might consider increasing user fees to supplement funding for development.

3. Land Ownership/Jurisdiction Data Improvement

- Gabe McGowan gave the committee an update that new ALRIS surface land ownership data layer has been added to AZSITE.
- Carrie Schmidt reported on research she conducted with Pima County assessor's office data and it's potential to provide a data source for state, county, and municipal rights-of-way that are subject to Arizona Antiquities Act regulation. Overall, Pima County's data seems compatible with AZSITE and could be used as the basis for a new AZSITE layer, but additional investigation of other counties needs to be done. In particular, Maricopa, Yuma, and Gila counties do not show right-of-way ownership information the same way that Pima County does. Also, research needs to be done to determine if agreements or fees need to be arranged with counties.
- Ian Milliken reminded the group that ownership and jurisdiction are different, even in their meanings are often conflated. Ownership is when a person or entity owns land in fee; jurisdiction involves a regulatory overlay like city or county regulation of lands owned in fee by others.

- Ian Milliken will work with committee member Ryan Arp, Gabe, and Carrie to develop a plan to develop and incorporate into AZSITE a data layer that better shows lands subject to Arizona Antiquities Act regulation, including possible data sources and development methods.
4. Adding well-known archaeological sites not already in AZSITE
 - Committee member Steve Swanson will spearhead development of a recommended best practice process to gather information on well known archaeological sites not currently in AZSITE and funnel these to the ASM ARO for review before incorporation into AZSITE.
 - Gabe McGowan is currently working on a mechanism for AZSITE users to submit data correction requests and courtesy submissions like sites missing from AZSITE on private lands could be incorporated into this tool. Education and publicizing of this tool will be necessary for adoption and use.
 5. Updating prehistoric and historic canal information in AZSITE
 - Dan Garcia gave an update on plans to revise prehistoric and historic canal information in AZSITE. Prehistoric canal information is being compiled as part of an Arizona Archaeological Council/City of Phoenix Canal Symposium scheduled for September 24th at PGM. Revised canal data may be ready for AZSITE by end of 2021, and they are working on a plan to maintain and update this data.
 - Regarding historic canal data, coordination with Bureau of Reclamation has been only preliminary. Reclamation supports revision of data but has no data or resources to contribute. Dan Garcia suggested that these data could be “retooled” to clarify the data and how they should be utilized by AZSITE users. Attempts should be taken to locate canal data outside the Phoenix Metropolitan area.
 - Ryan Arp was not present at the meeting, but his colleague Steve Swanson suggested he be involved in the new canal data sets developed for AZSITE.
 6. National Register of Historic Places eligibility information in AZSITE
 - Dan Garcia and Ian Milliken recapped a discussion with staff from SHPO and a state agency about inconsistencies and possible significant errors in AZSITE’s NRHP recommendation data. Gabe McGowan explained that the vast majority of NRHP recommendations in AZSITE come from AZSITE submissions from consultants; fewer records come from SHPO database and are linked based on site numbers. When new data are uploaded, Gabe McGowan audits the new uploads for integrity against the original data, but this has not been done for previously uploaded data. Gabe McGowan suggests that an audit of the complete data set to identify problems is possible, but someone may have to check against SHPO physical records. It’s also possible to re-do the SHPO data import for all sites, in case there were any mistakes made in the past.
 - Dan Garcia will present this to the AZSITE board for discussion and possible action.
 7. General discussion and new ideas
 - Dan Garcia said that 8/27/20 was the first meeting of this committee, and the group should consider appointing a new chair if they so choose. Also, this is a good opportunity for some members who may no longer wish to participate to step down and new members should be appointed. Committee members will think on this and discuss at next meeting.
 - Reylynne Williams stated that the meeting had several very interesting discussions, particularly regarding about land ownership and eligibility. She relayed that Tribes feel all sites are eligible, but that that Tribal opinions are left out of the AZSITE record. She stated that Larry Benally from GRIC has a strong opinion about this, and Dan Garcia suggested she invite Larry to speak at the next AZSITE board meeting.
 - Steve Swanson asked the group if there was a mechanism for multiple alternative site boundaries to exist in AZSITE. Gabe McGowan said that if there are errors in site recording, these should be submitted to him for correction. Dan Garcia warned that if these are sites with ASM site numbers that this should be coordinated with ASM ARO.

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