



ASOR Executive Committee Conference Call
Meeting
July 3, 2018

PRESENT: Susan Ackerman (President), Richard Coffman (Chair), P.E. MacAllister (Chair Emeritus), Lynn Swartz Dodd (Secretary), Heather McKee (Treasurer), Tim Harrison (Past President), Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Sharon Herbert (Vice President), Joe Seger, Andy Vaughn (non-voting), J. Edward Wright

Abbreviations used herein: NOFO: notice of funding opportunity. DOS: Department of State. SBAH: Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage. CHI (Cultural Heritage Initiative). World Monuments Fund (WMF)

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 11AM EST.
2. Discussion of Department of State Notice of Funding Opportunity (DOS NOFO) (Susan Ackerman)

There is a NOFO from DOS that would allocate \$2 million for a performance period of 24 to 48 months. The work is to evaluate and provide estimates for fifteen possible sites in the Mosul area for potential restoration projects, in two phases (Phase 1 identify and evaluate sites for potential restoration; Phase 2 engage in on the ground activities related to those sites). It is anticipated that three out of fifteen might be chosen. The NOFO specifies that sites must be associated with minority communities.

JOE SEGER ARRIVED ON THE CALL.

A discussion about a potential partnership with the World Monuments Fund (WMF) ensued.

Susan Ackerman reminded Executive Committee members that WMF Vice President, Lisa Ackerman, is a member of the ASOR Board of Trustees. We have continuing and close

contact with WMF and have done other projects with them. It would be possible to conceive of a partnership with them in various ways.

Ed Wright stated his opinion that collaborating with WMF is a way to (1) achieve an important goal (2) expand our existing expertise: combining them is a strong proposal. Our people would learn some of the WMF skills. Sharon Herbert agreed.

A discussion ensued about the possibilities of ASOR applying as a subcontractor, the lead applicant, and as a partner to WMF. Additionally, the Executive Committee discussed the different financial implications of various arrangements in terms of the participation in indirect costs and the ability to charge staff time that is committed to work on this project.

The Executive Committee discussed concerns about our membership (people on the ground) who might be targeted because of connections with ASOR, if the organization were perceived as problematic for its investment in work that might be at odds with SBAH priorities, which is currently not a clearly understood factor.

Richard Coffman made a summary of his arguments for ASOR to be a lead applicant. He recalled the old adage: Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

Sharon Herbert summarized the 3 options on table: 1 – ASOR as lead and WMF as a partner; 2 - ASOR as a partner with WMF as lead; 3- ASOR as sub to WMF.

A motion was made by Sharon Herbert that ASOR should go forward on this NOFO alone. (Ed Wright seconded.) Following discussion, none were in favor. The motion was unanimously defeated.

Another motion was made: Having said that we do not want ASOR to be the sole applicant, do we want ASOR to be an applicant in partnership with the WMF? (Susan Ackerman made the motion; Heather McKee seconded it.)

BE IT RESOLVED: ASOR shall be an applicant for the Department of State NOFO in partnership with the WMF.

Following discussion, eight voted in favor (8 YES: RC; ED; AMK, SH, HMCK, LSD, JS, PE). Two voted against the motion (2 NO: SA; TH). No abstentions. Note: P.E. McAllister's vote was added after the call when the news came that he was voting but could not be heard.

Susan Ackerman made a motion; Sharon Herbert seconded it. ASOR should be the lead applicant for this NOFO (yes or no?)

BE IT RESOLVED: ASOR should be the lead applicant for this NOFO.

Initially, there were four yes votes and five no votes. The motion was defeated. Eventually, there was a tie: five yes votes (5 - YES: RC; ED; JS; HMCK; PE); five no votes (5 - NO: SH; SA; LD; TH; AMK [before leaving call early she said “my vote is that WMF takes the lead”]). No abstentions. [Originally, Tim abstained. Votes were counted, and then Tim changed abstention to NO. Note: later, PE’s vote was added when news came that he was voting but could not be heard. In the absence of a majority, the motion failed.

3. The chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:30 EST.