

Excerpt of the:

National Park System Advisory Board Landmarks Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 8: Landmarks Committee Meeting, The Finn Forum, 2nd Floor, Ray Group International, 900 15th Street, N.W.

1:00 p.m. Call to Order and Welcome Ronald M. James, NPS Advisory Board, Chairman, Landmarks Committee National Park System Advisory Board Report J. Paul Loether, Chief, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Program, NPS National Historic Landmarks Program Report Alexandra M. Lord, Branch Chief, NHL Program, NPS, WASO

Approval of Minutes, May 24-26, 2011 Ronald M. James

Drakes Bay Historic and Archeological District, Marin County, CA

Mr. Edward Von der Porten presented the nomination. Mr. Bruce Terrell, Ms. Nora Matus (on behalf of Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey), and Mr. Guillermo Corral (on behalf of the Spanish Ministry of Culture) spoke in support of the nomination. Mr. James Goeld was present in support of the nomination.

Dr. Allan emphasized the importance of this nomination and thanked those who prepared it for their hard work.

Professor Hoyos asked about plans for protecting and interpreting the site. Mr. Von der Porten stated that Drakes Bay is within the Point Reyes National Seashore. The site is not threatened. Some interpretative material is available, but the historical element of the site has not yet been interpreted much. Mr. Loether said that the American Latino Heritage Initiative will direct more focus to the site.

Dr. Allan asked about the potential for renewed collaboration between NOAA and NPS. Mr. Von der Porten stated that such a collaboration is being discussed. Mr. Goeld added that a Memorandum of Understanding exists between the Spanish Ministry of Culture and NOAA for a cooperative Program intended to study and preserve Spanish shipwrecks in U.S. waters (such as the *San Agustin*) and U.S. ships in Spanish waters.

Dr. Stevens asked whether the *San Agustin* is in diveable waters, and whether photo documentation is possible.

Mr. Von der Porten said that it is, but the ship is located in sand and in a breeding area for great white sharks. There has not been an attempt to go into the sand to find the hull. However, there are targets such as magnetometers under the sand. Research is ongoing on the question of why the ship was wrecked. Dr. Allan added that there was a past attempt to dive below the sand, but it did not succeed in finding anything related to the wreck.

Dr. Allan moved to recommend the nomination using the standard motion:

“I move that the Landmarks Committee recommend to the National Park System Advisory Board the approval of the Drakes Bay Historic and Archeological District, Marin County, CA, with the criteria and exceptions (if any) as noted in the nomination, and that the Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the property as a National Historic Landmark.”

Dr. Seale seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend the nomination.