

Kansas Nebraska Heritage Area Partnership

Freedom of Information Act documents from request filed by Angel Cushing, April 2021 with the National Park Service, received July 2021, posted to Western Region Property Rights Coalition Facebook page: July 24-August 2, 2021.

2017 Documents

269

(765) 427-9643 (C)

From: Christopher Stein <chris_stein@nps.gov>
Date: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at 1:44 PM
To: "Engler, Mark" <mark_engler@nps.gov>
Cc: Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu>
Subject: Re: Nebraska - National Heritage Area

Thanks Mark.

Kim - please contact me any time regarding your proposal. That's what I'm here for! I look forward to speaking to you in the future.

Chris
(402) 881-1387

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 7, 2017, at 1:39 PM, Engler, Mark <mark_engler@nps.gov> wrote:

Hi Chirs:

As a follow-up to our conversation a few weeks ago, I would like to introduce you to Kim Wilson. Kim and her students at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln are exploring the idea of a National Heritage Area in Nebraska. Below is Kim's contact information (you will find her email above):

Kim L. Wilson *ASLA*
Professor of Landscape Architecture
Director, Landscape Architecture Program

College of Architecture
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
302 Architecture Hall
P.O. Box 880106
Lincoln, NE 68588

(402) 472-9230 (O)
(765) 427-9643 (C)

For Kim I am including your contact information as well. I know Kim would like to visit with you by phone.

Christopher E. Stein
Chief, Heritage Areas and Partnerships
National Park Service Midwest Region
(402) 881-1387 (PLEASE NOTE NEW CELL NUMBER)

address:

268

From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason B](#)
Subject: Fw: Nebraska - National Heritage Area
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 11:05:19 AM
Attachments: [UNL RTCA MOU NPS Signed.pdf](#)

From: Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2017 1:16 PM
To: Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>
Cc: Engler, Mark A. <Mark_Engler@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Nebraska - National Heritage Area

Chris,

Thanks for taking my call today! I enjoyed our conversation and look forward to meeting you on Thursday, August 31st.

I talked with Mark Engler and we agreed on the meeting beginning at 10:00 at the Homestead National Monument. I will reach out to invite key stakeholders. There will probably be a handful of participants.

Attached is the MOU with the RTCA. I expect this to be signed by UNL folks by next week.

The following link will take you to a PDF with the work the students produced last semester. This has been a discovery process, as you will see as you flip through the posters.

<https://unl.box.com/s/tzd4c9h5egluhc8lej0yrs1c2j08yc7x>

I will follow up with another conversation in July or early August when we know who will be attending.

Best always,
Kim

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80

From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason R](#)
Subject: Fw: An Invitation - Learn about the benefits, process and timeframe with becoming a National Heritage Area, featuring Christopher Stein, Chief of Heritage Areas and Partnerships, NPS Midwest Region
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 11:05:08 AM

From: Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 10:39 AM
To: aolson@willacather.org <aolson@willacather.org>; Jmccartny@redcloudnebraska.com <Jmccartny@redcloudnebraska.com>; Bendutton@unl.edu <Bendutton@unl.edu>; don@e2mail.org <don@e2mail.org>; Engler, Mark A. <Mark_Engler@nps.gov>; Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>; jmcpike@freedomfrontier.org <jmcpike@freedomfrontier.org>; jogle@freedomfrontier.org <jogle@freedomfrontier.org>; rmatticks@hastingsmuseum.org <rmatticks@hastingsmuseum.org>; carol@visitmccook.com <carol@visitmccook.com>; jblack@stuhmuseum.org <jblack@stuhmuseum.org>; Elizabeth Janning <elizabeth.janning@unl.edu>; Kelly Gewecke <kelly.gewecke@nebraska.gov>; (b) (6); amy@prairieloft.org <amy@prairieloft.org>; Karen Kollars <Karen.Kollars@nebraska.gov>; sharonH@SCEDD.us <sharonH@SCEDD.us>; mcederburg@mindennebraska.org <mcederburg@mindennebraska.org>; rcedc@nckcn.com <rcedc@nckcn.com>; denab@clfra.org <denab@clfra.org>; (b) (6); (b) (6); director@visithastingsnebraska.com <director@visithastingsnebraska.com>; timothy.rives@nara.gov <timothy.rives@nara.gov>; curator@orphantraindeport.org <curator@orphantraindeport.org>; (b) (6); (b) (6); director@browngrand.org <director@browngrand.org>; Kenneth (b) (6); (b) (6)

Subject: An Invitation - Learn about the benefits, process and timeframe with becoming a National Heritage Area, featuring Christopher Stein, Chief of Heritage Areas and Partnerships, NPS Midwest Region

You are invited to attend a conversation about National Heritage Area Designation. Christopher Stein, Chief of Heritage Areas and Partnerships, National Park Service Midwest Region, along with Jim Ogle, Executive Director and Julie McPike, Managing Director from the Freedom Frontier Heritage Area, Kansas will share with you the benefits, process and timeframe around becoming a National Heritage Area.

Conversation about National Heritage Area Designation
Thursday, August 31st, 10:00 – 12:00
Hosted by Homestead National Monument of America
Beatrice, NE

Please reply to this email to confirm your attendance.

81

BACKGROUND:

Many of you participated in the first year of the **University of Nebraska Rural Futures Institute Teaching and Learning Grant, Regional Cultural Heritage Tourism Initiative**. We all learned lots about cultural heritage tourism, more than 130 area heritage assets, potential visitors, and regional cultural heritage tourism is most effective with broad participation from the public and community leaders throughout the area (studio documentation: <https://unl.box.com/s/k87mikq1uw91pimduj2v7hstt4fhpk14>). Ultimately, the goal of this 15-week design studio was to discover the potential and impact a more regional approach to culture heritage tourism could have on both individual destinations/assets as well as the South-Central Nebraska and northern Kansas region.

One of the exciting **BIG IDEAS** that came out of this work was the notion of establishing a **National Heritage Area**. This idea was met with mixed reactions - from imagining the extensive amount of work associated with creating such an initiative to dreaming about the potential for attracting an ever-increasing number of and more national and international visitors. To address some of these questions, we have organized an informational session to share about the benefits of **National Heritage Area** designation.

We look forward to seeing you at the **Homestead National Monument of America, Beatrice, NE Thursday, August 31st**.

If there are others who you think might be interested in participating, please invite them by forwarding this email.

This project is a collaboration of entities including the UNL College of Architecture, Nebraska Extension, Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, Willa Cather Foundation, Red Cloud Community Foundation, City of Red Cloud, Red Cloud Chamber of Commerce, and Webster County

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137

From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason B](#)
Subject: Fw: If you have any time next Tuesday and/or Wednesday next week, please see the NHA ED agenda...
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 11:12:24 AM

From: Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2017 3:41 PM
To: Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu>
Subject: If you have any time next Tuesday and/or Wednesday next week, please see the NHA ED agenda...

....I will send you under separate cover.

Please know that you are invited to any and all of the speaker presentations. When the EDs meet separately, that will be closed meetings.

Call me at (402) 881-1387 to discuss if you'd like. On Tuesday, you can join us at 8am for the start when everyone will be introduced. You might meet an ED that you'd like to bond with?

Thanks Kim.

Chris

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 24, 2017, at 3:34 PM, Christopher Stein <chris_stein@nps.gov> wrote:

I am looking forward to meeting everyone. To become a NHA, it's proponents must produce a Feasibility Study. I believe that my time with you will be spent best if I review those criteria with you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 24, 2017, at 3:30 PM, Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu> wrote:

Looking forward to seeing you all at the conversation about National Heritage Area Designation. Christopher Stein, Chief of Heritage Areas and Partnerships, National Park Service Midwest Region, along with Jim Ogle, Executive Director and Julie McPike, Managing Director from the Freedom Frontier Heritage Area, Kansas will share with you the benefits, process and timeframe around becoming a National Heritage Area.

st

2456

Cc: "Engler, Mark" <mark_engler@nps.gov>, "rachel franklin-weekley@nps.gov" <rachel_franks@nps.gov>

Subject: Re: National Heritage Area

Kim:

1st - thanks for the elevation of status! :-)

2nd - Interesting. Thanks for the info. Ambitious but seems very doable if your Feasibility Study passes muster and the political winds are in your favor. In the end, it is all about politics (and an appropriate area of course).

Chris

On Wed, Nov 22, 2017 at 1:05 PM, Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu> wrote:

Christ,

A small working group is meeting in December to begin to develop a 'strategic plan' focused on having this NHA established by 2026, the 250 anniversary of American Independence. Ambitious but we believe doable.

Kim

Kim L. Wilson ASLA

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From: Christopher Stein <chris_stein@nps.gov>

Date: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 at 12:58 PM

To: Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu>

Cc: "Engler, Mark" <mark_engler@nps.gov>, "rachel franklin-weekley@nps.gov" <rachel_franks@nps.gov>

Subject: Re: National Heritage Area

Thank you Kim! Do you think your great project will take flight? Do you want me to place this boundary on an NHA map I'm developing that shows already established NHAs