

Final Report
Prepared for Friends of Big Bone, Inc.
by Michael J. Matts, Director
Historic Preservation & Planning, Gray & Pape, Inc.
September 9, 2008

In March 2008, an ad-hoc committee was formed to evaluate the present-day efficacy of a museum at Big Bone Lick State Park, and to identify potential alternative strategies and actions to increase public awareness of the cultural, scientific and natural resource attributes of the Big Bone Lick Valley. Contracted by the Friends of Big Bone, Inc. (FOBB), Gray & Pape, Inc. (G&P) performed a dual-role as consultant to this process, serving both as a facilitator and providing professional expertise when merited.

The ad-hoc committee conducted work sessions on March 27, 2008 and June 12, 2008. FOBB conducted a membership meeting on July 24, 2008 to share and discuss the findings of these two work sessions. Preceding the formation of the ad-hoc committee, on March 5, 2008, Michael J. Matts and Mike Striker of Gray & Pape met with Patrick Lense, FOBB President, to discuss G&P serving as a consultant to conduct a feasibility study for a museum at Big Bone Lick State Park. Due to a lack of available answers to numerous questions Matts put forward in this conversation regarding building design, location, collections, interpretation, budget, capital and operational funding, level of support from Kentucky State Parks and other such questions, it was determined that it would be wisest to take these questions to a broader group of stakeholders with relevant knowledge and/or professional expertise.

This final report was prepared to summarize the overall process and highlight key outcomes generated from the initial discussion between Matts and Lense on March 5 through the July 24 membership meeting.

March 27, 2008 – Ad-hoc Committee Work Session

Participants: Patrick Lense- President, FOBB; Pat Fox- Vice-President FOBB; Don Clare- FOBB board member; Glenn Storrs- FOBB board member & Museum Center paleontologist; Jeannine Kreinbrink- FOBB member & archeologist; Mike Striker- archeologist; Don Miller- archeologist; and Michael J. Matts- Facilitator, Gray & Pape. Invited (but not able to attend): Ken Tankersley, R.A. Davis, John Rockaway and Kevin Talbert.

Purpose of Work Session

The purpose of the work sessions was to evaluate the present-day efficacy of a museum at Big Bone Lick State Park, and to explore alternative strategies to increase public awareness of the cultural, scientific and natural resource attributes of the Big Bone Lick Valley.

Conclusions and Recommendations - March 27 Work Session

Museum Should Not Be The Present Focus – past efforts to build a museum have not been successful, ad-hoc committee members present concluded that focusing on a museum was not the most effective approach, at this time, because of unresolved issues related to capital and operational costs, funding, staffing, sustainability, lack of an interpretive plan for what would go in the museum, questions as to whether a museum was the best way to tell the stories, and stalled or failed past efforts to build a museum led all to conclude that focusing on a museum was not

the most effective approach at this time. Rather they recognized a need to step back and look at alternative strategies to increase public awareness of the cultural, scientific and natural resource attributes of the Big Bone Lick Valley.

Commitment To Further Planning For A Symposium – the participants unanimously agreed to continue a conversation about planning for a symposium, ideally in conjunction with the North American Paleontology Conference to be held at the University of Cincinnati in June 2009. The work session identified questions that need to be answered, potential partners, and initial suggestions regarding content and process that will serve the next planning effort. Everyone present agreed to at least participate in the next work session, and to again invite those who were invited to this work session, but could not attend.

What Are The Stories To Be Told at Big Bone & Related Issues (initial thoughts only)

- Development of Science and the Concept of Extinction
- What is the optimum physical experience for the visitor?
- Big Bone is more important in other parts of the world than locally
- Native Americans and Mary Ingels
- Geology, Archaeology, Paleontology, Biology
- Thomas Jefferson and history
- Salt

Symposium Specific Questions/Suggestions

- Determine name of activity – is it symposium, lyceum, workshop, etc.?
- Potential Audience & Session Participants (not in priority order):
 - National Park Service
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Convention & Visitors Bureau
 - Monticello affiliated network/interests
 - Geologists
 - Archaeologists
 - Paleontologists
 - Naturalists/biologists
 - Scientific community
 - Marketing Expertise, especially historic sites & attractions
 - Educators and students
 - Native Americans
 - Mary Ingels affiliated interests
- Combine academic conference with symposium
- Take advantage of North American Paleontology Conference at UC, June 2009

Desired Outcomes Of Symposium (or whatever name given to it)

- Awaken broader public interest and build partnerships
- Make the Big Bone Lick Valley a desired destination, a place people want to go!
- Identify content and delivery method for walking tour within the Park
- Help define and develop Outside Interpretive Center
- Better identify and define what we are trying to interpret?
- Identify and define all the stories to tell

- Identify best methods for telling the story, e.g. interpretive trail, interpretive center, web-based, podcasts, range of high-tech, low-tech options, etc.
- Generate strategic plan and actions that will create connection to place
- Identify new research needs

Interpretive Center Concept – discussed as alternative to museum

- Interpretive displays
- Zero or minimal staff
- Substantially self-operating
- Some curation, no full-time curatorial staff
- Grounds staff could operate

Friends of Big Bone Organizational Matters

- Important to continue revived educational programming
- Need to review organizational structure and by-laws
- Address capacity of organization to plan and conduct symposium

June 12, 2008 – Ad-hoc Committee Work Session

Participants: Patrick Lense, FOBB President; Pat Fox, FOBB Vice-president; Don Clare, FOBB board member; Glenn Storrs, FOBB board member; Mike Striker- archeologist, Don Miller- archeologist; Mike Crain, Facilities Director, Kentucky State Parks; Stanley Heeden, Big Bone researcher and author; and Michael J. Matts- Facilitator, Gray & Pape, Inc. . Invited (but not able to attend): Ken Tankersley, R.A. Davis, John Rockaway and Kevin Talbert.

Work Session Objectives

- ◆ Review desired outcomes identified in the March 27, 2008 work session, listed below:
 - Awaken broader public interest and build partnerships
- ◆ Make the Big Bone Lick Valley a desired destination, a place people want to go!
 - Identify content and delivery method for a walking tour
 - Help define and develop Outside Interpretive Center
 - Better identify and define what we are trying to interpret?
 - Identify and define all the stories to tell
 - Identify best methods for telling the story, e.g. interpretive trail, interpretive center, web-based, podcasts, range of high-tech, low-tech options, etc.
 - Initiate strategic plan and actions that will create connection to place
 - Identify new research needs
- ◆ Refine and finalize purpose of symposium
- ◆ Develop structure, format and process – agree on what to call it
 - How long, when and where?
 - Take advantage of North American Paleontology Conference at UC, June 2009
 - Address how to secure commitment for national and international academics and professionals to come to the symposium?
- ◆ Discuss budget for symposium and address fiscal and human capacity constraints of FOBB to implement.

Work Session Discussion

Discussions focused on how to increase public awareness of the cultural, scientific and natural resource attributes of the Big Bone Lick Valley, and how to further define and plan for a symposium (or whatever term is used). These discussions can best be summarized as falling in to three categories: 1) Public Awareness & Technology, 2) the Kentucky Parks Department and 3) Research/Public Education. The discussions are summarized below:

Public Awareness & Technology - utilization of technology was identified as a means to relatively quickly implement increased public awareness and serve as a tool to further identify and highlight the importance of Big Bone's cultural, natural and scientific attributes. Ideas and suggestions were as follows:

- Establish an electronic clearing-house for Big Bone information
- Develop an interactive web-site regarding the park and the Big Bone valley that would allow the public to access the information and to sort out the data – allow the public to engage to try and figure things out – not just spoon feed them all the material and all the answers
- Develop a wiki and provide access to hyper-media documents regarding Big Bone Lick
 - A wiki is a collection of web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content – they are often used to power community websites
 - Striker discussed an example of a hyper-media archaeology document he recently became aware of at a conference.
 - Gaining access to various archeological studies about Big Bone Lick on the public and professional levels, attaining permission of the authors, was cited as a challenge in the past, and a hurdle to clear in the future, in order to include this information (in an appropriately sensitive manner)
 - References were made to the archaeological investigations of Ken Tankersly and Jeannine Kreinbrink's hotel excavations as examples of the kinds of information to be accessed and included.
 - FOBB identified as appropriate entity to assemble a bibliography of existing research material and publications related to Big Bone.
- Continue to explore possibility of an on-line symposium
- Consider creating a pod cast to be down-loaded by those interested in Big Bone
 - Virtual tour of Big Bone Lick State Park and its trails related to pre-historical and historical significance

Kentucky Parks Department - What can FOBB realistically expect from Kentucky Parks, how can FOBB assist Kentucky Parks, what steps can be taken to enhance and strengthen the partnership between FOBB and Kentucky Parks?

- Especially tight budgets during these economic times, the condition and need for repair of facilities and trails, need for staff training in cultural, natural and scientific attributes of Big Bone, and the need for trained docents were discussed.
- Crain stated that the Kentucky Parks Department's GIS data should be available to assist with public awareness and education efforts in Big Bone.
- There was a discussion regarding the expenditure of \$2.5 million in capital resource money
 - Primary purpose is to purchase surrounding property – Kentucky Parks is not finding willing sellers to expend capital dollars, which potentially opens the door to other purposes.
 - Without any authority to reauthorize this expenditure by anyone in the room – the discussion explored whether it is worthwhile to use some of these funds to improve

- signage and the interpretive trail system, and whether it was viable to take another look at the feasibility of a museum/interpretive center.
- FOBB has initiated efforts with Big Bone Lick State Park to improve interpretive trail signage – FOBB articulated importance of Big Bone Lick State Park and Kentucky Park’s help in evaluating and possibly redoing Big Bone Park’s signage and structure of the interpretive trail system in order to more effectively tell the cultural, scientific and natural stories in the park.
 - Better promotion of Big Bones cultural, scientific and natural attributes, and a strong and on-going partnership with park management were identified as goals of the ad hoc committee and the FOBB.

Research/Public Education

- *North American Paleontology Conference (NAPC)* – University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH - July 21-26, 2009
 - Objective is to conduct a Pleistocene Era session to be developed and presented at this conference (Glenn Storrs to seek host amongst colleagues, host needs to submit proposal by September 15, 2008 deadline)
 - Possible workshop to be given during this conference that would highlight Big Bone Lick and its significant contribution to vertebrate paleontology (FOBB) – workshop could be at Big Bone site or at conference location
 - Need to identify how to attract and draw on the experts that will be, or may come to the NAPC, in order to bring national and international attention to the attributes, issues and opportunities surrounding Big Bone Lick State Park and the Big Bone Lick Valley
 - Mike Voorheis, University of Nebraska and Ted Deschler, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia were identified as potential participants
- *Society for American Archeology (SAA) Conference* - Atlanta, Georgia- April 22-29, 2009
 - Miller & Striker suggested that the SAA conference might be another vehicle through a possible presentation of paper(s) on Big Bone Lick and/or a work session.
 - Striker noted his positive experience at a recent conference where the papers were made available in advance on the web so that the conference sessions focused more on a healthy dialogue about the paper.

Conclusions/Recommendations/Next Steps – June 12 Work Session

- North American Paleontology Conference, June 21-26, 2009, University of Cincinnati - Glenn Storrs will seek to engage a colleague to serve as the host for a Pleistocene Symposia, which would be the venue to advance a dialogue focused on Big Bone.
- Case Statement Write-up – there is a need for someone to coalesce all the discussion and outcomes of the past two work session meetings in to a concise statement of purpose, introduction, approach, intended outcomes and budget – the FOBB board will likely assume this responsibility, and FOBB needs to discuss and take formal action outside the ad-hoc committee meeting.
- Follow-up meetings will be held with the Friends of Big Bone membership to bring the membership up-to-date, to advance the ad-hoc committee efforts, and to continue building a working relationship with the Kentucky State Parks and the staff of Big Bone Lick State Park.

- Pat Lense stated that he would explore working with his students to initially develop a wiki for Big Bone.
- Mike Striker is to provide committee members with access to the hyper-media document he discussed so everyone can get a better idea of what this is.
- FOBB identified as appropriate entity to assemble a bibliography of existing research material and publications related to Big Bone.
- Efforts growing out of the work sessions to improve interpretive signage at Big Bone Lick State Park and initiate a docent training program for interpretation will continue in partnership with the State Park.

July 24, 2008 – FOBB Membership Meeting

Participants: Gerry van der Meer, Commissioner of Parks, Kentucky Parks; Mary Dee Miller, Director of Historic & Recreational Parks, Kentucky Parks; Mike Crain, Director of Project Administration, Kentucky Parks; Bertie Lucas, Manager, Big Bone Lick State Park and Todd Young, Park Naturalist; David Whitehouse, Boone County Parks Director; Board Members - Jeannine Kreinbrink, Pat Fox, Pat Lense; Paul Marcotte, FOBB Member/retired State Representative; FOBB Members – Nancy Blackmore, Ray & Joann Newberry, Patty Hons, Pat Gilliland, Joy Meiman, Jan Garbett; RA Davis, Mike Striker, Don Miller and Michael Matts (facilitator). There were other participants that arrived later or otherwise did not sign in.

Purpose of Membership Meeting/Meeting Objectives

The purpose of the membership meeting was as follows:

- 1) to inform the FOBB membership regarding the ad-hoc committees discussions and conclusions regarding the current efficacy of a museum at Big Bone Lick State Park,
- 2) to provide an opportunity for FOBB members to ask questions and engage in dialogue with the ad-hoc committee members regarding its conclusions and direction,
- 3) to provide a forum for the Kentucky Parks Department to update the FOBB membership and the ad-hoc committee on funding and management considerations at Big Bone Lick State Park, and
- 4) to engage in a productive discussion with Kentucky Parks to effectively advance the partnership of FOBB and Kentucky Parks.

Membership Meeting Highlights & Assessment

Membership Meeting Objectives

Overall it is the consultant's assessment that all four of the meeting objectives were effectively met. It was neither the intention, nor the expectation that there would be consensus regarding the museum discussion, but rather that there would be informative and open dialogue.

Museum/Alternative Strategies Discussion

- Some members strongly objected to the conclusion that “a museum should not be the focus” at present. Additionally, it was stated that rather than foregoing pursuit of a museum, a museum should be the top priority of the FOBB board leadership. It was also suggested that the ad-hoc committee process was purposefully rigged to kill the museum concept. It was also stated that private funding is readily available to fund a museum.
 - It is the consultant's opinion that the accusation that the process was rigged to achieve a predetermined outcome is without merit. The consultant was initially approached to conduct a feasibility study for a museum.

- Due to the current economic climate, limited to non-existent conceptual development of the museum, a lack of any commitment from Kentucky Parks to such a facility, a nationally recognized decrease in museum visitation and several others factors - it was the consultant's counsel to take a step back, assess the museum objective and also look at options and strategies to achieve similar ends.
- Ad-hoc committee discussion regarding the museum and alternative interpretation and education strategies were conducted by professionals and others with credible knowledge, several of whom were once proponents of a museum.
- Statements regarding availability of funding need to be verified through personal, corporate, or foundation pledges or commitments. If sufficient funding was available to plan, design, build and operate a museum it seems reasonable to assume that the ad-hoc committee and/or the FOBB would be supportive of such efforts, with the caveat that locating the museum within the Big Bone Lick State Park would require the support and approval of the Park/Kentucky Parks.
- It is the consultants' assessment that the majority of those in attendance understood and/or supported the conclusion of the ad-hoc committee to not focus on the museum at the present time.
- Additionally, it is the consultant's observation that the majority present showed strong interest and support for alternative interpretation and education strategies targeted to youth, local/regional citizens and visitors, especially those that combined outdoor education and recreation experiences.
- There was considerable excitement articulated by several participants regarding the many significant stories to be told and the importance of telling those stories better than has been done to date. Moreover, there was recognition that a museum may not necessarily be the best way, or the only way to tell those stories.

Kentucky Parks/Big Bone Lick State Park

- Kentucky Parks representatives clearly stated that there was no funding presently committed to planning, designing or building a museum, and it was stated by Kentucky Parks representation that, "we are not in the museum business."
- Kentucky Parks staff discussed the difficult budget climate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky over the past five-years, budget constraints and minimal funding available to fund capital improvements and operations at Big Bone Lick State Park and other parks in the system. It was stated the most states fund 50% of an individual parks annual budget, in the Commonwealth it is 36%.
- Kentucky Parks discussed the \$2.5 million in funding that is available, only for the purchase of land to create a buffer surrounding Big Bone Lick State Park; criteria and maps of priority parcels identified for fee-simple purchase or easements were shared.
- Kentucky Parks also discussed a \$594,000 HUD grant for Big Bone – current plans are to utilize this funding to address parking, circulation and public safety issues at the visistor's center/nature center area and possibly replace the nature center with an amphitheatre. The Park staff stated they will seek public input when they move to the planning and design stage.
- Kentucky Parks and Big Bone Lick Park staff voiced positive support with regard to recent FOBB efforts to improve interpretive signage, to initiate a docent program to train interpretive volunteers, and with regard to renewed efforts to build a more mutually effective partnership between Big Bone Lick State Park and FOBB.

Other Points of Interest/Discussion

- Outcomes of the ad-hoc committee work sessions that are being implemented were identified and discussed with the membership, such as:
 - 1) Efforts to conduct a Pleistocene Era workshop in conjunction with the National North American Paleontology Conference in 2009 intended to highlight Big Bone Lick and its significant contribution to vertebrate paleontology, and to bring national and international attention to the attributes, issues and opportunities surrounding Big Bone Lick State Park and the Big Bone Lick Valley,
 - 2) Development of a docent training program to train interpretive volunteers at Big Bone Lick State Park with the cooperation and support of the Park, FOBB and the Cincinnati Museum Center, and
 - 3) Recently initiated cooperative efforts between Big Bone Lick State Park, FOBB and members of the ad-hoc committee to maintain and enhance interpretive signage, improve interpretive trails and enrich the visitor experience.
- National Historic Landmark and National Natural Landmark status for Big Bone Lick (separate processes) are both moving forward positively, and will be beneficial in generating broader public appreciation for the national significance of the resources.

Gray & Pape, Inc.
Corporate Qualifications & Michael J. Matts Bio

Gray & Pape, Inc. (G&P) is celebrating its 21st Anniversary as a consulting firm specializing in a full range of services in historic preservation and cultural resources management. Since 1987, G&P has conducted over 1,500 projects in the Midwest, including the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and throughout the United States, and qualifies as a Small Business Enterprise (SBE). G&P's historic preservation and planning services include: architectural, archaeological and historical surveys; national register of historic places nominations, design guidelines and local historic district designation, historic tax credit certification, historic preservation plans, and heritage area cultural resource management plans. G&P's corporate office is located in Cincinnati, OH, and the firm operates offices in Bloomington, IN; Providence, RI, Richmond, VA, and Rabbit Hash, KY.

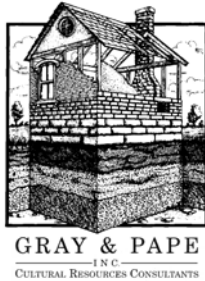
Michael J. Matts, Director, Historic Preservation & Planning, Gray & Pape, Inc. –

Mr. Matts joined the firm in 2003, after working for fifteen years with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. As Director of Historic Preservation & Planning at Gray & Pape, he has served as project manager for several interpretive projects, or projects with interpretive elements, including the Potter Stewart U.S. Courthouse & Federal Building Heritage Exhibit, Cincinnati. These projects required the identification of interpretation goals and objectives, themes and sub-themes, research and writing text, graphic design with incorporation of photographs and objects, and production and installation.

Matts has over 20-years experience as a historic preservation professional, which includes considerable success working with local, county, state and federal units of government and with public-private partnerships. He has developed outstanding skills in strategic planning, historic preservation planning, interpretation, cultural resource management, community revitalization, public relations and civic engagement. Prior to joining Gray & Pape, Matts served as the Director of Programs for the Midwest Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Chicago. Prior to his fifteen-year career at the National Trust, Matts was Executive Director of a local urban renewal authority focused on downtown revitalization.

Michael J. Matts

Director Historic Preservation & Planning



EDUCATION

Northwestern Michigan College (Conservation), A.S. (with honors), 1972
Grand Valley State University (Regional Planning), B.S. (with honors), 1974
University of Michigan (Environmental Communications), M.S., 1981 Awards for Academic Excellence and Outstanding Contribution to the School of Natural Resources.

Michael J. Matts has worked professionally in the fields of historic preservation and preservation planning for 23 years. For the past five-years Matts has served as Director of Historic Preservation & Planning at Gray & Pape, Inc.; during this period he has served as a principal investigator and manager for several preservation planning and interpretive projects. He served as the project manager for the Potter Stewart U.S. Courthouse & Federal Building Heritage Exhibit, a project conducted for the General Services Administration. He also served as project manager for two Civil War battlefield preservation plans, which were reviewed and approved by the National Park Service, and as project manager for the Port Oneida Cultural Landscape Interpretive Model, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Collectively, these projects were required to follow: *Guidance for Developing a Battlefield Preservation Plan*, American Battlefield Protection Program, National Park Service; *Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Professional Qualifications*; *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*; *Preservation Brief 36- Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes*; and *Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*.

Prior to Matts joining Gray & Pape, he performed for 12-years in a senior management role at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. From 1990 to 1996, Matts served as Assistant Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Midwest Office, in Chicago, and from 1996 to 2003 as the Director of Programs. He has worked effectively with the National Park Service, State Historic Preservation Offices, many state and federal agencies, and county and local units of government in scores of communities to assess historic resources, and make cultural resource management and interpretation recommendations. From 1988 to 2001, Matts served as Field Representative in the National Trust's Mountains/Plains Office in Denver. He served as Executive Director of the Evanston Urban Renewal Authority, prior to working for the National Trust.

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

BATTLES OF CYNTHIANA: CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN, CYNTHIANA, KY.

Project Manager and co-author for battlefield plan, which addressed two Civil War battles and made recommendations for treatment and interpretation of a Confederate Monument and burials in the Battle Grove Cemetery.

BATTLE OF BUFFINGTON ISLAND: BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION PLAN, MEIGS COUNTY, OH.

Project manager and co-author of the battlefield preservation plan, which was conducted for the Ohio Historical Society.

PORT ONEIDA CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INTERPRETIVE MODEL, SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE, EMPIRE, MI.

Project Manager - Developed concept, scope-of-work, secured funding, and reviewed and managed project, which was conducted in partnership with the National Lakeshore, a unit of the National Park system.

COUNTRY ESTATES OF RIVER ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT/RIVER ROAD CORRIDOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN, JEFFERSON COUNTY, KY.

Project Manager and co-author - Plan incorporates the identification of historic architecture, archaeology, community history, natural resources, transportation corridors and cultural landscapes into a planning document that makes recommendations regarding land use, the preservation of community character, managing growth, and interpreting the area's history and culture.

BUTCHERTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT & PHONENIX HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANS, LOUISVILLE, KY.

Project Manager - Planning process for each of these plans included the development of historic context, identification of community character, assessment of existing conditions, facilitation of public meetings and work sessions, and built upon existing plans.

POTTER STEWART U.S. COURTHOUSE & FEDERAL BUILDING HERITAGE EXHIBIT, CINCINNATI, OH.

Project Manager - Served lead role in developing interpretive plan in collaboration with the General Services Administration and U.S. Circuit Court and District Court representatives; managed research, development of content and implementation to meet interpretation plan objectives.

RELEVANT TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

Historic Landscapes: Planning, Management, and Cultural Landscape Reports,
National Preservation Institute - 2006

Certified Interpretive Planner Workshop, National Association for Interpretation,
April 14-18, 2008

Certified Interpretive Planner - National Association for Interpretation (In Process)

Work Session – March 27

Additional Discussion Notes

Work Session – Discussion Notes

- Meeting started with presentation on purpose of the work session as stated in letter of invitation and identified in the agenda
- Facilitator- Michael Matts- identified ground rules of discussion
 - Trust, honesty, transparency
 - Need to listen
 - Respect people's opinions
 - Reality of a symposium- Why? Possibility?
 - FOBB vision
- Reality of a symposium
 - Need for clarification as to what is the intended audience for the symposium (e.g. government? public? professionals?), and the question was posed as to what would work best- museum or outside interpretive trail approach?
 - Consensus that these questions need to be answered and it was highlighted that there is a need to better tell the Big Bone story through whatever methods are most effective and achievable.
- Historical background
 - 1930s (scientific interest) Jillson and Lloyd took an interest in Big Bone in early days as a premier historical site which would lead to a state park and the possibility of a museum. This failed- no park, no museum
 - 1950s (public and private interest) Citizens of Boone Co. (e.g. Crawford and Ferguson). A Big Bone park became a reality but not a museum.
 - 1970s (public and professional interest) FOBB was formed to celebrate the international importance of the place and pushed for a museum, but no building took place.
 - 2004-2008 (political input) Even after 2.5 million dollars of state money was allocated to Big Bone Park during Governor Fletcher's term in office, funding never materialize and no museum was built.
 - Discussion was concluded with remarks stating there has been a focus on building a museum for decades and it has not been realized.
- How to tell the Big Bone story? Where do we go from here? How do we get to the people who know the story?
 - Interpretive center as an alternative to museum would be more doable because of expense and management requirements. Services could be contracted that specialize in preparing interpretive displays that would be readily accessible for visitors. A developmental staff (and its expense) would then not be needed.
 - It is an "old dream" of getting back the "stuff" dug up by the University of Nebraska and creating a museum. Changes at the Beringer-Crawford Museum (new section added and the hands-on approach and the archeological displays people liked were terminated) is an example of the problems that can arise in operating costs of a 'new' museum because of poor planning and no operating fund. It was recognized that the Beringer-Crawford has been struggling for 10-years, and that we do not want to see that happen at Big Bone State Park. It was also stated that most of the

- corporate/private funding in the area is in Ohio and not available for a museum at Big Bone.
- The facilitator pushed the discussion towards the concerns all present shared regarding the human and fiscal constraints to building and managing a museum. If there is no museum but the desire to achieve a vision for the Big Bone Park and/or the valley is still a concern, then how is this desire achieved. It was noted that it was apparent that there is a desire and a need to move forward, and that perhaps connections with local, national, and international audience can help FOBB and others look at Big Bone from an elevated perspective.
 - Why a symposium and what can come from it?
 - Who to invite (Nat'l. Park Service, U of Nebraska, Chamber of Commerce, State Convention Bureau, scientific community)
 - Talk about role BB has played in the development of vertebrate paleontology
 - Long term strategic plan needed
 - Educational programming to be expanded- how to do this
 - Combine academic conference with a larger approach (North American Paleontological Convention, University of Cincinnati in June 2009)
 - Contact academic world regarding Pleistocene Era workshop
 - Who has studied BB and never seen it? Awaken other people's interest
 - BB is a niche. Define the niches. It's not just a recreational park
 - Who to invite to the symposium
 - What are you trying to interpret
 - Like to emphasize what was, but beyond dioramas
 - Include scientific community and foundations which will promote and answer new questions
 - Further research and ongoing digs
 - Academic lyceum vs. symposium (meet at regular intervals vs. a one time conference). What would each one look like? What will be done at the symposium?
 - BB is representative of several niches. How is that addressed?
 - How to get people to come?
 - Use technology- on-line symposium possibility
 - This small community could blossom to a large representation of all disciplines. This could be the springboard
 - Use FOBB web site and put the stories out there but develop a physical presence
 - Strategic plan for Big Bone Valley vs. Big Bone Park?
 - Bring together all groups under one direction
 - FOBB can be umbrella to make long term strategic plan
 - On-line symposium?
 - Get a foundation to support the symposium
 - Develop a plan and show the positive outcomes of a symposium; develop work sessions, public presentations, and on site visits, then sell to a funder
 - There's a vision not realized at this time regarding further educational programming and a symposium concept
 - Who are the partners to the symposium?
 - Partnerships with local organizations
 - Develop budget to bring people to the symposium