CHAPTER 16
Establish and Maintain Contact with Government and Other Agencies
by Robert J. Jeske

One element of our duties is to be a resource for government and public agencies requiring help in handling cultural resource questions. The activities involved providing resources may be as simple as directing an inquiry to the proper agency or authority or answering a few questions about the region’s past, or it may involve sustained fieldwork. In addition, maintaining cooperative relationships with those agencies who have as part of their mission archaeology or historical research and education can only strengthen the institutions and help us to service better the public.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
The Rock River Archaeological Society has been formed with the assistance of the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Preserve. We are working in cooperation to help the society develop through talks and mentorship. Several members of the group have maintained good contact with the regional office over the last year.

Wisconsin Historical Society Museum
A number of meetings on curation policy across the state were attended. UWM is the only repository currently taking collections for curation from anywhere in the state. Most other institutions have drastically reduced their willingness to curate collections. A crisis in collections management will be upon us in the near future if the professional community does nothing. In addition to general policy, we attended a demonstration of the state’s use of ARGUS for managing collections, and are working towards a goal of inter-institutional access to virtual collections.

Milwaukee Public Museum
Cooperative work between the Regional program archaeologists and the MPM has been maintained in the past year. We are working to maintain and continue to improve our relationship to this important resource. In particular, a comparison of Walker-Hooper ceramics, curated at MPM and Crescent Bay Hunt Club ceramics, curated at UWM, is just beginning. Future cooperative fieldwork is also planned.

Waukesha County Planning Commission
The Regional program worked closely with three different landowners who were required by the
planning commission to insure construction projects would not adversely affect known burial sites on or near their property. Field survey was undertaken in one instance, and records review and consultation in two others. We look forward to working more closely with county and city governments to help protect our cultural resources.

**Parks People and the Milwaukee County Parks System**

We have continued research and educational activities at Trimborn Farm in Greendale, a part of the Milwaukee County Parks System, which is administered by the Parks People. Our cooperative venture provides a historic site for public outreach as well as research into the past. Our work with the Parks people involved presentations/demonstrations at several public events, including Archaeology Week and Antiques Days, where we showed to the public that the Trimborn Farm could contribute to both the written and the unwritten past of Greendale. In addition, by running a series of junior high level field schools out at Trimborn Farm, we were able to complement nicely the public education goals of the park. In addition, the Parks People allowed us the opportunity to conduct an open house at Trimborn Farm for a Saturday during Archaeology Awareness Week. Geralyn Flick continues to work as Field Director at the site and is a member of the Parks People board. Jocelyn Boor, site manager, is also directing archaeological and other educational programs at the site, in cooperation with us.

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources/State Historical Society of Wisconsin/Aztalan Technical Advisory Committee**

The Regional archaeology center has been working closely with the DNR and with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin to develop a master plan and vision statement for the site of Aztalan. A draft Master Plan has been developed and is currently under consideration and consultation.