The following report summarizes discussions and actions taken at the April 14, 2014, meeting of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

The purpose of this meeting was to continue consideration of revised grant program application guidelines. Since the March 7 Commission meeting, NHPRC staff had reviewed stakeholders’ comments on proposed guideline revisions that were submitted against the March 31 deadline. Following that deadline and in advance of the April 14 meeting, the Commission’s Executive Committee had also reviewed comments and prepared a report with recommendations for a new set of guidelines.

As Commission chair, Archivist of the United States David Ferriero asked for adoption of the agenda.

**Executive Committee Report**
Ray Smock introduced the report and, instead of going through it point by point, offered to answer questions on it from Commission members. Smock explained the process that the Committee used to prepare the report. He observed that NHPRC staff had based some of its redrafts of application guidelines on the recommendations in the Committee’s report.

Ferriero suggested that the Commission review redrafts of grant program announcements that were prepared for the meeting. Executive Director Kathleen Williams led the discussion from this point on.

- **Access to Historical Records:** There was little discussion of the redraft. NHPRC staff revised the initial draft to soften requirements for “citizen engagement techniques” like crowdsourcing. *The Commission adopted the revised guideline.*

- **State Government Electronic Records:** Staff revised the original draft to permit more than three grants in this category and to lengthen the grant period to three years. The revision also requires work plan sections of funding proposals to explain how the methodology could be replicated in other states. This redraft also stipulates a criterion for
evaluation of the likelihood that the project will result in the preservation of and public access to electronic records. After some discussion, the Commission adopted this redraft.

- **State Board Programming Grants:** The revised draft increases the number of grants in this category from 20 per year to 30. It allows proposals to include funds for administering a state historical records advisory board’s (SHRAB’s) work (including paying dues to CoSA), but sets a limit on this funding at 25% of the entire grant budget. The redraft also maintains the link between a SHRAB’s statewide strategic plan and its proposed programming. Commission members pointed out the need for NHPRC staff to make this category of grants better known to SHRABs around the country. The Commission approved the redraft.

- **Literacy and Engagement with Historical Records:** There was no redraft of this category because stakeholder comment was minimal and the Executive Committee basically endorsed the original draft. The Commission approved the original draft.

- **Publishing Historical Records from Archival Collections:** Staff had extensively revised this application guideline to distinguish records digitization from documentary editing/publishing. Some Commission members objected to using the word “publishing” for this category because they felt it continues confusion between documentary editions and digitization. Ultimately the Commission agreed to change the title of this category to “Digital Dissemination of Historical Records from Archival Collections.” Further discussion about the work plan section concerned whether NHPRC intended to discourage the use of traditional documentary editing procedures in this category. NHPRC staff member Lucy Barber and Williams indicated that their intention was to place burden of proof on applicants to justify the use of documentary editing procedures. The Commission members approved the redrafted guidelines, with the change in title.

- **Publishing Historical Records in Documentary Editions:** Smock began discussing the revised guideline by recapping the Executive Committee’s deliberations and voiced his concern about the priority on providing free online access to documentary editions and about long-term preservation of editions. Other Commission members agreed with him on these points. In the end, NHPRC staff agreed to soften the requirement for free online access. An attempt to share another revision of this grant guideline during the meeting was not successful, so NHPRC staff committed to distributing a revision within several days and asked all Commission members to vote on it by email reply.

The meeting concluded with some information about the posting of materials for the May 13, 2014, Commission meeting.