

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve  
Advisory Council**

**- January 25, 2005 Meeting Minutes-**

**Date: January 25, 2005**

**Time: 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Location: Alpena County Library, 211 N. First Avenue, Alpena, Michigan**

**I. Meeting Attendees**

**NOAA:** Ellen Brody, Jeff Gray, Cathy Green, Russ Green, Pat Labadie, Allison Melicharek, Jean Prevo

**State of Michigan:** None.

**SAC Members:** Carol Shafto, Ed Retherford, Betty Krueger, Olin Joynton, Frank Rosinski, Ken Kolosa, Kim Wallis-Burke, John McConnell, Bill Estlack, Don Beem

**SAC Alternates:** Vera Kavanaugh, Joe Sobczak, Dennis Bodem, Marie Kaminski, Gerald Fournier, Len Zolnierok, Ron Chatfield, Stephen Kroll, Art Gillespie

**Ex-officio Member:** None.

**Members of the Public:** David Dekett, Rick Duell

**Media:** Carrie Miller

**Welcome:** Carol Shafto welcomed everyone to the meeting and had each member introduce themselves, tell what seat they represent, and give a short background on why they are on the council.

Jeff Gray talked about the issue we ran into when trying to reappoint David Dekett as the recreation alternate. When the background checks were being conducted, it was brought to the attention of the legal department that David is an employee of the Michigan DNR, and that could potentially be a conflict of interest. This has caused a debate at the national level of whether state employees should be allowed to be members of the Advisory Councils, federal government employees are not allowed to serve on councils. We are fighting to get approval and are hoping to have this resolved soon.

Jeff announced that council member Merl Melton has taken a job in Uzbekistan and will be gone for one year. During Merl's absence, his alternate, Steve Kroll will be filling the diving seat.

**Action Items:**

The council reviewed and approved the list of 2005 meeting dates. The retreat date which was originally scheduled for March 8 has been changed to March 22.

Jeff talked about the meeting dates and the SAC coffee/lunch dates. These short informal meetings are a good opportunity to keep staff and council members connected. The office doors are always open, if you ever have questions or concerns just stop in or call the office, you don't have to wait for a scheduled meeting.

The next SAC lunch is February 8 at noon.

**Approve November 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes.** Dennis Bodem motioned to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2004, meeting. John McConnell seconded the motion and the minutes were passed.

**Assign Constituent Reports.** At the meeting in May, constituent reports will be given by Betty Krueger (Alt. Mari Kaminski), Carol Shafto and Lynda VanDusen.

Carol mentioned that we liked the report given jointly by Deb Pardike and her alternate Dennis Bodem at the August meeting, and suggested that the seats work with their alternates when preparing their reports. If the alternate would like the chance to give a separate report, they can request to be included in the agenda. Carol also said that in order to accommodate the joint reports, we will expand the time allotted in the agenda from 5 minutes to 10 minutes. We would really like the alternates to be involved and feel that they are an important part of the council.

**Retreat Working Group.** Jeff asked for volunteers to be on the retreat working group, Ed Retherford volunteered. Jeff said that Jean would be sending an e-mail out to the SAC members to solicit suggestions for the retreat. Jeff said he is hoping that we will be able to include a tour of the visitor center so everyone could see the progress that has been made.

**SAC Binder Review.** Jean gave a quick overview of the SAC binders and then reviewed the many opportunities of the Sanctuary activities available for the SAC members to be involved in. Carol spoke about her involvement volunteering with the staff at events and also how it is important sometimes just to show up at an event and show support for the Sanctuary. One of the biggest roles a SAC member can play is as a liaison between the staff and community.

**Swearing in.** Council members read the Advisory Council Oath together and were sworn in.

**Vice Chair Elections.** Carol asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Dennis Bodem moved to elect Ed Retherford as Vice Chair and Betty Krueger seconded the motion. No one was opposed. Ed Retherford was re-elected and will serve as Vice Chair for two more years, his term will expire on January 25, 2007.

**Misery Bay Project.** Rick Duell of NEMCOG gave a presentation about the Misery Bay Project and passed out copies of the Misery Bay Initiative. A copy of the report is attached. He spoke about voluntary conservation and how important it was for Misery Bay, since the majority of the land is privately owned. They are working on seeking grants to help fund their plan and help the private land owners.

Joe Sobczak asked if his plans would prevent access to divers that use that area for shore dives, specifically, the sink hole off of Misery Bay. Joe mentioned that it is too far to haul dive gear and asked if there would be an easement for vehicle traffic. Rick stated that issue hasn't been fully addressed. Joe mentioned that he has encountered some problems with the DNR. Rick said that should contact the Township of Alpena with the DNR issues.

**SAC Case Study.** Carol gave a brief overview of the case study she will present at this year's annual Chair/Coordinators' meeting being held in San Francisco, February 8-11. The case study Carol will present and discuss is our council's implementation of the informal SAC lunches and coffees. Carol really thinks this is a unique idea. She will talk about how these informal meetings have provided an opportunity for council members to communicate with each other and with the staff, and has created a more comfortable and productive working environment.

**Sanctuary Update:**

Wayne has been in Key West attending the 3-week NOAA Working Diver training course. He will be back in the office next week.

Jeff introduced the Sanctuary's newest staff member, Allison Melicharek. Allison is a NOAA Corp Officer and will be stationed at Thunder Bay for the next three years. While she is here, she will be working on establishing Thunder Bay's volunteer program and will also be in charge of field operations (41' vessel and dive operations). Jeff encouraged everyone to stop by the office to talk to her about the NOAA Corp. Jeff also mentioned that he may ask her to give a presentation about the NOAA Corp at a later meeting.

**Preserve America.** Russ gave a quick update on the status of Preserve America. The Preserve America application has been completed, he will be presenting it at the next City Council meeting for approval and will then be sending the application in by next week.

**Mooring Buoy Program.** We have submitted 12 new applications for additional buoys. Last field season the Sanctuary deployed 11 buoys. Sanctuary staff have been looking at some of the shallower sites for snorkeling, kayaking and shallow dives.

Jeff will put together a list of the buoys the Sanctuary has applied for and give it to the Underwater Preserve Council as requested by Joe Sobczak.

**ROV Team 2005.** Cathy gave an overview of this year's ROV program. Alpena will be hosting the "Sea Trials" on May 7 at the Alpena High School. Since there are only two

teams participating, it was decided to have this event instead of having a regional competition. The two teams competing are Alpena and Lamphere Schools. If the teams perform well at the "Sea Trials" they will go on to the Underwater Olympics on June 17-19 at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX. Staff will be looking for support at the May 7 "Sea Trials", including volunteers as well as spectators to help cheer the teams on.

**Thunder Bay Research Vessel.** The 41' vessel has arrived in Michigan and is currently being refit for the Sanctuary's needs in Muskegon. These changes include adding a dive platform, remote sensing/rov operations, and a knuckle crane. We are hoping to be able to use this boat for outreach and education activities as well. The 21' Boston Whaler is also undergoing modifications and the R/V *Laurentian* is adding a dive platform.

**Research.** Sanctuary staff continue to research and work on Target 7, the shipwreck that was discovered during Ballard's 2002 expedition. Pat continues to work on the *Windiate* project.

Jeff spoke about the products that the Sanctuary has been able to develop from the research that has been conducted (i.e. EB Allen photo mosaic, still frames from the video). Jeff showed pictures of the two paintings that the Sanctuary commissioned to be painted of the *Pewabic* and *Windiate*. These paintings will be used by the Sanctuary for interpretation and possibly for products that can be sold in the gift shop, such as mugs, prints, posters, etc.

**Outreach.** The Sanctuary has a new traveling exhibit. This exhibit will be set up at the Alpena Public Library when it is not being used. Jeff encouraged everyone to stop and check it out on their way out of the meeting.

Other new outreach items include calendars, sanctuary brochures, posters and one pagers. The one-pagers that have been developed so far are for mooring buoys, Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, and the Thunder Bay Research Collection, we plan to start working on one for the kayaking sites.

Jeff spoke about the outreach working group's report which was submitted to the Sanctuary staff back on October 8, 2002. A copy of their report was distributed at the meeting and is attached. Jeff reviewed the items that the committee included in their report and gave a brief update on what has been done to complete these items.

At the next meeting we will try to run through the education plan submitted by the SAC education working group.

**Maritime Heritage Destination.** Thursday is the second meeting for the Maritime Heritage Destination initiative.

**Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center.** Construction has started. The windows have been cut and installed, and the concrete for the floors is being poured tomorrow. Jeff mentioned again that we are hoping to get the SAC over to the building during the March retreat.

**2005 Events.** There are many events being planned for 2005. These events include the opening of the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, Thunder Bay Maritime Festival, Preserve America designation, and the NMSP Leadership Team Meeting which is being hosted in Alpena this September. During the September LT Meeting we will be hosting several special events which the SAC will be invited to. The Sanctuary will be celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October, and will be using that theme all of the 2005 events.

**Plaque Presentation.** Before the break, Carol, Betty and Ed presented a plaque to Ellen Brody to show the SAC's appreciation for all of her hard work at Thunder Bay. Ellen will no longer be working directly for Thunder Bay, she will be working for the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes Region through National Marine Sanctuary Program.

**Fishing Presentation - Ed Retherford.** The Sanctuary wanted to educate the SAC on other uses of the Sanctuary, and had asked Ed Retherford to give a short presentation on his fishing charter business that he conducts in Thunder Bay.

**National Marine Sanctuary Program Update.** Ellen spoke briefly about the regional initiative for the National Marine Sanctuary Program. The program will be broken up into four regions. Thunder Bay will be part of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes Region, which also includes Stellwagen Bank and Monitor National Marine Sanctuaries.

Some of the purposes for the regional restructure are to develop partnerships at a regional level, identify potential new sites through regional habitat characterizations; lead designation process for selected sites, increase the program's outreach efforts to a broader audience, pursue ecosystem-based management, increase coordination within the National Marine Sanctuary Program, and to advance the goals of the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

The regions will have many duties which could include scheduling Management Plan reviews and participating in the reviews, briefing members of Congress whose districts lie outside sanctuary boundaries and coordinating with other federal agencies and NOAA programs that already operate at a regional level. Regions will also develop partnerships with government agencies and nonprofit organizations, support efforts at existing sanctuaries, and promote coordination among existing sanctuaries.

The regional restructure is not official yet. The approval package is in the clearance process. The NMSP will distribute the final regional document to Advisory Councils.

**Public Comment:** None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**Action Items:**

Jeff will put together a list of the buoys the Sanctuary has applied for and give it to the Underwater Preserve Council.

Sanctuary staff will bring copies of the *Windiate* and *Monahansett* site plans to the retreat.

Sanctuary staff will draft and mail meeting minutes to council members.

Jean will send an e-mail reminder about the next SAC Lunch, as well as an e-mail requesting suggestions for the upcoming retreat.

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Advisory Council**

**- May 10, 2005 Meeting Minutes-**

**Date:** May 10, 2005

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:45 p.m.

**Location:** Alpena County Library, 211 N. Second Avenue, Alpena, Michigan

**I. Meeting Attendees**

**NOAA:** Jeff Gray, Cathy Green, Russ Green, Pat Labadie, Allison Melicharek, Jean Prevo

**State of Michigan:** Wayne Lusardi

**SAC Members:** Carol Shafto, Olin Joynton, Paula Thompson, Betty Krueger, Don Beem, Stephen Kroll, John McConnell, Ken Kolasa, Ed Retherford, Lynda VanDusen, Kim Wallis-Burke

**SAC Alternates:** Art Gillespie, Marie Kaminski, David Dekett, Dennis Bodem, Joe Sobczak, Gerald Fournier, Vera Kavanaugh

**Ex-officio Member:** None.

**Members of the Public:** Ron Meneghel, Ayhan Engul, Bruce Grinnell, Michael Thompson, Luke Clyborn, Rudi Edel, Kathy Trax, Elliot Smith

**Media:** Sara Robinson, The Alpena News

**Welcome:**

Carol welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Cathy Green introduced the visitors from the *Pride of Michigan* sea cadet training ship. The sanctuary will be partnering with the *Pride of Michigan* for events over the summer.

**Action Items:**

**Approve January 5<sup>th</sup> and Retreat Minutes.**

Dennis Bodem motioned to approve the minutes from the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ken Kolasa seconded the motion, the minutes were passed. John McConnell motioned to approve the 2005 retreat minutes. Dennis Bodem seconded the motion, the minutes were passed.

**SAC Update:**

**Seat Vacancies/Terms/New Selection Process.**

Tourism - Deb Pardike & Dennis Bodem

Diving (including snorkeling) - Merl Melton & Steve Kroll

Education (elementary, junior high, high school) - Paula Thompson & Brian Tippman

Maritime History and Interpretation - John McConnell & Eric Cline

Citizen-at-Large - Betty Krueger & Marie Kaminski

These seats will be expiring in September, so the application process will be beginning soon. Jean will be putting together the application packets and will e-mail everyone letting them know when they are ready to be picked up.

In the beginning in order to stagger when the seats expired, the council had some as 2-year terms and some as 3-year terms. Now that the seats are on alternating years, we will be making all of the seats 3-year terms.

Also, we will be implementing a new selection process for choosing members. The selection process will include a selection committee made up of SAC members. This committee will present their top candidates for each seat to Jeff Gray, who will then make the final decision.

### **Assign July Constituent Reports**

City of Alpena (Carol Shafto)  
Sanborn Township (Lynda VanDusen)  
Citizen at Large (Betty Krueger)

Carol mentioned that the date for the September meeting will be changed due to the fact that the staff will be hosting the Leadership Team meeting and preparing for the grand opening of the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. A new meeting date has not yet been determined.

**2005 Annual Chair/Coordinators Meeting Overview.** Carol gave a presentation about the 2005 Annual Chair/Coordinators meeting and the variety of the programs that were spoken about. Currently, eleven sites have councils and three more sites are just starting to form their councils.

Lori Arguelles of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation gave a presentation and we were able to meet some of the Foundation board members.

There were presentations on the management plan review process, the Maritime Heritage Program and its mission, and telepresence.

There were discussions on re-authorization, which resulted in a letter from the SAC Chair to the Secretary of Commerce asking for his support. The policy topics chosen for discussion at this year's meeting were artificial reefs, aquaculture, and cruise ships.

The field trip that the chairs and coordinators went on this year was to the Crissy Marsh Restoration project at the Presidio National Park and the Point Bonita Lighthouse at the Marin Headlands.

As in years past, each SAC chair had to give a presentation on a case study. Thunder Bay's issue was networking through SAC lunches and coffees. Carol mentioned that all the sites are always amazed at the participation we receive and the number of people that want to be involved with our SAC.

**Sanctuary Update:**

**Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center.**

Dan Basta, Director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, visited the sanctuary last Friday. It was the first time he had been here since the ground breaking, he said that the new visitor center had blown away all of his expectations.

**Data Buoy.** Thunder Bay is partnering with the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab and the National Weather Service for the data buoy which is placed in the sanctuary. They are working on implementing and putting together a 5-year plan.

**Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection.** On Friday, Thunder Bay will be submitting a grant with the Alpena County Library for \$280,000 to digitize the research collection. The library staff feels very confident about the grant.

Jeff introduced Bruce Grinell who is working on the national database project. This project is for a baseline database which will encompass all of the shipwrecks. Bruce also met with the library to speak about digitizing this collection.

**Preserve America/Cool Cities.** Alpena was designated a Preserve America Community. On Friday we will find out if we have received the \$14,000 grant from NOAA's Preserve America Community project. If we do receive the grant, we will use that in conjunction with the Cool Cities grant for the waterfront signage. Russ has been working with the national program to get more funding for signs all along the waterfront.

**Thunder Bay Research Vessels.** Jeff said that he is hoping that the 41' and the Boston Whaler will be here next week. The 41' will for sure be here sometime after the first of June. The first project for the vessel is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> so it needs to be here and working by then.

**2005 Events.** Thunder Bay will be hosting a gala fundraiser honoring Senator Levin on September 17. Dr. Robert Ballard will also be returning to Thunder Bay for that event. Jeff has been in contact with Foundation to see if Ballard is available to do a public presentation either Friday or Saturday while he is here.

The 2005 Thunder Bay Maritime Festival is on July 4, 10:00am-7:00pm. We will be in need of volunteers.

Thunder Bay will be hosting a Historic Preservation Workshop on May 17, 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Thunder Bay Shipwreck Festival being put on by Randy Johnson of RJ Dives is being held May 21-22 at the Alpena High School.

**Thunder Bay Five-Year Review.** Jeff spent a couple of minutes focusing on the five-year review process. It is stated in our original FEIS that after five years, Thunder Bay is required to

re-propose the sanctuary to the Governor's office. This allows the Governor to review the sanctuary and determine whether to allow it to stay in Thunder Bay. Jeff said that we will be forming a working group to help the staff with this report.

NOAA also requires an internal management plan review after five years of operation. The SAC is very instrumental in this process. Jeff passed around examples of other sites *State of the Sanctuary* reports for the SAC members to look at.

After the Governor makes the decision to keep the sanctuary, we will launch into the full management plan review, which will include public hearings. The management plan review is about a one-year process.

Carol asked for working group volunteers to help with the Governor's five-year review: Ed Retherford, Dennis Bodem, John McConnell, Ken Kolasa, and Carol Shafto volunteered. There will be an e-mail announcement to schedule the meeting to start working on the five-year review.

**Mooring Buoy Program.** Twelve new mooring buoy applications were submitted and approved by the United States Coast Guard, pending with Army Corps of Engineers.

**ROV Competition.** Cathy gave a brief overview of the ROV competition and thanked the SAC members who volunteered. The two teams that attended the competition were Alpena High School and Lamphere High School, each had between 7-10 members. Cathy said that both teams did very well. This competition was designated to give the teams practice before they participate in the MATE national ROV competition being held in June at NASA's Neutral Buoyance Lab, in Houston, Texas. The teams will be competing against 35-40 teams. Cathy will be a judge at the National competition and has been working with MATE to form an official partnership with the sanctuary program.

The sanctuary staff also had their new ROV on site for demonstrations.

Ed Retherford mentioned that one of the ROV team members was very fired up about the competition and wanted to thank all of the SAC for their support.

There were approximately 100 community members at the ROV competition. The parents of the students thought it was a great project.

**Midget Submarine Scanning Program.** Cathy traveled to Texas to help out with the midget submarine scanning program which is a project being conducted by the National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) program. It is a Japanese midget submarine used in the Pearl Harbor attack and is now in Texas at the Museum of the Pacific War. The NMS program is documenting this submarine, to help with research on a new sub which was recently found off of Pearl Harbor by NOAA. The NMS program will be going back to Pearl Harbor to look at the submarine this summer and will be conducting erosion studies and interior surveys.

Jeff pointed out that Cathy's trip to Texas really shows how Thunder Bay plays an important role within the national program. Dan Basta is really pushing cultural resources at all the sanctuaries.

We will be playing a major role in the national Maritime Heritage Program (MHP), because we have more archaeologists on our staff than the other sanctuaries. Dan envisions our building to be a major part of the MHP, dubbed “maritime center north.”

Jeff mentioned that Jean-Michel Cousteau, who is the son of Jacques Cousteau and a board member of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, is planning to bring a crew here to film some high definition video for a documentary.

John McConnell asked about any Michigan groups involved in research. Jeff said Guy Meadows from the University of Michigan will be working with many of the groups and that we have discussed with the State of Michigan to integrate not only Michigan groups, but researchers from around the Great Lakes.

**Misc.** The sanctuary continues to work on partnerships with local agencies. Jeff Gray has recently had meetings with Olin Joynton at Alpena Community College.

On behalf of the City Council, Carol thanked the staff for the designation of Alpena as a Preserve America community. She gave a special thanks to Kate Thompson and Russ Green for all their hard work.

Carol also announced that because we will be electing a new chair at the rescheduled September meeting, she and Jean will be putting together an outline of what being the chair entails (duties, responsibilities, and honors) so anyone that might be interested in taking this position will have a good idea of what to expect.

**Raffle Update.** Betty mentioned that we got the raffle tickets and she has put together packets of 100 tickets for each SAC member to sell. Extra tickets will be at the office, see Allison or Jean if you want to pick up extra tickets. Betty will be handling the money and paperwork. Please sign up for an event, a list is being handed out along with a picture of the boat. Kim Wallis-Burke will be in charge of scheduling volunteers for the events. Allison put together a list of local events from Tawas to the Mackinac Bridge, the key events will be the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the Friday Night Downtown. If you know of a business or store that will allow you to sell tickets, take a stack of tickets with the picture, any place you think you can put them where people will buy them. Expectation is that all SAC members and alternates will sell their 100 tickets. Please try and do the best you can to sell the tickets.

**Presentation:** *Pride of Michigan* Partnership - Luke Clyborn

Nobel Odyssey Foundation is about creating a maritime interest in young people, through exploration, research and educational projects. In their program, young people from 13 to 17 years old take regular navy courses and work to maintain and take care of the ships. They also teach the cadets sailing and small boat handling. For more information you can visit their websites: [www.prideofmichigan.org](http://www.prideofmichigan.org) and [www.nobelodyssey.org](http://www.nobelodyssey.org).

**Public Comment:** None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**Action Items:**

Sanctuary staff will draft and mail meeting minutes to council members.

Jean will be putting together Advisory Council application packets and will notify members when they are ready.

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Advisory Council**

**- July 12, 2005 Meeting Minutes-**

**Date: July 12, 2005**

**Time: 6:00 – 8:45 p.m.**

**Location: Alpena County Library, 211 N. Second Avenue, Alpena, Michigan**

**I. Meeting Attendees**

**NOAA:** Jeff Gray, Cathy Green, Russ Green, Pat Labadie, Allison Melicharek, Jean Prevo, Ellen Brody, Jennifer Harris

**State of Michigan:** Wayne Lusardi, John Halsey, Sandra Clark, Harold Chase

**SAC Members:** Ken Kolasa, Deb Pardike, Don Beem, Kim Wallis-Burke, Carol Shafto, Stephen Kroll, Olin Joynton, Ed Retherford, Betty Krueger, Lynda VanDusen,

**SAC Alternates:** Eric Cline, Vera Kavanaugh, Dennis Bodem, Marie Kaminski Joe Sobczak, Brian Tippman, Gerald Fournier, Art Gillespie

**Ex-officio Member:** None.

**Members of the Public:** Greg Sundin, Jeff Konczak, John Yake, Beach Hall, Lucas Pfeiffenberger, Vernie Nethercut, Carolyn Mires, John Staub, Eleanor Staub, Florence Stibitz, Lori Vorraro, Jerry Meek, James Peltier, Judy Kimball, Lester Nickels, Dick McElroy, Judy Stillion, June Perry, Jim Johnson, Ron Meneghel, Albert Hising, Joel Bauer, Beth Hardak, Mark Hunter, Calvin Mires

**Media:** Sara Robinson, The Alpena News

**Welcome:**

Carol welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. This meeting is part of the 5-year review process and contains a public comment portion. These public comments will be included in the sanctuary's five-year report to the Governor.

Carol went over the procedures for the meeting. Jeff Gray will give a general sanctuary presentation to bring members of the public up to date. Following Jeff's presentation, the public comment will begin starting with members of the general public, then the SAC members will be given the opportunity to speak. After the public comment portion of the meeting, the regular SAC meeting will continue. Carol reminded everyone if they have general sanctuary questions, to please ask a staff member during the break or contact the sanctuary during business hours.

Jeff gave a brief overview of what the Sanctuary has been doing over the past five years and explained the five-year review process which is occurring at this time.

The question was asked, "Does the Governor have a time limit to respond?" Jeff responded that although the sanctuary will have been here for 5-years in October, the sanctuary will remain as is until the Governor makes her decision.

Carol adjourned the regular SAC meeting and began the public comment portion of the meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Jeff introduced Sandra Clark, Director of the State of Michigan's Department of History, Arts and Libraries. She clarified that the State has already started communications with the Governor regarding the sanctuary's re-designation, so hopefully we should have a decision from the Governor before October.

Public comment began and was held until 7:30 (a copy of the public comment transcript is available at the sanctuary office).

### **Reconvene SAC Meeting**

Carol reconvened the regular SAC meeting at 7:55.

### **SAC Update:**

Jean went over the seats that are open for application:

Tourism - Deb Pardike & Dennis Bodem  
Diving (including snorkeling) - Merl Melton & Steve Kroll  
Education (K-12) - Paula Thompson & Brian Tippman  
Maritime History and Interpretation - John McConnell & Eric Cline  
Citizen-at-Large - Betty Krueger & Marie Kaminski

The next SAC meeting will be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> instead of in September due to the numerous activities the sanctuary staff will be involved in.

The LT meeting will be hosted here the week of September 12<sup>th</sup>. We will try to involve the SAC in some of the activities being held that week in order to give them a chance to interact with staff from other sanctuaries and from the national program.

The grand opening of the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center is scheduled for September 17, 2005, with a free public event scheduled for 11:00 am. That evening there will be a fundraiser honoring Senator Levin which is being hosted by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. Jeff will send out more details as they become finalized.

Constituent reports scheduled for tonight will be given at the October meeting.

The Thunder Bay Maritime Festival had another successful year, Jeff estimated around 6,000 visitors. Jean thanked all of the volunteers and Jeff gave a special thanks to Deb Pardike for her continued dedication to the festival.

**Review and Approval of Resolution:**

Carol spoke about the proposed resolution that will be submitted to the Governor from the SAC and encouraged members to turn in separate letters/comments as well. She drafted a resolution for the SAC to vote on in support of the Sanctuary. She proposed the following resolution:

Be it hereby resolved on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2005 that the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council endorses permanent designation of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve in Alpena, Michigan.

Carol asked for a vote, Jean called roll, a quorum was present and the vote was unanimous, with only one seat (Alpena County) absent. Therefore, the resolution was passed.

**SAC Update:**

Betty Krueger gave an update on the raffle ticket sales: \$500 at Maritime Festival, \$1000 total. Continue to sell your tickets whenever and wherever possible.

Jeff thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their public comments. He said that the sanctuary wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the SAC.

The subject of chair elections was brought up. Lynda VanDusen asked if Carol could be the vice chair and then run the meetings if the chair was gone. The answer was, yes, that would be allowed because she wouldn't be the official chair. Betty Krueger suggested that Carol and Ed just swap seats. Carol said she could legally be vice chair, but there are many people on the SAC that are capable of being the chair. She will put together a list of the SAC chair duties and expectations before the next meeting.

It was mentioned that individual seats don't have term limits, you can reapply as many times as you like.

**Public Comment.** None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**Action Items:**

Sanctuary staff will draft and mail meeting minutes to council members.

Carol and Jean to send out a list of SAC chair duties.

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Advisory Council**

**- November 8, 2005 Meeting Minutes-**

**Date: November 8, 2005**

**Time: 6:30 – 8:45 p.m.**

**Location: Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, 500 W. Fletcher, Alpena, MI**

**I. Meeting Attendees**

**NOAA:** Jeff Gray, Cathy Green, Russ Green, Pat Labadie, Allison Melicharek, Jean Prevo

**State of Michigan:** Wayne Lusardi

**SAC Members:** Betty Krueger, Steve Kroll, Kim Wallis-Burke, Ken Kolasa, Marie Twite, Deb Pardike, Paula Thompson, Olin Joynton, Don Beem

**SAC Alternates:** Brian Tippman, Gerald Fournier, Eric Cline, Dennis Bodem, Vera Kavanaugh, Joe Sobczak, David Dekett, Art Gillespie

**Ex-officio Member:** None.

**Members of the Public:** Mark Upham and Pete Wilson, Alpena Youth Sailing Program

**Media:** April Ahlgren, WATZ

**Welcome:**

Carol welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. It was announced that Jeff will be giving a building tour after the meeting for anyone interested.

**Action Items:**

**Approve May 10<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes.** Marie Twite motioned to approve the minutes from the May 10<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup> meetings. Dennis Bodem seconded the motion, the minutes for both meetings were passed.

**SAC Update:**

**Seat Vacancies/Terms/New Selection Process.** The SAC applications were reviewed by the SAC working group, which was Carol Shafto, Ed Retherford and Vera Kavanaugh. They gave their top three selections for each seat to Jeff and he made the final selections. The applications have been sent to headquarters for vetting (background checks), but due to some pressing matters at the national level, our applications were put on hold. We are hoping to have the new members in place by the January meeting.

**2006 Meeting Dates.** Jeff has a conflict on the second Tuesday of January, and would like to switch the meeting date to January 24. Carol asked if anyone had a conflict. There were no conflicts, therefore, the meeting date was set for *January 24 at 6:30 p.m.* Please mark your calendars. The election for a new SAC chair will be held at the January meeting.

It was also decided that since the new council members are not yet in place, we will wait to set the 2006 meeting schedule at the January meeting.

**Assign January Constituent Reports:**

At the January meeting constituent reports will be given by:

Sanborn Township (Lynda VanDusen)

Recreation (Don Beem/David Dekett)

Business/Economic Development (Ken Kolasa/Ron Chatfield)

**Review Chair Duties.** During our last meeting Carol mentioned that she would put together a list of the duties that the chair is responsible for. This list was sent out to all SAC members with their meeting packets. Carol said that this list is just her perception of what the chair's duties are and she thought it might be helpful for members considering taking on this responsibility to have some idea of what the chair does prior to selection in January. We will take nominations at the January meeting, for anyone interested in being the next chair.

Paula Thompson asked if there was a required process and whether or not there could be co-chairs. Jeff said he thinks that it is in the charter that there can only be one chair. It was mentioned that there is also a vice chair, therefore, it is a possibility that the two could work together and split the duties.

Carol mentioned that she would like to see a more informal process, including a discussion to find out who might be interested, instead of just nominating people, then have the nominations after the members have expressed interest.

If anyone has questions about the duties of the chair, please feel free to contact Carol.

**Constituent Reports:**

**Citizen-at-large.** For the past six months, Betty continues to ask citizens, businesses and professionals for their comments about the sanctuary. Most of the comments were, "Best thing that has happened in Alpena," and "when will the Maritime Center be open?" However, she mentioned that even with all of the information and media coverage, there are still many citizens who are unaware of the Maritime Heritage Center and know very little about the sanctuary. Betty has started carrying sanctuary information with her to give to the people that she encounters that are unfamiliar with the sanctuary.

Service providers are another group we need to focus on. They should have a tour and be aware of what is here. Need people in the service industry to really speak to the customers and clients about the sanctuary.

Betty thanked the SAC for making the boat building raffle a success. The raffle earned over \$3,000 for the sanctuary's outreach and education program. This money has been put into a special account, if you are working on a sanctuary project and need funds from the account, Jeff has slips at the sanctuary office. Please fill out the slip, give it to Jeff for approval and then he will give it to Betty who will issue the check.

Marie Kaminski was unable to make it to the meeting so Betty gave her constituent report. Marie questioned 30 people (ages 17-86), asking them about their initial reaction to the sanctuary and if and how it changed over the past five years. The responses were overwhelmingly favorable. She said that people were willing to express their opinion once they were approached.

**City of Alpena (Carol Shafto).** Carol didn't do a formal report this time. Carol said that she has tried to find criticism within the city council and city residents, but hasn't found any. Mostly they are all amazed at how far the sanctuary has come so quickly.

People from all around are saying that the sanctuary is the savior of the area. She has seen a lot of support from around the entire region for tourism. People feel that if the tourists are coming to visit the sanctuary, they will have to go through their towns, which will increase their tourism industry as well.

One thing that Carols has tried to do, is get the city to change the name of the wildlife sanctuary. She has found that people confuse our sanctuary with the bird sanctuary down at the duck park Also she has found that some people know about the new Maritime Heritage Center but they haven't visited it yet.

Carol concluded that she truly has not found anyone that has said the city made a mistake or that having the sanctuary in Alpena is bad.

### **Sanctuary Update:**

**Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center Grand Opening.** The grand opening of the GLMHC was held at 11:00am on September 17 and a gala was held that evening honoring Betty Krueger and Senator Levin. The grand opening was very successful, there were 50 people here from around the country (managers from all the sanctuary sites as well as headquarters staff). They were all completely blown away by the support from the community. Jeff estimated that there were at least 1500 people at the grand opening and 300 people at the gala. He mentioned that none of the other sites have ever seen numbers like that at an event, this has definitely elevated us within the national program.

Governor Granholm wasn't able to make it to the opening events, but she did visit the GLMHC the week before. She was given a tour and spent about an hour at the sanctuary.

**Sanctuary Hours.** Currently, the GLMHC is open weekdays 10:00am-4:00pm. Jeff mentioned that there are plans to be open on Saturdays starting in January, 10:00am-4:00pm. The long-term plan is to be open longer during the day and on weekends. Allison is working on volunteers to staff the front desk. Please let her know if you are interested in being involved.

**5-year review.** At the grand opening State Representative Matt Gillard read the declaration from Governor Granholm stating that the sanctuary has been permanently designated and will stay in Alpena.

The public comments and the complete report that was sent in to the Governor are in a binder that will be at Jean's desk if anyone is interested in seeing it. Most of the public comments which were received were positive, there were very few negative comments.

**Management Plan Review.** The sanctuary staff is hoping to have the State of the Sanctuary report completed this winter. The public process will also begin this winter/spring. This process will include public hearings, held in both Alpena and Lansing, about future management of the sanctuary.

**GLMHC Exhibits.** Sanctuary staff has started initial planning for the permanent exhibits. Thunder Bay staff and outside contractors will be working together to come up with a plan. Staff had meetings with the exhibit contractors and State of Michigan representatives the week of October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Next steps:

- Move Federal Building exhibits to GLMHC (12/05).
- Develop volunteer program.
- Continue comprehensive exhibit planning, not just inside the building but also along the waterfront.
- Seek additional funding opportunities.
- Open permanent exhibit Spring 2007.

**Telepresence.** At the gala Bob Ballard gave a surprise preview of telepresence. During his speech, he communicated with a diver live in Monterey Bay.

The sanctuary is now wired for Internet 2, and the staff will begin training on how to use it. Jeff mentioned that this would not have been possible without the help of Alpena Community College.

**ROV Design and Building Workshop.** Cathy Green is organizing an ROV building workshop which will be hosted by TBNMS, December 2-3. Thunder Bay is partnering with MATE to make the workshop possible. The sanctuary plans on hosting another regional competition this year. The date for the competition has been set for April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Thunder Bay Research Collection.** Alpena County Library has been awarded a \$234,000 grant to digitize the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection. Russ has also submitted an application for a federal grant which would digitize an additional 26,000 images.

**Preserve America/Cool Cities.** The waterfront interpretive signs are up along the river behind the Federal Building. Currently, there are three signs, sanctuary staff is working on developing more.

**Webcam/Met Station.** The Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab webcam is up and running. It is on the lighthouse at the mouth of the river. The webcam provides live footage and weather data, there is a link on our website

**Research Vessel.** The 41' is the first United States research vessel to operate without any petroleum products. It has been completely converted to run using bio-diesel - 100% bio diesel. All mechanical systems have been converted to bio-products. We have the bio diesel shipped in and it can be stored in totes, it is not flammable. One of the future plans is to have shed to store the bio-diesel in. Staff will be putting together a one-pager to feature the 41' and its environmental and economical benefits.

**Research Update.** Wayne and Russ gave presentations about the fieldwork that was conducted during the summer of 2005. Wayne worked on projects on North Point and Sugar Island, with his major focusing being wrecks on the North Point Reef. Wayne worked with the University of Rhode Island using side scan sonar to survey the area next to North Point Reef. They found about 300 targets between North Point Reef and Sugar Island. Most of these items were just isolated timbers.

Wayne worked with East Carolina University for two weeks in September. They also focused their research on the targets that were found by North Point last summer and in June by the University of Rhode Island. During ECU's visit they were able to gain access to North Point and conducted a shoreline survey, recorded the information with GPS, photographs and drawings.

Russ's fieldwork was funded through a NOAA Ocean Exploration Grant. His fieldwork focused on putting together photo mosaics. Russ stated that these photo mosaics fit in with TBNMS current research needs. They are a good way to evaluate a site and assess the state of preservation. It makes it easy to obtain basic archaeological data and accurate knowledge of the site, which in turn helps the sanctuary staff make informed management decisions. These photo mosaics provide an efficient and reliable way to inventory the wreck sites.

Russ's fieldwork projects also involved partnering with outside groups. Some of the groups involved were:

University of Michigan  
NOAA Undersea Research Center

East Carolina University  
East Carolina University  
University of Connecticut  
Jean-Michel Cousteau's - Ocean's Futures Society  
NOAA  
University of Wisconsin  
The History Channel

The History Channel show "Deep Sea Detectives" focuses on the Cornelia B. Windiate and should be airing in January 2006. Sanctuary staff will notify you when we have the date and time it will air.

This summer's field work brought many different groups together, which could lead to various partnerships (i.e. Pride of Michigan/Ocean's Futures).

**Presentation:** <http://www.nobelodessy.org>, Alpena Youth Sailing Program - Pete Wilson and Mark Upham (see attached handout). They had a few ideas for events possibly a youth regatta during Riverfest or Maritime fest. They will give the sanctuary a brochure with their information. Pete Wilson can be contacted at Alpena Agency 354-2175 and Mark Upham can be reached at his home 471-3545.

**Miscellaneous Announcements:**

University of Michigan is conducting a survey of advisory councils. Everyone should have received an e-mail. If you have questions, please contact the sanctuary staff.

Carol thanked Betty and Allison for their work on the raffle. She commended Betty on her efforts on behalf of Alpena and the SAC.

Carol ran into Merl Melton's wife, Karen, and she said that Merl is doing fine in Afghanistan, and that he's not in harms way. He may be home as early as December or as late as six months from now.

**Public Comment:** None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Action Items:**

Sanctuary staff will draft and mail meeting minutes to council members.

Sanctuary staff will notify council members when a date and time has been established for The History Channel's "Deep Sea Detectives."