

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council**

- January 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes-

Date: January 15, 2013

Time: 6:30pm

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

MEETING ATTENDEES

NOAA: Jeff Gray, Jean Bauer, Pat Saker, Stephanie Gandulla, Harriet Smith, Tane Casserley, Russ Green, Sarah Adcock, Sarah Waters, Chuck Bennett

State of Michigan: Wayne Lusardi

SAC Members: Don Beem, Lynda VanDusen, Carl Bourdelais, Herbert Palmer, Jeff Kowalski, Vera Kavanaugh, Olin Joynton, Jason Snyder, Deb Kunding, Carol Shafto, Matt Waligora

SAC Alternates: Richard Fluharty, Chuck Wiesen, Ron Meneghel, Roger Baumgardner, Mark Upham

Ex-officio Member: None

Public: Barb & Jerry Meek

Media: Emily Siegmon, *The Alpena News*

WELCOME AND ACTION ITEMS

Olin called the meeting to order.

There is a kayak being raffled off by the Friends of TBNMS. Raffle tickets are available. Talk to Stephanie Gandulla if you haven't received your packet of tickets to sell.

Chuck Wiesen made a motion to approve the October 16, 2012 meeting minutes. Vera Kavanaugh seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sarah Waters introduced the new AmeriCorps member Sarah Adcock. Sarah is from Ypsilanti; she attended the University of Michigan and received a BS in environmental science. She will be here through October of 2013.

If there is a topic you would like to see on the council meeting agenda let Jean or Jeff know, they will try to work it into the agenda or discuss it at one of the lunches or coffees. The staff welcomes feedback and ideas.

Deb (Pardike) Kunder read her letter of resignation from the SAC and submitted it to Jeff (see attached). She is resigning from the SAC due to moving out of the area. Deb has been a great asset to the council since its inception in 1997, she will be missed.

SAC Seat Applications – recreation, business/economic development, tourism (seat only), diving (alternate only), higher education, and citizen-at-large. Applications will be ready soon, Jean will send out an email reminder to those with expiring seats.

SAC SUMMIT SUMMARY

Meeting was held in Santa Cruz, December 3rd. Intense meetings with superintendents, chairs, and the MPA FAC. Olin passed out a handout called *Synopsis of Recommended Audiences & Actions* (see attached). Olin's hand written notes are from a conversation that Olin, Jeff and Jean had during their breakout sessions about potential action items our council might want to pursue. Olin went over the first seven bullet points contained in the document under the "Recommendations" section. These recommendations came out discussions held the first two days of the summit, and then on the last day each region had breakout sessions to discuss how their councils could move forward.

This all came from Dan Basta's *Campaign of Engagement* which is an initiative to reach out to all areas in the United States and promote our national marine sanctuaries, with a particularly strong emphasis on travel and tourism.

Olin touched on the ideas we came up with while at the meeting, which were:

1. TBNMS programming on ACC's television channel. Stephanie had already been working on this initiative but Olin wasn't aware of this while we were at the meeting. The college is currently putting anything Stephanie gives them into their rotation. This is one way to heighten our profile and attract more visitors to our area.
2. CVB's from expansion proposal towns on TBNMS advisory council. Discussed reaching out the CVB's and chambers in the areas of expansion. Rogers City, Harrisville, what can we bring in from them to our sanctuary? Get them active in working with us.
3. TBNMS programming in Wisconsin community access channels in view of site selection process. That could tie into the site activation list which Jeff will talk about later.
4. Bus tour from Alpena to Stellwagen Bank NMS and reciprocation. Local travel agency could work with a travel agency at Stellwagen Bank NMS in Massachusetts to organize a bus tours to and from both locations to promote tourism and connect us to other sites.
5. 2013 or 2014 tall ships stop in Alpena. Make Alpena a destination when the tall ships are on the Great Lakes.

The summit had a large focus on tourism. The council chairs also participated in conference calls regarding this topic prior to the summit. There are 100's of Marine Protected Areas around the country, not just in sanctuaries and the summit was a good way share information with them. Jeff gave a presentation on Alpena's branding initiative which was a great opportunity to highlight Alpena.

Another big push from Dan was the Site Evaluation List. Two meetings ago we approved the drafting of a letter from the SAC in support of activating this list. At the meeting it was discussed that every site will submit a letter of support from their councils (see attached letter). Our letter states boldly that there should be more sanctuaries; most other sites are just promoting reactivating the list.

Olin called for a motion to open the letter up for discussion. Jeff Kowalski motioned, Chuck Wiesen seconded the motion.

There is currently a Wisconsin site listed on the evaluation list and Dan has said that this is most likely the next site. What would be perceived by us advocating for this action? It will raise awareness of us in the Great Lakes, so it would be good for us as well as the entire Great Lakes. It would hopefully be the first of many new sites in the Great Lakes.

All were in favor of supporting the letter, none were opposed.

Ron Meneghel – A lot of wrecks are being exposed because of low water. Do we have any authority to help preserve these wrecks that are outside of the boundaries? Jeff - we do we have a partnership with the State of Michigan who has jurisdiction over these wreck site and we will help out when we are called by them.

ALPENA BRANDING UPDATE – “*Sanctuary of the Great Lakes*”

Committee of about 30 or so people involved with this group from all different parts of our community, City, Chamber of Commerce, CVB, privately owned businesses, etc. At this time, Jeff is serving as the coordinator of the committee.

Some of the goals of the initiative are:

- Become an outstanding and sustainable destination. For local residents and visitors.
- Create small business opportunities and strengthen existing businesses.
- Create a sustainable community for our youth. Jobs, opportunities and gathering places.

Brand promise – “As your sanctuary of the Great Lakes, Alpena is a haven from daily life. Culturally rich and surrounded by natural beauty, Alpena is the place to relax, rejuvenate, and inspire the happy, healthy, and creative you.”

Pillars of Brand

Learning opportunities

Wellness

The environment

Working on fostering these things and promoting our community

Core of what this BLT is doing is branding, development and marketing action plan – 50 action items and growing. Need to earn the brand. Doesn't matter what you think you are, it matters what other people think you are. Need to earn the brand promise.

Jeff showed the video used to promote the branding effort to recruit an army of helpers to accomplish those 50 action items in the report. BLT is recruiting different businesses and helping them get involved with this group.

From those recommendations several committees and working groups were formed.

Probably heard the most about the downtown plaza, because it is one of the bigger projects. The committee received a grant from the Michigan Municipal League to do some planning for a downtown plaza that could potentially happen behind The Center Building. The plaza discussion has been open for public comments and there have been heated discussions on the Sanctuary of the Great Lakes Facebook page.

This initiative involves the sanctuary but isn't directly related to the sanctuary.

A group called Alpena Pride has formed and is dedicated to cleaning up the south corridor of US 23. Members of the group live along that corridor and really want to clean up the entrance to Alpena. It started with a few guys and has turned into dozens and dozens of people that will change the face of that corridor. Many of the businesses are now involved including the Alpena Mall, Timm Construction, Youngs, etc. These businesses are offering paint at cost, cutting down old signs, etc. The group contacted every business in that corridor and received written statements from many of the businesses saying what improvements they will make to their business to help with this initiative.

Michigan Smart Zone project – Dr. Joynton and Carl Bourdelais had a huge part in. Program is authorized by Michigan Economic Development Council, around from 2000. Attracting technology oriented businesses to an area. Using TIF funding. 15 smart zones operating in Michigan. MEDC was authorized by legislature to put out requests for proposals for three more. Encouragement from Senator Molnar to submit an application. Will hear a response from the MEDC in February. Technology oriented businesses that were identified were the drone company working with the airbase, closely tied with that is an ROV proposal that ties into the marine tech program at ACC, green energy technology, cyber force protection (cyber security businesses).

Momentum of this group is very powerful. Stephanie, Sarah and Jeff are very tied to this, feel free to come to them with questions.

GLMHC UPDATES

Planning for future enhancement and upkeep of the exhibits. Working with other groups to do some river enhancements along with the riverscape grant that Sarah received.

Jeff showed the visitor numbers for past four years - 83,206 for 2012, 10,000 increase from 2011. Set a target for 2013 for 100,000 visitors.

We will be hosting a new traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian institute. TBNMS applied for funding from Michigan humanities council. Awarded host status for the exhibit "*Journey Stories*." This is the first Michigan site to host the exhibit so they will be doing all of the training here. Opening June 6th and will be here through the end of July. It will be displayed in the mezzanine area where the Great Lakes exhibit has been for the past year or so. If you have questions you can talk to Sarah.

Glass bottom boat is a huge attraction to the sanctuary. Staff will continue working with the owner on partnerships, marketing, interpretation, etc.

Construction is underway for expansion of the building. It will be the home for *Science on a Sphere*. Jeff gave a brief tour of the new space and talked about the programming that will be held in that space.

The roof deck will be turned into a green roof. Received a donation through the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation for approximately \$20k to install a green exhibit on the roof. Continuing to search for money for other green energy initiatives (solar, wind power, etc.)

SANCTUARY UPDATE

Condition Report – Russ

The draft of the Condition Report is complete; staff are now working on the graphic portion of it. This condition report generally is released in tandem with the management plan. This is a report that is dedicated solely to the resources and the condition of them. The audience for this document is the stakeholders, but it's really for NOAA leadership and further up the food chain. All sanctuary sites have one. It is a template driven document, so everyone answers the same questions. Good report to evaluate how we are doing preserving the resources in Thunder Bay.

The report is broken into 4 big sections, with 18 questions, only 4 pertain to cultural resources.

- Site history & resources. Current boundaries as well as into the expanded boundaries.

- Pressures on the sanctuary. Invasive species, diving, etc.

- State of sanctuary resources – here is the condition we think they are in and how we arrived at that conclusion

- Responses to Pressures – sized up pressures and how we are dealing with it. Working with divers, mooring buoys, and also look at the research we have done.

Report will be released online to the public at the end of the month. As soon as it is out we will get it out to the council and discuss it at a later meeting or SAC coffee.

Sanctuary Expansion

Update – Draft Environmental Impact Statement is being reviewed by NOAA internally. Sometime in the spring we will have public meetings and move forward with the expansion. We will keep the SAC updated as things move along with this outside of the meetings.

Education/ROV – Sarah Waters

Hosted a workshop this past weekend 16 educators from around Michigan came to build robots to take back to their locations to use for building their own for the ROV competition or for afterschool activities. There were a few teachers from the Upper Peninsula, hoping to get teams from there for future ROV competitions. These workshops also help promote ACC's marine technology program.

ROV Competition – April 20th. Stephanie sent out a save the date. This year's theme is Ocean Observing Systems. Hoping to host about 30 teams overall. There will be a special guest speaker at the competition this year. James Delgado, Director of ONMS's Maritime Heritage Program will be giving a presentation to the ROV teams in the high school auditorium.

Raffle

The sanctuary staff has struggled to staff the boat building program. Going to work with volunteer Jerry Meek to see how we can move forward. The program isn't where any of us want it to be, hopefully over the next month or so we will figure out what path we will go. Funds are short and it's hard to put a lot of resources into it, that's why we push so much on the raffle. Fundraisers like these raffles really do matter for these types of programs to continue to exist.

Jerry Meek – thinks the program is good, would like to see doing a better job and more experience. Good thing to do. This year for the first time we have different boat build, father and son building their own boat instead of the group things they used to have. Finding different ways to get people involved in it.

Olin - What about the facilities needs to be better? This time of year, you need more heat. The epoxy they use needs to be at 70 degrees the facility is only at about 50.

Please get your packet of raffle tickets from Stephanie. You have until the morning of July 4th to sell the tickets.

Pat Labadie mentioned a competition among the communities along US 23. He was approached by a group asking what kind of boat could be raced, as well as built by race participants. Pat suggested they look at traditional Mackinaw boats. Pat sent information and photos to a guy who designed a boat that is 23 feet long so they can call it the "Heritage 23 Boat Competition." A group in Maine developed a kit that can be purchased for \$3,000. Tawas has built the first one and other communities have also joined in. Pat said that the boat performs effectively, might be something worth talking about.

Jerry Meek commented on making a Mackinac boat. At one point in time Alpena had 31 Mackinaw boats in service, so in a historical standpoint it would be a good thing to have.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council**

- March 19, 2013 Meeting Minutes-

Date: March 19, 2013

Time: 6:30pm

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

MEETING ATTENDEES

NOAA: Jeff Gray, Jean Bauer, Pat Saker, Stephanie Gandulla, Harriet Smith, Tane Casserley, Russ Green, Sarah Adcock, Sarah Waters, Chuck Bennett, Daniel Moffatt

State of Michigan: Wayne Lusardi

SAC Members: Don Beem, Kathleen Hubbard, Olin Joynton, Vera Kavanaugh, Jeff Kowalski, Herb Palmer, Shawn Sexton, Jason Snyder

SAC Alternates: Roger Baumgardner, James Dessenberg, Rick Fluharty, Ron Meneghel, Susan Neilson, Don Newport, Chuck Wiesen

Ex-officio Member: None

Public: Jerry and Barb Meek, Natalie and Greg Laskowski, Rich Sullenger, Robert Doyle

Media: Nicole Grulke, *The Alpena News*, Velena Jones, *WBKB TV*

WELCOME AND ACTION ITEMS

Olin called the meeting to order and introduced the new members appointed by the City of Alpena, Shawn Sexton and his alternate Susan Nielson.

Jeff Kowalski made a motion to approve the January 15, 2013 meeting minutes. Don Beem seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The due date for the applications has passed. Staff are in the process of sorting through the applications and then the applications will go through vetting in Washington. Working on getting them processed as quickly as possible. There are a few of the new applicants in attendance this evening.

Olin read the letter from Dan Basta in response to our council's letter to him supporting reactivation of the Site Evaluation List (SEL) which we submitted after the January meeting (see Dan's letter attached). Nine of the fourteen advisory councils have made the recommendation to reactivate the SEL and it is anticipated that all of the councils will be submitting resolutions in support of the SEL.

Olin announced that Jeff Gray will be the ACC Fellow of the College 2013 and will be honored at commencement on May 9th. Everyone on the SAC is invited to attend the ceremony.

There is a SAC Chairs' conference call scheduled for Monday, March 25th. Olin is unable to participate on the call so Vice Chair Carol Shafto will be representing our SAC. The call is going to focus on continued discussions about travel and tourism within sanctuaries, which was the theme of the SAC Summit in December and has been a main focus of ONMS Director Dan Basta throughout the past year. Carol will give an update regarding the call at the May SAC meeting.

SAC MEETINGS & COMMUNICATION

Jeff received some feedback from a council member that is feeling out of the loop and that the communication between the staff and members has not been as good as it used to be. The member indicated that they have learned about too many sanctuary related items through the media. Jeff is working on making sure the staff gives all of their information to Jean so she can get it out to the members.

Jeff and Olin also discussed this before the meeting and they have decided to do a monthly chair's update that will be sent out by Olin.

It was also decided that SAC coffees and lunches will contain more discussion about issues and will be less social.

To keep people from getting overwhelmed with emails, Jeff thought it would be helpful to come up with an email subject line that says "411" for less critical email correspondence and "911" for critical emails.

Jeff opened the topic up for feedback. Don Newport thought they received a fair amount of information currently through email and thought it might be better to focus on getting our messages out beyond the SAC. He asked if there was any kind of outreach tool that goes out in our service area. Jeff responded that we previously had *Thunder Struck* our monthly newsletter. Stephanie is doing great with social media and regular media, but we are trying to find a way to bring *Thunder Struck* back but maybe not monthly. We had tremendous feedback on the newsletter. Jeff's goal is to come up with a plan on how we will get that done before the next meeting.

Another item discussed was the possibility of having an annual retreat. We have done retreats in the past for planning. Retreats are different than regular meetings because they are closed meetings and are not required to be open to the public. These retreats gave the SAC an opportunity to talk to staff about things they would like to work on. Talked about doing it instead of the September meeting. Will put together a working group to figure out how to run the retreat.

Kathleen Hubbard suggested distributing information in the form of a calendar document that could be printed out for an entire month with a note on the bottom if volunteers are needed for a specific event.

Chuck pointed out the number of missing council members and suggested that members not attending the meeting is also contributing to the breakdown in communication. Participation in the meetings is key. He feels that the members should look over the agenda prior to the meeting and come ready to discuss key items. He also suggested having the minutes distributed at least midpoint between the meetings to give people that missed an opportunity to get up to speed.

CONDITION REPORT – Russ Green

As we discussed at the January meeting, the condition report is a common format required by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for all sites to complete. The report was a collaborative staff effort and was a good opportunity for our site to show the amount of science we do even though we were designated as a cultural resource site. Just this week staff talked to a documentary crew from London regarding doing a piece on one of the wrecks. A copy of the condition report can be downloaded at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/condition/tbnms/>.

ALPENA BRANDING UPDATE – “Sanctuary of the Great Lakes”- Jeff Gray

Jeff talked about the upcoming Alpena Plaza public comment meeting which will be held on April 17th at 7:00 at Art in the Loft.

SAC members broke out into small groups and brainstormed area tourist attractions for the CVB.

GLMHC UPDATES – Sarah Waters

Tour of the Science on a Sphere exhibit space. Sarah showed some of the data sets that will be available for programming on the sphere. There are over 300 different programs that can be used on the sphere. Very excited to have it up and running. Will do a kickoff event when the construction is complete, still working on fundraising to finish the space. For more information on Science on a Sphere visit sos.noaa.gov or contact Sarah at sarah.a.waters@noaa.gov.

SANCTUARY UPDATE

The Great Lakes Coastline Survey Initiative – Wayne Lusardi

The shorelines of the Great Lakes around the state are considerably more exposed today than in recent years because of record-low lake water levels. Consequently, many human-made objects such as shipwrecks, parts of historic vessels, and abandoned docks and piers that were previously buried in sand or located in shallow water are now exposed. As the lakes continue to recede, brief windows of opportunity exist to find and archaeologically document these historic features.

The Great Lakes Coastline Survey Initiative, coordinated through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, hopes to utilize property owners, beach strollers, and volunteers to locate, photograph, and record historic objects found along the shorelines of Michigan.

Most of the ship parts found on the beaches in recent months likely originated from nearby offshore shipwrecks located on the lake bottom. Occasionally their pieces become separated and wash ashore. Some areas also tend to collect debris from many different vessels. It is through the precise documentation of each object using GPS technology to record its position, and photographing and recording preliminary observations, that archaeologists can better determine how old the objects

are, what ships they may have come from, and how significant the discoveries may be for understanding Michigan's maritime heritage.

Although not necessary to report discoveries, volunteers will have the opportunity to receive survey training at Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena. The training consists of an orientation to the project and its objectives, volunteer registration, and an introduction to maritime history and archaeology. The coursework, offered free of charge, will include survey techniques, equipment usage, artifact identification, and recording form familiarization. Volunteers will then have the opportunity to check out and use equipment housed at the Marine Sanctuary to help them record objects found along the coast.

For more information or to report a discovery, please contact the Wayne Lusardi. If interested in serving as a volunteer, please contact Stephanie Gandulla.

The first training is being held this this Friday and another one will be scheduled when we have at least five volunteers signed up.

Boundary Expansion – Similar update as at the last meeting. Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been completed and is being reviewed by various parts of the agency and the Department of Commerce. Hoping the document will be released by late June and opened up for public comment. If everything goes well expansion could be completed by the end of the year.

ROV Competition – April 20th at 9:00am

Students build underwater robots and compete in a series of mission tasks Alpena County Plaza Pool. This year's theme is *Underwater Observing Systems*. There are 15 teams signed up to participate.

Stephanie and Harriet have been recruiting volunteers if anyone is interested in participating let Stephanie know.

Jeff encouraged everyone to attend the ROV competition even if they can't be there as a volunteer. He thinks it is one of the most impactful things we do each year, it's an incredible program and the kids are amazing.

James Delgado director of NOAA's Maritime Heritage Program will give a special presentation at the ROV competition in the auditorium. This presentation is open to the public.

Jeff also mentioned that Alpena is being considered to host the 2014 international competition. Currently, talking with City of Alpena leaders to see if we can pull this off. This event would bring about 1,000 students here to compete, discover Alpena and to discover the Marine Tech Program at ACC.

Staff will send something out with more information on the competition, date, time, presentation details, etc.

Jeff Gray traveled with ACC staff to Memorial University in Newfoundland, Canada to investigate a marine technology program and develop a partnership.

Heritage 23 Vessel - This vessel will be displayed in the exhibits starting next week. The boat is going to be raced and was designed as a community project to get other communities interested in boat building. Pat Labadie came up with the boat design based on the Mackinaw Boat. Contact information will be displayed on the front of the boat in the exhibit for anyone interested in more information.

Jeff is hoping to have a meeting to regroup with the boat building volunteers within the next couple of weeks. We have a new group interested in building one of the Heritage 23 boats.

Staffing Update – Continuing resolution and sequester has created a lot of questions. It is a financially tough time, but we continue to fight for every dollar we can and we have been able to keep many things going because of the Friends group and the store. Unfortunately, Pat Labadie’s relationship with the sanctuary will change. He will continue his current role through the end of the month and then he will be our Historian Emeritus for specific projects when we can bring funding in. In April, he will begin working with the Marine Tech Program at ACC to help develop curriculum. Pat is also interested in working on the Heritage 23 boat as a volunteer.

We lost two staff members last year and we have been unable to fill those positions. Cathy Green has been moved off our salary to another part of NOAA. She is currently the BWET coordinator for the Great Lakes which is a granting program. Cathy and Ellen Brody worked hard to get this program, which focusses on place-based education, in the Great Lakes. The program has brought close to \$1million of grant money to the Great Lakes.

Jeff mentioned that we have even been selling off staff time to other sanctuaries to help cover our costs.

Coast Zone Management Grant – The City of Alpena is applying for a Coast Zone Management grant to create public access to the Thunder Bay River behind the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. The sanctuary is helping to write the proposal.

Enhancements would include dockage for the Alpena Youth Sailing Club, launch facility for kayaks and canoes, and a small tiered amphitheater to be used for educational programming. Much of the match for the grant will come from in-kind services, generously donated and coordinated by Mike Kendziorski.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barb Meek - Volunteers might also like to have a calendar of events like was mentioned by the Kathleen Hubbard.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council**

- May 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes-

Date: May 21, 2013

Time: 6:30pm

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

MEETING ATTENDEES

NOAA: Jeff Gray, Jean Bauer, Sarah Waters, Russ Green, Chuck Bennett, Pat Saker, Andrew Augustyn, Harriet Smith, Sarah Adcock, Tane Casserley

State of Michigan: none

SAC Members: Vera Kavanaugh, Olin Joynton, Herbert Palmer, Steve Kroll, Lynda VanDusen, Don Newport, Jason Snyder, Mark Upham, Carol Shafto, Kathleen Hubbard, Shawn Sexton, Joe Sobczak

SAC Alternates: Shari Davis, Chuck Wiesen, Mike Lakin, Robert Doyle, Richard Fluharty, Greg Laskowski, Jim Dessenberg, Ron Meneghel, Robert Adrian, John McVeety, Roger Baumgardner

Ex-officio Member: None

Public: Roger Witherbee, Jerry Meek, Barb Meek, Don McMaster, Lisa Fluharty, and a Representative from DTE Energy

Media: Nicole Grulke, *The Alpena News*

WELCOME AND ACTION ITEMS

Olin called the meeting to order and welcomed the new council members. The new members are:

Robert Doyle – Diving Alternate
Greg Laskowski – Business/Economic Development Alternate
Mary Beth Stutzman – Tourism
Rich Sullenger – Recreation Alternate

Mark Upham & Don Newport went from being alternates to primary seats.

A new member orientation will be scheduled. Jean and Jeff will send out some proposed dates for the orientation.

Jason Snyder made a motion to approve the March 19, 2013 meeting minutes. Don Newport seconded the motion. All were in favor.

ACC MARINE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM UPDATE – Don McMaster

The Marine Technology Program was introduced at ACC a year ago. Don McMaster received a grant from the Department of Labor for green energy and economic development. The grant was for a little under \$3 million for a 3-year project, program is about 40% through the 3-year term. ACC staff is working hard to sustain the program after the grant ends. Don sees this program as an anchor for economic development to our community.

The ACC program has a summer component that is taught mostly at the sanctuary and includes diving and on the water components. Currently there are an enormous amount of jobs for people trained in this field.

Russ spoke about the North American Society for Oceanic History (NASOH) conference that was held at the sanctuary last week. The theme of the conference was “Maritime Landscapes” and 43 research presentations were given on that topic.

ACC Marine Tech student and TBNMS Visitor Experience Specialist Andrew Augustyn had the opportunity to present at the conference. He presented on a project he worked on with his ACC Marine Tech class last year.

Andrew gave his presentation “Thunder Bay’s Industrial Maritime Landscape” to the SAC.

MPA FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE – Steve Kroll

There are approximately 1,700 Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in the country, sanctuaries included. The MPA Federal Advisory Council (FAC) has 20 members and was formed to advise the Department of Commerce and Department of Interior. MPA center used to be its own office, but it has now been moved with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the FAC reports to Dan Basta.

Last December there was a joint meeting with the MPA FAC and our SAC chairs. The topic of discussion was recreation and tourism in MPAs. The MPA FAC is looking at whether or not tourism and recreation will increase or decrease the value of these MPAs. Thunder Bay is different because the sanctuary is an economic driver. Other places are opposite because of no take zones, etc. This is in line with Dan Basta, Director of ONMS’s, “Campaign of Engagement” (see attached).

The MPA FAC has some sub-committees working on different items. Steve’s sub-committee is surveying managers to gather information in order to make more accurate recommendations.

Kathleen Hubbard - What will they do with your recommendations? Steve – The advisory committee’s only job is to make recommendations. In the past some of their recommendations have been put in action quickly and some have taken longer. He feels that positive reactions will come out of it.

RIVER CENTER PARTNERSHIP – Roger Witherbee

TBNMS has recently formed a partnership with the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary. The Wildlife Sanctuary Board is currently working with the Thunder Bay NMS on a variety of different programs, including the sanctuary staff helping them out with their kids' programs.

The Wildlife Sanctuary Board is looking at developing a River Center in the future. For now, they will have temporary displays in the sanctuary's visitor center outside the Sphere room. They have met with Sarah Waters to develop quality displays and are also looking at having an Illuminati video element like the dome in the sanctuary visitor center.

Plans and discussions for a permanent river center field laboratory at Duck Park. They applied for a grant that they hope to receive and then construction should start this fall and will be designed so displays can be added on later.

There have been many updates to Sportsman's Island making it more user friendly. During the branding research, everyone mentioned the island and how great it was to have that asset in the middle of the city. Wildlife, peace & quiet, key in getting us to the *Sanctuary of the Great Lakes* brand.

ALPENA BRANDING UPDATE – “Sanctuary of the Great Lakes”- Jeff Gray

Jeff gave a brief update on the proposed downtown plaza. The current plan is proposing to turn the parking lot behind The Center Building into a plaza where people come to gather. In other communities around the U.S. plazas have changed downtowns and helped grow existing businesses. The concept behind the plaza is to bring Alpena alive, not just for tourists, but to enhance the quality of life for the area residents. They've even proposed to make the plaza sanctuary/maritime themed.

The next public plaza meeting is on June 27, 2013 at 7:00pm at ACC's Granum Theater.

SANCTUARY UPDATE

Research – Russ Green

First week of May field season cranked up. The three main projects that were worked on in May were the Middle Island sink holes, reef restoration program, and collecting zebra mussels for the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab.

Thunder Bay NMS staff have also been installing mooring buoys. There are 27 sites set up for buoys, currently have 15 buoys installed, hoping to get the rest out this week and then install a few more new sites this season.

Next Thursday, a team from East Caroline University field school arrives. The field school will be here for 3 weeks studying wrecks off the break water. University of Michigan had a field school here last year.

Also next week, sanctuary staff will be on the water with Alpena High School's *Shipwreck Alley* class. The plan is to conduct a mini live dive with them by throwing an ROV over the side with wireless microphones so the students can communicate with the divers underwater.

Tigress Productions, a film crew from the UK will be here for a week filming a documentary about the *Cornelia B. Windiate* shipwreck. Sanctuary staff will be helping the crew out with logistics.

Remote sensing project in mi- June and then into mapping the shipwreck *Montana*.

A University of Rhode Island intern will be here starting this week to help with field projects. He is volunteering for about a month as an independent study.

E.B. Allen mosaic, last one was done in 2005, did another one last week during the mooring buoy installation. ONMS funded new camera equipment that has better resolution and the mosaics can be done quicker. Mosaics are a good way to get a quick pic for preservation and documenting. Can use these photos to compare from year to year to see how the sites are changing. Plus the images are great for education programs, outreach, promoting tourism, and businesses can use these photos to show how great the resources are in Thunder Bay.

Boundary Expansion – Jeff Gray

The draft Environmental Impact Statement is working its way through DC. Hoping it is released before the next SAC meeting. Thunder Bay NMS will host public meetings to give the public one last chance to comment on the proposed expansion before moving forward. These meetings will be held in Rogers City, Alcona and Alpena. The public comment period will be open for 60 days. Jeff is hopeful that the boundary expansion will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Is there any real opposition to boundary expansion?

Jeff – Any negative comments that have been received had very little to do with the sanctuary and were more about concerns with government funding and concerns with federal government growing.

Letters of support can be viewed at <http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/management/boundarycom.html>.

Education Update – Sarah Waters

ROV Competition – The ROV Competition was held on April 20th and was a huge success. 90 volunteers helped out, that is triple the amount we have had in the past. Received lots of great comments. First place winner was from Thunder Bay Junior High (TBJH). The TBJH team has started fundraising for the national competition which is being held in Seattle this year. The team will be at the Alpena Mall on June 1st from 11:00am-3:00pm showcasing their ROV.

The MATE center is so impressed with how we run our competition, they are interested in hosting the 2014 international competition here. MATE representatives will be making a site visit at the end of this summer. This event is an incredible opportunity for our community bringing 1,000 visitors to our area.

Earth Day – The sanctuary celebrated Earth Day on April 22nd, with over 400 students participating in this event. During Earth Day students and other organizations hosted booths and gave presentations to showcase their projects.

Youth Watershed Summit – The Youth Water Shed Summit was held at ACC on May 21st, approximately 170 students participated. During the summit students presented to each other in three different session areas. Funded through grants received from NEMCOG and BWET.

Other education and outreach items:

- At the beginning of the month sanctuary staff conducted a live broadcast from the visitor center to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.
- Film makers here last week working on a GLSI documentary – filming youth watershed projects.
- US 23 shipwreck alley heritage program was also here filming a piece that will be used to attract tourists.
- Hosted a student art gala.
- Bike Rentals available through the store (see attached flyer for details).

Oceans for Life Program – This program is a sanctuary wide initiative that takes 30 students, 15 U.S. and 15 from middle eastern countries. These students come together to have a field experience in a marine sanctuary and are given the opportunity to tell stories of stewardship using videos and cameras. Hannah McDonald from Alpena High School was chosen to attend this year’s Oceans for Life being held at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Harriet Smith worked very closely with Hannah on her application and essays.

BWET Grant – The Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan was awarded \$70K for the youth watershed program for another year.

Smithsonian’s *Journey Stories* – The Smithsonian has developed traveling exhibits through their Museums on Main Street program. *Journey Stories* will be opening June 1 and will be here through July 26th.

The sanctuary received support for this exhibit through the Michigan Humanities Council. There will be coordinating events with the local partners – Art in the Loft, Besser Museum, and Alpena County Library.

There will be an exhibit opening event on **June 1, 2013 at 2:00** with a lecture by Anna Pegler-Gordon

***Journey Stories* Docent Training** – have one or two more spots open for volunteer docents. Training starts at noon on June 1 right before the public opening.

FACILITY UPDATES – Jeff Gray

Thunder Bay River Green Roof Deck – There will be a dedication event on **June 16th**. Thunder Bay NMS received a major donation of \$20k through the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) in honor of a person that donated to the NMSF. Watch your email for more details on this upcoming event.

Science on a Sphere – Save the Date - June 26th

June 26th is the tentative date of the Friends group sponsored opening event. Public opening is July 4th. More details to follow via email. Feel free to contact Jeff with questions on the Sphere project.

Misc. Items – Jeff Gray

Dr. Kathy Sullivan, the new acting administrator for NOAA, may be stopping by the sanctuary this weekend. She was the first woman to do a spacewalk and has completed three shuttle missions. Two weeks ago she took a tour of the National Oceanic Service offices and Jeff was asked to present to her about MPAs and sanctuaries. Jeff presented to her about Thunder Bay NMS and after hearing his presentation made the decision to try to stop here on her vacation, depending on the weather and her schedule. Hoping to get her to come back to Alpena for a public program.

The new Governor from American Samoa will be visiting us the second week of June. Jeff is trying to work in an event with the Friends and the SAC.

Glass Bottom boat is in full swing. Partnership continues to grow. The education team has done lots of tours in May, including school groups as well as private charters. Alpena Shipwreck Tours (AST) reduced the prices for school cruises which allowed more schools to participate. There has also been a record number of private cruises. Chuck Wiesen led 11 private cruises last week.

AST also re-did their website and brochures, giving Thunder Bay NMS a full section in each. They have also switched to a better system for online ticketing and partnered with the Alpena Convention & Visitors Bureau to double the number of billboards to 20 this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Meek – minutes of the meeting talked about meeting to regroup boat building volunteers. Tough getting more than one person involved in that. There wasn't any money available so some of the volunteers got upset about that and didn't show up for the recent meeting. Thinks it's something we should look into and do whatever it takes to get back running again.

John McVeety - Great Lakes water levels have received state and national attention. Do we have any connection with that?

Jeff Gray - GLERL is one of our closest ties, they are part of NOAA. Requested one of their outreach people come here to do a presentation here about the water levels which are majorly affecting Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, Lake Superior has not been as affected. A variety of theories, when you hear the scientist's presentation it makes sense, snow fall and temperature are major issues. Glass bottom boat won't be able to visit a few of the wreck sites this summer.

Jason Snyder - Brandon Schroder of Sea Grant also has information on the water level issue.

Jeff Gray - We will work to get a presentation either at a SAC meeting or a public presentation.

Shawn Sexton – The City did receive a grant from the State to start dredging the harbor.

ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.