

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council**

-February 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes-

Date: February 21, 2017

Time: 6:30pm

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

MEETING ATTENDEES

NOAA: Andrew Augustyn, Chuck Bennett, John Bright, Stephanie Gandulla, Phil Hartmeyer, Joey Jackson, Jean Prevo, Olivia Rose, Katie Wolf

State of Michigan: Wayne Lusardi

SAC Members: Mary Christensen-Cooper, Vera Kavanagh, Chuck Wiesen, Carol Shafto, Susan Nielsen, John Kozlowski, Mark Upham

SAC Alternates: Mike Beaulac, Roger Baumgardner, Jim Dessenberg, Anne-Marie Ruder

Guest: Ed Kavanaugh

Media: None.

US Coast Guard – Matthew Pierson

WELCOME AND ACTION ITEMS

Carol Shafto called the meeting to order. The council will discuss and approve the December minutes at the April meeting because there was not a quorum present.

Carol introduced John Kozlowski, he is the new member representing Alpena County. Camille Nerkowski is his alternate.

WISCONSIN – LAKE MICHIGAN NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY – Russ Green

Russ Green participated in the meeting via Zoom. He is currently in Wisconsin working as the Regional Coordinator for the proposed Wisconsin-Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary. He gave a brief history of the Wisconsin sanctuary. Ellen Brody has been instrumental throughout the designation process.

The idea of a Wisconsin site started in 2007 when the sanctuaries' leadership team met in Milwaukee. In 2014, scoping meetings and public comment kicked off and in December 2014, the state of Wisconsin submitted the sanctuary nomination, citing the need to protect, conserve, and enhance public access to this nationally-significant collection of shipwrecks. The nomination also notes opportunities to foster education and research partnerships, increase tourism, and enhance economic development.

Then, in October 2015, NOAA announced its intent to designate a new national marine sanctuary to help conserve nationally-significant shipwrecks and related maritime heritage resources in Wisconsin. Following a public comment period last year, NOAA developed a detailed analysis and management plan for a proposed national marine sanctuary in the waters of Lake Michigan adjacent to Manitowoc, Sheboygan, and Ozaukee counties.

The nomination is endorsed by a diverse coalition of organizations and individuals at local, state, regional, and national levels. This includes elected officials, businesses, museums, and environmental, recreational, conservation, tourism, and educational groups.

In January 2017, all of the proposed documents were submitted including the Federal Register Notice, Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Management Plan. The preferred boundaries are approximately 1,100 square miles, covering three counties and 160 miles of coastline (see attached map.) There are 37 known shipwrecks and 80 potential sites. Many of the shipwrecks look similar to the ones that are in Thunder Bay. Eighteen of these wrecks are already listed on the National Historic Register.

They are proposing no anchoring on any shipwreck site, which is different from the regulations in Thunder Bay where you can grapple or anchor into any shipwreck site. Also proposing an alternative where you could anchor.

During the planning process they also played around with a permitting system, but decided not to do that. The state of Wisconsin already requires permits for all surveying so they will piggyback on that. Those are pretty much the only differences from Thunder Bay's regulation.

They have already started working on things that support the sanctuary and its mission. They have received funding from partners to start funding research. These partners include the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, Wisconsin Historical Society, NCCOS Science Serving Coastal Communities, Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab and Kongsberg.

Russ sees the long-term plan would be to share resources between our sites. They have applied for a NOAA Preserve America grant to put together a shipwreck mooring map. He will be meeting with communities to discuss branding and will also work on naming the sanctuary.

Russ touched on two of the items in Wisconsin's proposed Management Plan.

Draft Management Plan – Strategy SO-1: Develop a “*NOAA presence*” within sanctuary communities that supports the sanctuary's mission and infrastructure needs, and that recognizes, leverages, and complements individual assets in sanctuary communities.

Draft Management Plan, Activity 5.1: Acknowledging the geographical expanse and diverse communities of the sanctuary, develop an appropriate sanctuary advisory council structure.

As they start putting together an advisory council they will look to the Thunder Bay SAC for assistance in putting together their infrastructure to help the council get off the ground. They are also looking to put together a Friends' group to help raise additional funding.

The draft document have all been published and can be found on their website <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/wisconsin/>. Comment period ends March 31, 2017 and they are hoping they can address all of the comments by late summer and have a final EIS done by the fall. After that process is complete the sanctuary program would decide if it is ready to be elevated to NOAA.

Carol and Jean will work to put together a support letter from our SAC, but you can also submit an individual comment at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/wisconsin/>.

SANCTUARY UPDATE

Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center (GLMHC) – Andrew Augustyn

We are starting to promote GLMHC as a multi-use community center. Currently, working on updating the sanctuary reservation form. Expanding what the building can be used for – weddings, birthday parties, etc. 2017 has already produced over \$6,000 for facility rentals.

The Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy will be renting the education room throughout April to host state testing (PSAT, SAT, etc.)

Store inventory is taking place in the next week. Looking to improving sales for the year.

Starting to book glass-bottom boat tours. Have already booked five private cruises, sold some regular tickets, and booked a few classroom cruises as well.

Take a Bite Out of Spring Break – Spring break shark themed kids' camp at the GLMHC, March 30th and 31st. Cost is \$20 per child.

Media Update – Stephanie Gandulla

The sanctuary continues to be featured in the media:

Scuba Diver Life – the largest SCUBA diving enthusiast community
Almost 15,000 likes on Thunder Bay NMS's Facebook page, which has featured the following social media campaigns which help get viewers:

#Novemberwrecks
#shipwreckartifacts
#sonarsunday
#mosaicmonday – on Twitter happening now
#shipslog

Chuck Wiesen helped translate the ships log from the *City of Alpena*. This campaign will start in June on the date the log started. The log itself can be viewed in the exhibit case in front of the visible storage room.

Volunteers – Stephanie Gandulla

We are always in need of volunteers at the sanctuary for many different events – Film Festival, ROV, Maritime Festival, etc. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please sign up with Stephanie.

The next upcoming event that needs volunteers is the **ROV Competition on April 22, 2017**.

Friends of TBNMS – Katie Wolf

This time of year is focused on grant writing. We were awarded the *Get into Your Sanctuary* grant of \$50,000. This campaign is building on *Alpena: Sanctuary of the Great Lakes*. Katie is actively seeking other grants using the *Get into Your Sanctuary* grant to leverage funds, she is hoping for \$150,000.

The Friends has also applied for two grants with the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan. Both of these grants are for the ROV Competition. The funds were requested for focusing on unique branding for the Great Lakes Regional ROV Competition and to help cover rental fees at the Alpena County Plaza Pool and the Alpena High School.

The Friends also applied for a \$50,000 grant with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation – 21st Century Community Learning Centers. These tend to be in urban areas and low-income communities.

The Friends is also working on grants for funding for the dive tank - \$265k project. Then the next priority will be doubling the size of the rooftop greenspace.

Currently the Friends has 256 active donors and 51.3% retention rate. We need support.

2017 Thunder Bay International Film Festival – Stephanie Gandulla

Held in January 500 fans, 60 films, 12 countries, 5 venues, 3 filmmakers – 50 volunteers, 20 sponsors. Working on holding more film events throughout the year. Michigan Film & Digital Media Office supported us with a \$2,500 donation as part of the Michigan Economic Council. The sanctuary received lots of great media coverage during the film festival.

National Register Nominations – Phil Hartmeyer

Thunder Bay NMS staff continue working on getting National Registration of Historic Places designations for some of the sanctuary's shipwrecks. The National Register of Historic places is the nation's official list of districts, sites, and structures significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. It is managed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) and the National Park Service.

Thunder Bay NMS pursues these designations as part of Strategy R-1 of TBNMS's Management Plan. The designation also emphasizes local, regional, and national significance of the resource and is great for marketing and promotion.

We have submitted applications for the *Pewabic*, *Kyle Spangler* and *Norman*. Next on the list to submit are the *Fay*, *M.F. Merrick* and *Etruria*.

ACC UAS Partnership – John Bright

Thunder Bay is excited to report on a new dimension to the TBNMS-ACC partnership involving Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) operations. Recently, ACC received a grant to assist in establishing a UAS pilot-training program which it plans to offer in connection within several degree programs including the marine tech program. TBNMS and ACC representatives met on Friday, February 17, to discuss partnership opportunities. This was a very timely meeting, as TBNMS is using part of the NOAA OER funding awarded last September to sponsor a UAS survey project this April. A team from the ONMS Collaborative Center for Unmanned Technologies will travel to Alpena for a 2-week period to operate state-of-the-art UAS systems in an effort to survey shallow-water, near-shore areas for shipwrecks. With ACC's new capacity for UAS operations, they have been invited to participate, and TBNMS considers this collaboration a first of what will hopefully be many more. The ONMS-sponsored work in April would lay the groundwork for future ACC-led operations in partnership with the sanctuary, and would also offer to opportunity to discuss the many other ways UAS-acquired data could be mutually beneficial.

**NOTE: The UAS footage of Alpena shown during the announcement was a video collected, edited, and posted to the web by a private citizen who shared the imagery with TBNMS. The application of UAS in and around municipal spaces and other sensitive areas may or may not have been in full compliance with FAA regulations relating so such use. TBNMS does not support or condone such applications, and the video was meant to provide a representation of types of UAS-acquired imagery"*

Public Comment – Roger Baumgardner brought up concerns he has regarding the ballast water issues. Mary suggested that as citizens people could write letters of concern or support to legislatures. Mary wondered about having a fact sheet.

Carol led a brief discussion on lobbying and advocacy. She said individual members of the SAC, acting on their own or as individuals, can write letters urging legislators to take a stand or vote a certain way, but members must not be acting on behalf of the SAC or the Sanctuary. [Note: This topic is going to be addressed at the national chair's quarterly conference call and further information may be transmitted to SAC members at a later date].

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned to the sphere room at 7:45pm for a presentation on new Science on a Sphere programs.

2017 TBNMS/SAC Schedule of Meetings

April 18

June 20

August 15

October 17

December 12

All meetings are 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the GLMHC unless otherwise specified.