

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council**

- February 19, 2008 Meeting Minutes-

Date: February 19, 2008

Time: 6:30pm – 9:00pm

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

MEETING ATTENDEES

NOAA: Jeff Gray, Cathy Green, Russ Green, Tera Panknin, Jean Prevo, Reed Bohne, Ellen Brody, Chuck Bennett, Mary Beth Stutzman, Tane Casserley

State of Michigan: Wayne Lusardi

SAC Members: Don Beem, Carl Bourdelais, Olin Joynton, Jerry Meek, Carol Shafto, Joe Sobczak, Lynda VanDusen, Kim Wallis-Burke

SAC Alternates: David Dekett, Art Gillespie, Brenda Fournier, John McConnell, John McVeety, Chuck Wiesen

Ex-officio Member: Rick Houchin, U.S. Coast Guard

Public: Joy Williams, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Media: None.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Shafto welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Jeff introduced the visiting guests: Reed Bohne, Director of the North East Great Lakes Region, Ellen Brody, Northeast Great Lakes Region, and Joy Williams, Vice President of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Mary Beth Stutzman was introduced, she was hired recently as the Development Director for the new Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. Mary Beth will be working for both Thunder Bay NMS and the NMS Foundation, focusing her efforts on fundraising and outreach specifically for Thunder Bay.

Carol announced that the new SAC alternate for the City of Alpena will be Michael Nunneley.

Approve December 4th SAC Meeting Minutes. John McConnell motioned to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2007 meeting. Chuck Wiesen seconded the motion, and the minutes were passed.

Chair Election. An election was held for the position of SAC chair which expired in 2008. John McConnell nominated Steve Kroll, Chuck Wiesen seconded the nomination. Steve Kroll was elected unanimously by the SAC to serve another term as the chair.

Seats Expiring in 2008. The seats that will be expiring in 2008 are:

Business/Economic Development

Alternate - Ronald Chatfield

Citizen-at-Large

Kimberly Wallis-Burke

Alternate - Vera Kavanaugh

Education – higher education

Olin Joynton

Alternate - Chuck Wiesen

Fishing

Edward Retherford

Alternate - Arthur Gillespie

Recreation

Donald Beem

Alternate - David Dekett

The deadline for applications to be turned in to the sanctuary is **March 31, 2008**.

SAC Application Working Group. A working group was formed to review the applications for the open seats. Volunteers were Carol Shafto, Steve Kroll, and Lynda VanDusen. Jean Prevo will contact you to schedule a meeting after the application deadline.

MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW (MPR) ACTION PLANS

Updated Management Plan Review Schedule

2/19/08 SAC votes on Action Plan's Activities and Strategies

2/20-5/08 Draft Management Plan (DMP)

- Background
- Budget
- Timeline
- Performance Measures

5/08 DMP review at the site, state, and regional level

6/08 NOAA clearance of the DMP

7/08 Finalize, layout, and print the DMP

- 10/08 Release the DMP & begin public comment period
- 11/08 End public review; prepare final Management Plan

Education Action Plan - Cathy Green

Education & Outreach Working Group members: Olin Joynton, Chuck Wiesen, Art Gillespie, Vera Kavanaugh, Karen Tetzlaff, Kathleen Hubbard, and Deb Pardike.

The draft education action plan started with the comments the SAC provided at the 2006 scoping meeting.

STRATEGY ED-1: Increase awareness and knowledge of the sanctuary by developing education and outreach materials for a broader audience.

- Materials for students and educators
- Outreach materials
- Interpretive materials

STRATEGY ED-2: Increase awareness and knowledge of the sanctuary by developing education and outreach programs.

- State-wide elementary, secondary, and higher education programs
- Shipboard education
- Distance learning
- Remotely operated vehicles
- Exhibits

STRATEGY ED-3: Enhance sanctuary communications to create greater awareness.

- Marketing plan
- Sanctuary web site

STRATEGY ED-4: Maintain and expand Thunder Bay NMS community and regional presence through the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail initiative and promotion of the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center.

- Directional and promotional signage
- Interpretive signage and kiosks

STRATEGY ED-5: Maximize the impact and effectiveness of education and outreach efforts, including interpretation at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center and the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail, through ongoing evaluation.

- Education working group
- Evaluation and improvement system

It was mentioned by the SAC that they feel it is important for the sanctuary to have an up-to-date website, old information needs to be removed as soon as it becomes obsolete.

Suggestions were also made by the SAC to continue having regular sanctuary updates at the meetings and to have more information regarding the sanctuary available to the community and visitors to Alpena.

Joe Sobczak motioned to support the action plan presented by the education working group, Carl Bourdelais seconded the motion. Role was called and the motion to support the Education Action Plan was passed unanimously.

Resource Protection Action Plan - Russ Green

Research Protection Working Group members: Don Beem, Bill Estlack, Mike Lakin, John McConnell, Joe Sobczak, Brenda Fournier, and Steve Kroll.

Strategy RP-1: Propose expansion of the sanctuary to a 3,622-square-mile area from Alcona County to Presque Isle County, east to the international border with Canada to protect, manage, and interpret additional shipwrecks and other potential maritime heritage resources.

- Administrative procedure for changing the sanctuary's boundary

Strategy RP-2: Monitor use of sanctuary resources.

- Diver use
- Visitor demographics and experiences

Strategy RP-3: Increase compliance with sanctuary regulations and other applicable state and federal laws.

- Partnerships and interagency coordination
- Use of technology for surveillance
- Interpretive enforcement
- Responses to incidents of resource damage

Strategy RP-4: Increase and encourage access and responsible use of sanctuary resources by fostering greater awareness among recreational users including divers, snorkelers, kayakers, and boaters.

- Practical information
- Mooring buoys
- Program similar to Florida Keys NMS's Blue Star Program
- Education

John McConnell made a motion to support the action plan presented by the resource protection working group, Don Beem seconded his motion. Role was called and the motion to support the Resource Protection Action Plan was passed unanimously.

Research Protection Action Plan - Wayne Lusardi

Research Protection Working Group members: Steve Kroll, Vera Kavanaugh, David Dekett, Joe Sobczak, and Kim Wallis-Burke.

The working group came up with seven different strategies. Most of these strategies have been ongoing since the sanctuary was established in 2000.

Strategy RM-1: Characterize the sanctuary's maritime heritage resources and landscape features.

- Historical and archival research
- Systematic remote sensing and visual surveys
- Archaeological documentation
- Geographical information system

Strategy RM-2: Collect monitoring data on the maritime landscape and submerged maritime heritage resources.

- Data collection
- Partnerships

Strategy RM-3: Continue to develop the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection.

- Holdings
- Oral histories
- Preservation and accessibility

Strategy RM-4: Preserve, curate, interpret, and exhibit maritime heritage artifacts.

- Conservation
- Exhibits
- Donations
- Preservation

Strategy RM-5: Develop a plan for submitting, evaluating, and implementing sanctuary supported research proposals.

- Policies and procedures
- Permits
- Grant proposals and funding
- Staff, vessels, and equipment

Strategy RM-6: Develop partnerships with local, national, and international researchers and organizations to conduct the highest level of research possible.

- University historical and archaeological programs
- Graduate theses and dissertations
- Multi-disciplinary research
- Research working group

Strategy RM-7: Utilize volunteers, students, fellows, interns, and other non-permanent staff for sanctuary research and monitoring.

- NOAA volunteer, scientific, and working divers
- Nautical Archaeology Society training

Olin Joynton made a motion to support the action plan presented by the research working group, Jerry Meek seconded the motion. Role was called and the motion to support the Research Action Plan was passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION - Northeast Great Lakes Region Update - Reed Bohne, Regional Director

SANCTUARY UPDATE

Law Enforcement Update: The commanders for both Detroit and Sault Ste Marie have met with sanctuary staff. One of the items discussed during these meetings is the possibility of getting some over flights this year. The Coast Guard Auxiliary and Chief Houchin are leading a group that will be meeting this spring regarding overall enforcement.

Jeff also had a conference call on Monday with the FBI in Detroit, their evidence response team is interested in working with the sanctuary and doing training in Thunder Bay.

The sanctuary is also trying to find funding to give to the Michigan DNR to help cover some of their enforcement costs.

TBSRC Research Collection: The digitization grant is complete and the collection is expected to be available online within the next month.

Thunder Bay Wrecks. Jeff wanted to make sure everyone was on the same page regarding the funding for the Thunder Bay Wrecks hockey teams. He made it clear that although they are using our logo, they are not funded by the sanctuary, they are funded by area businesses. The teams act as ambassadors for the sanctuary by distributing outreach material when they travel to other areas, and by hosting lunches and tours at the sanctuary when they play locally.

Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail Playground. Sanctuary staff are working with area

organizations, including the Exchange Club and the City of Alpena, to install a playground behind the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. Staff have been researching the different styles and, at this point, prefer the new Evos system, which is built using a series of arches and focuses on physical fitness for children. The staff continues to look into grants and ways to raise money to install the playground.

Exhibit Update - “Exploring the Shipwreck Century.” Russ gave an overview of the updated exhibit plans and showed some new graphics.

Marketing the Sanctuary and the GLMHC. Jeff spoke about some of the marketing ideas:

- Possible new outreach coordinator
- Developing a joint marketing strategy with the Alpena Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Working with *Travel Michigan* and Michigan History, Arts & Libraries to promote the opening of the exhibit
- TBNMS Visitor Guide - working with Model Printing to put together a booklet for the sanctuary, very similar to booklet printed for the Brown Trout Festival. Will be selling ads to cover the costs and hope to make it an annual publication
- Bus Tour Operators Summit hosted at GLMHC on Memorial Day Weekend, 200-400 tour bus operators are expected to take part in this event. Staff and volunteers will be giving them a preview of the exhibit and talking about tourism opportunities - already have over 20 tours scheduled for the summer.

Extra funding for marketing was not available for 2008, so the staff is working on getting as much free promotion as possible.

Teaching Materials: Lesson Plans, Activity Guide, and “Exploring the Shipwreck Century” Curriculum. A series of 8 lesson plans and a children’s activity guide are completed and will be posted on our website soon. Cathy Green continues to work on the curriculum.

2008 Mate ROV Regional Competition - April 19, 2008. Sixteen teams are signed to compete in this year’s regional competition hosted at Alpena High School. There are numerous local teams, plus teams from Ohio, Utica, Gaylord, Madison Heights and Traverse City. The top two teams will go on to compete at the national competition held in San Diego this summer.

Telepresence Programs. First week of March - Monterey Bay, CA, telepresence expedition. Have nearly 350 students signed up to participate. Hoping for 400-500 students total. March 6 at 4:30pm just broadcast to us, open to the public.

Mysteries Beneath the Waves. The sanctuary received a grant to do some remote sensing within the sanctuary and beyond the current boundaries to look at the new boundary areas. The sanctuary is partnering with University of Rhode Island and University of Michigan on this project.

Public Comment. None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.