

Dec 27

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

- December 4 Meeting Minutes -

Date: December 4, 2001

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: AMA/ESD Building, 2118 US 23 South, Alpena

I. Meeting Attendees

NOAA: Ellen Brody, Karen Brubeck, Kate Kauffman

State of Michigan: John R. Halsey

SAC MEMBERS: Donald Beem, Deborah Pardike, Ken Kolasa, Ed Retherford, Merl Melton, Paula Thompson, Don Newport, John McConnell, Betty Krueger, David S. Elder, Leonard Zolnierok, Carol Shafto, Lynda VanDusen, Jeff Myers

SAC ALTERNATES: David M. Dekett, Brian Tippman, Kathleen Hubbard, Kim Wallis-Burke, Jim Milstein, Gerald L. Nowak (sitting in for Marie Twite)

Ex-officio Member: Not present.

Members of the Public: Burt Barker, Arlee Barker, Gary Goren, John Lane

Media: Connie Stafford-Alpena News, Mark Goshgarian-WBKB-TV

II. Agenda Items

Welcome: Carol Shafto welcomed everyone to the meeting. All SAC members, alternates, sanctuary staff, and state of Michigan representatives introduced themselves.

October 23 Meeting Follow-Up: The October 23 Meeting Minutes were approved. Karen Brubeck accepted changes to the SAC contact list. Karen Brubeck addressed the below questions which were brought up at the October 23 meeting:

(1) How should government seats deal with the issue of an alternate?

Answer: Send a letter to Ellen Brody appointing an alternate.

(2) Can the Advisory Council as a whole, or an individual Council member representing themselves as such contact State of Michigan legislators regarding the Council and/or the Sanctuary/Preserve?

Answer: Yes.

Announcements and Miscellaneous Items: Francis (Joe) LaMarre resigned his position as alternate for the Business/Economic Development seat; James Milstein is the new alternate for that seat. Gerald Nowak was appointed as the alternate for Alpena Township; he was sitting in for Marie Twite at the December 4 meeting. Phil Ludlow was appointed as alternate for the City of Alpena. Sanborn Township will appoint an alternate at their next meeting.

If any SAC member is approached by an individual interested in volunteering for the Sanctuary/Preserve, please pass the information along to Kate Kauffman.

Carol Shafto and Karen Brubeck will represent Thunder Bay at the national SAC Chair and Coordinator Meeting in the Florida Keys in February.

Ellen Brody provided an update on some key Sanctuary issues.

Manager: Due to a error in the on-line application process, the sanctuary manager position had to be re-advertised; the vacancy announcement is now closed. NOAA and the State will review the panel of candidates and set up interviews for after the holidays.

NMSP Budget: President Bush signed the budget for the sanctuary program allotting 33.5 million for operation and 16 million in construction funds.

Maritime Heritage Center/Armory: The State of Michigan is the owner of the Armory. Neither NOAA nor the State is interested at this time in owning the building. A more likely scenario should the Armory be used an interpretive center is to have a developer renovate the building and have the government agencies lease from the developer. NOAA will still proceed with a preliminary analysis of costs to renovate the building, but on a smaller scale.

New Department: John Halsey discussed the new state department of History, Arts, and Libraries (HAL). He outlined the November 30, 2001, meeting NOAA and some state staff had with Dr. William Anderson, Director of HAL.

Ellen highlighted some of the Sanctuary's FYO2 projects. (see attached handout)

Advisory Council Roles: Karen Brubeck discussed: (1) the roles of the Thunder Bay Advisory Council as discussed in the Council's Charter; (2) the roles of Advisory Councils in general, as discussed in the National Marine Sanctuary Program Sanctuary Advisory Council Handbook; (3) the potential role of Councils in regional and/or national issues; (4) some examples of what other Councils are involved with and the actions they've taken.

Brainstorming Session: The SAC was challenged to be visionary, and brainstorm about what roles they see themselves playing and what they want to accomplish.

- David Elder: The Council should make sure that a hyperbaric chamber is located in Alpena.
- Leonard Zolnierrek: Motioned that the Council passed the following resolution: "The Sanctuary Advisory Council strongly supports the placement of a hyperbaric chamber in Alpena, preferably at Alpena General Hospital." It was seconded, and passed unanimously.
- Deb Pardike: Challenged the Council to think big and promote the sanctuary; the SAC can and should play a significant role in marketing/promotion. In follow-up discussion, Council members agreed the State should play a bigger role in marketing the Sanctuary. There was also discussion of the Sanctuary's representation at diving shows.
- Paula Thompson: Urged the Council to help bring the JASON project to Alpena.

- Gathering of artifacts from community should be important. John Halsey explained the process of returning artifacts to the State. Artifacts obtained after 1980 belong to the State of Michigan and would be given to the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. The State can lend them back to the sanctuary if they would be appropriated cared for.
- Gary Goren: Promote the Sanctuary to kayakers and other types of recreation. Utilize technology to “beam” images to schools, and engage in other interactive projects.
- Paula Thompson: Facilitate the development of a “driving shipwreck trail” or aerial tour of shipwrecks for non-divers.
- John McConnell: Explore the potential for a film festival focused on shipwrecks.
- Ed Retherford: Assist the Sanctuary in forming partnerships with the whole community. Host a brainstorming session for the community to help promote the sanctuary.
- Carol Shafto: The Council could establish a speakers’ bureau; representatives would provide presentations to local groups.

Establish Working Groups: The Council established three working groups: education, tourism/outreach/promotion, and mooring buoys. Working groups are subunits of the Advisory Council, composed of full members, alternates, and interested members of the public. Groups will select Chairs at their first meeting. NOAA may have a representative present, in support capacity only, at each meeting. At each SAC meeting, there will be time set aside for working groups to give updates on their activities and progress. NOAA will draft a press release announcing the working groups and seeking community members who are interested in serving on each group.

The following individuals volunteered for the working groups. SAC members will seek to involve other members of the public as well:

Education Working Group- Kathleen Hubbard, Don Newport, John Singer, John McConnell, Brian Tippman, Gary Goren, Paula Thompson

Mooring buoy Working Group- Jeff Myers, Merl Melton, Steve Kroll, Joe Sobczak, Burt Barker, Kim Wallis-Burke-

Outreach- Deb Pardike, Kathleen Hubbard, Ed Retherford, Ken Kolasa, Carol Shafto, Erwin Lewandowski

Closing Announcements and Comments:

James Milstein and Gerald Nowak each provided the Council with some background on why they were interested in the Sanctuary and participating on the Council.

Suggestion was put forth that the SAC make a commitment to come on time and end on time.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

III. Action Items

Oct. 23 Final Meeting Minutes: Sanctuary staff will post the final, approved minutes to the website and mail out to members.

Dec 4 Meeting minutes: Sanctuary staff will draft minutes and mail out to members. Once minutes are approved at the January 22 meeting, they will be finalized, mailed out to members, and posted on website.

Advisory Council Contact Sheet: Sanctuary staff will finalize and mail out to members.

January 22 Meeting: Sanctuary staff will arrange the logistics of the meeting. Staff will work with Chair and Vice Chair to draft agenda for the meeting; a copy of the agenda will be mailed out prior to the meeting.

Other Mailings: Sanctuary staff will mail out a copy of the letter to Mayor Ludlow which provided a status report on the Armory/Maritime Heritage Center. Staff will ensure that the Mooring Buoy Working Group receives appropriate information.

Working Groups: Sanctuary staff will develop a list of members on each working group and attend the meetings in a support capacity.

SAC “Bio” Brochure: Sanctuary staff will draft a bio for each member based upon the application package and work with the member to edit it as necessary.

Draft Work Plan: Sanctuary staff will utilize the information from the Brainstorming Session and the FY 02 proposed projects and develop a draft work plan for the Advisory Council. The SAC will review, provide input, make changes, and ultimately “adopt” the work plan.

Press Release: Sanctuary staff drafted a press release announcing the working groups and seeking community members who are interested in serving on each group.

REMINDER: THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 22, 2002 at 7:00 P.M. YOU WILL RECEIVE AN AGENDA PRIOR TO THE MEETING.