

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Advisory Council**

**- October 21, 2008 Meeting Minutes-**

**Date: October 21, 2008**

**Time: 6:30pm – 9:00pm**

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

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

**NOAA:** Chuck Bennett, Russ Green, Pat Labadie, Tera Panknin, Jean Prevo, Sarah Waters, and Steve Gates

**State of Michigan:** None

**SAC Members:** Don Beem, Kathleen Hubbard, Olin Joynton, Vera Kavanaugh, Steve Kroll, Jerry Meek, Deb Pardike, Ed Retherford, Carol Shafto, Lynda VanDusen

**SAC Alternates:** Dennis Bodem, Shari Davis, Jim Dessenberg, Chuck LeFebvre, Joe Sobczak, Karen Tetzlaff, Mark Upham, Chuck Wiesen

**Ex-officio Member:** None

**Public:** Sheila Phillips, Ken DeGraff, Julie Scott (for ARMC Tom Kane), Merl Melton, Rick Houchin USCG

**Media:** Patti Ramus, *The Alpena News*

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Russ Green, Sanctuary Deputy Superintendent, led the SAC meeting in Jeff Gray's absence. Jeff was in Lansing to discuss the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail. The result of that meeting may lead to a fence being built from the bridge to the coal dock.

***Staff Changes***

Mary Beth Stutzman has moved on to Alpena Community College and Sarah Waters, Sarah Newman, and Steve Gates were recently hired. Sarah Waters is the new Visitor Experience Coordinator for the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. Though she moved to Michigan from Philadelphia, she's a Michigan native. Sarah is responsible for the sanctuary store and programming at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. She will soon be meeting with Michigan's History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) to discuss store inventory and she welcomes suggestions. Sarah Newman comes to the sanctuary from Yale. She served as a sanctuary intern the past two summers and was recently hired as an Education Specialist. She will be with the sanctuary for approximately one year. Steve Gates, a graduate from the University of Michigan, accepted an Americorps position after working as an intern this past summer. He will be

involved in education and outreach activities and field work for the next year. The Americorps position is the result of a new partnership with Huron Pines.

### ***Emeritus Member***

Art Gillespie will be presented with a certificate of appreciation as Emeritus Member of the sanctuary advisory council to honor his long time service to the SAC.

### ***50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sinking of the Carl D. Bradley***

Steve Kroll presented a video trailer for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of *Carl D. Bradley*. The ship sank on November 18, 1958, affecting the lives of many residents of Rogers City.

### ***Development of a National SAC Chairs Working Group***

The SAC discussed the formation of a National SAC Chairs Working Group. Though it's been suggested that this working group be formed by the Chairs of each SAC, the composition of this working group is still up for discussion. Steve Kroll's view is that no matter what, it's important that the decision be made by individual SACs, not from the top down. Chuck Wiesen encouraged the development of the working group and suggested that non-Chair members of the SAC be considered. Others agreed with this recommendation because of the many responsibilities of the SAC chair and because other members may offer skills needed to fill the position. Also, alternate members of the SAC are not eligible to become SAC Chair and this would provide them with an opportunity to serve. Non-Chair members would also be able to serve longer since they are not subject to the Chair's term limits. Carol Shafto suggested that each individual SAC decide who they will send. Steve Kroll, Chuck Wiesen, and Carol Shafto volunteered to develop a statement of preference, which is due by the end of December. Other SAC members are welcome to participate in the development of the statement.

The question arose about whether there were issues at the national level so significant that an additional council was needed. In response, it was argued that this group would be at a higher level and would be able to meet with different groups and represent all sanctuaries. It would put public interests higher. As long as the purpose of the group was different than the annual meeting of the SAC Chairs, the efforts of this group would not be duplicative. This position would be a non-paid, voluntary position and travel expenses would be reimbursed.

### ***Case Study Topics for Annual Meeting of SAC Chairs***

The annual meeting of SAC Chairs will be held at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center the week of May 5, 2009. By the end of December, possible study topics need to be determined for this meeting. There will be three case study topics, each requiring a one hour presentation. Attached are the guidelines for the presentation. In general, the topic must be something of value to all national marine sanctuaries.

### ***August Minutes***

Vera Kavanaugh motioned to accept the minutes from the August 19<sup>th</sup> SAC meeting and Chuck Wiesen seconded the motion. No one opposed.

## **REVIEW OF 2009 SAC MEETING DATES**

No one expressed concerns for the proposed SAC meeting dates and they were adopted as is.

## **DISCUSSION REGARDING MPA COUNCIL**

Marine Protected Areas (MPA) was created by an executive order by President Clinton. An MPA is “any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by federal, state, tribal, territorial, or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein.” The 30 member MPA Council seeks to fill 15 seats for the term 2010 to 2014. They are seeking nominations by November 30<sup>th</sup> for natural and social scientists, resource managers, and representatives of ocean industry, commercial and recreational fishing, and environmental groups. If you are interested in becoming a member or if you would like more information, please contact Cathy Green at (989) 356-8805 ext. 10 or [cathy.green@noaa.gov](mailto:cathy.green@noaa.gov) or visit [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov).

## **MPR AND BOUNDARY EXPANSION UPDATE**

Jeff Gray, Ellen Brody, and Tera Panknin met for an intensive management plan review meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. As a result, recommendations were made to revise the individual action plans, which include Resource Protection, Education and Outreach, Research, Sanctuary Operations, and Performance Evaluation. It was also recommended that program information in the introduction to the Draft Management Plan be moved to the background sections of the action plans. The draft is expected to be completed before November 7, 2008. At that time it will go to Washington D.C. for clearance and will be reviewed by State partners. The draft will then be revised, formatted, printed, and made available to the public (most likely in early Spring 2009). At that time, a public comment period, including public hearings, will be held. Feedback from the public will be used to develop the Final Management Plan.

Two bills have been introduced, one in the U.S. Senate and one in the U.S. House of Representatives, to expand the sanctuary boundaries to a 3662-square-mile-area off Alpena, Alcona, and Presque Isle Counties. It is unlikely these bills will be passed in this Congress.

## **SANCTUARY UPDATE**

### ***Education and Outreach***

The sanctuary conducted three live internet broadcasts in September. They’ve been archived and are available at OceansLive.org. Companion lesson plans were also developed. The sanctuary also partnered with Milwaukee Public Museum to provide a broadcast on the Lady Elgin Rediscovery Expedition to several thousand students. Distance learning continues at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center and the sanctuary has received new equipment that allows staff to do on-water programs. Staff will soon have access to a new mobile unit that can provide programming throughout the exhibit.

The sanctuary hosted the tall ships *Denis Sullivan*, *Appledore*, and *Highlander Sea*. *Denis Sullivan* and *Highlander Sea* will return regularly for a week in the spring and a week in the fall. The sanctuary is working with its partners to fund more trips on the water.

The annual regional MATE ROV Building Competition will be held on April 25, 2009. Volunteers are needed for this event. If you are interested in participating, please contact Tera Panknin, Volunteer Coordinator, at (989) 356-8805 ext. 38 or [tera.panknin@noaa.gov](mailto:tera.panknin@noaa.gov). The sanctuary will also be copresenting two workshops, one for Shed and one for Traverse City, to train 20-30 teachers at each site to do ROV programs. Ultimately Chicago will host its own regional competition and Traverse City will expand what they are currently doing. Funding for these projects comes from partner organizations.

A workshop was held at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center for 20 teachers from Great Lakes Maritime Transportation, funded by shipping industry. They provided curriculum treasure chests containing materials for elementary school teachers. Four chests are available to loan to teachers and they would like to return in the spring.

Cathy Green is now in charge of marketing and communication for the sanctuary. She noted that there will be a new Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary/Jesse Besser Museum billboard on U.S. 23 South near Black River on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### ***Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center Events***

According to Sarah Waters, post-Labor Day numbers for the visitor center are still strong, with many tours and group meetings in the building.

- Saturday Morning Physics program takes place in the education room. Forty people attended on October 11<sup>th</sup> and 20 attended on October 18<sup>th</sup> (and a volunteer provided scones).
- Delta Kappa Gamma honorary education group toured the building with Chuck Wiesen.
- The Thunder Bay Boat Building Program kayak building started on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and will take place in the building Saturdays and Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Friday Downtown Fall Festival is Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be trick or treating in the building.
- Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the National Weather Service will be presenting.
- Kindermusic will take place on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Family Day will be November 15<sup>th</sup>. Families will get clues to identify a shipwreck.
- Carl D. Bradley* anniversary will take place in November.
- The holiday parade will be on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Peak visitor numbers were 431 visitors on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 527 visitors on October 11<sup>th</sup> (during the Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival). Starting in November, the center will be closed Sundays, except the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The building will also be closed Thanksgiving day, Christmas Eve, Christmas day, and New Years day. Staff are working on the winter and spring schedule, with possible overnight activities and a story hour.

## **Research**

Russ green discussed the side scan survey project conducted this September with \$75,000 funding from a NOAA Ocean Exploration Grant. The purpose of the survey was to search for shipwrecks in areas surrounding the sanctuary in anticipation of boundary expansion. They covered 100 square miles near Rogers City. They also used an untethered autonomous underwater vehicle in shallow waters near Thunder Bay Island. Though nothing was located, the AUV proved effective in shallow water (5 feet or less) and may serve other functions.

Sanctuary staff also conducted field work on the *Kyle Spangler*. The shipwreck was located by Stan Stock in 180-190 feet of water off Presque Isle. For two weeks in September the sanctuary worked with Stan to document the ship. A National Register Nomination will be sought for this wreck. Documentation included developing a traditional site plan and a photomosaic of the wreck. The *Kyle Spangler* was also located by sanctuary staff during the side scan survey project. They also found a steamer off Rogers City in 190 feet of water. Preliminary findings suggest it is the ship, *Messenger*. The sanctuary will keep the coordinates of this wreck confidential until baseline documentation can be conducted.

The sanctuary is seeking another Ocean Exploration Grant for \$92,000 to survey waters to the south of the sanctuary. That survey will use a new type of AUV that will provide greater coverage to locate targets. Staff will likely conduct another technical project to document one or more deep wrecks.

## **CONSTITUENT REPORTS**

Attached is a schedule for 2008-2009 constituent reports. Constituent reports are generally five minute long presentations of constituent issues, thoughts, and suggestions.

## **TRAVEL MICHIGAN PARTNERSHIP & TOURISM UPDATE - Deb Pardike**

Travel Michigan will market the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage and Alpena as a premiere tourism destination through its award winning Pure Michigan Campaign. Because Travel Michigan matches dollar for dollar community contributions, the goal of the sanctuary and the Alpena Chamber of Commerce is to contribute \$40,000 for a total of \$80,000 for the campaign. They are \$2,500 away from that goal. Alpena County gave \$2,500 and City of Alpena contributed \$5,000. Travel Michigan is currently researching which markets they'll advertise in, but will most likely include out-of-state markets such as Illinois and Wisconsin. Alpena will also be a featured destination on the Michigan.org.. The commercials are narrated by Tim Allen and McCann Erickson, who developed campaigns for Coke, the Army, and Mastercard, will develop a brand for Alpena to fit in with the Pure Michigan brand. The campaign will include radio commercials and videographers filmed video that may appear in ads. As the Pure Michigan campaign goes national, so will Alpena.

## **WINDIATE PRESENTATION**

Patrick Labadie presented on the *Cornelia B. Windiate*, an intact canal schooner located off Presque Isle County in 185 feet of water.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Guidelines for Case Study Topics for Chair's Meeting  
Constituent Report Schedule  
2009 Meeting Dates