

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Advisory Council**

**- February 21, 2012 Meeting Minutes-**

**Date: February 21, 2012**

**Time: 6:30pm**

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

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

**NOAA:** Daniel J. Basta, Director ONMS, Jeff Gray, Jean Bauer, Meaghan Black, Tane Casserley, Russ Green, Cathy Green, Phil Hartmeyer, Joey Jackson, Harriet Smith, Chuck Bennett, Ellen Brody, Sarah Waters, Stephanie Gandulla, Daniel Moffat, Patrick Saker, Pat Labadie

**State of Michigan:** Wayne Lusardi

**SAC Members:** Vera Kavanaugh, Deb Pardike, Mark Upham, Don Beem, Lynda VanDusen, Jeff Kowalski, Joe Sobczak, Kathleen Hubbard, Steve Kroll, Carl Bourdelais, Olin Joynton

**SAC Alternates:** Jim Dessenberg, Jerry Meek, Chuck Wiesen, Cam Habermahl, Dennis Bodem, John McConnell

**Ex-officio Member:** None

**Public:** Carol Shafto, Barbara Meek, David Cummins, ACC

**Media:** Jessica Nikolich, *The Alpena News*

**WELCOME AND ACTION ITEMS**

Olin called the meeting to order and introduced Dan Basta, director of the ONMS. He also introduced the new member Cam Habermahl, alternate for Alpena County.

Dennise Bodem made a motion to approve the October 2011 meeting minutes. Chuck Wiesen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Jean provided the council with a list of seats that are up for application. The seats are:

- Fishing
- Tourism
- Maritime History & Interpretation
- Diving
- Education (K-12)
- Citizen-at-Large (currently held by Jerry Meek and John McVeety)

Applications will be ready soon and will be due by the end of March.

**Assessing the Role of Scientific Information in SAC Recommendations & NMS Management Decisions Survey – Dan Basta, ONMS Director**

This is a 20-minute survey being done by PhD candidate Lauren E. Garske. All staff and SAC members have been asked to participate in this survey. Dan has recommended that everyone completes the survey.

**FRIENDS OF THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY – Meaghan Black**  
Membership drive has been in full swing since October. Working on wrapping up the drive, just about doubled the amount of members from last year. Also have had a great show from the staff and the Friends Board.

The store did very well this year and the online store is up and running.

**Thunder Thursday – Meaghan Black**

Meaghan gave a presentation on the Friends at Rotary on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Her message to them was that the Friends group was trying to think outside the box and raise money creatively without having to go door-to-door. Thunder Thursday is done in 2 ways. Either a private party at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center with a “sneak peak” of updates, or it is a public event. To date, the public events have been held at the Black Sheep. These events are designed to promote the Friends group, as well as discuss items the people in attendance probably don’t know. The events at the Black Sheep have been reaching out to a different demographic and include discounts on beverages if you purchase a sanctuary glass, selling of sanctuary merchandise, and sanctuary trivia throughout the evening.

Jeff Gray – The Friends have received donations from 100% of the staff. Jeff presented at the annual LT meeting regarding our Friends group and shared a lot of our ideas. 100% of the superintendents from the entire program are also members of our Friends group.

The Friends Board consists of Chuck Wiesen, Carol Shafto, and Missy LeFave.

Dan Basta said he was impressed by our membership. It is the key to connecting and creating ownership. It encourages us to continue to build up our memberships at all levels (youth, international, etc.) National program is also trying to re-do their membership drive. Friends group is part of Thunder Bay’s secret weapon.

**SANCTUARY EXPANSION UPDATE – Jeff Gray**

During the 2005 five-year review, the number one thing we heard about was expansion of the sanctuary boundaries. Same thing when we worked on management plan review during public hearings. Senator Levin has made four attempts to expand the sanctuary; the bill has not moved through, but has come very close. Moving forward with Congressional action has not been able to happen. Recently received a letters of support from the Governor’s office, Dept. of Commerce, local economic groups, etc.

Jeff said that the program has made the decision to move on administratively. Process somewhat similar to Management Plan, which will include public hearings, an environmental impact statement, etc.

Dan Basta - mentioned that we are not the only site that has had this problem with bills in Congress not getting through. You want to go that route because the NMS Act has not been reauthorized. Congressional decisions can be quick and unquestioned. This has not happened. Government is only as good as the people it governs. Good government is created by us, the people it governs, if government is not delivering for us, we need to deliver it for ourselves. May want to expand the size we had originally proposed.

According to Dan Basta, "We need to go forward for ourselves, but also for Senator Carl Levin. We have made a programmatic decision that we are going to move forward with this. We owe it to you. We will need all of your support for this and we are excited to get going on this challenge."

Carol Shafto asked Dan what he would like from our council? Dan responded that there will be a public process, need to be expeditious and decisive. Great Lakes community needs to know what we want to do, build a bigger coalition of Great Lakes sanctuaries.

Jeff - Agency way can take anywhere from 9-12 months to 9-12 years. Would like to follow our model of the management plan review. In the next few weeks releasing public notice that we will be starting the process. Scoping meetings will be held in Rogers City, Harrisville, Alcona and Alpena. We will need the SAC's assistance to spread the word about the meetings.

Steve asked for an overview of the entire process? Jeff - Public hearings, documents, very similar to management plan process. Already have a whole list of support letters from folks on our website.

Action item in the management plan is that we will evaluate the recommendation that the working group made.

Ellen Brody said there is a difference between the management plan process and the expansion process. This will be more like the designation process with an Environmental Impact Statement and different proposals boundaries for the expansion. Alternative boundaries will be derived from the scoping meetings.

Olin asked for a one-page set of talking points from Jeff so we can make it clear when we are talking to our constituents.

Jeff proposed that we have another expansion working group. Steve Kroll made a motion to form a working group, Dennis Bodem seconded.

Steve Kroll, Chuck Wiesen, Joe Sobczak, Dennis Bodem, and John McConnell volunteered to be on the committee.

### **SANCUTARY UPDATE – Jeff Gray**

The Alpena Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner was an important night for the sanctuary. The theme of this year's dinner was "We would be sunk without our members." Thunder Bay NMS received the 2012 ACC Workforce Development Award.

Some of our key partners were also recognized – Alpena Shipwreck Tours received the Up and Coming Award up and was also nominated for Business of the Year. Last year the glass-bottom boat took out 8,500 passengers and we believe that will increase in the coming years. Chris and Missi LeFave won the Business of the Year for all of their businesses. Carol Shafto was awarded Citizen of the Year and the sanctuary was mentioned numerous times during her intro.

**Alpena Community College** – Our partnership with ACC continues to grow. Nine months ago when Dan was here and toured the college, he challenged them to design a memorial for individuals that have lost their lives working for NOAA, it will be at the Nancy Foster Center in the Florida Keys. Dan - The memorial is for people that lost their lives on the jobs and also for people that have made contributions to the concept of our special places. It is being designed by the art students at ACC and created out of concrete.

Dan invited Olin to go to the Savannah Ocean Exchange where entrepreneurs compete for \$100,000 sponsored by Gulfstream and Ocean Advance. Two of this year's finalists were concrete related. Last week, the finalists were in Alpena presenting on their concept of Ecocrete.

Ecocrete test sites have been deployed in the river behind the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center and they will return in June to do some work on the samples.

#### **Marine Technology Program – ACC**

Received a grant to develop a marine technology program at ACC, training people for jobs in the Great Lakes, the ocean's and technology. Flyers for this have been distributed (see attached). The sanctuary staff will assist the college with teaching courses in underwater archaeology and diving.

Jeff traveled to the MATE center to see a program similar to this. Took a ton of information from that and tried to specialize our program. The summer program that was developed will be an incredible opportunity for students.

In the process of being finalized hope to have the official announcements within the next few weeks. Hoping to make the program unique in the nation, not just in our state. Jeff is working with American Samoa to bring a couple of their students here to attend some of the courses.

Alpena Regional Medical Center has been working with Samoa to help get a hyperbaric chamber, they will be opening their chamber in May. They also have a high diabetic rate like Alpena and the chamber will serve dual purposes.

#### **Education & Outreach**

Sarah and the education team have done a great job going beyond the normal field trip.

Alpena High School will have an earth science elective class this spring. The *Shipwreck Alley* class will be taught by John Caplis. John said he had a full class and had to make a few exceptions to let more students participate. John received grant funding from the Besser Foundation for instructional materials for the class. Class will travel to the library to visit the research collection; they will go snorkeling, etc.

Elementary schools are working with the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative. The program started at Sanborn and has grown to other area schools. The program involves the groups monitoring Thunder Bay River watershed.

The students in Bob Thompson's class at Sanborn learned about invasive species and how they might affect the shipwrecks. He does this project throughout the entire year. This year they are building an ROV which will be entered into the annual MATE ROV competition and will also be used for their watershed research. They are also interested in the reef restoration project. Exciting to see these kids involved in the community projects going on around them.

Besser Elementary school is working on the *City of Alpena* project, headed up by Chuck Wiesen. They are transcribing the log book and entering the information into a spreadsheet.

*Project Shiphunt* curriculum is being developed. High school lessons to compliment the film. John Caplis is the teacher liaison on that project. Hope to launch in June this year.

ACES Academy is writing a grant to have the Shipwreck Alley class as part of their curriculum.

Tall ship *Niagara* will be here this summer, July 7-9 and July 20-22.

Sarah introduced Daniel Moffat who is part of the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative. He will work out of our offices and help us with sanctuary programs.

Planning on having two CILER fellows this summer.

Earth Day is coming up this spring, 450 students participates last year. Wild Swan Theater will be here, performing a play is called *Shipwrecked*. The performance will be open to the public on Saturday.

ROV Competition – April 28, 2012. Twenty-nine teams signed up this year, which is twice as many as last year. Topic of this year's competition is "Shipwrecks, diving into history."

The month of May will be dedicated to daily school tours on board the *Lady Michigan*.

Working with Alpena Shipwreck Tours to add more interpretation on board. There will be a new schedule coming out to allow for more cruises. Working with Deb at the CVB to do more advertising this year. More details at the next meeting.

### **Research Update – Russ Green**

Total grant funding since 2005 is \$376k, if you include the TB Research collection \$476k, total \$852k.

## 2011 Research Summary

- 68 days at sea
- 324 dives by Thunder Bay NMS
- 60+ by dive partners
- 350+ dives by sea cadets
- 17 divers in TBNMS unit (6 are volunteers)
- 98 individuals came through Alpena for Thunder Bay related research.
- 208 individual nights in our research quarters, 55 nights in hotels, 15 nights in other accommodations. 278 total nights.
- Currently, 25 shipwreck sites have moorings, 4 were added in 2011. Will be installing some new moorings during the 2012 field season.
- Mapped 40 square miles off of Presque Isle and found 2 shipwrecks, the *M.F. Merrick* and the *Etruria*.
- Got images by working with volunteers and outside dive teams
- Worked on the steamer *Florida*, the *Typo* and the *Defiance*
- *Wreck Diving Magazine* featured an article written by a camera operator on *Project Shiphunt*
- Dove on prehistoric dive sites being studied by Jon O'Shea. University of Michigan will be here conducting a field school in May and June.
- Working on putting together all of the data we have collected through multibeam, etc., into a GIS system.
- 2012 – live dive from the *Grecian*. Work with school kids in North Carolina and Alpena.
- NOAA & the Preserve America Initiative- grant to map the *Pewabic* and install a mooring.

## ONMS DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Daniel J. Basta*

Creating a national campaign, building larger coalitions. Every site has a role in this campaign. Every site has a projection element. Project in ways that are bigger and larger. Here in the Great Lakes the answer is simple. Every Great Lake needs to have a sanctuary.

Campaign is a very aggressive approach. The Sanctuary Leadership Team discussed this during their annual meeting and Jeff has his goals for our site and the Great Lakes. Great Lakes have an opportunity to build a bigger coalition, because they can tie together more rapidly than other parts of the country. We need to be creating momentum, getting corporate America to want to pay attention to certain places, which is very challenging.

Met with board last week and these are the 5 things he used to describe the state of the National Marine Sanctuary program:

- Strong
- Successful
- Active
- Leading
- On the attack

We have to build this so we have a bigger critical mass. Need to get communities in Colorado to see that their interest is the same as our interest. Vital to their special places as well.

Alpena will be the tech diving center for the program. We can use this to project to other communities.

Recent Sanctuary Watch focused on Maritime Heritage.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Advisory Council**

**- June 28, 2012 Meeting Minutes-**

**Date: June 28, 2012**

**Time: 6:30pm**

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

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

**NOAA:** Jeff Gray, Jean Bauer, Russ Green, Phil Hartmeyer, Sarah Waters, Patrick Saker, Charles Bendig, Amanda Wetzel, Beau Braymer

**State of Michigan:** None

**SAC Members:** Kathleen Hubbard, Jason Snyder, Olin Joynton, Vera Kavanaugh, Carol Shafto, Lynda VanDusen, Don Beem, Herbert Palmer, Carl Bourdelais, Jeff Kowalski, Steve Kroll

**SAC Alternates:** Shari Davis, Ron Meneghel, Don Newport, Jim Dessenberg, Rick Fluharty

**Ex-officio Member:** None

**Public:** Luke Clyborn and Kathy Trax – *Pride of Michigan*, Ido Sella & Shimrit Perkol-Finkiel - *EconCrete*, David Cummins – *Alpena Community College*, Larry Molnar – *University of Michigan*, Heather Rouleau, Grace Schmitz, Anne Gentry, Charles Hubbard

**Media:** Jessica Nikolich, *The Alpena News*

**WELCOME AND ACTION ITEMS**

Olin called the meeting to order and introductions were made for the new members.

Olin recognized the former members departing the council – Dennis Bodem, John McConnell, and Jerry Meek. He called for a resolution of appreciation for these departing members of the council to convey appreciation for their years of service. Vera Kavanaugh made the motion. Carl Bourdelais seconded. All were in favor.

Lynda VanDusen made a motion to approve the February 21, 2012 meeting minutes. Steve Kroll seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**SUMMARY OF WEBINAR ON CAMPAIGN OF ENGAGEMENT AND DISCUSSION ON OPTIONS OF RESPONSE** – Jeff Gray and Olin Joynton attended a SAC Chair's meeting via the web in April. During the meeting Dan Basta expressed his concern that the sanctuary program is perceived as a boutique in a very large operation of the Department of Commerce. Sometimes you have to toot your own horn to be noticed and to keep the sanctuaries from drifting into insignificance.

Dan is in strong outreach mode and calling upon us as sanctuary councils to assist him in a bold campaign for greater recognition. He emphasized four areas of focus – relevance to strong local economies, cultural connections to the oceans, protecting public health, and conserving resources both biological and cultural.

Olin said that prior to the webinar they were asked to ponder and respond to the question, “How does the sanctuary fit into the current priorities of the Obama administration?” Olin researched the current priorities of the Obama administration and found that oceans were not included on the list of 28 priorities.

Olin spoke to Senator Levin about this issue when he visited Alpena in May and has also been communicating with Dan Basta regarding the ocean becoming the 29<sup>th</sup> priority and taking a leadership role with the other sanctuaries.

Monterey Bay NMS was also working on this same issue with their advisory council and passed a resolution for communities being able to consider having a sanctuary. Currently, Thunder Bay is the sanctuary to be designated (in 2000) while national parks have continued to grow. MBNMS asked if other sites would be willing to pass a resolution. Jeff asked for volunteers to work on this resolution? Kathleen Hubbard, Jeff Kowalski, and Steve Kroll volunteered. Jean will organize the working group and send out the MBNMS resolution.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### ***ECONcrete – Ido Sella and Shimrit Perkol-Finkel***

Marine biologists Ido Sella and Shimrit Perkol-Finkel from Israel gave a presentation on their project to make concrete more eco-friendly. They were here in February and placed their econcrete samples in the river. During this visit they will be removing and sampling the samples.

### ***Economic Impact Study - Larry Molnar, University of Michigan***

Larry Molnar of the University of Michigan gave a presentation on the Economic Impact and Visitor Analysis survey being conducted in partnership with Thunder Bay NMS.

### ***ACC Marine Tech Update – David Cummins, ACC & Luke Clyborn, Noble Odyssey Foundation***

The first ACC class for the new Marine Tech Program started about a month ago. It includes a dive class as an elective that is being taught by Luke Clyborn of the Noble Odyssey Foundation. The course is not just teaching diving, it is also teaching research techniques.

## **SANCTUARY UPDATE**

### **Thunder Bay Maritime Festival – Wednesday, July 4, 10:00-6:00pm**

More sponsors than ever before. Big thank you to the Alpena CVB for their large donation. This is Thunder Bay NMS’s largest annual outreach event.

### ***American Samoa – Jeff Gray***

In May, Jeff travelled to Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary in American Samoa to meet regarding several projects our sites have been collaborating on. One of the projects was the hyperbaric chamber which they opened last month. Like Alpena, they also have a large diabetic

rate so the chamber will benefit patients and save hundreds of limbs per year.

Jeff also met with American Samoa's community college and the governor. During their meetings they discussed the ACC Marine Tech Program. They also discussed our tourism and what we've done with the glass bottom boat, kayaking and how it ties into the sanctuary.

The Director of Samoan affairs, the secretary and the superintendent of Fagatele Bay NMS visited here two weeks ago. During their trip they had the opportunity to meet with area business leaders.

An American Samoa student will be coming here this summer to take one of the ACC courses and live in the research quarters.

### **RESEARCH UPDATE – Russ Green**

Moorings are in at 23 of 26 sites. Staff has been replacing the mooring systems and tackle on most of the sites. Plan to install more moorings in July.

A University of Michigan undergraduate field school was here for a month doing multi-beam and shoreline surveys.

Four sanctuary divers went through re-breather training and Thunder Bay NMS was one of only two sites in NOAA to complete the training.

Live Dive ended up moving locations because of technical difficulties

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute will be here this summer with an AUV (autonomous underwater vehicle) to continue research on the wrecks *M.F. Merrick* and *Euteria* which were found during the filming of *Project Shiphunt*.

### **Boundary Expansion Update**

Public comment period has ended, received 60-70 comments which are available on our website. General feel was very positive except for a few negative remarks regarding the federal government's current financial situation. Russ and Jeff are working with Ellen Brody to draft the Environmental Impact Statement.

### **EDUCATION – Sarah Waters**

#### **Earth day**

400 students visited the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. Many activities including students demonstrating science projects to other students. The play *Shipwrecked* was performed by Wild Swan Theater which also had a public performance the following Saturday.

#### **ROV Competition**

Almost 30 teams competed in the 2012 ROV Competition. Melvindale and Thunder Bay Junior High School were the winners. Sarah Waters and David Cummins were judges at the international competition in Orlando. Our local teams were above the middle of the pack of over 50 teams.

#### **Classroom Cruises**

In the month of May the *Lady Michigan* hosted classroom cruises at a discounted student rate. Twenty classes participated ranging from preschool through high school and came from as far away as Petoskey.

### **Shipwreck Alley – AHS Class**

Alpena High School started a new class called Shipwreck Alley. Sanctuary staff visited the class for lectures; they taught archaeology and also had a pool session where the students learned how to snorkel, try dive gear and work with a practice photomosaic.

### **GLSI – Bay Watershed Education & Training Grant**

Awarded \$97,900 “Our River our Future: Transforming a community through the rediscovery of their local watershed.” The grant helps pay for supplies and transportation for the classes.

Sanborn School was one of the schools that participated in the GLSI program. Bob Thompson and his students raised lake trout in their classroom and then let them go over artificial reefs in the bay.

### **ROV Workshop with 4H Staff**

**Maritime Archaeology Camp** - week long camp through ACC educational talent search

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.