

**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.

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council
-April 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes-**

Date: April 18, 2017

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center (GLMHC), 500 W. Fletcher Street,
Alpena, MI 49707

MEETING ATTENDEES

NOAA: Chuck Bennett, John Bright, Stephanie Gandulla, Meaghan Gass, Jeff Gray, Phil Hartmeyer, Joey Jackson, Sarah Waters, Katie Wolf

State of Michigan: Wayne Lusardi

SAC Members: Mary Christensen-Cooper, Beach Hall, Nancy Kinney, Steve Kroll, Al Moe, Don Newport, Carol Shafto, Jason Snyder, Chuck Wiesen

SAC Alternates: Roger Baumgardner, Shari Davis, Jim Dessenberg, Bob Doyle, Merl Melton, Ron Meneghel, Susan Nielsen

Guests: David Cummins, Bob Krafft, Randy Patterson, Matt Pickett, Dawn Stone, Brian Taggart

Media: none

Welcome and Action Items

Chuck Wiesen called the meeting to order. The council reviewed and approved minutes from the December 13, 2016 and February 21, 2017 council meetings. Don Newport's name was omitted, and will be added, to the December minutes.

Jeff reviewed support letters sent from Thunder Bay NMS in support of proposed new sanctuary designations at Mallows Bay-Potomac River and Wisconsin-Lake Michigan.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems and research at TBNMS

John Bright introduced Matt Pickett from NOAA's Remote Sensing Division and Brian Taggart from Oceans Unmanned. Matt and Brian have many years of experience as aviators for NOAA. Currently they are cooperating to provide Unmanned Aircraft Support to Thunder Bay NMS's OER research project. Using two senseFLY e Bee RTK UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) systems and visible-range cameras the team will fly over several control areas to view previously found archaeological materials and to explore new sites.

To date, shallow water surveys have not been conducted along much of the Thunder Bay NMS shoreline due to hazardous conditions for research vessels. The team and archaeologists from Thunder Bay NMS believe that the use of UAS for submerged archaeological resource exploration is an innovative solution which could find wide spread applications at this and other sanctuaries.

The council quickly moved outside to be photographed by one of the drones.

John will keep the council updated on this and other facets of the OER grant project this summer.

Recreational Fishing Summit

Al Moe gave the council an overview of a NOAA sponsored recreational Fishing Summit he attended in Florida. The summit brought recreational fishers from many regions of the country together to discuss how recreational fishing is regulated, state and federal support and unique local and regional issues which have an impact on this very popular hobby.

The council thanked Al for his attendance at this Summit.

Plastics 101

Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (NEMI/GLSI) regional coordinator Meaghan Gass gave the council an update on recent activities. They included an amazing video written, produced, filmed, and edited (with excellent support from NEMI/GLSI Huron Pines AmeriCorps member Olivia Rose and TBNMS staff) by 5th grade students in Bob Thomson's class at Ella M. White School, the findings from a Thunder Bay River field visit in the fall of 2016, the Northeast Michigan Earth Day Bag Project, and a Plastics F.L.O.A.T. (For The Love Of Alpena Today) student initiated effort to work with local restaurants to offer straws to patrons only if they ask. The students were concerned that 500,000,000 straws are used in the U.S. every day and they never go away. Seven local restaurants participated in "Zero Waste Week."

Note that the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center has a special water fountain where visitors and staff can fill reusable containers anytime during hours of operation.

Draft Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Strategic Plan

Jeff reviewed *OUR VISION for America's Treasured Ocean Places: A Five Year Strategy for the National Marine Sanctuary System (Draft March 2017)*. This twenty-two page document will "set a five year course for managing some of our nation's most amazing ocean and Great Lakes places" and will address priorities, staff, values, and stewardship.

Jeff asked each member of the council to thoroughly read and consider this plan. He also reminded the council that Thunder Bay NMS management plan review is on the horizon.

SANCTUARY UPDATE

Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (FTBNMS)

Katie gave the council a short update on FTBNMS activities. The Friends recently met for a work/planning session.

The Friends has been successful in securing several grants which will be reviewed in detail at a future council meeting.

On Saturday May 13, 2017, please join FTBNMS for the grand opening of Fletcher Street Depot. This event is a fund/friend raiser for FTBNMS and will celebrate opening of the Depot and Friends as the new operator of the glass bottom-boat *Lady Michigan*. Your ticket price of \$45.00 includes the grand opening event AND a ticket aboard *Lady Michigan* for any public cruise from the beginning of the 2017 season through June 30, 2017. Questions? Contact Katie at 989.884.6210, Andrew Augustyn at 989.884.6211, or Chuck Wiesen at cwiesen@thunderbayfriends.org.

Education and Outreach-Sarah Waters

MATE Regional ROV competition is all day Saturday, April 22, 2017 at Alpena High School (primarily in the pool, gym, and library). Twenty-two teams (mostly Navigator class) will be involved in the day long competition. Council members not volunteering that day are encouraged to stop and see some amazing young people at work.

Summer camps (sixteen in all this summer) are scheduled and now accepting registrations. This year's camp director is Erin Pilarski. Questions may be directed to Erin at 989.884.6200.

Media Update-Stephanie Gandulla

Stephanie reported that, since Film Festival, Thunder Bay NMS has had nine front page articles in local print media. Great coverage and well done, Stephanie!

Buoy Program-John Bright

John reported that 41 buoys will be placed near wreck sites this summer. To assist with this task, 2 U.S. Parks and Recreation Service divers will be on site to support Thunder Bay NMS divers.

Recreation Fishing Issue-Jason Snyder

Jason gave a short report on his concern that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is trying to raise fees on local fishermen over an issue that took place last summer at another location in Lake Huron.

Public Comment – None.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

2017 TBNMS/SAC Schedule of Meetings

June 20

August 15

October 17

December 12

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

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (TBNMS)
Advisory Council
-June 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes-**

Date: June 20, 2017

Time: 6:30 p.m.

**Location: Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center (GLMHC), 500 W. Fletcher Street,
Alpena, MI 49707**

(Thanks to Joey Jackson, whose supplemental notes proved to be invaluable in the preparation of these minutes.)

Meeting Attendees

NOAA: Andrew Augustyn, Chuck Bennett, John Bright, Stephanie Gandulla, Jeff Gray, Phil Hartmeyer, Joey Jackson, Sarah Waters, Katie Wolf

State of Michigan: Wayne Lusardi

SAC Members: Roger Baumgardner, Vera Kavanaugh, Nancy Kinney, John Kozlowski, Steve Kroll, Bill LaMarre, Don MacMaster, John McVeety, Al Moe, Don Newport, Chuck Wiesen

SAC Alternates: Susan Austin, Mike Beaulac, Shari Davis, Jim Dessenberg, Bob Doyle, Beach Hall, Ron Meneghel, Ann-Marie Ruder,

Guests: Molly Volk, intern, James Madison University, is a senior majoring in anthropology and will be with TBNMS through the middle of August 2017.

Media: None

Welcome and Action Items

Chuck Wiesen called the meeting to order. The council reviewed and approved minutes from the April 18, 2017 council meeting.

There have been some council changes. Roger Baumgardner is now the full member from Alcona County. Adam Brege is the new alternate from Alcona County. Nick Modrzynski is the new alternate from Alpena County. Alpena officer in charge Michael Brindle is the new representative from the U.S. Coast Guard.

Dr. Mark Upham, a SAC member since 2008, has resigned from council. He will be recognized for his service to the sanctuary at a future meeting and recruiting to fill his position will begin in the fall.

Stand Up for the Great Lakes

Jeff introduced Kwin Morrisand who, along with Jeff Guy and Joe Lorenz, just completed a 90 mile, 28 and 1/2 hour trip across Lake Huron on a paddleboard. This is the second Great Lake they have crossed. Staff member Stephanie Gandulla and SAC member Al Moe made the journey as safety boat crewmembers. This trip was made as a fundraiser for Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and to call attention to the need for all citizens to be ever aware of the fragile nature of the Great Lakes.

Capitol Hill Ocean Week - Steve Kroll

Steve Kroll gave the SAC an overview of his four days in Washington D.C. as our representative to Capitol Hill Ocean Week. This annual event brings sanctuary staff and volunteers from throughout the system together with U.S. Senators, Representatives, and their staff members to discuss a wide range of marine environment issues. Steve spent time with the Senator from Wisconsin, Michigan Representative Jack Bergman, and Michigan U.S. Senator Gary Peters and participated on a panel discussing the proposed sanctuary at Mallows Bay, Maryland.

Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Update

Friends Director Katie Wolf gave the council a summary of recent Friends activities. “All Aboard” introduced 150 guests to the Fletcher Street Depot and gave them the opportunity to listen to several speakers share the impact Friends is having on educational and research activities within the sanctuary. The Besser Foundation provided the sanctuary and Friends with two grants of \$100,000 each to improve the dive tank filtration system and services aboard *Lady Michigan*. Friends are conducting a fundraiser raffle of a beautiful Penobscot 14’ boat. The drawing will be held on October 9, 2017. The Friends were represented at the Presque Isle Harbor Wooden Boat Show on June 17, where they sold raffle tickets for the wooden boat and greeted many visitors.

Research Update

John Bright gave the SAC an update on a variety of grants and research activities. This year, TBNMS has fewer available/certified divers than in past years. To efficiently and safely install our wreck mooring buoys, the sanctuary exercised a diving reciprocity agreement with USGS to obtain two divers for three weeks and used multiple platforms to deploy the buoys. Steve Kroll installed the buoys in the Rogers City area. Phase II of the OER grant work has been completed. 93 square miles of the lake floor was surveyed using a sonar system from the University of Delaware. In phase III of the OER grant Dr. Guy Meadows from Michigan Technological University will lead a team surveying possible ship targets. With the recent recertification of a number of divers to NOAA specification, TBNMS is now the administrative hub for diving in the Great Lakes. TBNMS and GLERL recently completed a sonar mapping project in Lake Michigan. Russ Green organized and led this project. TBNMS/university partnerships continue a many year research effort in the Middle island sinkhole.

Phil Hartmeyer introduced the SAC to a cooperative project between TBNMS and the documentary film department at Grand Valley State University. Seven students, adviser John Schmit and their equipment worked to prepare a series of short films for an interactive documentary focused on TBNMS, the Alpena Area, and the "Get Into Your Sanctuary" campaign. At an upcoming SAC meeting, excerpts of the video footage shot and edited by the students will be shown. Community partners Alpena Community College, Alpena Public Library, and the Presque Isle Historical Society were helpful in providing students a productive learning experience and introduction to the beauty of Northern Michigan.

Sanctuary Update

Sarah Waters told SAC about a number of activities that have or are about to begin at the sanctuary.

- TBNMS hosted 25 field trips during the just completed spring semester for area students.
- Alpena High School hosted a senior overnight event at the sanctuary.
- Ella White Elementary School students had 32 hours of concentrated S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) training.
- TBNMS supported 27 place based stewardship education activities in partnership with the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative team.
- TBNMS hosted the annual MATE/Regional ROV competition.
- TBNMS staff presented an ROV workshop at the Sloan Museum in Flint, MI and will do a like workshop at the MSU 4-H Exploration Days event in East Lansing, MI.
- TBNMS is hosting 16 summer camps for area children.

This year's Maritime Festival will include the 4th annual "Battle of the Paddles", the always spectacular cardboard boat regatta, and the headliner musical act "The Accidentals." SAC members were urged to consider volunteering a few hours during this year's festival.

Public Comment None.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

2017 TBNMS/SAC Schedule of Meetings

August 15 - Jeff noted that the regular schedule for this meeting may be adjusted depending on content and the possibility of hosting SAC aboard *Lady Michigan*.

October 17

December 12

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

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (TBNMS)
Advisory Council
-August 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes-**

Date: August 15, 2017

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center (GLMHC), 500 W. Fletcher Street,
Alpena, MI 49707

Meeting Attendees

NOAA: Andrew Augustyn, Chuck Bennett, John Bright, Stephanie Gandulla, Jeff Gray, Phil Hartmeyer, Joey Jackson, Mary Tagliareni, Sarah Waters, Katie Wolf

SAC Members: Vera Kavanaugh, Nancy Kinney, John Kozlowski, Steve Kroll, Bill LaMarre, John McVeety, Al Moe, Carol Shafto, Chuck Wiesen

SAC Alternates: Susan Austin, Shari Davis, Jim Dessenberg, Bob Doyle, Ron Meneghel, Ann-Marie Ruder

Guests: Kwin Morrisand, Jeff Guy, Joe Lorenz

Media: Jordan Spence, The Alpena News

Welcome and Action Items

Carol Shafto called the meeting to order. The council reviewed and approved minutes from the June 20, 2017 council meeting.

Dr. Mark Upham, a SAC member since 2008, has resigned from the council. He will be recognized for his service to the sanctuary at a future meeting.

Jeff introduced new Thunder Bay NMS staff member Mary Tagliareni. Mary comes to the sanctuary from Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary with 27 years of experience in the system.

Recreation/Tourism, Fishing, Education (higher education), Maritime Industry/Business, and two Citizen-at-Large SAC seats will be open this fall. Jean will send out a note on the application/reapplication process in early September.

Executive Order Discussion

Carol gave the council an overview of a resolution that has been prepared, without staff assistance, in strong opposition to the Executive Order "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy". By roll call vote, with a quorum present, the resolution was unanimously passed and will be sent to appropriate federal officials and organizations. A copy of the resolution will be filed with the minutes of this meeting.

Stand Up for the Great Lakes

Jeff introduced Kwin Morris, Jeff Guy and Joe Lorenz, who, in June, 2017 completed a 90 mile, 28 and 1/2 hour trip across Lake Huron on paddle boards. This trip was made as a fund raiser for Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and to call attention to the need for all citizens to be ever aware of the fragile nature of the Great Lakes. Kwin, Jeff, and Joe presented Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary with a check for \$7,000.00. The SAC thanked the men for their donation and will look forward to future opportunities to work with Stand Up for Great Lakes. A documentary film about the crossing will be shown on Labor Day, 2017 at 5 p.m. on TV 9 and 10 and will be a featured film at the 2018 Thunder Bay International Film Festival.

Research Update

John Bright gave the SAC an abbreviated update on a variety of research activities. The Thunder Bay BNMS team has completed Phase IV (last phase) of the Office of Exploration & Research funded project. This involved in-water operations and was supported by divers from Monitor National Marine Sanctuary and East Carolina University. The team also completed five 3D photo models and placed mooring buoys on *Monrovia* (140 feet deep) and *Pewabic* (170 feet deep).

The team is now in final preparation for the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) symposium which will be held at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center September 12-16, 2017.

Phil Hartmeyer added information about the AAUS symposium. 130 members will be in Alpena for their annual conference. These are many of the premier underwater scientists and researchers in the country. This will also be the first time the new dive tank filtration system will be put to practical use. Funding for this system came from a grant awarded to Friends of TBNMS by the Besser Foundation.

Sanctuary Update

Mary Jo Beck is the sanctuary's Volunteer-of-the-Year. Well done, Mary Jo!

Summer camps for students continue to be well received. Erin Pilarski will give the SAC a full report at a future meeting.

August 14-17 the Lake Huron Place-Based Stewardship Education Summer Teacher Institute is hosting 16 teachers at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. This week long training session focuses on developing good Great Lakes stewards through a variety of different place-based education activities. Meaghan Gass and Olivia Rose will give the SAC a summary of this event at a future meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. so SAC members could participate in the sanctuary's annual volunteer appreciation cruise aboard *Lady Michigan*.

2017 TBNMS/SAC Schedule of Meetings

October 17

December 12

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

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (TBNMS)
Advisory Council**

-October 17, 2017 Meeting Minutes-

Date: October 17, 2017

Time: 6:30 p.m.

**Location: Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center (GLMHC), 500 W. Fletcher Street,
Alpena, MI 49707**

Meeting Attendees

NOAA: Andrew Augustyn, Chuck Bennett, John Bright, Stephanie Gandulla, Jeff Gray, Phil Hartmeyer, Jean Prevo, Katie Wolf

State of Michigan: Wayne Lusardi

SAC Members: Roger Baumgardner, Shari Davis, Vera Kavanaugh, Nancy Kinney, John Kozlowski, Steve Kroll, Bill LaMarre, Mary Christenson-Cooper, John McVeety, Al Moe, Don Newport, Carol Shafto, Chuck Wiesen

SAC Alternates: Michael Beaulac, Anne Marie Ruder, Robert Doyle, Beach Hall

Guests: Ed Kavanaugh

Media: Michael Beiermeister - WBKB TV

WELCOME AND ACTION ITEMS

Chuck Wiesen called the meeting to order. The council reviewed and approved minutes from the August 2017 council meeting.

MAKERS SPACE TOUR

The council toured the Makers Space, dive locker, and dive tank to view the updates that have been made, including the new filtration system installed in the tank.

ONMS STRATEGIC PLAN & MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW – Jeff Gray

Jeff gave the council an overview of the final ONMS Strategic Plan which Jean emailed to the council on September 29th. He highlighted that the document was simple by design and will be very usable by the public. He was part of the initial working group that helped make decisions such as using the term “protect” versus the term “conserve.” He is very happy with the finished product.

John Armor, Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, was here for a few days for a meeting with our partners the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab in Ann Arbor. While he was here he met with the Friends board and had a chance to go through the Strategic Plan with them.

The board felt very positive about John's visit and the support we are getting from the national level and would like to see him meet with the SAC next time he is here. Jeff said we will schedule a meeting or lunch with the council during John's next visit.

Chuck suggested that everyone go back and re-read the ONMS Strategic Plan as we begin our own Management Plan review process so we can be sure our plan aligns with the national system's goals. Please email Jean if you would like another copy emailed to you.

MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW – Jeff Gray

Thunder Bay NMS finalized the current Management Plan in 2007. We will begin a new review process in December with a visit from ONMS headquarters strategic planning folks. They will meet with Thunder Bay NMS staff for a few days and then attend our council meeting on the 12th to kick off the formal review process. We will be looking at how we are going to make adjustments, what's still relevant, what's new, etc. We are experimenting with an online form where individuals can go on and assess each measure which may allow for fewer public meetings. Also looking at forming some smaller working groups to look at each task.

We plan to have most of the work done and sent into ONMS for the final review process by May 2018.

Please familiarize yourself with our current Management Plan for our December meeting. If you need another copy emailed to you please contact Jean.

ALPENA SHIPWRECK TOURS UPDATE – Andrew Augustyn

Andrew gave an overview of the 2017 *Lady Michigan* season. Numbers were a little low this year due to many factors including weather and mechanical issues in May and June, however, the season finished off with a strong September. Andrew will be running reports to see how this season compares to previous ones. The boat is out of the water for winter and we plan to have it back in the water at the beginning of April 2018 depending on the weather.

Started to keep track of AST customers by zip code and also promoted a customer survey which they could turn in for a discount in the store. Andrew estimates that around 2,000 surveys were turned back in.

FRIENDS OF TBNMS UPDATE – Katie Wolf

Hollings Award – based on promoting “*Get Into Your Sanctuary*”

Awarded \$50,000 in Jan 2017

10 billboards on all major highway corridors to Alpena

Strategically placed print ads

Presented “deep dive” to other Sanctuaries “Friends” groups last week

Harvest Moon Dark Sky Cruise

Part of Lake Huron Discovery Tour

Partnered with Besser Museum

Sold out TWO Cruises

After expenses, Friends & Besser Museum will split proceeds (approx. \$700 each)

Penobscot 14 Wooden Boat Raffle

Announced at 2017 TBIFF

Winner drawn October 9, 2017

Sold 1,260 tickets

Raised \$6,000 (minus expenses)

Donated \$3,000 each to Heritage Coast Sailing & Rowing, Inc. and TBNMS education programs

Heritage Coast Sailing & Rowing will be using the funds to build 4 wooden paddle boards. Two of those will be given to the Friends to use for future raffles.

Besser Grant Update

First \$100,000 has been received:

\$50,000 for AST promotion & education

\$50,000 for Dive Tank Filtration System which has been installed

Additional \$100,000 will be awarded in 2018

Outstanding Grant Applications

Michigan Humanities Council grant for \$15,000 for AST programming

Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council for \$2,500 to increase student engagement in the 2018 Thunder Bay International Film Festival

Upcoming Fundraising Activities

New Friends Website for direct online donations now LIVE!

Fall Membership Campaign, October

Giving Tuesday, Nov. 28

End-of-Year Giving Campaign, December

Roger Baumgardner asked how many current Friends' members are there? Katie said there are close to 300 members with the average gift around \$400/year.

SANCTUARY UPDATE – Jeff Gray

A group from Mallocks Bay visited Thunder Bay NMS at the end of August.

People from Wisconsin have been contacting local officials for more information about having a sanctuary. Steve Kroll attended a public meeting in Wisconsin where he spoke about designation. Many of the people at the meeting were opposed to sanctuary designation, it's a very small group but they have been very loud (billboards, ads, picketing, etc.) The local and state government agencies are in support of the proposed sanctuary.

Great discussion on what an impact the sanctuary has had on Alpena. What would Alpena be like if we didn't have the sanctuary? This was a question that came up in a conversation between John & Al last time they were out on the glass bottom boat.

There was discussion about a Wisconsin letter to the editor that was submitted stating the sanctuary has had no impact on Alpena. The Friends board together with other Alpena representatives have submitted a letter in response. Jean will be emailing a copy of these letters to the council.

Hannah MacDonald – Longtime sanctuary volunteer Hannah MacDonald was recently selected by the Governor to serve on the Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee. She also received the North American Association for Environmental Education 30 Under 30 award. Started in 2016, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and this year, adding support from the U.S. Forest Service and the Global Environmental Education Partnership, the EE 30 Under 30 program recognizes individuals in the U.S. and internationally, 30 years of age or younger, who are game changers in their communities.

American Academy of Underwater Sciences Annual Symposium – The 2017 symposium was held at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in September. Ninety professionals attended the week long meeting and were able to utilize the dive tank with its new filtration system for some of the sessions.

Pure Michigan – The DNR Natural Resource Commission & the Travel Commission both met here last week. They were holding individual meetings but then came together for a session. The Office of the Great Lakes will be here next week. We continue to try to promote GLMHC as a meeting destination. The Holiday Inn has been a great asset for us.

RESEARCH UPDATE – John Bright & Phil Hartmeyer

Research and field operations are wrapping up for the season. R/V *Laurentian* and R/V *Storm* departed Alpena recently and all NOAA vessels will be out of the water by November 15th. The research team's remaining field operations involve the collection of the seasonal mooring buoys.

Throughout the summer, Thunder Bay NMS researchers led teams of collaborators to explore new areas of the sanctuary. Funded by a grant from NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, the team executed a series of individual project phases in planning since 2015. Each involved an innovative, technology-based approach to archaeological exploration. The first utilized UAS (drones) to conduct photographic survey over shallow water areas. While successfully able to map a large stretch of North Point Reef, they found that over-water survey was extremely dependent on calm weather conditions. Next, the team transitioned to deep-water survey using sonar. While surveying a total of 94 square miles off Presque Isle, the team located two new shipwreck sites. Subsequent investigations with AUVs and ROVs revealed their identities as *Ohio* and *Choctaw*. The vessels, however, were too deep to dive. Nevertheless, the team did complete technical diving on several shipwrecks in the Presque Isle vicinity, developing 3D photo models and 360 panoramic imagery at each site.

One part of Phase IV of the OE project was collecting panoramic, virtual reality imagery from the sites investigated. These immersive, single shot panoramas are being stitched into interactive shipwreck tours that can be accessed on desktop or mobile devices. This unique camera system gives archaeologists a different lens to monitor these sites and offers the public an exciting way to explore the historic submerged resources off our shores without getting wet. Sites imaged include New Orleans (1885), Norman, Florida, and the Middle Island Sinkhole. Once stitching is complete, these panoramas will be uploaded to the ONMS' virtual reality gallery of which Thunder Bay is well represented already. This camera system is being deployed at sites across the country with Thunder Bay leading the way.

Text “tbnms” to 24587 and you will receive a link to take a virtual dive into Thunder Bay NMS!

EDUCATION UPDATE

Stephanie Gandulla spoke about the news coverage the sanctuary has received since the last meeting. She talked about the Fathom Drone Group here a couple of weeks ago that went out on the *Lady Michigan* and got some great photos and video footage. The Fathom Drone team worked with ACC and Thunder Bay NMS staff to test their pre-production models of the Fathom One underwater drone on a shipwreck.

Upcoming Events:

2018 MATE ROV Competition - May 12th. All of the competition materials are available online.

10th Annual Freshwater Summit - Sanctuary staff will be participating in the 10th annual Freshwater Summit at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City on Friday, October 20th. The Freshwater Summit is an annual conference of environmental professionals and engaged citizens focusing on current issues facing the Great Lakes region. At the event John Bright will present “*Pushing the Boundaries: Technology-Driven Exploration of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary,*” which highlights the Ocean Exploration Research grant funded field project that he spoke about during the meeting. He will also give that same presentation at the GLMHC on Thursday, December 7th at 6:00pm.

Halloween – Trick or Treat Event at GLMHC is **Friday, October 27th 5-8pm.**

Two free filmmakers’ workshops – October 22nd and November 3rd 1-3pm. This is a joint event hosted by Alpena County Library and the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative. See attached flyer for more information.

Native Voices traveling exhibit – **October 12th – November 21st.** In partnership with the Alpena County Library the sanctuary is offering two free programs. There will be a special 25-minute *Science on a Sphere* program every Saturday starting at 10:30am and running throughout the day. On **November 11th at 1:00pm** the sanctuary will have a film screening of “*People of a Feather.*” See attached flyer for more information.

Michigan Maritime Archaeology Day – October 28th 10am-4pm. Wayne Lusardi will be participating in the event and presenting on the Tuskegee Airmen.

The Art of Exploring: What’s so Great about the Great Lakes? - November 2nd at the Dennis Museum, in Traverse City. In conjunction with the theme of exploration throughout November, this program invites various Northern Michigan organizations and community leaders to discuss current issues surrounding the Great Lakes.

Other upcoming events:

October 30: Third Coast Conversations: Dialogues About Water in Michigan (meeting in preparation for public events in 2018, standby for 2018 dates!)

November 4: First Robotics/STEM Day at Alpena High School (open to the public, free)

November 7: TBIFF Outreach to area schools...Sneak Peek! (not a public event - for students during school day)

November 18 & December 16: ROV open house at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center makerspace - free public event for families

November 20: National Weather Service program at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center theater - free public event

December 7: *Pushing the Boundaries* lecture at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center theater - free public event

December 9: Petoskey Robotics Conference (free public event at Petoskey High School)

December 15: Alcona schools – Archaeological Mapping Program (not a public event - student program during school day)

December 9 & 23: Christmas Tree Ship program - free public event for families

January 24-28, 2018: Thunder Bay International Film Festival - ticketed public event

Please check the sanctuary public calendar for public event time(s) and details at:
<https://thunderbay.noaa.gov/news/calendar/welcome.html>

Public Comment – none

Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 9:10p.m.

2017 TBNMS/SAC Schedule of Meetings

December 12, 2017

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