Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council

- March 23, 2010 Meeting Minutes-

Date: March 23, 2010
Time: 6:30pm
Location: Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, 500 W. Fletcher Street, Alpena, MI

MEETING ATTENDEES

NOAA: Chuck Bennett, Meaghan Black, Tane Casserley, Steve Gates, Jeff Gray, Cathy Green, Russ Green, Joey Jackson, Tera Panknin, Jean Prevo, Ashley Marquardt, Sarah Waters

State of Michigan: None

SAC Members: Don Beem, Carl Bourdelais, Olin Joynton, Jerry Meek, Deb Pardike, Ed Retherford, Carol Shafto, Joe Sobczak, Lynda VanDusen

SAC Alternates: Dennis Bodem, Jim Dessenberg, Chuck LeFebvre, John McConnell, Mark Upham, Chuck Wiesen

Ex-officio Member: None

Public: Sheila Phillips, Lee Barnhill, Lee Spragg

Media: Patty Ramus, *The Alpena News*

WELCOME AND ACTION ITEMS

Bob Newton will not be speaking today and will be deferred for another time.

Sanctuary staff have been divided into three teams: Research (lead by Russ), Education (lead by Sarah), and Administration (lead Jeff). Meaghan Black, an education specialist, and Ashley Marquardt, an Americorp –intern, are on the education team. Joey Jackson is our new graphic designer.

Dennis Bodem made a motion to approve January's meeting minutes and Chuck seconded the motion.

May Constituent Reports:
- Maritime History & Interpretation - Kathleen Hubbard
- Alpena Township Board of Trustees - Marie Twite
- Citizen-at-Large - Vera Kavanaugh/Jim Dessenberg

CONSTITUENT REPORTS

Fishing
The Lake Huron Advisory (an effort by DNRE), meets four times a year and advise on re-management of Lake Huron. Ed Retherford discussed Pure Michigan, his fishing charter, and Asian Carp, an invasive species. Fish plants are coming in the next two months for steelhead and rainbow trout. They are still working on cormorant control. There's the Lake Invaders DVD, which is a documentary of the Great Lakes and invasive species. The *Nordmeer* is no longer above water.

Citizen-at-Large
Jerry Meek spoke to a person from Brushcreek Mill in Hillman. It's a new museum there. They're interested in the sanctuary, but don't know much about it, so they need information. There's no boat building going on right now. Someone is coming here all the way from Indiana to see the birch bark canoe. There's construction activity is the screwpress building while it's being converted for boat building and the dive locker. Construction should be completed by the end of May. The boat builders may need new furniture and the building needs a new name.

ACC PARTNERSHIP

Cathy Green spoke about the National Endowment of the Humanities grant submitted to fund a workshop about the sanctuary and shipwrecks for community college faculty from around the country. It was resubmitted (partners were the sanctuary, Alpena Community College, Alpena County Library, Besser Museum, and Presque Isle Township and lighthouses). We asked for $115K (half goes to stipends and travel and rest goes to the workshop). We will learn if it's funded in September. If not funded, it will be implemented some other way. The outline for this program could serve as an outline for an undergraduate class.

GRANTS UPDATE

- The International Ship Masters Association has supported the sanctuary for years and has brought hundreds of students to the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. Sixteen schools participated in the program from the ship master's funding and it has served over 600 kids. They have also helped with programming. Three years ago they used the building for meetings and learned there was an issue with getting kids to the building. They donate $500 a year. Max and Carol Lund and Pat Labadie personally donated money too. They would like to get retired seadogs to speak with students. The fleet size is going down. There could be interpretation of current shipping and recognition of crew that lost their lives, as well as oral histories and videotaping of oral histories.
- We partnered with the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory on a Preserve America Initiative Grant (PAIG) for $10,000 that was funded to create a traveling exhibit that will feature the sanctuary and the Great Lakes (Sea Grant and Ann Arbor Hands On Museum were also partners). We will host the exhibit at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center.
- The Office of Education's Environmental Literacy Grant has two priorities. The first is to communicate environmental literacy to informal audiences (the general public) by focusing on the outdoor usage of innovative technology. We're a copartner with

NEMCOG on this grant for $800K. We won't find out if it's funded until September. Priority two is for Science on a Sphere (SOS). The Detroit Zoo wants one and we are a partner. We also collaborate on docent training for SOS. We need additional datasets for different programs. They would also like a mobile telepresence unit to do programming with us.

- We received funding from the Michigan Department of Transportation to create outdoor sheltered learning stations and markers for the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail.
- Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative mini grants.
- Tane received a PAIG grant to conduct a live broadcast from the shipwreck *Montana*. It will be broadcast to the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum and maybe Wisconsin. Thunder Bay is the only sanctuary to have an entire live-dive unit. We were the only maritime heritage grant funded by Preserve America.

SANCTUARY UPDATE

Administration

- Jeff met with Bart Stupak, Carl Levin, and Debbie Stabenow about boundary expansion. The expansion bill is in a final hold in the Senate. There is no final timeline, but we will keep you updated. Research is being done in the other counties.
- The Boat Building facility is under construction. It will be a green building and we will apply for LEED certification. It will be a dive locker too.
- We hosted a traveling display at the Milwaukee Ghost Ships Festival. It was designed by Joey Jackson.
- Become a fan of the sanctuary on Facebook. We have over 4,000 fans. It's a great way to communicate with the public.

Research

- The RV *Storm* is a 50 foot vessel we will use for research, education, and remote sensing. We will work in the expanded sanctuary. It arrives in May and we will have an event.
- There's a positive relationship between the research we do and our ability to get grants. We've started working outside the sanctuary in the past few years. Sonar can live on the *Storm*. Tane has been trained to process the data. Remote sensing will be used to locate shipwrecks.
- A Condition Report is required for sanctuaries every five years. It's basically a health-check on the sanctuary (the state of resources). There are 17 questions and only three are about maritime resources. We decided to answer them all. Staff attended a workshop at GLERL for nine hours and discussed invasive species, geology, and fish stocks. The level of work they do is impressive. We need an exchange. We were able to answer the questions sensibly. Thunder Bay's Condition Report will be published in September.
- Mooring buoys will be installed this spring. There are19 moorings at popular sites inside the sanctuary. We are going to do another six to 10 along the shoreline. The *John Shaw* will get a mooring. The *American Union*, *Albany*, and *Portland* could be marked for kayaking. We've applied for several more permits. If we add technical wrecks, it will be difficult to dive them consistently, but they need the most protection. Installing mooring buoys is the most important thing we can do for physical protection of wrecks.
- There will be a technical diving project through the University of Wilmington. It will be

similar to the *Kyle Spangler* with a full scale assessment and site plan. The *Defiance* in 2001 had no quagga mussels, but in 2005 it was covered. We thought they didn't show up in deep water. Unlike zebra mussels, quagga mussels have siphons and more can attach to wrecks. Divers also manipulate wrecks.

- There will be AUVs from U of M in the sanctuary. We will produce photomosaics.
- The *New Orleans* (a bulk freighter) needs a mooring
- The steamer *Messenger* was located during a side scan sonar survey and we will release its coordinates.
- The NOAA Office of Coast Survey will side scan (with multi-beam) the entire bay.
- A Multi-beam survey of the land bridge will be done by U of M (John O'Shea). They received $104K from NOAA Office of Exploration. They will be looking for prehistoric sites with multi-beam on the *Storm*.
- *Montana* Live Dive
- The University of Texas will bring an AUV with forward sonar to the sanctuary. $94K was obtained by the Office of Exploration to look at the shipping lanes to the south.
- Funding has been received from headquarters to host members of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS) for NAS training.

Education

The following education and outreach activities have happened:

- Sea Story Time
- Saturday Morning Physics
- Bingham Family Fun Day
- Research at Thunder Bay NMS lecture
- Great Museum of the Sea lecture
- Ghost Ships Festival
- Quiet Water Symposium
- Identify the Huron Beach Shipwreck lecture in Ann Arbor by Wayne Lusardi
- Conservation laboratory volunteers : 17 volunteers volunteered 217 hours in the conservation lab doing photography, windlass preservation, artifact documentation, inventory, illustration, cleaning, and tours. There is a tour today focusing on the conservation lab.

There will be a Spring Break Day Camp and Spring Break Ocean Adventures (see handouts).

Other Spring Programs:

- ROV competition on April 17 with 15 teams
- Mid Michigan Community College – Students of Promise
- Earth Day Celebrations at GLMHC (April 22)
- Lincoln School Family Fun Day (April 24)
- Pandora's Locks (April)
- Distance Learning - Marine Mammals of the Arctic (May 18-20)
- *Denis Sullivan* (May 6-11)
- Girl Scout Overnight Program (May 8)
- Group tours and programs

Meaghan Black is working on an evaluation webinar and would like input from teachers from outlying schools and a male teacher. She is working with the Education Working Group and is also on the ESD Curriculum Committee. Regional school outreach reaches out to schools when schools won't come to us. She was surprised and pleased with the technology Oscoda has. She's working with partners like the Besser Museum, the Great Lakes Youth Writing Program – History's Mysteries, and the 4H National Youth Science Experiment. She is also working on volunteer training strategies for working with students and young visitors.

The NABS youth summit will be held at Thunder Bay. Five youth will be here in July.

The American Sail Training for Tall Ships is in the lakes this year. There is a call to volunteers to go to events like Green Bay and Cleveland. Contact Sarah Waters for more information.

Carol Shafto mentioned the Coast Guard commander is changing and recommended that the SAC send a note of thanks for his participation. There will be a party on April 16th at 1:00 at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center.

There will be a dedication for U.S. Fish and Wildlife's new building on April 9th with the ribbon cutting at 10:15 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

7:55 p.m.