Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council

- May 4, 2010 Meeting Minutes-

Date: May 4, 2010
Time: 6:30pm
Location: Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, 500 W. Fletcher Street, Alpena, MI

MEETING ATTENDEES

NOAA: Tane Casserley, Steve Gates, Jeff Gray, Russ Green, Tera Panknin, Jean Prevo, Joey Jackson, Meaghan Black, Ashley Marquardt, Ellen Brody, Pat Labadie, and Sarah Waters
State of Michigan: None
SAC Members: Don Beem, Carl Bourdelais, Kathleen Hubbard, Olin Joynton, Vera Kavanaugh, Steve Kroll, Jerry Meek, Carol Shafto, Joeph Sobczak, Lynda VanDusen
SAC Alternates: Dennis Bodem, Jim Dessenberg, Chuck LeFebvre, John McConnell, John McVeety, Chuck Wiesen
Ex-officio Member: None
Public: Barb Willyard, Merl Melton, Sid Hausding, Dennis Donohue, Sheila Phillips, Daryl Wright
Media: Patty Ramus, *The Alpena News*

WELCOME AND ACTION ITEMS

Dennis Bodem made a motion to approve the March 17th meeting minutes and Chuck Wiesen seconded the motion.

The July Constituent Report assignments are: Sanborn Township, City of Alpena, and Alpena County.

NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PARTNERNSHIP

Part of management plan review was funding and developing a local foundation. The sanctuary has established a fund with the Northeast Community Foundation (CFNEM) with the long-term goal of having a development officer.

Barb Willyard distributed the CFNEM's annual report. The foundation was founded in 1974 to help non-profit organizations support themselves. Permanent endowment funds make up most of the funds. Foundation funds help people give back to their own community. The sanctuary's fund is an endowment fund. The process of starting a fund begins with a fund agreement which specifies how to distribute the fund. Endowments funded the hyperbaric chambers at Alpena Regional Medical Center. A donor can make a gift online, come into the office, or make a gift of bequest (this is the most important gift). You can do a pledge drive. Once a pledge is made, it's put on the books as an asset to the fund and the foundation sends out pledge reminders. There are a number of ways the foundation can help the sanctuary raise the money it needs. Anything anyone wants to do, they can do through the foundation. The money is invested and they

received a 21% return on investments in 2009. They use good, reliable investments. The foundation will be here in the future and hopefully the sanctuary will be too. CFNEM is a member of the Council of Michigan Foundations and Council of Foundations. They are reconfirming national standards to remain up-to-date on rules and regulations. It's impossible to ask others to support your fund if you haven't supported it yourself.

One advantage to contributing to endowments is gifts to endowments at community foundations in Michigan get a MI tax credit ($100 for $200 donations for individuals and $200 for $400 donations for families) plus federal deductions if you itemize. It's best to get people to make an annual gift. The sanctuary is putting together materials for donation options. In the next week there should be a form. You can go to www.cfnem.org for online giving. CFNEM acknowledges all donations. There is a 1.35 percent fee for funds. The question was asked, "Do the donations placed when Mary Beth was here go to this fund?" Some will, but there's also funds still in an account with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. You can put money into the spendable portion of the fund. "Can you roll the money from the foundation into the new fund?" Jeff believes so.

OCEANS FOR LIFE

Valerie Morel, a Michigan student from the Battle Creek Math and Science Center presented on her Oceans for Life California Field Study. The concept was to cross national boundaries to learn from other cultures and to work together to face ocean problems. It was initiated last year. It included two groups of students from around the world: the Middle East, U.S. and Canada, with sixty student all together. One group went to Florida and another went to California after all getting together in Washington D.C. The themes were: interconnectedness, sense of place, and ocean conservation and stewardship. They worked on teambuilding exercises, sightseeing, and cultural activities. They toured the White House, Capitol Hill, and Meridian International Center, and they had a viewing of the new San Ocean Hall in the Smithsonian and National Aquarium.

From D.C., Valerie went to San Franciso and traveled around northern and central California and visited Gulf of the Farralones, Monterey Bay, and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. They went to Headlands and the California Academy of Sciences, took a sailboat ride on San Francisco Bay, spent an afternoon on a research vessel testing water, examined sand from the bottom of bay, caught crabs, did art projects, looked at plankton under microscope, and kayaked Point Reyes. At Monterey Bay, she learned about the difference between harbor seals and sea lions, dissected squid, and slept in big tanks in the aquarium.

Valarie gained knowledge of ocean life and ocean resources, needed protection of the oceans as irreplaceable resources, and greater respect for marine science and oceanic research. She also made friends and learned about different cultures and realized we are all connected as one population. We are all impacted by ocean.

Valerie presented a film her group developed with a flipcam called a Sense of Place.

Thunder Bay is one of two sites considered for next year's Oceans for Life program. Chuck

Wiesen asked that we send Varlie a thank you and invitation to come here.

CONSTITUENT REPORTS

Kathleen Hubbard presented on maritime history and interpretation which incorporates education and tourism. She feels lucky to be part of the history of the Thunder Bay area. The Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection is utilized by publishers and writers and regular people are researching their ancestry. There has been progress on mapping and marking for kayakers and snorkelers. There will be a Live Dive this summer. We need to educate young populations and need help for necessary buses. The American Experience with Meaghan Black and Christine Witulski is a new immigrant-pioneer program. The 10th anniversary of the Maritime Festival is July 4th. Science on a Sphere is still planned. There should be 21 trail markers up by Memorial weekend.

Vera Kavanaugh and Jim Dessenberg presented reports as citizens-at-large. The public feels the staff and volunteers do a great job. They appreciate the additional signage and enjoy programs like Sea Story, movies, Saturday Morning Physics, maritime festival, Halloween, and the MATE ROV competition. It's great to look at the paper on Tuesday and see activities for the week. People enjoy the web site. What they would like to see is when and where the Science on a Sphere will be here. Postcards and bookmarks are wanted in the store, as well as interactive games on the web site. There are some on our kiosk and they can go to the national site. Has the staff ever considered having a maritime festival in the winter? No. Are we making ourselves known at Brown Trout Festival? Yes. The Brown Trout kick-off banquet is May 8th. The sanctuary will be represented there with rack cards and a donation. Are we a presence at the Harmony Weekend in Harrisville? No. Someone suggested welcome signs for the MATE competition teams on the high school marquee and above the highway. MDOT must approve the above highway banners and it may be safety hazard. Is there information about the sanctuary at welcome centers? Our rack cards are in all of the welcome centers and generally arranged by region.

SAC SUMMIT AGENDA OVERVIEW

Next week Olin will be joining the other SAC Chairs at Olympic Coast in Seattle, Washington. It's a three-day program. He travels Monday, Tuesday will focus on Ocean Acidification, Wednesday he will tour the sanctuary, and Thursday involves case studies from other sanctuaries. Olin appreciates the opportunity to represent the SAC and Thunder Bay NMS.

SANCTUARY UPDATE

It's been 19 years since the Thunder Bay's designation began. Ellen Brody, Regional Coordinator for the Northeast/Great Lakes Region is working with the State of Wisconsin on a potential national marine sanctuary there. The process began in 2007 when the leadership team met at Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Historical Society did a study to analyze the shipwrecks in all Wisconsin waters and recommended an 875 square-mile area in Lake Michigan from Port Washington to Manitowoc. There are several shipwrecks with National Register of Historic Place designations and 14 intact shipwrecks in the area. A State

agency working group was established and Ellen has met with divers, fishermen, and mayors in the four communities. There have been beaurocratic hurdles, but we are drafting a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Looking at shipwrecks and the relationship between Thunder Bay and Wisconsin will be very important. At the Ghost Ships Festival, people knew about Thunder Bay. There is widespread knowledge of Thunder Bay. The region hopes to start the designation process in the next six months. There's a lot of excitement in Wisconsin. They see what's happened here. Jeff noted that without Ellen, there wouldn't be a sanctuary.

Research kicks off tomorrow. Tane, Russ, and Wayne have been adding photos online. In the last two weeks, all buoys were deployed except the *Nordmeer* and Middle Island Sink Hole. The *Nordmeer* is now under water. We need to put a sign out there. This Friday we start our tech diving project. Joe Hoyt will be helping document the *Audubon*, *Messenger*, and *Norman* off Presque Isle.

The ROV Competition was a great success due to staff and volunteers. The programs were developed by Joey, our new Graphic Designer. Stockbridge High School was the first place team and will go on to the international competition in Hawaii. Immanuel Luthren and Sanborn Elementary were runners up.

An Earth Day Festival was organized by Meaghan Black for over 500 kids. We will do it again next year. Passport to the Arts is June 11th and will kickoff here.

Steve Kroll is nominated as Thunder Bay's Volunteer of the Year. He will travel to D.C. in early June for Capitol Hill Ocean Week and Volunteer of the Year recognition banquet where they will announce the national volunteer of the year.

SAC members were given a tour of our new research vessel, *Storm*. The *Storm* is possible thanks to Dennis Donohue from the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab. He created "Green Ships." The *Huron Explorer* was the first petroleum-free vessel. The *Storm* has unique features that suit Alpena well. The ship was stripped down to its keel and rebuilt to suit the mission needs of Thunder Bay. It has cutting-edge systems, it's green, and it meets archaeological needs. Dr. Lubchenco toured it after it had been in the water two days and she was proud to be the head of NOAA because of the work Dennis does. It will be used for the summer research projects. There are 150 green ships now. It started in Alpena. The *Storm* is valued at 1.2 million dollars.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

ADJOURN
8:10