Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council

- January 5, 2010 Meeting Minutes-

Date: January 5, 2010
Time: 6:30pm – 9:00pm
Location: Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, 500 W. Fletcher Street, Alpena, MI

MEETING ATTENDEES

NOAA: Chuck Bennett, Jean Prevo, Jeff Gray, Russ Green, Sarah Waters, Steve Gates, Anne Negro

State of Michigan: Wayne Lusardi, Nancy Hammond

SAC Members: Don Beem, Carl Bourdelais, Olin Joynton, Steve Kroll, Vera Kavanaugh, Jerry Meek, Joe Sobczak , Lynda VanDusen

SAC Alternates: Dennis Bodem, Mike Lakin, John McConnell, Don Newport, Chuck Wiesen

Ex-officio Member: Hank Bailey

Public: Sheila Phillips, Natalie Joynton

Media: Patty Ramus, *The Alpena News*

WELCOME & ACTION ITEMS – *Steve Kroll - Chair*
Dennis Bodem made a motion to approve the October SAC meeting minutes. Chuck Wiesen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting dates for 2010 were approved.

Assign March Constituent Reports –
Fishing (Ed Retherford/Chuck LeFebvre)
Citizen-at-Large (Jerry Meek/John McVeety)
Alpena Township (Marie Twite)

Jeff gave an update on Carol's health.

Jeff announced that Chief Houchin of the USCG will be moving to the Coast Guard Station in Tawas. The Chief will continue to do both jobs for a while and continue to be the Coast Guard representative for the SAC for a little while. The new chief is coming from Niagra, New York, and should be here in March or April.

Chair Elections – Steve said he thought being a chair was a great thing. He thinks everyone around the table should have an opportunity to do it. He thanked them for giving him the opportunity. He asked if anyone would like to step forward and put their name in the hat.

Olin said he would be interested in being the chair. There were no other nominations. Don Newport moved to close the nominations and Chuck Wiesen asked that the vote be unanimous. All were in favor. Olin Joynton will be the chair for the next two years.

Jeff and Russ presented Steve with a picture of the *Pewabic* for his help with the management plan during his term as chair.

Olin proposed a resolution of appreciation for Steve. Linda VanDusen seconded it.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION RESOLUTION - *Steve Kroll*
The working group met yesterday and drafted the resolution. Chuck Weisen suggested the word "among" be added to the second paragraph.

Whereas, the advisory councils of the national marine sanctuaries have recognized ocean acidification as a threat to the long-term conservation and health of sanctuary resources, warranting additional National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) research, monitoring, education and outreach, and management action to reduce and mitigate its impacts; and

Whereas, ocean acidification is a threat to national marine sanctuaries, recognized as ***among (Chuck Wiesen suggested this be added)*** *our countries most valuable and symbolic marine resources, worthy of extraordinary conservation efforts; and*

Whereas the system of national marine sanctuaries are ideally suited to act as sentinels to gauge the effects of ocean acidification on living marine resources; and

Whereas the system of national marine sanctuaries are also ideally suited as sites to both study and monitor ocean acidification as a global threat to ocean health; and

Therefore be it resolved, the Advisory Council for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary joins the advisory councils of other national marine sanctuaries in recommending that NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries make every effort to seek the support of NOAA's leadership in developing a coordinated national and regional response to the threat of ocean acidification that recognizes our sanctuaries vulnerability to this threat and the sanctuary systems unique potential to contribute to our understanding of this threat and development of responses to it. It is also recommended that NOAA coordinate these research and awareness efforts with international partners, as well as other governmental agencies, research laboratories, and interested parties currently addressing these issues.

Dennis Bodem motioned to support the resolution. Chuck Wiesen seconded the motion. The council was unanimous in passing the resolution with the word "among" added as stated above.

Jeff and the staff will be bringing more education to the SAC and the public on ocean acidification. Jeff has talked to scientists to find out what are the effects in the Great Lakes. Jeff would like to get some experts here to have some discussions and presentations, maybe in collaboration with the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. We have a film that we have the rights to use and plan on showing that as well.

Olin wondered if there was any information on acidification related to the wrecks? Jeff said that we don't currently have any information, but Russ will be talking a little later about a conditioning report which will address the ocean acidification issue.

CONSTITUENT REPORTS

Business Economic Development – *Carl Bourdelais/Don Newport*

Carl Bourdelais – We are dealing with a terrible recession nationwide. A number of actions have been taken at all levels, some more successful than others (ex. Cash for Clunkers - more foreign then U.S. made cars were sold) federal government has been asking the banks to open their pockets a little more, waiving some fees, banks still a little reluctant to do those loans. Also introduced 2 new loan programs, one was geared to help new businesses struggling with debt. Allows a company to borrow up to $35,000 with no interest with one year of deferred payments, but the banks are reluctant to do this.

State of Michigan focusing on bringing jobs to the state, also a big focus on tourism (ex. Pure Michigan ads).

All of the counties are struggling with money and cutting back on economic development.

Lot of thinking in Alpena going toward the concept of economic gardening which deals with focusing on the expansion and retention of existing businesses, to sprout your own business. Feels we are having some success in this area.

He met with over 328 clients, 30 new businesses and 2.8 million dollar investments in the area.

Don Newport mentioned that he lives in a small community south of here and he mentioned how East Tawases wouldn't talk to the community of Tawas, etc., and Don senses that is changing. He feels that one of the drivers of ending the separation between these communities and others is the sanctuary. It creates a greater reason for folks to be cooperating and working together. Sees this happening in northern Michigan, people sitting down and figuring out how to work together and the sanctuary is an important part in that. He mentioned that the people in Alcona appreciated Jeff and Chuck coming down to talk to them.

Diving – *Steve Kroll/John McConnell*

Been a couple of issues over the years that have been evolving, Steve and Russ have been sitting working on these issues. (See attached Diving Report – Guidelines to consider drafting.) Steve thinks we need some sort of guideline if we are getting information and getting it back to the public. Sometimes we need to hold onto the information until we have funds to document it. Steve thinks we need to come up with a strategy that we can be consistent with so if someone walks through the door we can deal with it. Russ and Steve are asking for all and any input on that idea. Russ has a couple of pages written right now.

Chuck asked if the State of Michigan already has this? Wayne said the state does and gave a brief description of their current process. It was suggested that maybe they should look at the state's policy and then modify it and use it for our sanctuary.

Russ clarified that he's not trying to develop a policy, just started putting stuff down on paper, and plans to piggyback with all of the state's policies. He wants the focus to be on building a relationship with divers to continue working with them.

Joe thought it is a good idea to provide the divers with a little ego massage. Most aren't looking for money.

It was suggested that this information be listed on the website.

Chuck Wiesen suggested that if the wreck information had a cash equivalent value, it could be added to the form so that the person would receive credit for their donation on their taxes.

Steve also presented a document called Partner Divers at TBNMS (see attached) – this is another idea he is working on with Russ. Most volunteer divers don't want to become certified NOAA divers, but would like to volunteer. Eventually it might be possible for volunteer divers to sign a waiver, but currently we can't do it. Jeff stressed that this is a system wide problem and Russ has been working diligently on this.

OLYMPIC COAST VOLUNTEER EXCHANGE – *Sarah Waters*
There is an opportunity for Thunder Bay NMS volunteers to participate in a volunteer exchange with the Olympic Coast NMS. Thunder Bay volunteers would visit the Olympic Coast NMS on or around July 19, 2010. Sarah Waters gave an overview of what the volunteers would experience if they traveled to Olympic Coast NMS. The volunteers of Olympic Coast NMS would act as your host, providing transportation and housing. Thunder Bay volunteers would just need to provide transportation to get there. If you would like more information talk to Sarah Waters.

Wayne introduced Hank Bailey of the Traverse City Band of Chippewa/Ottawa. Hank thanked everyone for allowing him to be here, he works in the natural resource department. His hope is that he can be liaison so he can know when there are new discoveries of archaeological sites. He knows most of the natural resource people from the other tribes. He would like to help smooth things out and help things run smoothly between the preserves and the tribes.

SANCTUARY UPDATE – *Jeff Gray*
Jeff's plan for the Sanctuary Update from now on is to tie it back to the management plan.

Local Foundation – Just before the holidays a fund was established with the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan. We have been evaluating our situation for the past six months, and in early December, Jeff attended a meeting with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and the other sites that have local foundations. The other sites are going to help us with this. Barb Willyard was going to be here to give a presentation about the CFNEM and our new partnership with them, but something came up and she was unable to attend. We do have steps in place to eventually have a foundation staff member. Jeff metioned how critical Chuck Wiesen's help has been with establishing this partnership and our move forward with a local foundation. Olin and Carol also worked on this issue. Chuck gave a brief overview about the CFNEM and its mission.

Boundary Expansion – At the last meeting Russ reported that the House had passed the bill and the bill is now waiting for the Senate floor vote. The expansion bill has been delayed due to the health care debate. Jeff spoke to Sen. Levin's aide Harold Chase while he was in DC and they are still pushing very hard to get this passed.

Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab/Marine Operations – Instead of having just one boat, we have a fleet of boats that we can use because of our partnership with GLERL. The 10meter vessel was on loan to us for two years, it is now in Long Beach and on its way to American Samoa. We will hopefully be acquiring one of our own outfitted to us. Currently, the R/V *Storm,* 52-foot vessel, which was built for the marine academy in NY, is being outfitted for our use. The *Storm* will be used for research, monitoring, buoy deployment, and hopefully will provide more space for educational opportunities. It is converted to biodiesel.

Research Update – Russ Green
Big thing on the research front is to write a condition report, every sanctuary has to write one. The report focuses exclusively on the resources, the pressures on the resources, and what we are doing to take care of these pressures. All sites deal with 17 questions only three of these questions deal specifically with cultural resources, the rest of the questions focus on natural resources, we will try to tie in any of those questions that we can.

This document is a way to combine all of our research from the past nine years into one document, should be done by September.

There are still a few grants in the pipeline.

Coast Survey will be back to finish the mapping they started in the bay last year.

Other items:
- Deploy more buoys
- U of M will be here in April with an AUV to create photomosaics of deep wreck sites
- Technical diving project with NURC
- University of Texas will be using an AUV south of the sanctuary
- Two pending grants –
  - University of Michigan to look at the prehistoric sites
  - Tane submitted a grant to Preserve America to conduct a live dive from *Montana*
- Working with Steve Ruberg of GLERL on a grant to look at more sinkhole stuff. Also trying to help with the folks looking at setting up an artificial reef out by Lafarge.

Thunder Bay Community Boat Building - Created some better temporary space for the boat builders, still exploring other permanent options for them. Looking at the screw press building as an option, making it a combination diver locker and boat building shed.

Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail – Final component of the trail behind the building – will have 21 markers arriving in the mail, spread along the stretch of the river and the island. They

will be up in the spring. Continue to work on the playground concept.

Continue to work with DOT on the three-county version of the trail, hope to have an announcement on the grant we applied for.

Education and Outreach – Accomplishments:

Passports to the Arts wrap up (new season will kick off June 11th)
Saturday Morning Physics
Fall home school program
Besser Museum Fall Harvest Day
ACC staff and Chuck Intro to Business class
Sea Story Hour for Preschoolers
Distance learning program with the Milwaukee Public Museum on the *Rouse Simmons*
Gales of November Family Fun Day (over 350 people)
November Requiem was shown two evenings in November
Holiday Parade – awarded first place
Besser Museum Season of Lights
Distance learning program with Dr. Ballard
Family Fun Day in December (over 200 visitors)
Chris Winters was here giving a presentation on his book about the *St. Mary's Challenger* oldest operating ship on the great lakes
Lake Invaders film in the theater about invasive species in the Great Lakes
Presented for a Girl Scout Career day in Gaylord

Coming Up –

ROV Competition on April 17, 2010 (3 schools signed up so far). Milwaukee and Chicago will also be holding regional competitions for the first time this year.
Alpena Arts & Culture Diner on January 14th
New and Current Research – presentation by Russ Green on February 16th
Saturday Morning Physics starts up again in February
Quiet Water Symposium in Lansing on March 6th
Spring Break at GLMHC the week of March 29th-April 3rd
Mid-Michigan Community College Students of Promise Program on April 10th
Telepresence Program at GLMHC, April 20th-April 24th

Anne Negro – Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative Place Based Education Coordinator – AmeriCorps intern with GLERL gave an overview of her role at Thunder Bay NMS (see attached).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Newport asked about the earmark dollars that are in the budget. Jeff said that Stupak and Levin placed an earmark in the budget, tied to interpretive components for the exhibit, waiting for the exact specifications. Hoping it will help with phase 2 of the exhibits, bringing back Science on the Sphere. It will allow us to do some of the things we talked about before. Don Newport said that is quite an accomplishment and we should be proud and the projected use of the funds was right down the line with management plan.

ADJOURN
8:35 p.m.