

MONITOR NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting – Virtual/Conference Call

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Meeting Location: N/A (Virtual – Google Meets)

Conference call in: 1-724-436-2941 PIN: 737 321 364#

Meeting Objectives: (1) Reports and Updates, (2) Reports from Council Members

Attendance: (see attached attendance roster)

10 community seats present (of 11 filled seats)

5 government seats present (of 8 filled seats (not including alternates))

6 sanctuary and ONMS staff members present

Meeting Notes

Administrative Business and Announcements

★ Chair's Welcome

Jim Tobin welcomed everyone. He expressed that he hoped everyone was doing well and staying safe.

★ Approval of Draft Minutes from previous meeting (6/11/2020)

Jim Tobin made a motion to accept the minutes during the roll call. Joe Poe seconded. The roll was called and all those in attendance answered yes in approval of the June 11, 2020 minutes.

★ Brief Council Member Update

Joe Poe said that he was recovering and on the mend and asked everyone to follow the guidelines to stay safe.

Public Comment Period

None.

Reports

★ Superintendent's Update

Matt Brookhart, Eastern Regional Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, began the update by thanking the MNMS staff and SAC for all that they do. He said that he hopes to get to meet everyone in the coming weeks and months as it becomes safe to do so. He updated events happening within ONMS, especially with system expansion. He said that there are several ongoing priority actions across the system that have the highest political attention. He recapped the newest sanctuary to the system, Mallows Bay, which was designated last fall. Matt discussed the new proposed sanctuary off Wisconsin and explained that its designation has been caught in the transitional period between administrations. The sanctuary will be similar to TBNMS with shipwrecks preserved in the cold clear water of Lake Michigan. It will be co-managed with state of Wisconsin.

Matt further explained that there is an ongoing designation process in western New York in Lake Ontario (early stages) with a pre-sanctuary council selected. The expansion efforts of FGBNMS and FKNMS continue. They are all in the process of environmental reviews. The MNMS expansion, Graveyard of the Atlantic proposal, reached the draft phase and went to OMB and OIRA but it hit some issues with other federal agencies in rule making. However, it remains a high priority of ONMS and NOS. Hopefully, ONMS can reconsider the action as soon as possible once the new administrations transitions. Leadership feels strongly about the proposal.

Matt introduced Russ Green as the new Acting Superintendent. He explained that Dave Alberg took a new position with NPS and that we wish him well. He said that ONMS selected two individuals to backfill Dave's position to keep MNMS flowing smoothly. He first introduced Tane Casserley, who will become the acting superintendent in late March/early April. He explained that Tane brings a lot of experience and has been in the program for a very long time. Matt explained that the federal hiring policy limits the time a person can spend in a promotional position to four months. Therefore, the first four months will be filled by Russ Green who is currently the Great Lakes Regional Coordinator. Russ has been in Wisconsin for four years and has been the face of the new sanctuary effort there.

Russ Green—Thanked Matt for the kind words, and said that he is really thankful for the opportunity to work with MNMS staff and SAC, and is ready to get things done. He noted that the *E.M. Clark* shipwreck is one of his favorites, but said that you can't beat diving on the Monitor. He acknowledged that he is very grateful for this detail.

Matt Brookhart—Matt wanted the advisory council to be aware that with Covid-19, this is the first time someone steps in virtually. Russ will be working from Wisconsin, and he hopes Russ can come down in person, but only when safe. Matt said that ONMS has gotten really good at working virtually, so it should be a smooth transition. Matt said that he and his office will work hand-in-hand with Russ and Tane as they consider all things happening with MNMS. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to be on the call.

Jim Tobin—Thanked Matt and said that he looked forward to working with Russ and Tane.

No further update was given and a transition into the next topic began.

★ Field Work Update

Will Sassorossi began the Field Work update by stating since the last meeting in June, there have not been any on-the-water activities due to Covid-19 and that remains to be the case. For the FY21 field season, a plan will be put into place for two weeks on the water with Duke University. The time on the water will be spent going to sites that haven't been surveyed in a long time. Other partnerships include working with the avocational dive group, Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG). Tentatively planned for June with diving on the wreck *Atlas* to survey and map the wreck site. For clarification, BAREG plans the missions, and we work with them to provide historical background and work on site with them. Hopefully we will get out there in June, but if not, we can still collaborate remotely. BAREG has been a good partner for many years, and we hope to keep it moving. Additionally, we are hoping to dive with the group, Diving With a Purpose (DWP). They will dive in September for a week to survey the wreck of the *Portland* off Beaufort. Everything is still fluid with regards to Covid-19, so we will keep working with our partners to keep lines of communication open.

Tane Casserley went next and said that in 2021, exciting things will be happening and that although there have been challenges in 2020, it has led to new opportunities. He explained that Monitor staff, working with partners, conducted over ten webinars to highlight the work done at MNMS. Initially work with Global Foundation for Ocean Exploration (GFOE) was planned for last summer, but it was canceled due to Covid-19. GFOE does mostly ROV work and through a grant program, MNMS will work with them in 2021. Possibility of two time periods working off North Carolina on the NOAA ship *Nancy Foster*: July-August or May 25-June 3. MNMS will partner with NCCOS (Beaufort lab) and the NC Office of State Archaeology. The work will include the *Monitor* and World War II shipwrecks. New features include the addition of a 4K video camera and a new 360° data camera to create a virtual reality video. The expedition will also stream live into 20 partners across the nation from the East Coast to Hawaii. When dates are solid, we will let the SAC know. In addition, we are looking at the 50th anniversary of the sanctuary program, in 2025. Lastly, we have established a partnership with the NC Office of State Archaeology to create an outreach and education event titled "Submerged NC." This event was originally scheduled for last October, maritime heritage month, to celebrate NC's maritime heritage. Due to Covid-19, the event got postponed, so we decided to do it virtually. Working with Chris Southerly, and John Mintz, we will launch a webinar series with our partners beginning in February 2021 that will run through next October, and possibly beyond, on the third Tuesday of every month.

★ Conservation Update

Will Hoffman said that he and the conservation staff look forward to working with Russ and Tane. He explained that due to Covid-19, the year was a little quirky. However, the Dahlgren guns were bored before the shutdown. With the team being unable to work in close contact in

small spaces, work on the big artifacts was postponed. The coming year of 2021 will focus on smaller artifacts. Currently, the museum is shut down to the public, and it is not certain when they will reopen. However, conservation is continuing. Objects are undergoing treatment and so a skeleton crew is working. In January, they are looking at returning the staff to a more regular schedule, and begin to focus on small artifacts. Will said that there are about 80 ropes in the organic collection, which is a major hurdle in completion of the project. The ropes may not have the glam of the larger artifacts, but they are significant. He also hopes to advance a couple of larger projects including the bit left on the steam engine and the skeg assembly. If they can advance that then it will set the pace to take the roof off the turret. With Covid-19 Will explained that conservation has to be fluid due to confined spaces. But he is confident that they can still navigate and advance the timeline even though some projects will be delayed. With the boring of the guns, marine growth was removed, and now they will calculate the chloride rate. Rate seems to remain low which may indicate that the guns will be done within two years. Jokingly, Will said that no cat was found inside the guns, but they did find a bolt with a complete head on it (which is very unusual as most are corroded). The bolt was found by an intern, which made a lasting impression on the intern.

Will also said that they have an active blog through the museum and web cams that the public can log into to see the conservation lab. Russ asked Will if they are working on more virtual content. Will said the museum is looking at doing a massive overhaul of the website so it will have some ability to reach people, such as through the live web cams, *Monitor* page, blog, etc. He said that they work to do all that they can to talk about the *Monitor* and get the stories out. He said that they are also talking about doing live programs, but limited with copper and metal roofs.

★ Recruitment Update

Will Sassorossi said that 2020 was a quiet year. The recruitment for the education seat was completed and is being finalized. He said that there was a really diverse group of applications and thanked the review committee. Will also said that Karen Brown stepped down from the economic seat, and the process to start recruitment will begin in January. Will said that almost everyone, all the community seats, will be up in March.

★ Council Member Presentations

Chris Southerly - North Carolina Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources

Chris Southerly kicked off the SAC seat reports and shared slides highlighting the history of North Carolina's underwater archaeology branch and the work they do.

- Underwater archaeology branch—six decades into submerged archaeology;
- Four office areas. (Raleigh main, Raleigh lab, Asheville, Kure Beach, and Queen Ann's Revenge in Greenville);
- Created to enforce some of the state and federal laws;
- Started officially in 1973 but began in 1964 with Leslie Bright;
- *Modern Greece*, off Fort Fisher, salvage and part of the Civil War centennial; they recovered some artifacts;

- The department was also created due to private salvage and private entities trying to remove artifacts;
- Established office, but no money until 1972 and they hired Gordon Watts, who became the first underwater arachnologist for the state;
- The department participated in the discovery of the USS *Monitor*;
- Office participated from 1975 to 1984 in the research and management of *Monitor*;
- From 1974 to 1982 they conducted university field schools (UNCW and ECU);
- In 1981, Watts left and partnered with Bill Still and created ECU's maritime studies program, so UAB contributed to the program;
- In the 1980 to 1990s, the department transitioned to environmental review and compliance. Disturbance of state waters and bottom lands, i.e. dredging and Army Corps of Engineers. Conducted surveys for site inventory (Civil War shipwrecks off Fort Fisher.) An additional 37 wrecks along the Wilmington coast were added to the National Historic Register along Wilmington;
- North Carolina known as the "Graveyard of the Atlantic," and lots of wrecks on the beach along with artifacts, so they came up with a tagging system to track and identify pieces as they uncover and cover, as well as move up and down the beach;
- 19 prehistoric dugout canoes were discovered on Lake Phelps from 1985-86;
- There have been 5,206 historically documented shipwrecks and 1,023 recorded underwater archaeological sites;
- "Submerged North Carolina," as Tane said, the plan was to focus on NC shipwrecks last October, but it is now postponed and rescheduled for 2021, which also coincides with the 20th anniversary of UNESCO;

Paul Ticco asked if they share expenses with other partners and Chris explained that they try to collaborate as much as possible. It was mentioned that with the discovery of pirates (QAR) the focus shifted for about 10 years. Chris agreed, but noted that the shipwreck is a historical site despite the pirate connection.

Jenna Hartley – Student Seat

Jenna is a third year PhD student and a former classroom science teacher. She explained that she has a four year old son and through intergenerational learning she has become much more knowledgeable about dinosaurs, something that she had little interest in before her son. Intergenerational learning is bidirectional learning, which is the basis for her research. The focus of her work is on marine debris. Jenna showed a picture of Mr. Trash Wheel, a solar power water wheel in Boston Harbor. She explained that it has a Twitter personality with a huge following. It is an example of entertainment first and science second, social science at its best.

There is a wide gap between those who identify as democrats and republicans in how they perceive marine environmental issues. Second only to climate change. So the thought is that maybe young people can bridge these divides. Intergenerational learning can slice through these issues. Her work centers on a curriculum to bridge the divide. She worked with Duke University Lab to create a curriculum for 4th and 5th grade classes. The students and teachers get surveyed before and after, that also includes a civic engagement piece. Jenna

explained that she has sent mayors and local officials emails encouraging them to watch the presentations and then they too are surveyed.

Jenna wants to make sure it is grounded in theory and empirical case to empower students to be change agents. Goal #2 is to explore the building blocks for intergenerational learning (IGL) and family dynamics work in increasing marine debris awareness. IGL cuts through everything to help move the needle on students' parents on lots of environmental topics.

Goal #3 asks if kids can move the needle for elective officials. Jenna gave several examples of student outreach to civic groups, local governments, and even the creation of IPA beer that was used to draw parents to an event and then be quizzed about marine debris. Data is showing change across the board.

Andre Nabors said that his office promotes responsible tourism, leave no trace when exploring the outdoors. He said that they work mostly in the western part of the state in the mountains, but really want to tap into folks on the east side of the state. Responsible tourism is important for those who interact on our waterways and beaches. Andre said that he too would like to work with Jenna on her project and to bring her up to speed on what they are doing.

Will thanked Jenna and Chris for taking the first step on giving reports.

★ New Business

Jim Tobin said that he attended the SAC chair meeting, which was a two-hour meeting. He said it was very informative to hear what is going on at different sanctuaries, and that you don't realize how much good is happening until you listen to what is happening from the Hawaiian island to the Florida Keys.

Joe Poe said that an article will be come out in the next issue of Alert Diver magazine that will feature the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. Jim Tobin wished everyone a happy holiday and said he hopes that 2021 will be better and that he can't wait to get back to face-to-face meetings as soon as it is safe. Will Sassorossi said that the SAC needs to determine meeting dates for 2021 and that he will send out some suggested dates, so they should be on the lookout for his email.

Meeting Adjourned

Joe Poe made a motion to adjourn and Andre Nabors seconded it.

Meeting Close-Out

Actions to Take:

- ✓ Fill remaining vacant SAC seats for governmental positions.
- ✓ Recruitment of Economic Development Seat.

Attendance Roster:

Community Members		
Jim Tobin	Citizen-at-Large	Present
Kim Kenyon	Conservation	Present
OPEN	Economic Development	-----
OPEN	Education	-----
Andre Nabors	Heritage Tourism	Present
Nathan Richards	Maritime Archaeological Research	Present
Ernie Foster	Recreational/Commercial Fishing	Present
Rom Whitaker	Recreational/Commercial Fishing	Present
Matt Landrum	Recreational Diving	Absent
Joe Poe	Recreational Diving	Present
Debby Boyce	Ocean Sports	Present
Will Hoffman	The Mariners' Museum	Present
OPEN	The Mariners' Museum (Alt)	-----
Jenna Hartley	Student Seat (Non-Voting)	Present
Government Members		
Dave Hallac	NPS (Primary)	Absent
OPEN	NPS (Alternate)	-----
Chris Southerly	NC DCR (Primary)	Present
OPEN	NC DCR (Alternate)	-----
Jason Peters	NC Dept. Environmental Quality	Present
Steve Poland	NC Dept. Environmental Quality (Alt)	Absent
Everette Newton	NC Local Gov't – Town of Beaufort	Present
OPEN	NC Local Gov't – Town of Beaufort (Alt)	-----
Bobby Outten	NC Local Gov't – Dare County	Absent
Drew Pearson	NC Local Gov't – Dare county (Alt)	Absent
Lt Devonte Weems	US Coast Guard	Absent
Kate Moore	US Coast Guard (Alt)	Present
Robert Neyland	US Navy	Present
Alexis Catsambis	US Navy (Alt)	Present
Samantha Henderson	VA DHR	Present
OPEN	VA DHR (Alt)	-----
Sanctuary Staff		
Russ Green	Acting Sanctuary Superintendent	Present
Matt Brookhart	Eastern Regional Director, ONMS	Present
Paul Ticco	Northeast Regional Coordinator	Present
Tane Casserley	Permit Coordinator	Present
Will Sassorossi	Research Coordinator	Present
David Dodsworth	IT Coordinator	Absent
Shannon Ricles	Education/Outreach Coordinator	Present
Sean Cimilluca	NOAA Corp Officer	Absent
Others/Public		