

**MONITOR NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Sanctuary Advisory Council Update Call**

MEETING MINUTES¹

May 10, 2016
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Meeting Location: MNMS Office
Newport News, VA 23606

Call Objectives: (1) Updates; (2) update on *Monitor* Sanctuary Boundary Expansion; (3) Update on New and Expiring SAC Member Seats.

Attendance: (see attached attendance roster)
6 community seats present (of 10 filled seats)
5 government seats present (of 11 filled seats)
5 sanctuary staff members present (of 7 staff)

Discussion Highlights:

- ★ Update on sanctuary boundary expansion
- ★ Upcoming summer field work for 2016
- ★ *Monitor* conservation and funding update
- ★ New and Expiring SAC seats update

Meeting Notes

Administrative Business and Announcements

★ Chair's Welcome

As Jim Bunch's time on the council was over, Will Sassorossi welcomed everyone on the phone call and took roll call (see attached list). LCDR Elizabeth Buendia has transferred and is no longer serving as the USCG alternate.

★ Approval of Draft Minutes from previous meetings (2/8/2016)

¹ Note: This group update call was not an official meeting, although there was a time dedicated for public comment, and it was noted on the sanctuary's website for public purposes. The next official council meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2016. More information available at <http://monitor.noaa.gov/advisory/meetings.html>.

Will Sassorossi opened floor for approval of minutes from the February 8, 2016 meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as is was made by Joe Poe. Wayne Smith and Stuart Katz seconded the motion. All were in favor of accepting minutes, no dissents, motion passed unanimously.

★ Brief Council Member Update

Will Sassorossi opened the call to council members for updates. Debby Boyce mentioned two tug boats were purposely sunk to create artificial reefs and diving attractions. LCDR Patricia Bennet mentioned the USCG's National Safe Boating Week, which would take place the following week before Memorial Day. Press kits were sent to Billy Ray and MNMS to cross promote the event.

Reports

★ Superintendent's Update

Dave Alberg began report with introduction to the process for filling SAC member seats that have cycled out. This will be discussed further by Will Sassorossi later in the call.

Dave Alberg asked Tane Casserley to brief the council on the newly created photo contest MNMS initiated. Tane gives details to the content and specifics to the contest. Stuart Katz thought it was a great idea and should also be open to school children as well. Tane responded, absolutely, and that it is open to everyone older than 13. Intent is to celebrate NC heritage.

Dave Alberg discussed production of two more *Monitor* trail signs, to be displayed in Newport News, VA. Stuart Katz is assisting with this project, with a dedication date proposed for Veteran's Day.

Dave Alberg discussed the positive meetings Tane and he attended at the Council of American Maritime Museums in Delaware, as well as the Greenpoint *Monitor* Museum in Brooklyn, NY. The Green point museum received funding and land for the establishment for permanent buildings. Other meetings were mentioned, specifically gearing up for Capital Hill's Ocean Week, starting in early June.

Dave concluded report with mentions of the talks done in Duck, NC and in Beaufort, NC, discussing MNMS and the expansion process. If SAC members wanted any of the staff to give similar talks, the staff would be more than happy to oblige.

★ Regional Report

Paul Ticco gave a report on the Mallows Bay, MD and Wisconsin nominations that have gone through the scoping meetings. The nominating groups are now writing their respective draft EIS and draft management plans. Process expected to continue for this phase through summer or fall. Paul also mentioned there are other community based nominations at various

stages of completion, including sites in Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and Lake Superior. Other non-Great Lakes nominations include offshore sites such as Norfolk Canyon.

Paul also mentioned the creation of President Obama's national ocean plan and, in time, how this will affect the regions we are most interested in, specifically the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. The point of this is to somehow coalesce ocean related issues, people, and resources together to create a coordinated plan for managing the ocean better and more efficiently in future.

★ MNMS 2016 Proposed Field Season

Joe Hoyt stated a few things are locked into the field schedule. A May NAS class in Beaufort, NC is set, proceeding a field project on the wreck of *F.W. Abrams*, out of Ocracoke, NC around Memorial Day weekend and into June, with the Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG).

Joe continued with describing the second round of the BOEM agreement, 2nd of 5 year term, to do research on outer continental shelf. This year's plans are to side scan an area off of Currituck, looking for submerged resources. This project will kick off in mid-June. Joe also stated there is a possibility of other projects with use of OER grant, which is currently in review that would include submersibles. The project would be working with a group called Project baseline. If the grant does not come through, there will be a smaller project completed during the same time frame, late August, that will accomplish a few of the same goals.

Joe and Billy Ray Morris discussed the potential of collaborating on a joint UAB/MNMS project on the wreck of *Virginius*. The time table for this has not been set.

Joe concluded with describing the completion of the 700 page Battle of the Atlantic report, which includes information on every project completed from 2008 through 2015 dealing with World War Two. A massive undertaking, but the 700 page draft is complete.

★ Monitor Conservation and Funding Update

Will Hoffman gave a report on conservation and funding efforts for *Monitor*. With the updated funding efforts, there has been money available to hire three additional staff members. Will also mentioned that through May 2nd through July 15th, there will be work done on the turret, which will be the first half of the summer work. The second half will be dedicated to working out in the secondary facility doing cleaning work on all the bolt heads and support structure for the engine room. There is also the ability to take tours of the turret this summer. Also, the coat that was recovered and preserved will likely be put on display in October.

Monitor Boundary Expansion Update

Dave Alberg gave a review of what has happened to date, beginning with the development of the 2013 management plan including development of action items, the expansion working group, development of the expansions models, and up through the Notice of Intent (NOI) going out on January 8, 2016. Following the NOI, the Sanctuary held public scoping meetings and collected public comments through March 18, 2016. Over that time period about 225 comments were collected. The process will continue with a review of the comments and creation of a draft EIS and draft management plan, kicking off another round of public scoping and comment collections. This process will take approximately 18 to 24 months.

Two issues that came up most often, was diving access and fishing related concerns. What can be said now, Dave stated, is that we do not anticipate restrictions that would impact fishing in the proposed expansion rule. Our primary focus, as we have said all along, is the concern about the removal of artifacts from these historic resources. There was also the assumption from the public that the regulations from the current sanctuary would transfer directly over to the expanded territory. This will not be the case and a review of the current regulations will coincide with the expansion discussion. There will also not be a pursuit of inclusion of State waters in the expanded sanctuary boundary. Further discussions will also take place with the local counties and towns, as well as with the Navy. Bob Neyland stated that he is looking forward to these discussions.

Dave Alberg reiterated that SAC council members are all individuals entitled to their opinion on the expansion process and are encouraged to remain involved in the discussions, regardless of views. Dave asks that members continue to reach out to their communities and those that they represent to keep them up to date with information and also to remain in contact with MNMS staff if there are ideas or concerns that should be addressed. Paul Ticco echoed this sentiment and that council members can be the first to present proper information and help curtail any misconceptions of the expansion process. Dave Alberg concluded by stating he is confident the expansion process can be completed without negatively impacted fisherman and the industry, which had been the most vocal during the scoping process to date.

Public Comment Period

No one from the public spoke up at this time.

New and Expiring SAC Member Seats

*** Expiring SAC Member Seats, Retiring Members, Recruitment Process**

Will Sassorossi stated there are eight community seats available and open for recruitment. Susan Langley and Jim Bunch did not seek another term on their respective seats and have since retired from the council. Many seats that are open continue to have members serve through this recruitment process, to include Joe Poe, Wayne Smith, Jim Tobin and Debby

Boyce. The seats open for recruitment include: Citizen-At-Large, Conservation, Heritage Tourism, Maritime Archaeological Research, two recreational diving, recreational/commercial fishing and the newly created Ocean Sports seat. Recruitment began May 1st and goes through May 31st. Volunteers were requested to review applications. LCDR Patricia Bennet, Stuart Katz and Billy Ray Morris volunteered to review applications for the open seats and send recommendations to Dave Alberg.

Dave Alberg also stated the need to fill an alternate for the Town of Beaufort. Charlie Burgess responded that he will look into this.

★ Volunteer of the Year Award

Dave Alberg presented Stuart Katz with the Volunteer Award for 2015. Stuart will be recognized at a gala in Washington, DC, during Capital Hill’s Ocean Week in June.

★ New Business

None.

★ Next Council Event/Meeting

To be determined at a later date, looking into mid-September/October.

Adjourn

Stuart Katz motions to adjourn, seconded by Wayne Smith. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Close-Out	
<u>Actions to Take:</u>	
✓	Continue to work on FY 2016 SAC Work Plan, to include additions or amendments to currently adopted work plan.
✓	Send out options for next meeting date and location.
✓	Continue the recruitment process for expired SAC seats.
✓	Fill remaining vacant SAC seats for governmental positions.

Attendance Roster:

Community Members		
Joe Poe	Citizen-at-Large	Present
Wayne Smith	Conservation	Present
Stuart Katz	Economic Development	Present
David Sybert	Education	Present
Jim Tobin	Heritage Tourism	Absent
OPEN	Maritime Archaeological Research	-----

Ernie Foster	Recreational/Commercial Fishing	Absent
OPEN	Recreational Diving	-----
Debby Boyce	Recreational Diving	Present
Jim Quarstein	The Mariners' Museum	Absent
Will Hoffman	The Mariners' Museum (Alt)	Present
Gabriella Biava	Youth Seat (Non-Voting)	Absent
Government Members		
Dave Hallac	NPS (Primary)	Absent
OPEN	NPS (Alternate)	-----
Billy Ray Morris	NC DCR (Primary)	Present
Steve Claggett	NC DCR (Alternate)	Absent
PENDING	NC Dept. Environmental Quality	-----
PENDING	NC Dept. Environmental Quality (Alt)	-----
Charlie Burgess	NC Local Gov't – Beaufort	Absent
PENDING	NC Local Gov't – Beaufort (Alt)	-----
Bobby Outten	NC Local Gov't – Dare County	Absent
Drew Pearson	NC Local Gov't – Dare county (Alt)	Present
LCDR Patricia Bennett	US Coast Guard	Present
PENDING	US Coast Guard (Alt)	-----
Robert Neyland	US Navy	Present
Alexis Catsambis	US Navy (Alt)	Present
Greg LaBudde	VA DHR	Absent
Mike Clem	VA DHR (Alt)	Absent
Sanctuary Staff		
David Alberg	Sanctuary Superintendent	Present
Paul Ticco	Northeast Regional Coordinator	Present
Joe Hoyt	Maritime Archaeologist	Present
Tane Casserley	Research Coordinator	Present
Will Sassorossi	SAC Coordinator	Present
David Dodsworth	IT Coordinator	Absent
Shannon Ricles	Education/Outreach Coordinator	Absent
Others/Public		