

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

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

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

Conference call in: 1-252-987-8092 PIN: 710 532 672#

Meeting Objectives: (1) Update to leadership at Monitor NMS, (2) Selection of new Chair and Vice-Chair, (3) Reports from Council Members

Attendance: (see attached attendance roster)

10 community seats present (of 12 filled seats)

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

7 sanctuary and ONMS staff members present

Meeting Notes

Administrative Business and Announcements

★ Chair's Welcome

With Jim Tobin temporarily absent, Vice-Chair Joe Poe welcomed everyone to the meeting.

★ Approval of Draft Minutes from previous meeting (2/19/2021)

With permission from Joe Poe, Will Sassorossi asked council members if there were any revisions or edits to the draft of the minutes from the February 19th meeting. Hearing none, a motion to accept the minutes was requested. Nathan Richards motioned to approved, seconded by Joe Poe. All were in favor of the motion and the minutes were accepted.

★ Introduction of New Members

Jim Tobin introduced five new members to the council, Kamau Sadiki (Recreational Diving), Stephanie Sterling (Student Seat), LCDR Matthew Kahley (USCG), Brendan Burke (VA DHR), and Tom Kies (Economic Development).

★ Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair

Every two years a Chair and Vice-Chair are selected by the council members. Jim Tobin and Joe Poe, following the last recruitment cycle, had officially termed out of these positions. Will Sassorossi, overseeing this process, reached out to all council members to see who might want to be considered for these open positions. Joe Poe and Jim Tobin both responded that they wanted to fill the vacancies; Joe Poe as Chair and Jim Tobin as Vice-Chair. Will asked if there were any other interested individuals wanting to be considered for these roles. Hearing none, Will asked for a motion to approve Joe Poe as Chair and Jim Tobin as Vice-Chair. Tom Kies motioned to do so, Nathan Richards seconded. All in favor, none opposed or abstentions. Joe Poe is now Chair and Jim Tobin Vice-Chair.

★ SAC Recruitment Update

Will Sassorossi gave a report on the current openings on the council. Ernie Foster (Recreation/Commercial Fishing) has termed out of his seat, as of the end of October, and we are currently recruiting for this position. Process should be completed with having a new member by early 2022.

★ Brief Council Member Announcements (Council Members)

None.

Introductions and Sanctuary Updates

★ Regional Director Update

Matt Brookhart, Eastern Regional Director, thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He continued by thanking the Monitor NMS staff for continuing to push Monitor's agenda through the transition period over the last year, calling out Russ Green and Tane Casserley for their fantastic jobs as acting superintendents. Matt finished his introduction by congratulating Joe Poe and Jim Tobin on their new roles.

Matt continued by addressing the new management structure for Monitor NMS. With the departure of Dave Alberg as superintendent, and Malloys Bay-Potomac River NMS and Monitor NMS sharing like-minded missions and goals, as well as relatively close geographic locations, an opportunity for joint management presented itself as a way to effectively manage both sites. There is great potential to capitalize on new and shared partnerships, community engagements, and be inclusive of communities that we do not usually work with by linking sites. Matt stated this management model, while trying to preserve unique identities of both sites, required a single superintendent who understood opportunities for shared mission requirements of nationally significant cultural resources. That individual is Paul "Sammy" Orlando.

Matt continued by saying Sammy brings a tremendous amount of experience and the ability to bring partners together, as well as working to be relevant to the communities of the

sanctuary. Sammy brings years of experience to this job and has a strategic vision in how the two units come together. Before taking questions, Matt completed his introduction of this new joint management model by stating that ONMS is already seeing positive effects of this format and that advisory councils are so important to sanctuaries, especially as we go forward. Additionally, this model is being worked out on the West Coast with Cordell Bank and Greater Farallon's. They have a shared ecosystem, have shared boundaries, and staff already work together, so it made sense to put them under one superintendent.

Debby Boyce asked Matt Brookhart where Sammy's main location will be. Matt replied that Sammy will be back and forth between Mallows and Monitor, but right now working remotely. The Monitor office in Newport News will not be going away, but Sammy will be doing a lot of traveling. Kamau Sadiki asked about the advisory councils at each site, will they be joined or be in some sort of combination. Matt replied that both councils will remain independent but there is certainly opportunity for shared experiences that can benefit both sanctuaries.

Dave Hallac asked Matt Brookhart what role do you see in the advisory council, in that it has been mostly informational in nature, and how this might change going forward. Matt replied that this is a fundamental question and now is the time to be driven and pushed to play a more advisory role. Matt stated that Sammy Orlando has strong ideas on this and he will share them with you. Matt stated that we do need to get the Monitor advisory council, and Mallows, used to its maximum potential and have them weigh in on matters as advisors. The purpose is the same, to provide recommendations to the sanctuary superintendent, but we are pushing all advisory councils to be truly advisory in nature. Issues need to be a push and a pull in a joint effort between Monitor NMS and advisory council. Joe Poe stated that he and Jim Tobin have already talked with Sammy about this, especially focusing on the role of the advisory council and its relationships with the staff at Monitor NMS, stating that Sammy was very receptive to this. After seeing no more questions, Matt concluded this portion by stating that advisory councils are not bound by the given priorities of any given sanctuary and that they should be weighing in on things that have cumulative benefits to the sanctuary system, not just at Monitor NMS.

Matt continued with an update to the proposed Monitor expansion, stating that this proposal is one of the most unique and proposals put forward, but it is at a standstill. There is bipartisan support and ONMS is looking for ways to rejuvenate the process and move it forward but currently, there is a matter of competing resources around the program. It will need to be reintroduced to the administration. Additional sanctuary sites are being designated, the newest being Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast NMS, so there is not a lack of desire to move proposals forward. At this time LCDR Matthew Kaley asked Matt if this is part of the 30 for 30 initiative to save/protect 30% of US waters. Matt replied no, this was an independent initiative from a few years ago, as an administrative act to be done by NOAA. "American the Beautiful" is relevant in that it is driving the other sanctuary proposal for new sites but it is not a direct player in Monitor expansion.

Jason Peters then asked Matt about the status of draft environmental impact statements (DEIS) and other formal documents. Matt replied the DEIS and all the formal documentation

will have to be resubmitted into public domain and to regulatory review. They look for significance as in does it have a major impact either negatively or positively. It is not as easy as turning a switch back on. The US Department of Defense and US Navy, Naval History and Heritage Command, has some major issues that would need to be worked out before we can move proposal forward. There is still a lot of bipartisan support however; support of the military and veterans, and working with fisheries to continue access to fishing. Sal Mercogliano asked what specific concerns US Navy had. Matt replied that it revolved around jurisdiction over the wreck sites. The Sunken Military Craft Act issues were less of practicality and more of jurisdiction. Hopefully, the Navy will become comfortable knowing that we are not taking away their jurisdiction. It is a matter of trying to find the balance as we go forward and it will benefit the Navy as we see it. Joe Poe commented that several council members have been around for a long time and this expansion has taken up a lot of our time, so we look forward to discussing more as it is near and dear to us. Matt offered ideas that the council should communicate to NOAA thoughts as to whether we want it to move forward again. Joe understood and stated and many of us have been waiting to hear where we are so this is a big help in setting our agenda for the future.

Matt finished his report focusing on the budget. The administration recommended \$84 million in their request, which is a \$30 million increase. Congress sent \$60 million and then the Senate and they have signaled about \$66 million, but it is a \$9 million increase from last year. But as of now, we have no budget, just an initial recommendation from the senate.

★ Superintendent Introduction

Matt Brookhart introduced Paul “Sammy” Orlando as the new superintendent for Monitor NMS. Matt stated Sammy has been with NOAA and Sanctuary program for many years in many different roles, bringing a wealth of experience to the position. Matt is very excited to have him in this new role for both Monitor NMS and Mallow's Bay-Potomac River NMS. Sammy Orlando thanked Matt for all the support, as well as thanking Joe Poe, Jim Tobin, and all the staff at Monitor NMS to make this model work. Sammy stated before starting his presentation, that he is a huge believer in the potential of advisory councils, and that this is a two-way street in partnerships and communicating needs of community members.

Sammy started his presentation by showing how he started working with NOAA back in 1985, with a snapshot of him on the softball team. He has been around for a long time and is familiar with the Outer Banks communities, having spent lots of time there with his family. Sammy stated that people matter, and that he believes that stewardship of both natural and cultural heritage resources are what brings people together. He is inclusive of all people and generations, and interested in coalition building.

Sammy continued his presentation by describing the Mallow's Bay-Potomac River NMS. It is 18 square miles in the middle of the Potomac River, near Washington, D.C. It is comprised of over 100 WWI shipwrecks, listed to the National Register of Historic Places. These wrecks are inseparable from the ecosystem, as they are “flowerpots,” and provide structure for the surrounding ecology. A lot can be seen from the shoreline, but within five minutes, you are floating amongst history. The effort to create these vessels was monumental.

President Wilson said to build 1,000 ships to support Allies, and in doing so, the effort expanded 50 different shipyards to accommodate these orders. After the war, many of those ordered ships were sent here as they were designed for the war effort. Here, they were broken up, but much still remains.

Sammy continued stating that the sanctuary is not just the shipwrecks. The “Ghost Fleet,” (as these wrecks are called) is unique, but when you are out there, we talk about how this place has ties to the Civil War, War of 1812, Revolutionary War, with four separate DoD 4 Navy facilities on every corner of the area. Commercial watermen, caviar processing plants, and going back 10,000 years to the Piscataway people, this area is rich with heritage. People care about people and they want to hear the stories.

Sammy continued that in 2014, the community came together and after five years, a National Marine Sanctuary came into being. NOAA works in full cooperation with the state of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Maryland Historical Trust, as well as with Charles County, Maryland, in their role as trustees for state of Maryland resources. This is the regulatory side, but what does this mean for the community, and what does it mean for the people. There is a major focus on recreational tourism and enhancing the visitor experience, but also tying the local community back to the sanctuary and demonstrating the multiple values offered there. Some examples include the very popular kayak tours, which are sold out well in advance. Small businesses have spun up including a brewery that promotes a “Ghost Fleet” inspired craft beer. Data buoys help with real time data on water quality, helping with safety. There are plans to make the sanctuary as accessible as possible, to include a virtual experience through Terrain 360. This would take a kayak tour into the virtual space, allowing someone to experience the sanctuary from just about anywhere. Additionally, we are promoting efforts to work with Diving With a Purpose (DWP) to get kids out on the water learning to swim, dive, and snorkel. All of this is an effort to provide a gateway into the sanctuary and connect people with all that the sanctuary system offers.

Sammy continued by describing the Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS advisory council, that that there are some differences when compared to the composition of Monitor NMS advisory council. For instance, the government seats are non-voting and each community member seat has an alternate. Sammy has been very involved with the Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS advisory council, including lunch chats and many smaller meetings. Working closely with the advisory councils will be the most effective way forward. At Monitor NMS and with this advisory council, this will mean a lot of getting to know each other and meet and greets. There will be a lot of “cross pollination” between the two advisory councils, as both share so many similarities. Sammy welcomes members of this council to attend Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS advisory council meetings, and likewise. Sammy concluded that he is excited to get going and see what the next year, and beyond, will hold. Joe Poe thanked Sammy and is looking forward to getting to work closely with him. Bob Neyland stated that he would like to get together sometime to see how we can collaborate and that they are doing some survey work there and would love to meet up with him.

Kamau Sadiki state that the field is rich for opportunities and he and Jay Haigler (DWP and Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS advisory council member) talk regularly and the future is bright for collaboration. He kayaks Mallows bay and learns something new each time.

★ Monitor NMS Staff Introductions

Following the introduction of Sammy Orlando, this next slot was to get the Monitor NMS advisory council re-introduced to the Monitor NMS staff. Tane Casserley (Resource Protection/Permit Coordinator) started off by saying he is very excited to be working with Sammy and Mallows and we have lots of things to teach each other. Tane is first generation American; immigrant from New Zealand, grew up in Hawaii, went to U of Hawaii and ECU. His NOAA career started out with over Monitor, over to Thunder Bay, and then back to Monitor in 2015. He is the lead for exhibits, trail signs, conservation and exhibits, and developing strategic national partnerships. Interested in building strong relationships that represents diversity and inclusion in our programs. Gave update to GFOE project, tried to do it for the last 3 years and will be on *Nancy Foster* this summer to take ROV to several site WWI, WWII, and USS *Monitor* and Billy Mitchell ships. Huge collaborative effort.

Mark Losavio (Media and Outreach Coordinator) is from Kentucky and got his undergrad from USC and is an educator at heart. Interested in taking the Monitor story to many different and new communities. Use different and new ideas, such as apps, Chronolog, For the 50th anniversary year, Monitor will be out in front of celebration. Very interested in exploring new ways to reach out into communities.

Will Sassorossi (Research/Advisory Council/Volunteer Coordinator) is excited to bring all three roles together to work closely with council members. Has been working with Monitor NMS since 2013 and got Master's from ECU in 2015.

Shannon Ricles (Education and Outreach Coordinator) graduated from the University of North Texas, and has been an educator for over 35 years, 15 years in classroom at multiple grade levels. Hosted the Submerged NC webinar series and since February, we have hosted 17 webinars with over 5,900 people to register and over 3,100 people to attend, from over 40 countries. Very interested in ROV programs and how to best re-engage communities and schools. Ocean Guardian School, Bogue Sound Elementary in Beaufort, NC, reclaiming land on school ground. Partnering with The Mariners' Museum and Park (TMMP) on Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) grant. Heavily involved in 50th and 160th anniversaries, travel trailer with interactive exhibits that will go across NC, Virginia, and Maryland. This year's 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 2022 that will run through next October, and possibly beyond, on the third Tuesday of every month.

★ Conservation Update

Will Hoffman gave updates to the conservation efforts at TMMP and looking forward to how to work with everyone. Will gave a very detailed presentation on the process for completing

work on the steam condenser. The condenser, bilge pump, and boiler feed pump were recovered in 2001. Transferred to museum in same year and stayed in tank until 2005. Until the Batten Conservation Lab was built, no working lab. The steam condenser was put into its tank and building was built around tanks. From there, tried to figure out how to take apart and treat pieces individually and then put them back together. By 2011 started taking condenser apart, and steam manifold comes off. Very difficult to figure out how to take apart and treat each piece. COVID certainly delayed the conservation process, but finally, after 10 years, lab was able to finish work, rotate the condenser and move it out of the lab.

Tina Gutshall discussed the B-WET grants, mentioned by Shannon Ricles, used to help with student outreach at TMMP. Unfortunately, Newport News Public Schools have suspended field trips to TMMP, but more alternatives will hopefully be available in the coming spring.

Tane Casserley also noted the Monitor 50th Anniversary Poster is coming out and there are a few artistic licenses taken, but the overall poster is amazing.

New Business

Joe Poe mentioned there will be an article he wrote coming out in the next addition of Alert Diver magazine. Rom Whitaker said that he went by the Monitor Sanctuary today; lovely blue water, 64 degrees. He continued to state that he appreciated all the work the staff does and this is critical to the success of the sanctuary program. Joe Poe finished by saying we will figure out a date for the next SAC meeting in the new year.

Public Comment Period

None.

Meeting Adjourned

Nathan Richards made the motion to adjourn and Tom Kies seconded the motion. All were in favor of adjourning.

Meeting Close-Out

Actions to Take:

- ✓ Fill remaining vacant SAC seats for governmental positions.
- ✓ Set date(s) for next SAC meeting.

Attendance Roster:

Community Members		
Jim Tobin	Citizen-at-Large	Present
Kim Kenyon	Conservation	Present
Tom Kies	Economic Development	Present
Salvatore Mercogliano	Education	Present
Andre Nabors	Heritage Tourism	Absent
Nathan Richards	Maritime Archaeological Research	Present
OPEN	Recreational/Commercial Fishing	-----
Rom Whitaker	Recreational/Commercial Fishing	Present
Joe Poe	Recreational Diving	Present
Kamau Sadiki	Recreational Diving	Present
Debby Boyce	Ocean Sports	Present
Will Hoffman	The Mariners' Museum	Present
Tina Gutshall	The Mariners' Museum (Alt)	Present
Stephanie Sterling	Student Seat (Non-Voting)	Present
Government Members		
Dave Hallac	NPS (Primary)	Present
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	Absent
OPEN	NC Local Gov't – Town of Beaufort (Alt)	-----
Bobby Outten	NC Local Gov't – Dare County	Present
Drew Pearson	NC Local Gov't – Dare county (Alt)	Absent
LCDR Matthew Kahley	US Coast Guard	Present
Kate Moore	US Coast Guard (Alt)	Absent
Robert Neyland	US Navy	Present
Alexis Catsambis	US Navy (Alt)	Absent
Brendan Burke	VA DHR	Present
Samantha Henderson	VA DHR (Alt)	Present
Sanctuary Staff		
Matt Brookhart	Eastern Regional Director	Present
Paul "Sammy" Orlando	Superintendent	Present
Tane Casserley	Permit Coordinator	Present
Will Sassorossi	Research Coordinator	Present
David Dodsworth	IT Coordinator	Present
Shannon Ricles	Education/Outreach Coordinator	Present
Mark Losavio	Media/Outreach Coordinator	Present
Guests/ Public/Other		
Ernie Foster	Recreational Fishing	Present