

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, January 26, 2023

11:00 am to 12:00 pm

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

**Meeting Objectives:** (1) Sanctuary Updates and Projects and (2) SAC Announcements and Comments

**Attendance:** (see attached attendance roster)

10 community seats (of 13 filled seats (not including alternate))

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

6 sanctuary staff members present

**Meeting Notes**

**Administrative Business and Announcements**

**Chair's Welcome**

Joe Poe (SAC Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Expressed disappointment in not being able to see each other in person, but understood rules are there to keep people safe. He was really looking forward to the exciting itinerary that was planned, but hopes everyone can make it to the museum in the near future.

Shannon Ricles (SAC Coordinator) called the roll. Joe explained that Bob Neyland was retiring from his job with the Navy and was getting an award at the same time as the meeting, therefore, Alexis Catsambis was also not on the call.

**Council Comment**

Joe Poe sought comment from the council for any remarks or questions. No comments were made. Joe asked if there were dates set for future meetings. Sammy Orlando (Sanctuary Superintendent) said that he echoed Joe's disappointment in not having an in-person meeting, and that there was an exciting itinerary planned. He apologized for not being able to meet in person, but said it was up to higher powers. Sammy said that currently there are no firm dates on the books yet for future meetings, but the next meeting will perhaps be in the April time frame. He would like the SAC to meet once a quarter, with a meeting in December before the holidays. He said that in the near future, he will meet with Joe on several administrative items and future SAC dates will be one of those items. He said that we hope to get three dates

out to the SAC quickly. Sammy went on to talk about the federal budget. He explained that although a budget was passed, we still have not gotten unit operating funds. Therefore, we do not know how much money we have going into the fiscal year. However, we should find out soon and with those funds, he hopes to bring on another affiliate member. That person would be seated in the Newport News office working with staff on community engagement and SAC needs. There are only six staff members for two sanctuaries, so we need an additional staff person. In addition, with the new budget, Sammy said that he hopes to maneuver the sanctuary towards more service to the community in all forms. This will be a high priority for the sanctuary's budget.

Joe announced that because we had advertised the public commenting period at 11:15 am, we had to keep the meeting at the same time. He also asked if anyone had any issues getting to in-person meetings and if so, to let him know. Joe asked if meeting in North Carolina would be possible. Sammy said that yes, we would like to hold meetings in North Carolina at our partner venues. He said that we wanted the first meeting to be at The Mariners' Museum in order to give everyone an idea of what *Monitor* truly is about. Sammy explained that we want to geographically move meetings around to other partner organizations so as to not put the burden of travel on any one group of people. Joe asked if a different venue would fall under the same NOAA restrictions. Sammy said yes, because it is not the venue that creates the restrictions, but rather that NOAA is hosting the meeting. So, any future venues would be under the same guidelines.

### **Approval of Draft Minutes from previous meeting (10/14/2022)**

Joe Poe asked council members if there were any revisions or edits to the draft of the minutes from the October 14 (2022) meeting. Hearing none, a motion to accept the minutes was requested, seconded, and all were in favor of approval of the minutes.

### **Public Comments**

- None

### **Sanctuary Updates**

#### *Monitor* 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries and the Four Pillars – Tane Casserley

Charting a New Course – title from an old management plan, but relevant today as we go from looking offshore to looking onshore for new ways to partner with new venues and organizations. Tane showed an image that is of a painting that was created by a Newport News shipyard worker and how he took the classic image and brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As we begin to celebrate *Monitor*'s history and its legacy, we realize that the *Monitor* is still serving our nation today. We will launch 3-year anniversary campaign with 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its discovery – Aug 27, 1973. Next year, will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the announcement that the *Monitor* had indeed been discovered. And in 2025, the *Monitor* will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its designation as our nation's first national marine sanctuary.

As we move forward, there will be four key pillars that will chart the new course for us.

1. Historic Legacy – *Monitor* is a national historic landmark, which is of greater significance than being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are only six shipwrecks, such as the USS *Arizona*, that have this designation. The *Monitor* is the ship that saved the Union, and its design changed naval warfare forever. For years after the battle, it was in the media and the press. Tane said that in the 1920s *Monitor* top refrigerators were made. The engine was round like the *Monitor*'s turret. It has an amazing historic legacy.
2. Artifact conservation – We are working with our partners at The Mariners' Museum and Park, which has the largest metals conservation lab and project in the world. We are proud to partner with them on *Monitor*'s legacy. Some of the artifacts will be finished in the next few years, so we need to think about how to share them with the public. Large conservation projects are huge draws for tourists. The *Mary Rose* in the UK and *Vasa* in Sweden are some of the largest tourism draws for their country.
3. Ecology – *Monitor* is an island of life. Tane showed an image of the *Monitor*'s armor belt and said that it has numerous types of animals and corals on it. It is living and breathing. The sanctuary is working with the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island and with grad students (NC State system) to characterize the ecosystem. This will allow us to touch on things, like climate change and start thinking of *Monitor* as a climate sentinel site.
4. Service to community – This pillar is a new one, and it is meant to really highlight our management of the shipwreck. How are we bettering our communities? It is difficult to get to the site. So, we look to our partners' venues to help tell the story for those who can't get there. The NC Aquarium tells the story of the ecology of the shipwreck. And the Graveyard of the Atlantic will tell the sailors' story. The Mariners' Museum tells the story of technology and innovation. And the Hampton Roads Naval Museum tells the story of the Battle of Hampton Roads and has artifacts from the USS *Cumberland*, and we will share artifacts of the *Monitor* to have them side-by-side. But it goes beyond that, we want to drive people to the Hampton Roads area and the OBX. It shouldn't just be a diver who gets to experience the shipwreck. Last summer, the GFOE project brought *Monitor* to thousands. The Mariners' Museum's park event, also offered information on career paths, while showing and demonstrating how to be a part of the community. We are looking at military events as being a resource to bring people together. And inspiring the next generation. How do we inspire them to follow in our footsteps? Showing people possibilities to connect to *Monitor*.

We will be launching the campaign right now. University of West Florida (UWF) is currently at the museum photo-scanning artifacts - right now. Scanning today, tomorrow and Saturday. From this scanning project, we will have 3-D models to share, but we also want to print them so as to share them with the public. Tane shared an image of Murilo Basso (UWF) scanning a gun tool. There will be an exportable software product that anyone can download and print it. Anchor is also being done. This gives us the ability to fabricate the artifacts and have them on display at a 1:1 scale. It allows us to connect to

the people without any barriers. In summary, the *Monitor* served in 1862 and continues to serve today. Stay tuned.

Joe thanked Tane and said that it is exciting to see all that is happening. He also said that if you dive, it is not always blue and green, but colorful. Last summer, the expedition showed the colors when lights were put on it. Joe's colorful background image of the *Monitor*'s bow was one that he took more than 30 years ago. He said that he hopes everyone gets the opportunity to get to the museum. Tane shared a picture of the wreck with shark swimming over it. He said that one idea is to use 3-D printed artifacts for kids to use, such as how to load a gun and mimic the Battle of Hampton Roads.

### **Advisory Council Member Comments and Announcements**

#### *Conservation Update – Will Hoffman, Director of Conservation and Chief Conservator*

Will Hoffman reiterated that he too wished everyone could be there in person. He is very excited to provide access to the artifacts. He said he wanted to update on the current events and where they are at in the lab today. He shared his screen and showed an image of the *Monitor*'s skeg. He said that it is being completed and they are finishing up the conversation. The skeg, recovered in 2000, held up the rudder and is a very large object. It requires industrial equipment just to move it around. It has completed desalination and is in final stages. Will showed an overview image of lab and pointed out the various tanks and equipment. He said that they have to move things around, much like playing a Jenga game. In 2021 and 2022, they disassembled condenser and removed x-ray booth to a secondary facility, rearranged the storage area, and removed the condenser tank. Will explained that they have a good relationship with the shipbuilding industry in Newport News, and that they often help with projects. Will played video of the shipbuilder team dismantling the condenser tank. By freeing up that space, they have now reorganized the whole lab space, which will give the ability to work on other big projects. Will said that it is evolving evolutions and we will need to look soon at how we want to display these artifacts. He said that he looks forward to having everyone down.

Joe asked if there have been any changes to the museum itself. Will said that as artifacts completed they are moved into the gallery, but now it is reaching the point where they need to flush out what the final story is going to be. Will said that no one has ever done this large of a project before, so it's a learning experience. How do we tell the story? What is it going to be? He said it is an exciting time. Lots of artifacts on display, but now working with NOAA and other partners on new displays.

#### *Council Member Comments*

Joe asked Rom Whitaker and K.P. Scott (Recreational/Commercial Fishing) if there was anything in the fishing world that they wanted to share. Rom said that they are both always concerned about new restrictions in the sanctuary. He said that is very excited about the webinar on Tuesday and asked if it would be recorded. Shannon said that it would be

recorded. Rom also said that he hopes to get up to museum soon. He explained that as for fishing, he is very concerned and goes by the sanctuary almost every day at this time of the year. Everything looks good. K.P. said the regulations on bottom fishing affects the whole fleet. K.P. said that he and Rom were both at NOAA meeting held the previous night, and it was very contentious. He explained that they are small communities, which are suspicious of any growth. He said that he spends all of his time bottom fishing, he has a head boat, but charter boats also bottom fish, so we need to be proactive to reach out to the community to let them know that NOAA is trustworthy. He said that he and Rom are the access for the public to see these areas. During the meeting, he said he mostly listened, but could see anger and distrust, warranted or not, in his community. He said that we (NOAA/SAC) need to continue to outreach to the community to let them know that we are not out to steal their livelihoods. Rom said that if you (NOAA) were in the meeting last night, you would want to hide behind a desk, but NOAA listened and it ended as a good meeting. He said he has been a part of this process for a long time and that NOAA has always listened to fishermen and used that input before they made any regulations, and K.P. and he can go back and tell community that we are not trying to upset the fishing.

Joe said that it affects everyone, all have same concerns, such as divers, and it goes back to a number of myths. But there has been a lot of progress to educate and share what the community is concerned about to the people on the sanctuary. Dave Hallac (Superintendent of Cape Hatteras National Seashore – NPS) asked if expansion is canceled.

Sammy thanked Rom and K.P. and said that this information is helpful as they are the conduit from the community to the sanctuary. He asked what the meeting was about that they had attended. K.P. said it was a fishery (South Atlantic) meeting led by NOAA about Dolphin fishing. Sammy explained that the public doesn't see the shades of differences between line offices. They see all as NOAA. Sammy said that he appreciates the kind words said indicating that we are listening and serving the community. He said to Dave Hallac's question, the expansion proposal was put is on an indefinite hold by the Agency nearly two years ago and, therefore, is no longer being pursued as a management objective for this sanctuary. But that does not diminish the heritage and honor of the people of that event sitting off the North Carolina coast. And he hopes one day to honor that legacy again whether or not that mechanism is via a sanctuary designation. Over the last 18 months, we have shifted away from offshore, and refocused attention on partnerships that provide benefit and services to communities along the Outer Banks, inland NC and VA and especially in the Tidewater area. Over the past three SAC meetings, Tane has been defining that refocus that we now call the four pillars of our mission and sanctuary management. Thus, we are not out there documenting any of the shipwrecks nor proposing any management actions in the offshore area associated with the Graveyard of the Atlantic. Instead, we are focused on one square mile of the existing *Monitor* sanctuary. We are recognizing that with all the attention being offshore for 15 years, we lost touch with our communities. We have had to reintroduce ourselves. The four pillars will guide us in doing so. Sammy explained that we are not losing track of *Monitor*'s legacy, but pillars 3 and 4 are to share *Monitor* in new and exciting ways. New technologies, new ecology, more education, and more communities connected. He said that the message, from the past few SAC meetings, is that we are looking inward to reconnect

us to the public and to diversify and amplify that. This philosophy is central to our approach at Mallows-Potomac NMS and the model for our way forward here at *Monitor*.

K.P. said that Sammy made a very eloquent mission statement. He said with that, he can go talk to the dive boats and fishermen. David Hallac also said that it was very good and it really helped in tying it all together. Rom said that was what started the uproar, and Sammy's answer makes him feel a lot better and now he and K.P. can go back and tell communities that NOAA listened and did something, and he is looking forward to our relationship.

Kamau Sadiki (Diving With A Purpose – Recreational Diving) said that on February 2 he will be giving a lecture at The Mariners' Museum on the work of Diving With A Purpose and two shipwrecks in the Transatlantic Era of African Enslavement (TEAE) with shipwrecks in Cape Town, South Africa and the Mobile River. Shannon reminded everyone that Kamau will also present on the Submerged NC webinar series on February 13 at 1:00 pm, and registration link will be published soon.

Joe thanked everyone for participating and said that he looked forward to the next one with more presentations from the council.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Joe Poe asked for a motion to adjourn. Will made the motion and K.P. seconded it. All were in favor of adjourning.

### **Meeting Close-Out**

#### **Actions to Take:**

- ✓ Send Joe Poe ideas for possible working group committees for upcoming anniversaries.

**Attendance Roster:**

<b>Community Members</b>		
To be filled	Citizen-at-Large	
Kim Kenyon	Conservation	Present
Tom Kies	Economic Development	Absent
Salvatore Mercogliano	Education	Absent
Andre Nabors	Heritage Tourism	Absent
Nathan Richards	Maritime Archaeological Research	Present
K.P. Scott, III	Recreational/Commercial Fishing	Present
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
<b>Government Members</b>		
Dave Hallac	NPS (Primary)	Present
OPEN	NPS (Alternate)	-----
Chris Southerly	NC DCR (Primary)	Present
OPEN	NC DCR (Alternate)	-----
Jason Peters	NC Dept. Environmental Quality	Absent
Steve Poland	NC Dept. Environmental Quality (Alt)	Absent
Charles "Bucky" Oliver	NC Local Gov't – Town of Beaufort	Present
Bob Terwilliger	NC Local Gov't – Town of Beaufort (Alt)	Absent
Bobby Outten	NC Local Gov't – Dare County	Absent
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	Absent
Alexis Catsambis	US Navy (Alt)	Absent
Brendan Burke	VA DHR	Present
Samantha Henderson	VA DHR (Alt)	Absent
<b>Sanctuary Staff</b>		
Paul "Sammy" Orlando	Superintendent	Present
Tane Casserley	Research/Resource/Permit Coordinator	Present
David Dodsworth	IT Coordinator	Present
Shannon Ricles	Education/Outreach/SAC Coordinator	Present
Mark Losavio	Media/Outreach Coordinator	Present
Megan Ossmann	Science/Research/Interpretation Specialist	Present
Guests/ Public/Other	Trish Murphy – NC Seat on South Atlantic Fisheries	Present