

**MONITOR NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting**

MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2017
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Meeting Location: MNMS Office
Newport News, VA 23606

Meeting Objectives: (1) Elections of Council Officers; (2) ONMS SAC Chairs Enforcement Letter; (3) Update on *Monitor* Sanctuary Boundary Expansion.

Attendance: (see attached attendance roster)
11 community seats present (of 13 filled seats)
7 government seats present (of 13 filled seats)
5 sanctuary staff members present (of 7 staff)

Discussion Highlights:

- ★ Election of Council Officers
- ★ Report on summer field work for 2016
- ★ *Monitor* conservation update
- ★ National Fishing Summit Report
- ★ New and Expiring SAC seats update

Meeting Notes

Administrative Business and Announcements

★ Chair's Welcome

With no official Chair as of yet, Dave Alberg welcomed everyone on able to make the trip to Newport News, VA., as well as those available via phone call. Will Sassorossi took roll call (see attached attendance).

★ Election of Council Officers

Will Sassorossi opened the floor for nomination of Council Officer positions, including Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Joe Poe motioned to nominate Jim Tobin as Chair, seconded by Matt Landrum. Jim Tobin motioned to nominate Joe Poe as Vice-Chair,

seconded by Matt Landrum. Nathan Richards motioned to nominate Dave Sybert as Secretary, seconded by Matt Landrum. All were in favor of accepting Jim Tobin as Chair, Joe Poe as Vice-Chair and David Sybert as Secretary, no dissenting or abstentions. Motions passed unanimously.

★ Approval of Draft Minutes from previous meeting (5/10/2016)

Will Sassorossi opened floor for approval of minutes from the May 10, 2016 meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as is was made by Jim Tobin. Joe Poe seconded the motion. All were in favor of accepting minutes, no dissents, motion passed unanimously.

★ ONMS SAC Chair Enforcement Letter

A drafted open letter addressed to the incoming NOAA Administrator from all Advisory Council Chairs was presented to the council for consideration. The letter was the result of a panel that met from September and October, 2016, that included members of four sanctuaries, Greater Farallones, Stellwagen Bank, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries. This panel crafted a letter to be presented to all sanctuary advisory councils stressing the importance of enforcement in sanctuaries and monuments and focuses on what each actor, from the incoming NOAA Administrator to advisory councils, can do to improve and augment enforcement across the National Marine Sanctuary System. The resulting letter was presented for discussion and consideration.

Discussion on signing the letter was wide ranging. Joe Poe and Dave Hallac discussed that this letter, as currently written, might be out of the Council's purview and, with respect to expansion, not something that, as written, should be signed off on without more information about how the letter came about. There was discussion about how signing a document about enforcement could be perceived in local communities with potential impacts to positive input on sanctuary expansion. It was requested that further information to this end be looked into and that further discussion regarding the letter, whether to ultimately sign or not, will be discussed at a future date. It was motioned by Jim Tobin, seconded by Joe Poe, to wait to sign letter until further information was provided.

★ Brief Council Member Announcements

Former SAC member Susan Langley gave update to the Mallows Bay, MD scoping meetings, taking place in March. Howard Hoege III, the new President of The Mariners Museum, also spoke on about the partnership between MNMS and The Mariners Museum.

★ Presentation of Service Plaques

Dave Alberg presented Susan Langley with a plaque, thanking her for her service and time while she served on the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. Jim Bunch and Wayne Smith also received plaques, but were unable to attend the meeting.

Reports

★ Superintendent's Update

Dave Alberg's report included remarks on the many outreach events MNMS staff was part of since the last meeting, to include Harborfest and Pridefest in Norfolk, Va. MNMS has also been part of the 75th anniversary celebrations for World War II, beginning with attendance and reading of the names of those lost at the bombing of Pearl Harbor at the December 7th event at the World War Two Memorial in Washington, DC. MNMS also laid a wreath at the World War Two Memorial in Washington, DC, on January 13th, commemorating the beginning of the Battle of the Atlantic. MNMS will continue to be part of events like these over the course of the year.

★ MNMS 2016 Field Season Recap

Joe Hoyt gave a report on the OER/Project Baseline expedition from summer 2016. Joe provided video from the project which illustrated the tools used and resulting data acquired from the project.

★ National Fishing Summit Update

Ernie Foster provided insight to the National Fishing Summit that was held in FL on December 14 and 15, 2016. The summit was attended by council members from advisory councils from the sanctuary system, representing the commercial/recreational fishing community. Ernie stated he was impressed by the level in which concerns were expressed openly and was excited by the collaboration with NOAA staff.

★ Monitor Conservation Update

Will Hoffman gave a report on updated conservation efforts for *Monitor*, stating there are many goals for the upcoming year. Photogrammetry of the turret will be a big goal to complete.

Monitor Boundary Expansion Update

Dave Alberg gave an update on boundary review since the May meeting. A review of the public comments has occurred and the creation of the draft management plan, draft environmental impact statement, as well as developing alternatives, including a preferred alternative, is in the works. Ultimately, the creation and acceptance of these documents will kick off another round of public scoping and comment collections. This process will take approximately 18 to 24 months.

Dave Alberg reiterated that SAC council members are encouraged to remain involved in any discussions. Dave asked 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.

Public Comment Period

No one from the public spoke up at this time.

Meeting Close-Out

★ SAC Member Recruitment Update

Will Sassorossi requested assistance to review applications for the Economic Development seat. Nathan Richards, Jim Tobin and David Sybert volunteered to review applications for the open seat and send recommendations to Dave Alberg.

★ New Business

None.

★ Next Council Event/Meeting

To be determined at a later date, looking into April.

Adjourn

Jim Tobin motioned to adjourn, seconded by Dave Hallac. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Close-Out

Actions to Take:

- ✓ Continue to work on FY 2017 SAC Work Plan, to include additions or amendments to currently adopted work plan.
- ✓ Send out options for next meeting date and location.
- ✓ Request additional information regarding Enforcement Letter.
- ✓ Fill remaining vacant SAC seats for governmental positions.
- ✓ Update Bios on MNMS website

Attendance Roster:

Community Members		
Jim Tobin	Citizen-at-Large	Present
Sarah Watkins-Kenney	Conservation	Present
PENDING	Economic Development	-----
David Sybert	Education	Present
Andre Nabors	Heritage Tourism	Present
Nathan Richards	Maritime Archaeological Research	Present
Ernie Foster	Recreational/Commercial Fishing	Present
Joe Poe	Recreational Diving	Present
Debby Boyce	Recreational Diving	Present
Matt Landrum	Ocean Sports	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)	Present
OPEN	NPS (Alternate)	-----
Billy Ray Morris	NC DCR (Primary)	Present
Steve Claggett	NC DCR (Alternate)	Absent
Michelle Duval	NC Dept. Environmental Quality	Present
OPEN	NC Dept. Environmental Quality (Alt)	-----
Charlie Burgess	NC Local Gov't – Beaufort	Absent
OPEN	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	Absent
Katie Moore	US Coast Guard (Alt)	Present
Robert Neyland	US Navy	Present
Alexis Catsambis	US Navy (Alt)	Absent
Greg LaBudde	VA DHR	Present
Mike Clem	VA DHR (Alt)	Absent
Sanctuary Staff		
David Alberg	Sanctuary Superintendent	Present
Paul Ticco	Northeast Regional Coordinator	Absent
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	Present
Others/Public		

Stuart Katz		
George Schwarz	US Navy	