

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

MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2017
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm
Meeting Location: MNMS Office
Newport News, VA 23606

Meeting Objectives: (1) Updates; (2) Sanctuary Advisory Council Enforcement Letter resolution; (3) Update on New and Expiring SAC Member Seats.

Attendance: (see attached attendance roster)

9 community seats present (of 11 filled seats)

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

4 sanctuary staff members present (of 7 staff)

Discussion Highlights:

- ★ CBS Special from 2016 Field Work
- ★ Passing of Resolution letter addendum to Sanctuary Enforcement Letter
- ★ SAC Seat update/recruitment

Meeting Notes

Administrative Business and Announcements

★ Chair's Welcome

Jim Tobin welcomed everyone to the phone as he presided over his first SAC meeting since being elected in January.

★ Approval of Draft Minutes from previous meetings (1/18/2017)

Approval of 1/18/2017 Draft Minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

★ Brief Council Member Update

Sarah Watkins-Kenney wanted everyone to know that the QAR Lab would be having an Open House in Greenville, NC, on April 7th, from 10 AM – 3 PM.

Reports

★ Superintendent's Update

Dave Alberg began report with mention of the CBS Sunday Morning Special that aired on April 2nd. Has received good feedback from public and wanted to make sure that if SAC members had not gotten a chance to see it, please do so and if needed any assistance with the link, please let Will Sassorossi know.

Upcoming fishing phone call with Ernie Foster and Anna Beckwith to discuss better engagement strategies with the Outer Banks fishing community. In previous years, former SAC chair Jim Bunch had set up “meet the sanctuary” events at area restaurants, and they were good, but could be better. Phone call will help to flush out ideas for ways to better interact with fishing community.

★ Regional Report

Paul Ticco introduced himself to new members as he had missed the previous meeting and started his report with an introduction to his role and the northeast and mid-Atlantic sanctuaries. Paul gave a brief update on the Mallows Bay, MD and Wisconsin nominations that have been elevated from the new sanctuary site inventory and are now beginning the designation process. Paul also mentioned there are other community based nominations at various stages of completion, including sites in Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and other non-Great Lakes nominations including the offshore site of Hudson Canyon.

★ Volunteer of the Year Award

Will Sassorossi gave an overview of the Volunteer of the Year award that is given by The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to an individual that has made outstanding contributions to their local National Marine Sanctuary during 2016. The nominee for Monitor National Marine Sanctuary came, with the help of Will Hoffman, from the conservation team at The Mariners Museum. Gerry Hanley was nominated to represent MNMS for his conservation work, offering more than 350 volunteer hours in 2016. His primary focus has been historical research into the mechanical engine plant components of the USS *Monitor* and their operations. The nominees will be honored at a gala in Washington, D.C., with The NMS Foundation announcing the national award winner later in April. This individual, chosen from all the sanctuary nominees, will have travel arranged in order to attend and speak at the gala.

Sanctuary Enforcement Letter Resolution

A drafted open letter addressed to the incoming NOAA Administrator from all Advisory Council Chairs was presented to the council for consideration at the previous SAC meeting on January 18, 2017. At that time, it was discussed and motioned to table signing the letter until further information regarding the formation of the letter was understood. Following a

review of this information, Joe Poe and Jim Tobin crafted an addendum resolution that will be added to the overall letter, outlining the specific needs at MNMS. This resolution letter was distributed to the entire SAC prior to the meeting for review. Jim Tobin read the resolution letter and opened the call up for discussion. Ernie Foster appreciated the tone of the letter in that it expressed no additional needs for enforcement at MNMS but respected the needs at other sanctuaries. Discussion revolved around this point as well as that at MNMS, education was the primary form of enforcement, rather than on-the-water engagement. Sarah Watkins-Kenney wanted to add an additional line to the resolution letter stating more forcefully that education and outreach are the preferred methods for enforcement at the sanctuary. This was seconded by Billy Ray Morris.

Following this addition to the original resolution letter Joe Poe re-read the updated letter. Jim Tobin asked if there would be a motion to accept the resolution letter, in which he would sign, that would be added to the Advisory Council Chair Enforcement Letter that 13 of 14 sanctuary chairs had signed. Anna Beckwith made the motion, seconded by Ernie Foster. A vote to accept the motion commenced with 11 “yays”, 0 “nays” and 3 abstentions. The motion to accept the addendum resolution letter passed. Letter is included in minutes.

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 that there will be two seats coming up for recruitment: youth and one of the two recreational/commercial fishing seats. Recruitment for these seats will begin on May 1, 2017. Will is also looking into ways to expand the influence of the youth seat and will report back at a later date. Suggestions from council members included consideration of time requirements, and youth ability to travel. Suggestions mentioned mentorships, a VA youth and a NC youth splitting the seat and a larger project that would include sitting on the council as part of the youth’s responsibilities.

Will also mentioned that Charlie Burgess has retired as Town Manager of Beaufort and that his seat is now open.

Meeting Close-Out

★ New Business

None.

★ 2017 SAC Work Plan

Will Sassorossi mentioned this is something to look toward for the next meeting, but wanted individuals to start thinking about more SAC engagement projects.

★ Next Council Event/Meeting

To be determined at a later date, looking into mid/late June. Plan to coincide close to Jim Bunch’s book release in early July.

Adjourn

Joe Poe motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ernie Foster. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Close-Out		
<u>Actions to Take:</u>		
✓	Begin work on FY 2017 SAC 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		
Jim Tobin	Citizen-at-Large	Present
Sarah Watkins-Kenney	Conservation	Present
OPEN	Economic Development	-----
David Sybert	Education	Present
Andre Nabors	Heritage Tourism	Present
Nathan Richards	Maritime Archaeological Research	Present
Ernie Foster	Recreational/Commercial Fishing	Present
Anna Beckwith	Recreational/Commercial Fishing	Present
Debby Boyce	Recreational Diving	Present
Joe Poe	Recreational Diving	Present
John Quarstein	The Mariners’ Museum	Absent
Will Hoffman	The Mariners’ Museum (Alt)	Absent
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
Michelle Duval	NC Dept. Environmental Quality	Absent
OPEN	NC Dept. Environmental Quality (Alt)	-----
OPEN	NC Local Gov’t – (Town/City/County)	-----
OPEN	NC Local Gov’t – (Town/City/County)	-----
Bobby Outten	NC Local Gov’t – Dare County	Present

Drew Pearson	NC Local Gov't – Dare county (Alt)	Absent
LCDR Patricia Bennett	US Coast Guard	Present
Kate Moore	US Coast Guard (Alt)	Absent
Robert Neyland	US Navy	Present
Alexis Catsambis	US Navy (Alt)	Present
Greg LaBudde	VA DHR	Present
Mike Clem	VA DHR (Alt)	Absent
Sanctuary Staff		
David Alberg	Sanctuary Superintendent	Present
Paul Ticco	Northeast Regional Coordinator	Present
Joe Hoyt	Maritime Archaeologist	Absent
Tane Casserley	Research Coordinator	Present
Will Sassorossi	SAC Coordinator	Present
David Dodsworth	IT Coordinator	Absent
Shannon Ricles	Education/Outreach Coordinator	Absent
Others/Public		
Stewart Katz		
Greg Stratton		