

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

June 23, 2017

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Meeting Location: UNC-Coastal Studies Institute Research Campus  
Room 262, 850 NC 345  
Wanchese, NC 27981

**Meeting Objectives:** (1) Updates; (2) Presentation by Jim Bunch; (3) SAC goals for 2018.

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

9 community seats present (of 11 filled seats)

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

6 sanctuary staff members present (of 7 staff)

**Discussion Highlights:**

- ★ Presentation by Jim Bunch
- ★ Reports and Updates
- ★ Begin outlining SAC goals for 2018

**Meeting Notes**

**Administrative Business and Announcements**

★ Chair's Welcome

Jim Tobin welcomed everyone to the meeting at CSI and to those on the phone.

★ Approval of Draft Minutes from previous meetings (1/18 and 4/6)

Jim Tobin motioned for approval of minutes as is, Joe Poe seconded. All in favor, motion to accept minutes into record passed.

★ Brief Council Member Update

Sarah Watkins-Kenney wanted everyone to know Steve Claggett, State Archaeologist and SAC Alternative, will be retiring on July 1, 2017. Joe Poe handed out issues of the latest

DAN/Alert Diver magazine that included his article regarding U-85 and the work done by Jim Bunch.

### **Presentation by Jim Bunch**

- ★ Jim Bunch, former Chair of MNMS Advisory Council, was invited to present to the council about his research and new book, *U-boats off the Outer Banks: Shadows in the Moonlight*. The book is a historical account of the Battle of the Atlantic off the coast of North Carolina, and includes many anecdotes of his extensive diving experiences on the wrecks from this period. He enjoyed the research process and continues to be amazed by the history of this special region. The book will be out for purchase in mid-July.

### **Reports**

- ★ Superintendent's Update

Dave Alberg began his update by stating there was no new information regarding the budget for FY2018. He continued his updates by highlighting the new exhibitry and trail signs at the Old Coast Guard Station in Virginia Beach. The new trail sign was developed with the help of Tane Casserley and additional signs will be placed in new locations over the course of the next year. Other updates included MNMS's Volunteer of the Year, Gerry Hanley, was presented his award at a ceremony in Washington D.C., earlier in June, and that progress on creating and submitting expansion documents was ongoing. A spring 2018 target is in mind for potential next round of public hearings although that may change.

- ★ MNMS Open House in Hatteras

Dave Alberg gave an update in Ernie Foster's absence about meeting with members of the fishing community in Hatteras, NC at an Open House event. The event was set up by Mr. Foster to encourage members of the local recreational fishing community to meet with sanctuary staff, in an effort to create an open dialogue and answer as many questions as possible about potential expansion of the MNMS boundary. A small group from the community attended, but it went a long way to help build upon a relationship and, from Dave Alberg's perspective, resulted in a very productive discussion.

- ★ Conservation Update

John Quarstein started with an update to new exhibitry in the Captain's cabin area, showcasing the coat that has been preserved. Sections of the coat will be rotated into the display. Also, interactive videos for nine of the 16 sailors lost have been created. Will Hoffman, in describing additional conservation focus to include partnering with Newport News Shipyard to raise and re-support the turret for additional conservation procedures. Will concluded his report stating tank for the turret will also be drained over the course of the summer and tours will be allowed to go inside for those that are interested.

★ Field Work Update

Joe Hoyt gave report for the upcoming field season that was to kick off starting the next day. Beginning with work with the Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG) Joe and Will Sassorossi will be assisting them as they document the wreck of *F.W. Abrams*, working out of Ocracoke, NC. Other upcoming projects include the continuation of the North Carolina wind energy area study with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). A few days up off of Kitty Hawk, NC and then two weeks working out of Wilmington, NC, should finalize the field work portion for this project. Also, there will be two weeks utilizing the NOAA vessel *Nancy Foster*, that Will and Tane Casserley will use in August, working with National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) out of Beaufort. Wrecks of interest for that project include U-352, HMT *Bedfordshire*, USS *Schurz*, *Ashkhabad* and *W.E. Hutton*. Billy Ray Morris wanted to add that the wreck site of *Condor*, a Civil War blockade runner off of Wilmington, NC, has been turned into a NC State heritage dive site, with the addition of others in the Wilmington, NC area to come later on.

★ MNMS Permitting and SAC Seat Update

Will Sassorossi stated that there had been four permits requested, and approved, for diving on *Monitor*. There had not been anyone able to dive, as of yet, but attempts were and continue to be made for those with permits to dive at the site. Will also gave an update regarding SAC recruitment, mentioning the Youth seat was still vacant and one other seat would be opening by the beginning of July, for official recruitment. Sarah Watkins-Kenney mentioned again that Steve Claggett would be retiring, vacating his alternate position for the State. Will stated there were a few other governmental openings that will need to be filled and this will be addressed during the next official recruitment period, that August.

**SAC Goals for 2018**

Jim Tobin opened the floor to discussion for potential goals and ideas for FY2018. The majority of the time was spent discussing how to enhance the outreach capabilities of SAC members and certain topics that might highlight the many stories of the region. Some of the topics discussed included;

- Creating a speakers bureau, which would arm interested individuals with the tools necessary to present histories about USS *Monitor* and the Battle of the Atlantic (BOTA);
- Identifying potential ways to expand potential of the Youth seat;
- Increased interaction with “Our State” Magazine to highlight BOTA stories;
- Highlight *Mirlo* and WW1 stories as 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary approaches.

**Public Comment Period**

No one from the public spoke up at this time.

**Meeting Close-Out**

★ New Business

None.

★ Next Council Event/Meeting

To be determined at a later date, looking into November for last meeting of 2017.

**Adjourn**

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

| <b>Meeting Close-Out</b> |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <u>Actions to Take:</u>  |   |
| ✓                        | 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:**

|                           |                                      |         |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Community Members</b>  |                                      |         |
| Jim Tobin                 | Citizen-at-Large                     | Present |
| Sarah Watkins-Kenney      | Conservation                         | Present |
| Stuart Katz               | Economic Development                 | Absent  |
| David Sybert              | Education                            | Present |
| Andre Nabors              | Heritage Tourism                     | Present |
| Nathan Richards           | Maritime Archaeological Research     | Present |
| Ernie Foster              | Recreational/Commercial Fishing      | Absent  |
| Anna Beckwith             | Recreational/Commercial Fishing      | Present |
| Debby Boyce               | Recreational Diving                  | Present |
| Joe Poe                   | Recreational Diving                  | Present |
| John Quarstein            | The Mariners' Museum                 | Present |
| Will Hoffman              | The Mariners' Museum (Alt)           | Present |
| OPEN                      | Youth Seat (Non-Voting)              | -----   |
| <b>Government Members</b> |                                      |         |
| 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) | -----   |
| 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                             | Absent  |
| 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              | Present |
| Tane Casserley        | Research Coordinator                | Absent  |
| Will Sassorossi       | SAC Coordinator                     | Present |
| David Dodsworth       | IT Coordinator                      | Present |
| Shannon Ricles        | Education/Outreach Coordinator      | Present |
| Others/Public         |                                     |         |
| Jim Bunch             |                                     |         |
| Keith Newsome         |                                     |         |