

Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee  
Wednesday, August 7, 2013  
Michigan Historical Center  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Board Room  
Lansing, Michigan 48915  
Meeting Minutes

**Committee Members – Present**

Terry Begnoche – Public Member/Whitefish Point  
Tom Graf – Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
Sandra Clark – Department of Natural Resources (DNR)/Michigan Historical Center

**Committee Members – Via Conference Call**

Ron Bloomfield – Public Member/Michigan Underwater Preserve Council (MUPC)  
Wayne Lusardi – Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Wade Hamilton – DNR/Law Enforcement Division

**Guest**

State Archaeologist Dean Anderson

**Members of the Public**

No members of the public were present

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Tom Graf.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the April 24, 2013, meeting were not reviewed.

**Committee Reports**

**Law Enforcement Actions**

Wade Hamilton reported involvement on determining if a watch fob found near Munising is an artifact; a wreck visible in the sand for a short time near Leland; a pondnet stake in the water off the Les Cheneaux. Conservation officers are actively contacting dive and user groups and providing training to border patrol and Coast Guard members on what to look for. Five of the major tribes are working with DNR on joint patrol activities that include shipwreck protection. He noted that DNR Law Enforcement Division boats are now equipped with cameras and side scan sonar.

A Wisconsin attorney reported a brass capstan cover from the *Hiram W. Sibley* recovered off of South Fox Island. It is to be shipped to Wayne Lusardi. Hamilton offered to contact Wisconsin enforcement officers to pick it up if necessary.

### **New Permit Applications**

No new permit applications for underwater preserves or salvage have been received. One potential applicant was directed to the web site.

### **Updates**

The intentional sinking proposal has not seen any action. Graf directed a question concerning sinking the *Welcome* in west Grand Traverse Bay to the existing process.

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve expansion comment period has been extended to accommodate concerns from the Lake Carriers Association concerning dry cargo sweeping. Graf noted that Part 324 prevents open water disposal of construction materials in preserves and that the expansion would take away a large area. Part of getting permission for such activities from DEQ is a required survey of the affected bottom lands.

### **Report on Great Lakes Exploration Group**

Dr. Anderson noted that the groups summer activities were being handled through a permit to do archaeological investigation on state-owned lands. The shipwreck permitting process was not used due to the lack of evidence of a confirmed shipwreck. The piece of wood that is the focus of the work is believed by some to be a bowsprit. Others believe it is a pond net stake.

The preliminary reports show that the anomaly identified through acoustic signals was hard packed sediment. The piece of wood was not attached to anything, and no substantial cultural evidence found near the between the wood piece or between it and bedrock. A dendrochronologist is examining the wood for dating if enough tree rings are present and identifying the species. Members noted several sources of information about pond net stakes.

### **Old Business**

Michigan's shipwreck legislation could be amended to make parts clearer; however when this should be attempted is uncertain.

No information has been received on appointments. Members serve until they are replaced or reappointed.

Permit process criteria have not been addressed.

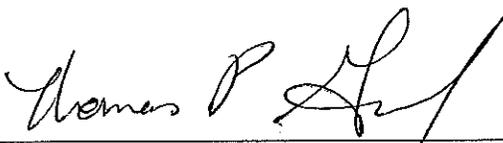
Lusardi's use of volunteers with the ROV competition indicated that such use needs a clear plan for liability release and application. For the volunteer buoy placement idea to move forward, we will need to identify basic requirements and coordinate through the Michigan Underwater Preserve Council. Wayne and Ron Bloomfield will draft a process and a basic manual with standards.

Lusardi will conduct exposed wreck training in late September and provide a report on the project at the end of the season.

**Member Reports**

Lusardi noted that a large number of artifacts have been identified north of Frankfort, but the shipwreck has not been identified.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

  
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Tom Graf, Chairperson