

Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee  
Wednesday, March 2, 2016  
Michigan Historical Center  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Board Room  
Lansing, Michigan 48915  
Meeting Minutes

**Committee Members – Present**

Brian Abbott – Public Member  
Robert Campau – Public Member  
Sandra Clark – Department of Natural Resources (DNR)/Michigan Historical Center  
Tom Graf – Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
James Nowak – Public Member  
Dave Shaw – DNR/Law Enforcement Division (LED)

**Committee Members – Present Via Conference Call**

Terry Begnoche – Public Member/Whitefish Point  
Ron Bloomfield – Public Member/Michigan Underwater Preserve Council (MUPC)  
Wayne Lusardi – DNR/Michigan Historical Center

**Staff**

Michelle Davis – DNR/Michigan Historical Center

**Members of the Public**

State Archaeologist Dean Anderson  
Daniel Friedhoff – Straits of Mackinac Shipwreck Preserve

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Bloomfield made a motion to approve the November 4, 2015, meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Begnoche, and was unanimously approved.

**Public Comments**

No public comments

**Committee Reports**

**Law Enforcement**

Shaw reported that a Coastal Zone Management (CZM) grant will help fund patrols of the preserves which will begin soon. One covert investigation is ongoing. Currently, there are 20 Conservation Officer recruits attending the academy with plans of graduating in June 2016. All police and conservation officers in the State of Michigan require the same certification and then each unit has their own specialty training requirements.

**New Permit Applications**

No new permits have been received. Begnoche reported that he should have something before the May meeting on the *Comet* safe project.

## **Old Business**

### **Centralized Buoy Project**

Lusardi reported that in addition to DEQ and the Department of the Army requiring permits for each of the buoys, the Coast Guard also requires them. The Coast Guard has asked that the buoy permit requests be broken down into refined geographical areas based on the local station coverage. Lusardi is working on GIS mapping of the buoys and will submit the request. Once the permit has been submitted to the Coast Guard, there is a 30-day public comment period. The goal is to start putting buoys in place during the summer of 2016. Bloomfield reported that the Michigan Underwater Preserve Committee (MUPC) intends to apply for a CZM grant at the end of 2016 for 2017 awards to fund additional buoy efforts. MUPC will focus on a pilot project in the West Michigan Preserve for 2016 and will work with the local community on installing the buoys in their preserve. For 2017, MUPC will work on forming a single team to coordinate all aspects of this project. This will include proper permit documentation, installation, maintenance and removal for each buoy. Freidoff said plans are to install buoys in the Straits area around mid-May, photograph the process and then share the photographs with Clark. Clark will use the photos for marketing the project. Shaw noted that TV 9 and 10 News out of Cadillac are constantly looking for stories and this would be a great story to share with them.

Clark reported that the DNR - Parks and Recreation Division, Island Lake Recreation Area has offered concrete objects to MHC as possible mooring buoys. After discussion, members agreed to pass on the objects.

Clark noted that Conservation Officer training might provide an opportunity for assistance with installing buoys. Bloomfield stated that the West Michigan Preserve has discussed the possibility of doing this as a training exercise with the Coast Guard.

### **Tuskegee Project**

Lusardi reported that there is a great deal of interest surrounding the recovery of the P-39 Tuskegee Airman wreckage found in Lake Huron last summer. There have been talks of possibly recovering the wreckage and having it exhibited in the Detroit area.

### **National Marine Sanctuary Designation Update**

Clark reported that Keweenaw Peninsula and Whitefish Point are working on nominations to the inventory of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) marine sanctuaries. The nominations are required to come from a community. A state agency work group will review the nominations and recommend a position on whether to support them to the Executive Office. The state will also consult with federally recognized tribes in the affected regions.

### **New Business**

Clark had asked the Committee at the previous meeting to think about topics/projects/tasks to take-up at future meetings.

Abbott discussed his understanding on being appointed to the committee and being charged with promoting Michigan and recreational diving in order to bring tourist dollars into the state. One possibility may be to have a Pure Michigan commercial devoted to recreational diving on shipwrecks. Another idea may be to use underwater photos as marketing tools.

Campeau mentioned there may be some advertising budgets to tap into for promoting diving. It is important to make the beauty and possibility of diving in Michigan more visible on shore in order to captivate tourist.

Conversation included expanding beyond divers to appeal to snorkelers, kayakers and glass bottom boats—all ways to get people out on the water. Sharing things on Facebook, YouTube, and other social media was also discussed.

Bloomfield noted that the MUPC has been stretched quite thin over the past several years and funding has become more and more difficult to find. The MUPC wants to continue promoting diving but need partners to work with to make marketing plans more feasible.

Clark noted that the DNR Marketing Department may be a good resource to work with on ideas. Clark suggested finding ways to have marketing tools that reach out to various groups of individuals interested in a variety of water activities or historical sites. Clark will include the DNR Marketing Department at a future Committee meeting to help establish a plan.

Establishing a connection with the State Waterway Trails could lead to a partnership on future projects and eventually a diving trail. Also, the MDOT funded interpretive signage project taking place in the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary offers a possible example for future work.

### **Member Updates**

Friedhoff reported the 501(c)3 status for the MUPC should be finalized within a few weeks.

Campau made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Bloomfield, and was unanimously approved.



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Sandra Clark, Chairperson