

Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee (MUSPC)
Wednesday, September 12, 2018
Michigan History Center
5th Floor, Commission Room
Lansing, Michigan 48915
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members – Present

Brian Abbott – Public Member/Nautilus Marine Group
Sandra Clark – Department of Natural Resources (DNR)/Michigan History Center (MHC)

Committee Members – Present Via Conference Call

Hannah MacDonald – Public Member
Larry Monshor – Public Member
James Nowka – Public Member

Committee Members – Excused Absence

Robert Campau – Public Member/Michigan Realtors
Tom Graf – Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Wayne Lusardi – DNR/MHC/Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
David Shaw – DNR/Law Enforcement Division (LED)

Staff

Michelle Davis – DNR/MHC

Members of the Public and Guests

Ron Bloomfield – Michigan Underwater Preserve Council (MUPC)
Daniel Friedhoff – Straits of Mackinac Shipwreck Preserve

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

Monshor moved to approve the agenda; the motion was seconded by Abbott and was unanimously adopted.

Approval of Minutes

Abbott moved to approve the May 9, 2018, meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Monshor and was unanimously adopted.

Marketing Discussion

Clark reported the MHC is close to completing a new website and the MUSPC will have a place on it. Bloomfield reported that a few Central Michigan University (CMU) students are working on short biographies of shipwrecks that need to include photos. Bloomfield is hopeful that this will help with gathering information needed for the database. MacDonald agreed to be a point of contact for the students to hand off the information they gathered.

Friedhoff turned over a flash drive containing photos and narratives of shipwrecks that are ready to be shared with Cindy Krueger. Bloomfield asked if it would be possible to establish a shared location where the information can be stored. Clark noted that since there is information coming in now, she will need to talk with the DNR mapping staff and begin planning.

Buoy Project

Clark reported that the US Army Corps of Engineers mooring buoy permit was extended to December 31, 2021.

Clark stated that Lusardi needs to complete the mooring buoy plan for 2019 and each preserve needs to notify him of what was completed for 2018.

DNR Parks and Recreation Division Stewardship supplied funding for three buoys off the coast of Ft. Wilkins State Park. Friedhoff stated that he has had a great deal of positive feedback on the recent placement of buoys off Cheboygan State Park. Friedhoff agreed to contact the park and ask if they are hearing positive responses or anything they would like to share.

Public Comment

Friedhoff reported that more shallow buoys were placed in the Straits of Mackinac this summer. He also noted there has been a lot of positive feedback from the public regarding the buoys. Friedhoff noted that during the first part of the year, diving was slow. However, it picked up later in the season. An illegal charter running for a portion of the summer was caught. Friedhoff also reported that the Chuck and Jerry Feltner collection has been donated to the Clarke Historical Library at CMU. There is a new glass bottom boat that has been purchased with the intention of using it in the Cheboygan area next year. In August 2018, a recreational diver died while diving the *Cedarville*.

Committee Member Reports

Law Enforcement

No update.

New Permit Applications

No new permits were applied for.

Old Business

Clark noted that Lusardi and the Tuskegee Airmen group brought up a few items from the P-39 Tuskegee wreckage under their permit. Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary agreed to do the conservation of the items at its location. Davis will share the photos of the objects.

New Business

Clark reported on continued interest from Weston Hillier, who talked with the committee earlier about a Coastal Zone Management Grant opportunity and how the public access component might fit well with the things this committee is trying to accomplish. Clark asked

if the committee has any priorities they would like to see accomplished in the next few years that fit with this grant opportunity. The committee discussed developing a unified theme for signage at each of the preserves. The committee agreed that signage will need to be visible to the general public in order to draw their attention to the wrecks. This means that signage placement will be a key component to consider for each individual preserve. One possibility may be to start with one active preserve as a pilot project. Clark will meet with Hillier to discuss the grant and what opportunities are available and how it will fit with this idea.

Member Updates

Clark reported that she, Graf and Dean Anderson (State Archaeologist) met with the crew from the "The Curse of Civil War Gold" television series about permits and any other items that might be needed to move forward with their search. Abbott informed the committee that he spent over a week with this group and did all of their sonar work. He indicated that in the area where they are searching, there is no indication of wreckage.

Monshor moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Abbott, and the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra S. Clark". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sandra Clark, Chairperson