

Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee (MUSPC) Meeting Minutes
Michigan History Center, 5th Floor, Commission Room
Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Committee Members Present: Tom Graf, Sandra Clark

Committee Members Via Conference Call: Robert Campau, Wayne Lusardi, Hannah MacDonald

Committee Members Excused: Larry Monshor

Staff: Sheri Giffin

Members of the Public and Guests:

Ron Bloomfield – Michigan Underwater Preserve Council (MUPC)

Daniel Friedhoff – Straits of Mackinac Shipwreck Preserve and MUPC

Cindy Krueger – DNR, Marketing & Outreach

Weston Hillier – Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE)

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda: No changes offered.

3. Approval of Minutes: As amended. Graf moved to approve the March 13, 2019, meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Lusardi and was unanimously adopted.

4. Marketing Discussion

A diving and snorkeling page has been added to the Michigan.org website under *Things To Do*. It lists 32 locations. The Michigan History Center website is in the process of being updated and includes a page on underwater preserves. The Coastal Zone Management program has links that can portal over as additional promotional resources. Krueger and Clark will meet with DNR's GIS mapping team concerning the story maps that will focus on the preserves, but not be limited to them. Friedhoff will add the degree of difficulty of diving, using beginner and advanced as the options to the database. The database is currently on Basecamp and can be reviewed by the members. Krueger is working toward linking from the Pure Michigan site through static links and keywords in the messaging. Stories with images or video, such as attaching buoys, would be good for DNR social media accounts.

Bloomfield requested a timeline on the final updates to the website. MUPC has been updating their website based on the changes to the MUSPC site. Clark and Krueger agreed it would be up within a year, possibly this summer. MUPC can provide the video, pictures and write ups to support the website. Friedhoff has submitted information on 6 preserves.

5. Buoy Project

Bloomfield reviewed the two sites in the Whitefish Point Preserve. The *Yosemite* is in 10 feet of water off the Tahquamenon Fall State Park river mouth and is a DNR site. The second is the *Cleveland* in 8 feet of water near the Two Hearted River State Forrest campground in Newberry. Bloomfield suggested taking one buoy system from Copper Harbor for the wreck near McClain State Park and one for Whitefish Point, leaving one for the *Astor*. An additional one will be needed at Whitefish Point. Jack Grimes has taken over

the Whitefish area preserve and would take care of the buoys. The commission would have to move them to the Coast Guard permit. Bloomfield will draft a letter concerning the redistribution of buoy systems and request for an additional one.

Lusardi has submitted the list to the Coast Guard of the buoys for this season. The list will be amended based on the reassignment. The Coast Guard will review the pre-selected list and want to know when they are placed. The Coast Guard's pre-selected list authorizes the placing of buoys, and once they are placed the Coast Guard finishes the permit.

6. Creating a Joint Initiative for a Public Access Strategy for the Preserves

Hillier updated the group on changes in the Office of the Great Lakes, which is now the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). The coastal zone program is in the field support section of the Water Resources Division.

To gain traction on the strategic plan, Clark suggested an all-day workshop with committee members and people from the Michigan Underwater Preserve Committee. Graf agreed. Lansing is the best location. The goal will be to create a strategic plan with marketing as a focus, emphasis on getting the public more involved and finding grants for bouys. A summer date is preferred.

Further discussion of mapping content included access points for boat launches for those viewing from the water and sites where shipwrecks can be seen from shore.

Hillier researched how other states are engaging the public with shipwrecks. Wisconsin has a good website. Many states have collaborated with history centers, historical societies, museums and traveling exhibit. Virtual tours appear popular. Traveling exhibits, virtual tours and where to dive proven concepts that could be part of the strategic plan.

7. Public Comment

NOAA is still interested in having a second National Marine Sanctuary in Michigan and has started work on one on Lake Ontario. Whitefish Point is still under evaluation. People on the Keweenaw Peninsula are working toward a geology themed sanctuary.

The committee concurred in Lusardi's suggestion that it send a letter of appreciation for retiring State Archaeologist Dean Anderson and service to Michigan's underwater resources.

8. Committee Member Reports

Permits: No new applications currently. The only active project is for the Tuskegee Airmen, P39. Lusardi is assisting with the recovery.

9. New Business

Bloomfield brought up the topic of official records and where they are stored. The records from MUSPC is part of the state records and therefore is house in the Archives of Michigan. EGLE has the permit records and preserve establishment paperwork. Information outside the MUSPC is spread throughout the state. Shipwreck information is housed in SHPO and available to the public. Bloomfield suggested a documentation of where the various

information is held throughout the state. MUSPC may choose an archive and write an agreement of what and when to transfer their information.

10. Adjourn Meeting: There being no additional business or updates, Lusardi moved to adjourn, seconded by Graf, at 2:43pm.

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