

Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee (MUSPC) Meeting Minutes
Virtual meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Committee Members Via Conference Call: Chris Antieau, Ron Bloomfield, Joseph Bower, Sandra Clark, Stephen Kroll, Wayne Lusardi, Larry Monshor, Nathan Murphy, David Shaw

Staff: Sheri Giffin

Members of the Public and Guests:

Daniel Friedhoff – Straits of Mackinac Shipwreck Preserve and MUPC

Stacy Tchorzynski – State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

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

Daniel Harrison – Archaeologist, Wayne State University

Cindy Krueger – DNR, Web/IT Specialist

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:13 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Bloomfield moved to approve the agenda; Monshor seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Kroll moved to approve the March 11, 2020, meeting minutes as amended; the motion was seconded by Monshor and was unanimously adopted.

4. Reporting on shipwrecks in time of high water

Lusardi reported that several years ago, the Beach Wreckage Documentation form was created to log information from the public concerning possible shipwrecks and artifacts. The form is available on the Thunder Bay NMS and Michigan History Center web sites and soon will be added to the SHPO site. The committee brainstormed other locations for easy access to the form, including individual preserve websites, DNR law enforcement website, hard copies at the state parks and diving, swimming and other groups that use the beaches.

Lusardi noted that there is not an easy way for the public to distinguish potential artifacts from debris. The form is the best starting point to allow the experts to sift through the information and items.

The form is a Word document easily downloaded and filled out. The form will have contact information added for electronic submission.

5. Public Access Strategy Draft Review

Hillier noted that having just returned from layoff, he needs more time to complete his review. Shaw asked that the work of DNR's conservation officers be included. He will work with Clark on that addition. As soon as both items are completed, the draft will be sent to members for final review with the goal of adoption at the next meeting.

6. Buoy Project

The renewed permit has been updated and reissued by EGLE. There were no location additions or changes from the approved 2014 permit.

The Bay Mills Indian Community, part of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA), which comprises the 1836 Treaty tribes, was unable to review the permit application due to their COVID workplace closing. They contacted the DNR Tribal Liaison with concerns. Clark provided the liaison with an explanation of the permit, noting that new buoys will be placed only as funds permit. She offered to share specific plans for placing new buoys with opportunity for comment. She asked that all cooperate with Lusardi in listing those that may be placed in eastern Lake Superior, northern Lake Huron and northern Lake Michigan this year. She will then share the list with Bay Mills.

Members noted that the buoys can help avoid placing fishing nets over wrecks where they may become entangled.

7. Committee Member Reports

Law Enforcement

Shaw reported that Enbridge notified law enforcement about a net caught on Pipeline 5. They removed the net from the section in the northern Lake Michigan area and submitted pictures of where it was caught.

Shaw reported that his team is getting back on the water as the state reopens. The focus is on public safety and COVID response measures.

Friedhoff asked if Shaw knew who was anchoring near the Enbridge areas. Shaw replied that DNR law enforcement does not specifically patrol those areas; however, Enbridge might have record of who is on the water in that area.

New Permit Applications

There are no new permit applications. The Tuskegee permit has been issued and the work is scheduled for early to mid-August.

8. Public Comment

Friedhoff reported questions from charter boat operators about when buoys will be in the water. Some charters are going out whether there are buoys out or not. Kroll commented on the need for buoys for recreation. The public often ties off on buoys simply to enjoy the area and not necessarily dive.

Harrison gave an update on his work with the *Lauren Castle* and noted the 40th anniversary this year. The SHPO review of his National Register Nomination of the tug sought more information on its significance in changing Great Lakes, state or national law or practice.

9. Old Business

Bloomfield report that the Ford Seahorses Scuba Diving Club may be interested in sponsoring a mooring system for a wreck.

Near Copper Harbor, there is reported to be a piece of the *John Jacob Astor*. Jake Anderson, former member of MUPC, may be willing to work with the team to identify the item. The object is currently in the passenger ferry lane, but there may be an opportunity to buoy it on the land side of the area.

10. Adjourn Meeting

There being no additional business or updates, Monshor moved to adjourn at 3:11 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra S. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sandra S. Clark, Chairperson