

Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee (MUSPC) Meeting Minutes
Michigan History Center, 5th Floor, Commission Room
Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Committee Members Present: Robert Campau, Sandra Clark, Tom Graf

Committee Members Via Conference Call: Wayne Lusardi, Hannah MacDonald, James Nowka

Committee Members Excused: Larry Monshor, David Shaw

Staff: Sheri Giffin

Members of the Public and Guests:

Ron Bloomfield – Michigan Underwater Preserve Council (MUPC)

Daniel Friedhoff – Straits of Mackinac Shipwreck Preserve

Weston Hillier – Office of the Great Lakes (OGL)

Stephanie Ganudella – NOAA/Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Campau moved to approve the agenda; the motion was seconded by Graf and was unanimously adopted.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Campau moved to approve the December 5, 2018, meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Graf and was unanimously adopted.

4. Marketing Discussion

Jill Arnold, from the MHC team, explained how to use Basecamp to share information for the new website and other things. The committee suggested options for organization of current and future materials. Bloomfield suggested a hierarchy for website documents, general information/preserve/individual wreck and specific information for each wreck. Clark suggested also organizing by lake name (with the Straits as a separate listing) with the preserve and wreck as the subsequent levels. Photos, videos and stories will be placed under each wreck. Friedhoff will add the folders for Basecamp and “shipwreck information”. People in the preserve community can send items to committee members, who will add to Basecamp as appropriate. Select people could be added to Basecamp by sending the contact email to Sheri. Additional people will be kept on for a limited time to upload information.

Hillier reported on the partnership between Noble Odyssey Foundation and the OGL for work on wrecks from Port Austin to Port Huron. Information can be found at coastalshipwrecks.com. The digital video from the website could be added to Basecamp.

Clark clarified that Basecamp is a team-working platform to share documents and current projects.

5. Buoy Project

Lusardi and Clark are submitting the paperwork for this year. The mooring systems are put in on the *Salvor* and *Clay Wall*, but the buoys have not been attached. The *Comanche* system is fabricated but was not deployed due to scheduling conflicts with NOAA vessels.

Those will remain on the list for this year. The *Ironside*, *Anna C. Minch* and the *State of Michigan* are buoyed.

Friedhoff and Bloomfield will concentrate on finding and mooring the *John Jacob Astor* off the Keweenaw Peninsula this season. They will look at other potential shipwrecks in the Whitefish Bay, Lake Michigan and Keweenaw Preserves.

Friedhoff is requesting permits from the Coast Guard for Straits wrecks. There are multiple wrecks on the current permit: *Fred McBrier*, *Stalker*, and the bow and stern of the *Cedarville*. Currently the Army Corp of Engineers has extended the permit extension, but the Coast Guard wants to review them.

Hillier inquired about a public list of the permits, but a list can not be published as not all of the permits have been recorded. Mooring systems could be set up and wait for authorization to buoy the location. Lusardi explained the Coast Guard will update the navigation charts with the locations, but only if moored and buoys are in the water. There is an approved list from the DEQ and the Army Corp of Engineers that allows the installation of equipment once the rest of the permit becomes available. Lusardi, Bloomfield and Friedhoff will work on the new list for this year. Both funding and manpower are holding up the progress on the list. All permits and lists can be put into a folder on Basecamp for reference.

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

SSC and Hillier met earlier to begin work on strategy. They will need input over the next few meetings to complete the plan. With a good plan to increase access to shipwrecks and knowledge of shipwrecks, the Office of the Great Lakes may offer funding for projects. Clark sent out a high-level outline for a strategic plan and additions such as “why” and “how” statements. Other important pieces of the plan will be links to community engagement, our learning from community involvement, and research and management. Wisconsin and Ohio have underwater trails and passports. Ontario and the Florida Keys might also be a good model. Hillier offered to take lead, but he will need support and background from the experts on the team.

Committee members then discussed desired outcomes, including:

- More successful communication with the non-diving community, such as kayakers and shoreline tourism. The diving community is aging out, but a new survey of dive shops may gain added insight concerning interest levels. The focus is now preservation first and access second. People will feel personally connected to the shipwrecks through diving, kayaking or watching videos of those diving to see the wrecks. MacDonald explained how she was introduced to shipwrecks through a class in high school called Shipwreck Alley, which partnered with ThunderBay National Sanctuary. Stockbridge has a class that takes students out each summer. There might be an opportunity to pattern after Alpena or Stockbridge to offer elective course credit.
- The personal touch for shipwrecks is a focus. Media, such the short films from 30 seconds to 3 minutes long have been successful with the OGL team. Making connections to the actual people on the shipwrecks or stories of divers who first

found the wreck will draw people in and gain interest. Chuck Feltner has a series of articles that could be used, if needed.

- Signage in conjunction with lighthouse locations. Ric Mixer often adds shipwreck stories during his presentations. There may be funding opportunities to piggy-back on lighthouse grants.

Research is next step to learn more about other location's success stories. Hillier offered to reach out to Wisconsin, and Nowka will research the other locations mentioned. Hillier will start a document on Basecamp that the team can add to as the information is gathered.

Community engagement was the last topic discussed. Suggestions are needed for locations for meetings and groups to invite to the meetings. Locations should be convenient to access, free of charge and invite participation.

7. Public Comment

Friedhoff has people interested in Whitefish, Sanilac and the southwest. He is encouraging people to start small and work their way up.

8. Committee Member Reports Law Enforcement Division (LED)

Hilliker reported five timbers were brought up illegally from the *Metropolis* in Grand Traverse Bay. The conservation has been completed and Grand Traverse Lighthouse is working on a loan for the timbers, as they already have an exhibit for the *Metropolis* there.

9. New Permit Applications

The permit for the P39 in Lake Huron has been reviewed and was sent to Brian Smith on 3/7/19 for signature. The permit is the same as last year and includes a list of items recovered. It also requests information on who will be doing the conservation work and where. Lusardi noted the plan of bringing up another half dozen artifacts with everything coming up eventually. Lusardi has been working on the pieces that came up last year, including two segments of the drive shaft, the armored windshield glass, the port side door, a radio mast made of wood, the instrument panel and a miscellaneous piece of aluminum. Once the pieces are conserved, they will be on long-term loan to the Tuskegee Airman Museum in Detroit.

10. Ajour Meeting: There being no additional business or updates, Nowka moved to adjourn, seconded by Graf, at 2:45pm.



Sandra Clark, Chairperson