

Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee (MUSPC) Meeting Minutes
Michigan History Center, 5th Floor, Commission Room
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Committee Members Present: Tom Graf,

Committee Members Via Conference Call: Robert Campau, Wayne Lusardi, Larry Monshor

Committee Members Excused: Sandra Clark

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

Stacy Tchorznksi – SHPO

Anna Boruszewski – DNR, GIS Analyst

Chris Antieau -- EGLE

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

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

2. Introductions:

3. Approval of Agenda: No changes offered.

4. Approval of Minutes

There being a lack of a quorum, Campau moved to provisionally approve the March 13, 2019, meeting minutes as amended; the motion was seconded by Monshor and was unanimously adopted.

5. CMU Grant

CMU has received a Coastal Zone Management grant for an Underwater Resource Summit in February. The summit will focus on underwater resource management, potential research avenues and collaboration. In October, there will be a call for papers to be presented at the event. A post-summit booklet will include the papers and a strategy for management of underwater resources. Invitations will go out in October/November.

6. Public Access Strategy Draft Review

The committee reviewed the draft strategic document prepared by Clark and based on the workshop. MUSPC would coordinate of the plan utilizing partnerships with coastal communities, MUPC, DNR, EGLE and other groups to move forward. The planned timeline for completing is:

- Draft goals finalized at the next meeting
- Draft strategies completed before the CMU summit in February 2020
- Final plan adopted in March 2020

Comments should be sent to Giffin by September 30th to keep the document moving forward. Be sure to list any resources that might be tailored to the goals.

7. Marketing

Krueger gave updates on marketing and outreach. In searching through the DNR parks sites, she found only one DNR park that listed scuba diving as a recreational activity. The marketing team is reviewing how they can strategically add more information on scuba. The showcasing article was sent out to more than 33,000 emails. Additional websites and other media picked it up, reaching a broader audience. Krueger also reviewed the clicks from the shipwrecks page. Due to the article, the clicks to the page jumped from 10 to a 117 clicks per day average.

Boruszewski presented the new Michigan Shipwrecks website highlighting a few sections:

- Interactive map with quick facts along with links to more information
- Dive difficulty rating for each shipwreck
- Ability of an individual to add more information to the app
- Importance of preservation and artifact standards
- Michigan Underwater Preserve Council
- Link to the MHC shipwrecks page

Any new information gathered from individuals will route through Lusardi to be captured on the State Archaeology site file for numbering and updates.

For updates to the spreadsheet populating the GIS site, Friedhoff will highlight the updated information for Boruszewski.

Boruszewski requested more pictures and will assemble a list of what is needed most. Pictures of kayakers and paddle boarders over shipwrecks would be helpful. She is also working on adding the wrecks to Google maps.

Bloomfield inquired about adding articles written about a specific wreck, and Boruszewski said that articles could be added to the wreck through a link. For articles not currently published on the web, there would need to be a place to house the information. SHPO is building a GIS platform to be a central clearing house for information that would include shipwrecks.

8. Buoy Project

West Michigan preserve put in buoys for the *Salvor* and *Novadoc* while Southwest Preserve buoyed *Rockaway*.

Bloomfield went to Copper Harbor and found only a rudder for the *John Jacob Astor*. Ecoli in the water is preventing diving. Ecoli restrictions might affect the planned *Fanny Hoe* dive.

Maplehurst has stamp sands in the area, which put that buoy on hold. Tchorzynski said stamp sands are considered potentially eligible contributing factors to the National Register industrial site listing.

Tchorzynski mentioned the Michigan Historic Preservation Network Conference that will be held May 14-16 in Kalamazoo. Representatives from the West Michigan and Southwest Michigan preserves will be attending. There will be tables at the conference for literature. It would be a good opportunity to talk about the buoy project.

9. Public Comment

A team thinks they found the *St. Andrew* and *Peshtigo* bow to bow in 200 feet of water east of Beaver Island. There is a private video of the two ships that might be the *St. Andrew* and *Peshtigo*; however Friedhoff was unsure how it was determined to be these two ships. If the new evidence proves true, the ship that is currently pinned as the *St. Andrew* will need to be reinvestigated.

Friedhoff has been in touch with NOAA about new hi-resolution scans of the preserves. Lusardi stated there is a process for NOAA to contact the SHPO to alert the state of cultural resources.

Hillier called attention to the special report from National Park Service titled Michigan Maritime Heritage Special Resource Study. The study started in 2010 and was released this year. The information is still relevant and may contribute to reaching our goals.

Another opportunity is the Great Lakes Fishery Heritage Conference, October 16-17 in Bay City.

Michigan Archaeology Day is October 19. There are about 1200 participants that day. There is an opportunity to have a table for MUPSP with literature or staffed.

10. Committee Member Reports

New Permit Applications

No new permit applications received.

Weather did not allow for the planned P39 dives to happen, but Lusardi may try another date. There has been no artifact recovery this year.

11. New Business

Dates for next year's meetings were offered: March 11, May 13, September 16, and December 2. Members should quickly contact Giffin if these dates do not work. Campau suggested a different date if another workshop is planned, due to participants making their living on the water.

12. Member Updates

Lusardi has been talking with the media about the high winds that revealed area wrecks. Water levels are high and uncovering wreck pieces due to erosion of the sand. There are some opportunities to see things that have not been seen in a long time. Google earth shows some of the wrecks revealed.

13. Adjourn Meeting

There being no additional business or updates, Campau moved to adjourn, seconded by Monshor, at 2:11 pm.

Sandra Clark, Chairperson
