

## **Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee (MUSPC) Meeting Minutes**

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

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

**Excused:** Larry Monshor

**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 1:16 p.m.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

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

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Murphy moved to approve the June 10, 2020, meeting minutes as amended; the motion was seconded by Bloomfield and was unanimously adopted.

### **4. Public Access Strategy Draft Review Adoption**

Clark requested formal adoption of the strategic plan. Hillier offered updated wording to the grant section of the plan, and Harrison corrected the project name for National Register of Historic Places nominations. Bloomfield moved to adopt the plan with the changes and understanding that the plan will be updated as goals are reached. Kroll seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Hillier announced that the Michigan Coastal Management Program 2022 Grant Funding Opportunity will announce its annual grant funding opportunities on October 1 with an application deadline of December 18, 2020.

### **Implementation**

Krueger reported current DNR communications are focused on the fall color tours. Articles could focus on hikers, lighthouse enthusiasts and kayakers, however, the diving and charter boat season is at an end. The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary heritage trail has been popular this year and could be featured in a future article on experiencing shipwrecks after the diving season is over. Krueger and Clark will connect with Travel Michigan about potential inclusion of stories next spring and summer.

Based on this year's sales of camping and water sport equipment, there is a market for articles and information for people to start planning for next spring. Shaw suggested a focus on water safety guidelines for new kayakers and paddle boarders, including the dangers of cold-water areas.

The committee agreed that getting the digital press kit out now for the 2021 season is a priority. Magazines, visitor's guides and travel publications will be preparing now for the next season

## **5. Reporting forms**

The wreckage reporting form is a fillable PDF that is available on various websites and at parks. Lusardi is receiving many reports of items washing up on shore due to the high-water levels. The forms encourage citizen partners to provide basic information.

Krueger offered to have DNR put the form in the park staff newsletter and a link from the storymap page.

## **6. Buoy Project**

Bloomfield reported 49 buoys were deployed this year with two new systems ready for implementation in West Michigan's preserve. Charter operators assisted in putting out buoys. Four were lost due to high winds and seven require mooring line repair.

Next week is the Michigan Historic Preservation Network conference. Kevin Ailes and John Hanson will speak about the buoy program.

## **7. Committee Member Reports**

### **Law Enforcement**

Nothing to report.

There has been an increase in issues with wreckage items. Lusardi has been working with DNR law enforcement to educate state and local government staff about the reporting process and the importance of leaving potential wreck materials as they are found.

### **New Permit Applications**

No new permit applications.

Antieau has been working with others in EGLE on shore protection procedures.

## **8. Public Comment**

Friedhoff has a new boat that will allow for him to more easily put out buoys next season. Friedhoff also noted the higher than normal number of divers and snorkelers in the Straits of Mackinac area.

Harrison will attend the MHPN conference and hopes to make contacts with shore-based organizations and talk about creating shore-based experiences for non-divers.

Harrison reported the US Corp of Engineers in Detroit has hired Amanda Holdeman, a full-time archaeologist.

The Great Lakes Sea Cadets worked on Project SCRIMSHAW on Lake St. Clair this season. Harrison and the youth team revisited a 2018 wreckage site and also found a second piece of wreckage that is thought to be the *John M. Glidden*. Harrison will work with Tchorzynski on new site numbers.

Kroll announced that the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary has new part time NOAA enforcement officer, Jared Krueger.

Kroll has used a short survey for charter boats operators about the dive charters done throughout the season. The survey includes the number of divers, other boats with divers, and preserve locations. He is open to adding other questions and will send the survey to Friedhoff for MUPC members.

Friedhoff noted that Kevin Ailes, from SW Michigan Preserve, identified the Mackinac Island harbor inverted schooner as the *Dolphin* #6205 and possibly located part of the bow of the *Peshtigo*. Ayers is writing press releases and articles about his findings. No wreck forms have been filled out for the *Dolphin*. Wreck identified as Dolphin was already known, Peshtigo wreckage must have migrated since the stranding about a mile east of current location.

Tchorzynski reinforced the importance of getting all known locations on the SHPO statewide database of archaeological sites, as this is the official source people use for identifying and avoiding damage to both land and bottom-land cultural resources.

The Maritime History of the Great Lakes website lists multiple resources for shipwreck information: <http://www.maritimehistoryofthegreatlakes.ca/homePort.asp>

## 9. Adjourn Meeting

There being no additional business or updates, Bloomfield moved to adjourn; Murphy seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.



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Sandra S. Clark, Chairperson