

PROPOSED LAKE ONTARIO NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting #9 - VIRTUAL

Thursday, April 29, 2021

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome – Bill Crist

Bill Crist called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. EST. Bill reviewed the agenda, welcomed everyone to meeting #9 and continues to look forward to meeting in person soon. Bill encouraged engagement and conversation.

Ellen Brody welcomed NOAA staff present this evening, Tracy Hajduk (ONMS National Education Coordinator) and Sarah Waters (TBNMS Education Coordinator).

ONMS National Education Coordinator - Tracy Hajduk

Tracy thanked everyone for the opportunity to share the education program at ONMS. Tracy sits at sanctuary headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. Tracy shared her experience 20 years ago at Sackets Harbor and what a wonderful time she had there. What a great opportunity to engage young people and let them know about the importance of this resource! Tracy explained that education and outreach are explicit in the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. ONMS has a strategic plan for education, as does NOAA, thus multiple levels of support in the agency.

Tracy provided statistics on ONMS reach to education communities. A lot of curriculum exists across sanctuaries that can be adapted at Lake Ontario. Examples include:

- Marine technology is an expanding program throughout the system.
- Ocean Guardian is a grant program to schools for conservation programs at schools – local school stewardship plus engagement with community – generally funded for 3-5 years because schools typically maintain on their own afterwards.
- BWET (Bay Watershed Education and Training) is a NOAA placed-based education grant program in many sanctuaries.
- Virtual engagement (including teacher workshops) has expanded this year. Sanctuaries 360 provides virtual in-water experiences on phones, computers and headsets - with companion lesson plans. *St Peter* 360 will be released shortly.
- Telepresence brings real-time research to classrooms (and community) with live interaction.
- Distance learning programs and webinar series for teachers and informal educators have also expanded in the past year.
- Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarships are offered to PhD and MS students targeting women and minorities to conduct research in sanctuaries.
- Internships and scholarship opportunities exist in ONMS and NOAA. Thus, there are plenty of resources available.

Tracy is looking forward to all of the opportunities that become available in Lake Ontario and cannot wait to visit again soon.

Thunder Bay NMS Education Coordinator - Sarah Waters

Sarah thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak at the meeting and share what is happening at Thunder Bay NMS.

TBNMS management plan uses education to encourage stewardship through five objectives: (1) Increase ocean and Great Lakes literacy; (2) build programs to complement research; (3) target underrepresented groups; (4) expand offerings for K-12, higher education and teachers, and (5) promote the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center and Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail.

Sarah reviewed selected outreach materials and programs at TBNMS. Examples included:

- K-12 programs, including student film competition as part of the Thunder Bay International Film Festival.
- Sipboard education opportunities that exist by paddle, sail and motor boats.
- Distance learning such as underwater robotics programs exist at Thunder Bay – they host a local annual competition as well as national and international competitions.
- Partnership with Alpena Community College to create a two year associates' degree with emphasis on remotely-operated vehicles.
- Great Lakes B-WET example showed how Alpena Public Schools addressed plastics pollution.
- TBNMS participates with Northeast Michigan Great Lake Stewardship Initiative, which is a coalition of partners that support common goals.

Open Comments and Questions from Chat Box - Ellen

Q: Bill Crist – coming out of COVID, are there best practices for distance learning that weren't present prior to COVID?

A: Tracy – schools have shifted to virtual learning as a norm. We are better equipped to accommodate this need.

Q: Phil Church – Thanked Tracy and Sarah. Education has been an original goal for this sanctuary. Wants to share the presentations with schools and administrators to generate excitement about potential opportunities.

Q: Gail Smith – Thanks Tracy and Sarah. Will pass videos and educational materials to schools.

Q: Phil Church - Any barriers to building education programs and advice to Lake Ontario communities?

A: Tracy - too much to do and not enough resources to meet the need. Be strategic about the biggest payoff and messaging.

Lake Ontario SAC Education Perspectives – Bill Crist, Ben Heckethorn, Pam Caraccioli, Rob Humphrey

- Bill C – Stated that Education is central to Lake Ontario sanctuary and management plan. Suggests sanctuary includes over 100 school districts. K-12 programs are important as are advanced technologies and career development programs. The sanctuary includes educational opportunities in sciences, literature, economics, engineering, arts and other local connections to the shipwrecks and heritage. Sees lots of opportunity to partner through the NOAA network of educational programs and from other sanctuaries.

- Ben Heckethorn – Originally had tunnel vision about education in the sanctuaries – e.g., at lake, about shipwrecks, etc. Spending time with Tracy and Sarah prior to the meeting expanded that perspective dramatically. So many more topics are connected and relevant. Shared story of teacher at Alpena High School who teaches Shipwreck Alley that combines earth science and social studies. Always gets the students to water at Thunder Bay on the glass bottom boat to explore the wrecks and study what caused the wrecks. Pleased that Alpena schools are comparable in size and resources to Oswego. Very inspired by Hannah McDonald’s experience from Alpena, MI and how the Shipwreck Alley course charted her career in ocean literacy. <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/earthisblue/wk189-stories-from-the-blue-hannah-macdonald.html>
- Pam Caraccioli – Higher education partners with NY State and Canada that tie each other together from an ecological perspective, cultivate research and monitoring opportunities, share information on biodiversity and pollution impacts, and that assist local to international governments to prioritize education and mitigation programs.
- Rob Humphrey – How do we engage faculty and staff at higher education institutions and encourage professional development? Funding is key. Funding agencies want to see coalitions and partnerships – teachers, students and community members (education extends beyond formal K-12). Wants to see a working group with area educators to develop curricula and other programs with NOAA, including a conference or symposium. Also wants to explore advanced technologies including drones and ROVs – big opportunity – e.g., shoreline mapping, harmful algal blooms, etc.

Bill asked the advisory council to ponder three questions about next steps for education and the sanctuary.

1. What would the sanctuary mean for students and communities?
 - a. **Gail Smith:** weather, archaeology, etc.
 - b. **Ray Tucker:** challenge is that the general public doesn’t dive so resource exploration and interpretation is needed.
 - c. **Phil Church:** need to focus on technology applied to shipwrecks to build interest and inspire higher education and vocational and career pursuits.
 - d. **Dave White:** suggests SAC face-to-face demonstration on all of the work being done already on technologies and how sanctuary can help facilitate.
 - e. **Dale Currier:** we did classroom programs and worked with elementary teachers when we did the *David W. Mills* program. Teachers and kids loved it. Some curricula were developed based on local historical wrecks, literature, etc.
 - f. **Peter Evans:** thinks the opportunity is more massive than expected. Town of Williamson is on the Lake Ontario lakeshore. Williamson schools are 4 miles south of the lake. Volunteers in the second grade classrooms. When asked how many know there is a lake everyone puts up their hand. When asked how many have gone up to see the lake – many indicate they have never visited the lake... simply amazing!

- g. **Bob Morgan:** opportunity to partner with schooner at Maritime Museum. Visitors can step aboard and get a feel for wrecks in water. Funding if available for virtual experience is inspiring.
- 2. SAC involvement in education (question quickly offered but not discussed)
- 3. Hannah MacDonald video (question quickly offered but not discussed)

NOAA Updates - Ellen

- Status of DEIS and Draft Management Plan. It's in review at NOAA! Planning early July publication date and then public comment. Focusing now on communications roll out with the state of New York and local governments. Next SAC meeting will focus on what it means to publish and the role of the SAC going forward.
- Presentations to communities. Ellen highlighted Cayuga Tourism and Economic Development annual meeting and the opportunities to strengthen relationships with the Finger Lakes region. Also presentation to America's Boating Club, and Henderson Harbor Chamber of Commerce (thanks to Gail Smith for arranging the Henderson Harbor meeting).
- Upcoming Cayuga County Public Forum (May 17). Ellen noted that SAC members who participate send a strong message to these audiences.
- NOAA Administrator nominee – Rick Spinrad. Very familiar to NOAA and Sanctuaries. Rick is a professor at Oregon State University with decades of experience as both a scientist and an executive. Rick, who's also a member of the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, retired in 2016 as NOAA's chief scientist.
- National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) conducted an evaluation of the National Marine Sanctuary program. Recently completed. Study looked back at 50 year history as well as opportunities ahead. John Armor will be sending the report to SAC chairs when available.
- Capitol Hill Ocean Week (June 8-10). Encourage all to participate.
<https://marinesanctuary.org/capitol-hill-ocean-week>
- Great Lakes Now (Detroit Public TV). Amazing series of Great Lakes. New article about sanctuaries (Thunder Bay and all proposed sanctuaries in the Great Lakes).

State and Local Updates - Ellen

- On behalf of State, Ellen says they appreciate engagement during roll out for DEIS and DMP.
- Phil Church – wants SAC to have programming in place at time of designation. Important to be announced at that time and demonstrate potential for sanctuary. New opportunity – funding available through Stimulus Bills and local Congressional representative – Oswego County submitted request (FY22) – thanks to Ellen to help with project - \$500K for virtual shipwreck experience. The success of the proposal through Congressional reps is unclear but can explore other options.

SAC Administration - Pam and Bill

- Approval of minutes from Meeting 8. No discussion. Voted to approve.
- Ideas for presentation and partnership opportunities

- Pam Orlando – Google spreadsheet has been initiated. Looking for SAC to populate the document with opportunities to track and follow up especially as COVID restrictions relax. Please add points of contact.
- Next SAC meeting on June 10. Focus on DEIS/DMP rollout and SAC role. Hopeful to have at least one public meeting, possibly in Oswego.
- SAC meet and greet (in-person) on June 23 (Dave White). Chance to meet each other and to network. Possibly at Breitbeck Park. More details to follow.
- Pam Orlando – huge thanks to Tracy and Sarah for their time and presentations this evening.
- Bill Crist – need to add an agenda item to SAC meetings to track action items, responsible party and timing.

SAC Discussion

- Phil Church – confirming that next SAC meeting dedicated to communications on DEIS and SAC role? Is a presentation needed from anyone? Ellen – TBD as NOAA reviews the document. But more focus on SAC role to communicate talking points and to encourage participation by community networks
- Shane – how important is public attendance at public comment meetings?
 - Ellen – Oswego meeting 2019 was energetic. Always great to get lots of participation and comments, especially those that ask specifics of the proposal. But, at same time, it is not a popularity contest – numbers aren't as important as the level of awareness in the community.
 - Pam – comments can be provided beyond the meeting(s) – online comments will be accepted for 60-90 days (TBD).
- Pam Orlando – new look and content for LONMS website before public comment. New bios and photos, FAQs, draft designation documents, video, etc.
- Pam Orlando – Congrats to Bill Crist – first grandbaby girl.

Public Comment (Pam)

- Dwight – Thanks all for his ability to participate. Henderson community looks forward to the next steps and future engagement. Bill – great to meet so many last Monday night on webinar and look forward to more.

Upcoming Events:

Waterfront Open House on Saturday May, 15 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the H. Lee White Maritime Museum (West Pier). Water safety demo, unveiling of lighthouse photo exhibition, vessels open for public tours and tours of the schooner, Ontario. FREE event.

Final Comments (Bill)

- Thanks to all. Shock and awe of work being done (SAC, Ellen, Pam and NOAA). Sees the designation as a powder keg of opportunity of state and local communities.
- Ellen – encourages SAC to contact her or Pam with any comments or questions.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:05p

Attendees:

NOAA/ONMS:

Ellen Brody, Great Lakes Regional Coordinator
William Hoffman, Maritime Heritage
Edward Lindelof, Senior Policy Analyst
Pam Orlando, LONMS Advisory Council Coordinator
Sammy Orlando, Superintendent, MB-PR NMS
Jean Prevo, MB-PR NMS Advisory Council Coordinator
Julia Snouck-Hurgronje, Senior Policy Analyst
Danielle Schwarzmann, Senior Economist

Guest Speakers:

Tracy Hajduk, National Education Coordinator, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Sarah Waters, Education Coordinator, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Thunder Bay NMS

Advisory Council:

Shane Broadwell, Member, Tourism
Pamela Caraccioli, Alternate, Education
Philip Church, Member, County Administrator (Oswego)
Bill Crist, Member, Education (Chair)
Dale Currier, Member, Recreational Boating
Peter Evans, Alternate, Tourism
Jeanie Gleisner, Member, Economic Development
Dave Granoff, Alternate, Economic Development
Ben Heckethorn, Alternate, Education
Robert Humphrey, Member, Education
Jim Kennard, Member, Divers/Dive Clubs, Shipwreck Exploration
Ken Kozin, Alternate, Divers/Dive Clubs, Shipwreck Exploration
Dennis McCarthy, Member, Maritime History & Interpretation
Kathi McCarthy, Alternate, Citizen-at-Large
Katie Malinowski, Member, Citizen-at-Large (Vice-Chair)
Ed Mervine, Member, Shoreline Property Owner
Robert Morgan, Member, Citizen-at-Large
Duane Morton, Alternate, Shoreline Property Owner
Mercedes Niess, Member, Maritime History & Interpretation
Rebecca Shuford, Alternate, New York Sea Grant
Mark Slosek, Alternate, Recreational Boating
Gail Smith, Alternate, Recreational Fishing
Ray Tucker, Alternate, Divers, Dive Clubs & Shipwreck Exploration
David White, Member, New York Sea Grant
Jim Wieser, Member, Divers/Dive Clubs, Shipwreck Exploration
Christine Worth, Alternate (Wayne)
Joseph Zarzynski, Alternate, Maritime History & Interpretation

Public:

John Krake
Matthew Owen
Karl Stocker