

**Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council
- February 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes-**

Date: February 7, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Google Meet

Meeting Attendees

NOAA: Ellen Brody, Tane Casserley, David Dodsworth, Mark Losavio, Paul “Sammy” Orlando, Jean Prevo, Shannon Ricles

SAC Members: Eileen Abel, Lee DeCola, Susan Gerbasi, Dan Hamilton, Jay Haigler, Bill Kilinski, Carolin McManus, Alan Miller, Maggie Ostdahl, Joanne Roland, Taylor Schmitz, John Stefancik, Chad Tokowicz, Lucille Walker, Deanna Wheeler

SAC Alternates: Lolita Kiorpes, Sara Ramotnik, Anne Stark, Ruth Toomey, Bull Utley, Sharee Williamson

Government Agency and Tribe Members: Paul Anderson (State of VA), Daryl Anthony (MD DNR), Kellie Beavers (Charles County), Philip Hager (MD DNR), Mario Harley (Piscataway Conoy Tribe), Elizabeth Hughes (MD Dept of Planning), Elizabeth Moore (State of VA)

Guests: Ryan Abrahamsen, Daniel O’Brien

Media: N/A

WELCOME & SAC BUSINESS:

Eileen Abel welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Sammy introduced Daryl Anthony from Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Jay Haigler motioned to approve the December 6, 2021, meeting minutes. Dan Hamilton seconded and the meeting minutes were approved by the entire council. These minutes are available on the website <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/mallows-potomac/involved/meetings.html>.

Mallows Bay NMS is currently recruiting for five alternate seats on the council – Business and Economic Development, Citizen-at-Large, Recreation and Recreational Fishing, Research, Science and Technology, as well as a youth member and alternate. Applications are due by **March 1, 2022**. If you know anyone that is interested please direct them to <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/mallows-potomac/involved/recruitment.html> or have them contact jean.prevo@noaa.gov.

The group discussed different opportunities for recruiting for the open seats. Members offered to post in the Southern Maryland Paddlers group, the Bay Weekly Newspaper and Chesapeake Magazine Facebook pages and to reach out to American Sportfishing Association and Marine Retailers Association of the Americas members. Mark Losavio will provide posts to the council for sharing on their social media and with groups that may be interested.

Student members on the council have to be 14-17 at the time of application but can serve through their senior year of high school even if they turn 18.

Sammy recommended that everyone sign up to get the Bay Bulletin weekly email. The email has stories about items happening all over Chesapeake Bay, community groups and things that are very relevant to this group and Mallows Bay. www.ChesapeakeBayMagazine.com

2022 CALENDAR:

April 18	SAC Meeting
June 19	Juneteenth at Mallows Bay Park
June 25	Pride paddle at Mallows Bay Park
June 27	SAC Meeting
September 12	SAC Meeting
September 25	Blue Star Families at Mallows Bay Park
December 5	SAC Meeting

The sanctuary staff are still on full-time telework so it is difficult to start planning events, but we wanted to get some dates on the calendar. Monday, April 18, 2022 at 6:00pm is our next virtual council meeting. Sammy plans on having fewer formal council meetings than last year and instead adding in community events for SAC to participate in. We plan on keeping the advisory council meeting dates flexible in case we need to trade some out for more immersive activities. In the meantime, please save these dates on your calendar.

A council member pointed out that April 18th is Easter Monday. Sanctuary staff will look at the calendar to see if a different date may work.

Blue Star Families Welcome Week – September 25, 2022

There are some great community events being hosted at Mallows Bay Park including the Welcome Week for Blue Star Families that kicks off on September 25th. Blue Star Families is a group for active military families and veterans that connects them with their civilian neighbors — both people and organizations — to create strong communities of mutual support. There are 11 chapters of Blue Star Families around the country, but there are only two sanctuaries that have a chapter nearby – Monitor NMS and Mallows Bay NMS. Sammy is hoping to provide activities for them similar to the activities at the sanctuary’s designation event – partner activities, hands-on activities, and kayak and walking tours.

Juneteenth – June 19, 2022

Sanctuary staff will be reaching out to Outdoor Afro and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to celebrate Juneteenth. Not sure what that event looks like yet, but it is a multiparter event that will hopefully be supported by council members.

Pride Paddle – June 25, 2022

There will be a pride paddle on June 25th at Mallows Bay. Mark Losavio from Monitor NMS will be the lead for this year's event. We will forward the information about this event as it becomes available. It will be another opportunity for council members to connect with community groups.

Earth Day

The April 22nd Earth Day event at the park had to be canceled this year due to COVID restrictions.

These events will bring our council members together to engage with community to promote the partnerships that we all represent. There will hopefully be more of these events as COVID restrictions are lifted.

2022 – WHAT'S NEXT?

The advisory council was given the opportunity to share ideas of things they might like to learn or do as we move forward in 2022. They were also encouraged to send their ideas to jean.prevo@noaa.gov to be added to a master list of ideas that will be shared with the group. Below are the lists of ideas that were shared during the meeting:

LEARN:

- Learn more about the young people's needs. How can we connect them to Mallows Bay either virtually or in person?
- Water quality - What are ongoing initiatives and plans to approve water quality? Would like to see water quality data and maybe looking at past records.
- More information on other remote sites that have been successful in protecting the feeling of the remoteness, protected by the natural environment and by this success been able to create a positive economic climate for the sanctuary.
- Learn about the chain of command. How does the chain of command work through NOAA to the people on the ground to implement safety items needed there?
- Interested in learning more about the ecology of the sanctuary. The ecology aspect can be used to reach so many different people.
- Learning more about the legislative area and what are the next steps to get things rolling with some of the things we want to do.
- Interested in virtual museum exhibits and NOAA's publicity style. Interactive websites. Also interested in photogrammetry of sites.

- Learn more about water quality and habitat loss related to wetlands and ways that we can leverage some federal legislation and other programs to help restore some of that habitat in Charles County and at Mallows.
- Would like to learn more about the hiking trails and good educational signage on land for those without boats.
- Best practices – which sanctuary has the best tourism program, particularly as it relates to a broad range of communities.
- Presentations from other sanctuaries to educate the council and also help foster ideas
- Would like to study tides and sea level. Would like a NOAA contact for somebody that has global and local sea level data. Really be interested in studying sea level with a student (GIS, environmental studies).
- Interested in learning which of the other sanctuaries have management responsibilities split between state, federal and local officials. Best practices how they coordinate and make decisions around planning.
- Best Practices from other sanctuaries.

Learning about water quality came up a few times during the session. Dan Hamilton is employed by Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and offered to provide water quality information to folks. Feel free to email him dan.hamilton@wsscwater.com and he can help get you the information you are looking for.

DO:

- Attend trade shows to spread the word of Mallows Bay, who we are, what we do, and why it is important.
- Would like to see more local involvement especially the Nanjemoy community and Charles County. Would like to see them more focused and to bring them in and to celebrate.
- Would love to see an open house or an event held at the Mallows Bay Park to reenergize people and get them to the site. Set up displays with information about all the things we are doing, future plans, entertain new guests and show off the park.
- Host a public gathering to share our plans and enhance public engagement to create momentum.
- Event focusing more interest on the 1776 activities and the scuttled revolutionary ship that is there.
- Community fishing event.
- Youth engagement on the council. Youth working group like they used to have at the Monitor NMS.
- More water quality testing with students.
- Education and events.
- Work with advisory council and sanctuary staff to develop boating safety protocols and training event.

- Establish a chronolog station at Mallows Bay for people to take pictures and upload to the web and we can get time-lapse of what people see when they are there.
- SAC paddle and/or SAC hike.
- Would like to get more involved in developing a concept plan for the site. How we look at the site and where to potentially place things in the future.
- More publicity to spread the word about Mallows NMS
- Partner programs with Wide Water across the bay, trips, lots of opportunities.
- More tribal involvement – Would tribal youth be interested in becoming involved at the sanctuary. Bring some of the indigenous knowledge through interpretation to the park.
- Reach out to STEM teachers at middle and high schools for field trips (even virtual field trips.) Thinking about America 250 and the range of resources here. Maybe there is some programming and activities building up to that 2026 celebration?
- Some of the most successful sanctuaries are the ones where the councils are engaged in education and outreach in their communities. Helps to promote the sanctuary.
- Would like to see better internet connectivity and an osprey camera on the *Accomac*.
- Getting together as a SAC and having events at Mallows.

COUNCIL ACTIONS/RESOLUTIONS:

Sanctuary advisory councils are often asked to weigh in on different topics either site level or program wide. The formal way for the council to do this as a body is by passing a resolution. Resolutions can address numerous topics from support of designating a new sanctuary to commenting on a management plan.

Resolutions are passed by voting action during a meeting. The item must be listed on the agenda and public notice given prior to that meeting. Ideally, a working group would be established at a previous meeting or through email to draft a proposal. This proposal would be distributed to the council prior to the meeting when the vote would be held to provide an opportunity for everyone to review and provide comments in advance. Then, during the meeting members and alternates would be given another opportunity to discuss and weigh in on the issue and a member could then make a motion to pass that resolution. At that point role is called to ensure that a quorum is present. If there is a quorum then a vote can be taken.

All council members and alternates are given the opportunity to weigh in, but only members vote unless they are not present then the alternate would be asked to vote. It is recommended that the vote should be discussed between the member and the alternate ahead of time because each seat represents constituents, not just individual opinions.

Once the resolution or action has been voted on and accepted by the council, the chair works with their coordinator to submit it through the appropriate channels.

As we move forward together as a council, we plan on starting to introduce some more actions that might result in this group passing resolutions. One of the upcoming items could be support of the proposed Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary designation.

Maybe at the April meeting there will be an opportunity to hear from Ellen Brody on Lake Ontario and try this process out.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES:

Education Working Group – Shannon Ricles

Education group met on February 1, 2022. Professor Brian Warnecke at the College of Southern Maryland is going to take the 10 ROV kits that were purchased to use for his intro to engineering students. The students will build and use them for competition and then return them to the sanctuary.

Mallows Bay will have an intern June through August. She will be working to create a summer camp experience for middle and high school students that revolve around environmental learning and water quality. If COVID restrictions are lifted hoping to hold the camp in late July or early August. If the camp can't be held she will still develop it and it will be implemented at another time. The working group will provide planning support for this camp.

Talked about hosting star nights. Looking into local astronomy clubs and maybe holding at Mallows with the general public or scout groups. Guest speakers or even a virtual event if the park isn't an option.

The working group also discussed the best ways to support the upcoming Pride Paddle and Blue Star Families events with ROV activities.

The education working group plans to meet again in late March.

Terrain 360 Working Group – Tane Casserley

Aiming for an April 1 deadline to complete the first phase of the project, which is turning that standing static kayak map into a digital version. It currently includes 16 sites with another four to six more to add to it. Working group member Dan O'Brien has been physically going through the video to mark all of the Personal Identifiable Information (PII – faces, boat registration numbers, license plates, etc.) that will need to be removed from the video. He has been critical to that portion of the project.

Staff have been working with Ryan Abrahamsen of Terrain 360 to begin integrating audio tours, narration and real time data buoy information into the video. Looking at opportunities to work with other partners to build out 3D models.

Mark Losavio has been working on gathering most of the content that is needed to fill in the virtual paddle. Adding the opportunity to open up videos along the map, instead of just text and pictures. Thinking of ways to add as much content as possible to each hot spot. Providing a variety of information depending on what they click on, could be a completely different tour each time. Would also like to be able to add in live feed from the site.

SAC members would like to see water quality techniques or instrumentation used for collecting data and ecology included in the information that is included in these virtual tours.

Tane would love for everyone to share their ideas. Please reach out to tane.casserley@noaa.gov with thoughts or if you are interested in joining their working group.

Tane also showed a video project that he has been working on with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' headquarters staff. They put a 360° video camera on a drone. This footage will be able to be used on oculus glasses. Providing access to anybody and everybody. They will be adding narration to this 360° video. It is the first time this type of video project has been done in a sanctuary.

SAC ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMENTS:

Jay Haigler – Diving with a Purpose (DWP) partnered with National Geographic organizations (Nat Geo channel, magazine, website and podcast) to tell the shared history of the transatlantic slave trade through shipwrecks.

On January 27th, National Geographic launched the podcast *Into the Depths*. The podcast uncovers the deep history of the transatlantic slave trade as it follows a group of Black divers who are dedicated to finding and helping to document slave shipwrecks. It's a six-part podcast series.

On February 7, on the National Geographic Channel there will be an episode on the *Clotilda* ship, which is the last known slave ship that came to the United States. DWP helped find the shipwreck in Alabama.

Also, DWP will be the feature article in the March edition of National Geographic Magazine.

One of the things the series is attempting to do is work on what they call communal archaeology. In communal archaeology stakeholders are more engaged. Telling a story through shipwrecks.

Susan Langley will be giving a short webinar on March 4th <https://baltimoreheritage.org/event/the-shipwrecks-of-curtis-bay-virtual-talk/>. WWI Ghost fleet don't all reside in Mallows, there are also some in Curtis Bay which Susan will talk about during this 30-minute webinar.

Ruth Toomey – Maryland Tourism Coalition is putting in a bill this year SB0622. It will provide a tax credit for anyone in Maryland that travels 50 miles or more from their home in Maryland. They would receive a tax credit for transportation, lodging, food and beverage. The hearing is February 23rd. Please feel free to write to your legislature as a citizen about why the bill is important and please consider supporting it.

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/Sb0622>

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURN:

Lolita motioned to adjourn the meeting and John seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm. The next regular meeting is **Monday, April 18, 2022 at 6:00pm.**

Links shared in Chat Box:

Bay Bulletin free news all about the Chesapeake. Sign up at www.ChesapeakeBayMagazine.com

Monitor NMS sketchfab page with 3D models <https://sketchfab.com/NOAAMonitorNMS>

Webinar: NC Life-Saving Stations in Black and White:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4679046918262859279>

Destination Capitol Hill is April 5-6 for those who would like to help educate the policymakers

<https://www.ustravel.org/events/DCH>

CHOW (Capitol Hill Ocean Week) and is the usually the first week of June around World Ocean Day. <https://marinesanctuary.org/chow-2022/>

Nat Geo Podcast: [https://www.nationalgeographic.com/podcasts/into-the-](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/podcasts/into-the-depths?cmpid=org=ngp::mc=vanity::src=ngp::cmp=IntotheDepths::add=vanityurl)

[depths?cmpid=org=ngp::mc=vanity::src=ngp::cmp=IntotheDepths::add=vanityurl](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/podcasts/into-the-depths?cmpid=org=ngp::mc=vanity::src=ngp::cmp=IntotheDepths::add=vanityurl)

<https://baltimoreheritage.org/event/the-shipwrecks-of-curtis-bay-virtual-talk/>

Upcoming 2022 Meetings & Events:

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- June 19 Juneteenth at MBP
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