

PROPOSED LAKE ONTARIO NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting #17 - VIRTUAL

Thursday, December 8, 2022

MEETING SUMMARY - FINAL

Welcome – Bill Crist

Bill Crist called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. EST and welcomed everyone to meeting #17.

Old Business – Bill Crist

A motion was put forward to approve the August 2022 advisory council meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Katie Malinowski and seconded by Bob Morgan. The motion passed.

Special Guest Speaker – Rear Adm. Benjamin K. Evans, NOAA – Office of Coast Survey Director

Ellen Brody - Welcomed Ben to the meeting. Ellen has known Ben for a number of years and his involvement in various parts of NOAA. Over the summer Ellen had the opportunity to talk with Ben in Traverse City at Lakebed 2030 Conference. The conference focused entirely on mapping the Great Lakes.

Bill Crist - Welcomed Rear Adm. Benjamin (Ben) K. Evans as the guest speaker. Ben grew up in Wayne County and his parents, Peter and Sue Jane, still reside in his childhood home. Ben's father, Peter Evans, serves on the advisory council in the Tourism seat.

Ben Evans – Thanked the council for having him as a guest speaker. Ben has always had an appreciation of the Great Lakes, which was in his backyard. Ben's parents were very interested in local history and Ben grew up with stories of commerce and the early European settlers, the War of 1812, and the wreck of the St. Peter, also literally in his backyard. Ben attended college in Massachusetts and then went on to graduate school. Ben knew that he wanted to do something scientific and ran into NOAA's Commission Corps. NOAA has a uniformed service of approximately 30 to 40 officers that focus on jobs within NOAA that require a blend of expertise on the water, technical expertise of NOAA's mission, ships, aircraft and nautical charting. The Office of Coast Survey is the primary source of mapping the oceans and coasts.

Ben has had the good fortune to see many seaports and travel many oceans in his federal career with the NOAA Corps. Ben has been in his current position for one year and prior to this assignment has had a 23-year career in the NOAA Corps.

Ben illustrated how the Office of Coast Survey intersects with ocean transportation. Data collection has had a wider range of uses since 1807. This includes managing fisheries, coastal zones, offshore wind, risks, identifying areas prone to storms, sea level rise, climate change as well as working in the sanctuary system

Seabed 2030 is a local initiative to map the world's ocean by 2030. In some areas we are making great strides not just for safe marine transportation and nautical charting but for what the seabed is necessary for.

Lakebed 2030 focused on working in the Great Lakes which is poorly mapped. 52% of the US is unmapped. There are different standards for what is unmapped. The data is currently very old. As an example, in Alaska there are soundings on the chart but the most current data is from Captain Hook. Ben's office will be undertaking this mapping deficiency in the years to come.

Ben mentioned the NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson (TJ) that was conducting research in the Great Lakes in the summer. The TJ primarily worked off Cleveland and Lake Erie. Ship arrived in April and left in September. Very successful and the resolution was tremendous. TJ worked in Lake Ontario in October. There was some weather which impacted the full area assigned. The data is being reviewed and if there is any interest it will be reported to the State of New York.

Ben is very excited about a new national marine sanctuary in the Great Lakes and will be following the course and thanked the council once again for having him as a guest speaker this evening. Ben credits his mother and father for his career path.

Ellen has extended an invitation for Ben to be a keynote speaker at the designation event.

Updates from NOAA (Ellen Brody)

- The proposed rule is still going through the inter-agency review process. Ellen was hoping to have the proposed rule published over the holiday but more than likely this will be pushed to the beginning of the year. The proposed rule will include the proposed boundary, proposed regulations, and terms of designation. Public meetings (in-person) will be held after the proposed rule is published.
- NYSTIA will be holding a tourism conference in April in the Oswego area. This will be a great opportunity to talk about national marine sanctuaries. Given that there are two proposed sanctuaries in New York, Ellen would like to bring in someone from Wisconsin and Michigan. Will be working with Bob Provost on this.

Updates from New York State (Laura McLean/Daniel MacKay - Department of State)

Laura McLean - Reminded the council it is the 40th anniversary of the Department of State this year. The Department of State is coordinating with New York State in the designation process and are looking forward to a busy 2023, getting the sanctuary designated and working on the programmatic agreements with our NOAA partner.

Daniel MacKay – Enjoyed the presentation on the survey work. Dan wanted to build on the shipwreck enthusiasts. They have been filing reports of shipwreck findings and have been providing interesting discoveries to our office underscoring the excitement of what is pending.

Dan appreciated the political context with the significant changes in the legislative levels. The State Preservation Office is going to react to those changes. There will be an updated press release but the expectation for continued continuity with new staff in the Governor's office is a priority.

Third, there has been a significant administration change in the National Park System in the administration of the National Marine Heritage Grant Program. This used to be an annual grants program wherein the NPS would advertise grant opportunities and a national pool of applications would compete against each other. NYS did well under that format with 3 to 5 successful awards to the Maritime Heritage Program projects. The Maritime Heritage Program Office is a program where only the State Preservation Office can apply for a pool of funding. The SPO will receive an award of funding on an annual basis. Did apply for those in the capital fund and interpretive fund. At some point this may be of great value to resources within the new sanctuary designation but it will be of great value to marine ships and organizations such as the H. Lee White Museum. We expect to be notified as to the success of the application and Dane remains hopeful to report out on this to the group and other interested parties to administer funds. There will be an open application process next summer.

Local updates/County Administrators:

None noted

Working Groups (Bill Crist/Ellen Brody)

Ellen and Bill introduced the idea of forming working groups to dig deeper into designation and what comes next. Two working groups are being proposed:

- There will be a working group specifically on communication. It is important to have the right talking points and messaging when representing the proposed sanctuary.
- There will also be a working group on priorities, specifically what would the advisory council like to accomplish in the first year or two of designation. *Ellen also encouraged the advisory council to reach out to other constituents or local community members to participate in the working groups.* Please email Pam if you are interested in participating.
- Pam would like to focus more on an outreach vision – where can NOAA or the council intersect, within the four counties and outside.

SAC member sharing session:

Gail Smith – The Great Eclipse April 8, 2024 over Henderson Harbor. Gail has started reaching out to potential partners. The biggest thing is tracking science and promoting the sanctuary.

Dale Currier – Shout out for a photo contest for the Great Eclipse and ROV workshops that have been proposed.

Shout Outs/Accomplishments:

Bill Crist - Attended a retirement party in Oswego at the Rooftop Lounge for Dave White. Thank you for all you have been with Sea Grant and we want to keep you connected to what you've done and what you can continue to do at Sea Grant. Becky was at the celebration.

Becky Shuford: We can't say we're going to miss this because Dave will continue to be part of the community and our lives. Sea Grant turned 50 last year and Dave has been a part of the fabric for 38 years and you just don't go away. Dave will remain part of the community in the Great Lakes and Lake Ontario. He has been such a passionate advocate for safe and clean Great Lake waters. Incredible catalyst for out of the box ideas and this usually turns into amazing things including the idea of a

national marine sanctuary. He did not do that alone and he sticks to it, and it's true, but we probably all agree that Dave has had an endearing imprint on the catalytic ideas. See you on the water and in the sanctuary. Thank you for the privilege of working with you.

Phil Church - Would love to reminisce and plan. Thank you for helping all the folks around the lake and programs I've been involved in. You once introduced me as the father of the sanctuary but in reality, this whole project and none of us would be in this meeting if it wasn't for you. You are the catalyst for this.

Ellen Brody - Talked to Reed Bohne today and Reed wasn't able to join tonight. I still have the post-it of when you first met. He wanted to pass on his best to you and his appreciation for what you have done for this nomination and designation.

David White - Thanks for the kind words and the folks who joined at the party. I'm going away for a couple of weeks but I'm still in the area. With Kathy and Mary's permission, I will remain on the SAC until it is designated. I look forward to continuing working with all of you and moving forward. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you. I look forward to being at the designation with you because it has taken all of us.

Next SAC Meeting: To be determined

Public Comment:

None noted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm