

Michigan Underwater Salvage & Preserve Committee

Meeting Minutes

Location: Michigan History Center & Virtual meeting

Date: November 28, 2023

Roll call

Present for the Michigan Underwater Salvage & Preserves Committee:

- Chris Antieau
- Ron Bloomfield
- Sandra Clark, Chair
- Dan Friedhoff
- Jeremiah Edson
- Wayne Lusardi
- Brian Smith
- Nick Torsky

Others in Attendance:

- Dan Harrison, Wayne State University Maritime Archaeologist
- Stacy Tchorzynski, DNR Archaeologist
- Cindy Krueger, DNR Communications
- Sheri Giffin, Michigan History Center
- Tony Piazza, Tawas
- James la Trobe-Bateman, Port Huron
- Abrielle Blonde, Houghton, Michigan Technological University
- Kathleen Krieger, Houghton, Michigan Technological University
- Elle Soderberg, Crystal Falls, Michigan Technological University
- Mitchell, Houghton, Michigan Technological University
- Braden Berridge, Houghton, Michigan Technological University
- David Kromholz, Houghton, Michigan Technological University
- Kaylee Hoffman, Houghton, Michigan Technological University
- Robert Mackinnon, Houghton, Michigan Technological University
- Travis Taylor, Houghton, Michigan Technological University

Meeting minutes

Opening Comments:

Clark called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Friedhoff moved to approve the agenda; Antieau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bloomfield moved to approve the September 18, 2023, minutes as amended; the motion was seconded by Friedhoff and passed.

Goals for 2023:

Buoy Project

Bloomfield will connect with MUPC for requests for buoys for 2024.

Bloomfield learned that NOAA was utilizing a new all-weather buoy system for data collection and might be another buoy option in the future. Lusardi confirmed that they were for data collection and said they were large and expensive.

Interpretive Panels

Bloomfield has identified 37 sites that would be prime signage areas in the Straits Preserve. The challenge lies with gathering information, collecting images and writing the panel text. Bloomfield is investigating an option for a class to work on the research and writing.

Pure Michigan

Krueger noted that Pure Michigan is always looking for video locations for short pieces.

National Register Nominations

Harrison was contacted by Kevin Ailes from the West Michigan preserve about adding the Comanche to the list for the National Register project.

The committee discussed grouping shipwrecks based on ship builder, geographic location, cargo, specific storm incident or other grouping as an option for National Register nominations.

Committee Member Reports:

Law Enforcement

Torsky has received one complaint from the east side of the UP.

New Permit Applications

Antieau reported that there were no new permit applications.

Smith plans to submit a 2024 application for the Tuskegee Airman project. Lusardi noted that the National Geographic channel is creating a full episode featuring the P39 Aircobra and the project to bring up and preserve part of the plane. It should air in the spring.

Public Comment:

La Trobe-Bateman asked about the process to request removing a bottomlands artifact, documenting it and then replacing it. Antieau suggested that he work with DNR, as the request may fall under the archaeology on state lands permit.

Old Business:

Friedhoff mentioned that MUPC is working to repeal parts of the federal Dive Boat Act as it significantly effects the insurance for dive boats.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Bloomfield moved to adjourn the meeting; Antieau seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.