

PROPOSED LAKE ONTARIO NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Inaugural Meeting - VIRTUAL

Thursday, April 23, 2020

MEETING SUMMARY

Claire Fackler, Education and Outreach Coordinator, with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) facilitated the meeting.

Ellen Brody, Eastern Regional Coordinator, welcomed the new members of the advisory council, public, state and county governments to the first proposed Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary (LONMS) inaugural meeting. Ellen introduced the Lake Ontario Team and NOAA staff recognizing their extraordinary contribution to the designation. The agenda was adapted to a webinar format.

Matt Brookhart, Regional Director, Northeast, Great Lakes & Southeast Region provided opening remarks:

Thank you Claire for organizing this call. I want to echo Ellen's welcome to the inaugural meeting of the pre-designation sanctuary advisory council for the proposed LONMS. While it would have been a fantastic opportunity to meet each other in person, get to know each other with a handshake or maybe even a hug, with these irregular times it requires us to hold this meeting virtually. I'm sure everyone on this call or video conference can understand that. While it's not ideal, I'm glad that we do have the technology and the opportunity to come together over the internet, meet each other as a picture and a voice, maybe a face on a video screen, it's definitely better than not meeting at all. I do appreciate all of you being on and making this work technologically with your computers, your phones, etc.

Second, and most important I would like to pass on a really heartfelt thank you for the time, the energy and the commitment that you will all put into the role of an advisory council member. While this is often a labor of love for many of our council members across the country, it still asks a lot of you and for that we are tremendously grateful. It's my hope that you find the time on the LONMS Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) rewarding, that you find it meaningful and it furthers connections to your community and ultimately reaffirms your belief in the power of democracy. We in NOAA, and especially within the ONMS, regard community involvement and the development of stewardship and ethic fundamental to the mission of SACs as vitally important to the successful management of these amazing sanctuary assets. Your role in the coming weeks, in this body, beyond this introductory meeting, will be absolutely essential and fundamental in forming our public proposal for this sanctuary and helping to communicate what we are and what we are not proposing to do. In being selected as a representative on the LONMS SAC, you are joining a cadre of exceptionally dedicated and passionate people from South Florida to American Samoa, to the coast of Massachusetts, to the coast of Washington State and all the places in between, who like yourselves, represent a highly diverse set of interests within their respective communities. Each national marine sanctuary has an advisory council and sanctuary advisory council members come from all walks of life with professional and personal backgrounds and they represent such interests as conservation, education, research, fishing, diving, boating, shipping, tourism, maritime business, maritime heritage and many more things.

They are also represented by hard working representatives from local, regional, state, territorial, tribal and federal agencies. While LONMS is not yet officially designated, but when it is, it will become the next member of a small group of some of the world's nationally significant oceans and Great Lakes parks. If the proposed Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary becomes finalized, Lake Ontario will be the third NMS on the Great Lakes, thus providing yet another example of the interconnectivity of the Great Lakes region, its amazing share of history and great possibilities for future shared opportunities.

The sanctuary system currently encompasses more than 600,000 square miles of some of the most remarkable, biodiverse, historically connected and economically productive areas in the United States. Designating a NMS helps us all promote the thriving recreation, tourism and commercial activities that drive our coastal economies. Through both directed management and partnerships and all kinds of private and public organizations, the ONMS with the help and the fundamental support of the SACs we work very hard to try to ensure a healthy ocean for now and for future generations. I'm sure all of you embrace the opportunity and potential the LONMS can bring as New York's first NMS, as part of the larger NMS system and as part of other forward thinking and community driven efforts currently in play along Lake Ontario shoreline. This is all very exciting.

Finally, I want to let you know the designation of LONMS remains one of the highest priorities not just for the ONMS but for NOAA as well. This proposal continues to generate tons of excitement, not just for opportunities for the immediate Lake Ontario region, but for the larger Great Lakes and yet another chance for all of us to highlight the amazing diversity and uniqueness of this country's history. A couple of notes on where things are in the designation process and Ellen will walk you through the process, but I wanted to emphasize that with the great team of folks you saw on her slide, we are making tremendous headway on the required documents we need for the designation and we are moving at lightning pace. There's a lot that goes into this process but we are all getting good and efficient in getting these pieces together. I want to be honest that we are heading into an election year, and as such, some things inside the beltway will likely slow down or even come to a full stop for a while such as rulemaking. Even with that reality, we will continue to aggressively push our completion of the documents forward and share them with you. At some point we may just have to wait a bit but once the election is over things will pick back up again. This is just the way things work as we all know.

I want to thank you all again and just sat that I'm looking forward to today's meeting, as well as those coming to the future and I'm very grateful for you giving up your time today.

Matt Brookhart introduced **Mike Snyder**, Department of New York State.

Mike Snyder is a longtime colleague of ours and former NOAA employee. Mike worked on some really big issues with ONMS including the designation of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. That was a major initiative for this county and for NOAA. It's great to have Mike as part of this process and as our state point of contact. Mike is very familiar with NOAA, ONMS and the state will be an incredibly important and vital partner on this project going forward. Welcome Mike and it's great to have you here.

Mike Snyder: Yes. I can still say Papahānaumokuākea! I have not forgotten. Good morning everyone and welcome. I'm very excited to be joining you today for the kick-off meeting of the Lake Ontario

Sanctuary Advisory Council. Obviously these are difficult times for us in New York State and for communities on Lake Ontario it has been a particularly challenging couple of years so it is especially gratifying to talk about a positive and potentially transformative opportunity for the region. That is why Governor Cuomo has supported the sanctuary designation and why state agencies, such as the Department of State, continue to provide our best advice and council supports the sanctuary nomination and as a true partner in this effort. As a native of the Rochester area and as Matt mentioned, someone who is fortunate enough to have had experience with sanctuaries in other parts of the country, I know how significant this moment is for New York. I also know how important it is for you to participate, share your knowledge and share your concerns and advice. In order for the designation to best address our needs we need your help. New York's rich diversity is well represented by this group yet we know there are many more around the region who are interested in the designation or have questions, so your role is particularly important in making sure that the designation of the sanctuary is informed by the communities you represent. It's equally important that those communities receive factual information about this process and what it means for them. Thank you for your participation. I look forward to working with you and on behalf of myself and our State of New York alternate on the sanctuary advisory council, I look forward to today's conversation.

Ellen Brody. Next on the agenda is **Pam Orlando** who will describe her role on the sanctuary advisory council as the sanctuary advisory council coordinator.

Pam Orlando: Good morning everyone. I'm excited for our first advisory council meeting but disappointed at the same time. I met some of you when we were having our public scoping meetings last year and was hoping to see some of you again and meet the rest of the council. I know we will have a chance to meet soon, in person, and I'm looking forward to that very much.

My role as sanctuary advisory council coordinator for LONMS will be working side by side with Ellen, the sanctuary advisory chair, vice-chair and sanctuary working groups spin up. I will organize the meetings, all logistics, communicating mostly with you, working on agenda with Ellen and the SAC chair. I will take care of vacant seats when recruiting new members, charters and taking notes and distributing all the information. I am also here to assist any of you who might have questions, or you need to get in touch with someone. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Let's introduce our council by seat and give a brief statement on why it's important for you to be on this AC and how you think it will help us in designating this great place.

Citizen-at-Large Seat

Primary Member: Dr. Robert Morgan. Good morning everybody. I'm very excited about being on the committee. I have been a physician here in Oswego for 34 years, a certified diver since 1976 and land owner. My family has been here in the area since the early 1800s and I see this as a great opportunity. At the time of our country forming this was the great western frontier and what happened on Lake Ontario determined where our country went. It's so exciting with this committee and with Fort Ontario trying to become a federal park. This is a golden opportunity to accentuate the tremendous things that we have done here.

Primary Member: Katie Malinowski. Good morning and I'm honored to serve as one of Citizen-at-Large members of the Lake Ontario Sanctuary Advisory Council. I am also a lifelong resident of the area except for some time I was away at college. I grew up in Cayuga County, went to school in Wayne County, live in Oswego County and work in Jefferson County and I'm not much more than 10 or 15 minutes away from the lake. The lake is large in my life and certainly a huge shaper of the region, our way of life, our weather, our economy so I'm very excited to be part of this. I'm excited to bring some of the skills I have learned from my day job as Executive Director of New York State Tug Hill Commission but I'm doing this in a personal capacity. I'm really excited to bring some of the community outreach and engagement things I have learned over the years to this very special part of New York State.

Alternate Member: Greg Boyer. Hello. I'm with the State University of New York College of Environmental Science & Forestry in Syracuse. I'm a marine biologist by training having worked both at Woods Hole and in British Columbia. I came to New York State 35-years ago and quickly switched over to working on the Great Lake Systems. I'm the Director of the Great Lakes Research Consortium which is the 18 SUNY campuses with Great Lakes interests. I'm a certified diver and certified in marine underwater archaeology which is a passion of mine. I'm very excited to spend a lot of time "under" the sanctuary and be involved in this effort.

Alternate Member: Kathryn "Kathi" McCarthy. My name is Kathi McCarthy and I live in Cape Vincent with my husband Dennis. I'm very happy to join this group. I'm a graduate of Bard College with a degree in mathematics. I'm retired from the Eastman Kodak Company in consumer marketing. I'm the owner of a small publishing company and we are very active with several local museums and village organizations. My family has owned waterfront property in Cape Vincent since 1948 and we became permanent residents of Cape Vincent in 2009. I've been a certified scuba diver since 1970 and my interest in history and protection of shipwrecks began with my friendship with Bob Bristol and the divers researching the wreck of the *St. Peter*. I am very hopeful to support NOAA in their goal to protect the important natural and cultural resources. Thank you very much for including me.

Divers/Dive Clubs/Exploration

Primary Member: Jim Kennard. Good morning. I've been a scuba diver since 1970 and I have been researching and discovering shipwrecks in Lake Ontario for the last 45-years. I'm really pleased to be a member of the council and have an opportunity to share my research and our discoveries with the effort to create the marine sanctuary. Our shipwreck exploration team has been the discoverer of 17 of the shipwrecks that have been located in the proposed marine sanctuary. Last year the National Museum of the Great Lakes published my book **Shipwrecks of Lake Ontario: A Journey of Discovery**. I know some of the folks on the forum right now have copies but if you would like to learn more about what's out there and the stories behind them the book is available through my website **Shipwreck World** or from the National Museum of the Great Lakes. In the last few weeks I have been working with Madeline (Maddie) Roth and the NOAA group to create a realistic list of the potential undiscovered shipwrecks that still remain in the proposed marine sanctuary. I'm looking forward to continuing to assist and whatever I can do.

Primary Member: Jim Wieser. Jim was unable to join the meeting.

Alternate Member: Ken Kozin. I am a resident of Clayton, New York growing up outside of New York City and New Jersey. I started diving at a very young age on an aqualung, a floating pump that would pump air down to a supply unit and I was just bit by the bug to dive. I have been exploring shipwrecks and traveling around the country and world diving. In 2001, I started a charter service business on the St. Lawrence River and I have been running that business ever since taking hundreds of divers to different wrecks on the St. Lawrence River. My greatest interest is trying to protect the wrecks, discover new ones, and develop diving up here in the Thousand Islands and Lake Ontario.

Alternate Member: Ray Tucker. I live in Rome, New York. Vocationally, I'm an electrical engineer and spent 35-years in federal service at the Air Force Research Lab in Rome as the information director. Avocational wise, I can never remember not wanting to be in the water. In 1970 I was certified as a YMCA scuba diver and 1991 I became a YMCA scuba instructor. I have dove from New York to the Channel Islands and from Canada to the Caribbean. I'm the founder of a local scuba club - New York Scuba Club in the Rome area. I'm the past president and treasurer of the New York State Diver's Association which represents the freshwater areas of New York State for education and diving activities. I am also the Executive Vice President of the Underwater Society of America which is the national governing board for underwater sports in the United States and as such a member of the Olympic committee. I am the past treasurer and trustee of Beneath the Sea Dive Show, the largest recreational dive show in the United States and in the New York metro area. I am also a member of the Dive Equipment Manufacturer's Association.

Economic Development

Primary Member: Jeannie Gleisner. Good morning everyone. I am currently working with the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board. Although this seat on the SAC is a personal role for me, through my work at the regional planning board I have gotten very familiar with the waterfront area. Two of our five counties are along the proposed NMS area. I guess I would say I have long been very interested in cultural landscape preservation. It was the focus of my degree at SUNY ESF where I had an opportunity to work on my thesis at Battery Weed, an 18th-19th century fortress on Staten Island with an incredible history that wet my appetite for discovery of what are under the waters of Lake Ontario. I sailed on Lake Ontario as a kid. My dad was a fistal racer up there. I got very familiar with the lake and consider it to be an extension of my home. I'm very excited to be a part of this effort.

Primary Member: Jay Matteson. Jay was unable to attend the meeting.

Alternate Member: Brad Broadwell. I represent Onondaga County but I live in Cayuga County in Fairhaven, New York right here on the lake. As I look out over the lake at our meeting right now, I am very appreciative of where I've grown up and have been for 55-years. For part of my career I've been away. I've worked in economic development for over 30-years. I've worked at the state, federal, local and international level having worked in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Hong Kong and Tokyo, all in economic development. What I hope is that you can always come home. Thomas Wolfe wrote a book *You Can Never Go Home* but I always felt and believe you can go home. I want to give back to where I grew up and what I most fondly remember in my life, the lake and the time I spent in my home as I sit here right now. When I was young we had a home in Alexandria Bay. I hope to take what I've learned in

Washington and around the world and help further along our interests along central New York and northern New York.

Alternate Member: June Smith. June is a retired nurse and is currently the Town Supervisor in Sterling. She wants to protect and enhance this lovely area. June has been a water baby all of her life and was naturally drawn to the proposed sanctuary project and its goals. She was on swim teams in high school and in college, a lifeguard in college and an actor in Fair Haven, New York. June lived on cruisers during the summers for six years. June has been a certified diver since 1979, diving in Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, Hawaii, North Carolina coastline and the Bahamas.

Education

Primary Member: Bill Crist. Thank you very much. It's wonderful to be here and be part of this SAC. I've been an educator in Central New York for the last 37 years and I live within 3 miles of Lake Ontario. When this announcement came up and the ability to teach and learn, to share the beauty of what is Eastern Lake Ontario, the rich heritage that exists here it seemed like an east fit. I feel privileged to be a part of this. I'm also a consumer and an outdoorsman. I enjoy fishing. I enjoy diving and am a professional diver. I enjoy boating and anything outdoors is something that is appealing to me. I look forward to sharing through the educational component of the SAC how rich both in heritage and the wonderful beauty that exists on eastern Lake Ontario with so many people around the area.

Primary Member: Rob Humphrey. Thank you. I'm a biology professor at Cayuga Community College in Oswego County. I currently live in Oswego County and a lifetime resident of New York. I grew up in the Adirondacks and have been fishing on Lake Ontario and the Oswego area for 35 years. I thought this was a great opportunity to focus on the education aspect and my interests. I think this is a major economic driver. I think other states do a little bit of a better job in this area with tourism and some of the aspects and I think we can focus more on those areas to help the economy.

Alternate Member: Pam Caraccioli. Good morning. I am also an Oswego County resident but also a City of Oswego resident. I'm Deputy to the President of SUNY Oswego and have been on our campus for 20 years. Prior to that I worked on economic development. Our campus is the only higher education institution on the lake and has deep, deep connections on the lake. We have great connections with lower education as well with a number of K-12 organizations. I live 3 blocks from the lake with my 2 sons. I've also been a diver for more than 20 years. For me it's the connections the campus has to this project and has been a part of since day one. I was born and raised in this area and the economic impact of our lake isn't even remotely flushed out at this point. This will bring a great impact to our community.

Alternate Member: Ben Heckethorn. Good morning. It's an honor to serve on this council with such a diverse group with so many different experiences and expertise. It's interesting how Lake Ontario has impacted everyone differently. I work and live in the city of Oswego where I teach social studies. I'm fascinated by local history and fascinated about authentic learning for students of all ages by going, seeing and hopefully experiencing the bottom of Lake Ontario. I'm excited to be working with all of you.

Maritime History and Interpretation

Primary Member: Dennis McCarthy. Good morning and thank you for having me here. My name is Dennis McCarthy and I live in Cape Vincent, New York with my wife Kathi. I'm a 1976 graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology and I retired in 2009 after a 35-year professional career in engineering and product development. My avocation with shipwrecks started in the early 1970s with the underwater excavation of the revolutionary warship off Carle Island in Cape Vincent. I am a co-founder and current director of the Saint Lawrence River Historical Foundation which has documented several wrecks and cultural resources in the 1000 islands. I am the author and co-author of several local history books and articles about shipwrecks. As a member of the SAC, I would like to use my experience to help NOAA achieve this goal in protecting the important natural and cultural resources while still allowing people to enjoy them. Thank you NOAA for having me.

Primary Member: Mercedes Niess. I'm so honored to be on this council. So many great things have been shared and I just wanted to say I actually grew up on Long Island surrounded by water and inspired by maritime history. I moved to Oswego approximately 30 years ago. I have been the Director of the H. Lee White Museum for the last 22 years. It's been an honor to be on the taskforce that initially got this all started. I'm excited to be collaborating with other organizations and agencies towards this national marine sanctuary. There's so much to share. Our museum is the only maritime museum on the US side of Lake Ontario. I feel that Lake Ontario hasn't had the voice that it could have in the marine sanctuary world and in the maritime history world. This is a great opportunity to work with everybody to move things forward and move my passion forward. Thank you.

Alternate Member: Susan Gately. Susan was unable to join today.

Alternate Member: Joe Zarzynski. Good morning. I am a retired educator for 31 years. I reside in Saratoga Springs, New York on the east side of New York State. I am a professional maritime archaeologist. I currently serve on two boards, not-for-profit organizations, the French and Indian War Society at Lake George and the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project. From 1993-2011, I directed a not-for-profit organization, Bateaux Below, where we set up, monitored and broke down Lake George's state administered preserves, the first in the state. I am very interested in shipwreck preservation, the management of submerged cultural resources and collaborating with others to develop cultural and recreational tourism around the State of New York and of course forthcoming in Lake Ontario. Recently, I've been working as a volunteer with my wife at the State Museum in Albany and last year my wife and I finished the museum cataloging of the 8,000 artifacts from the world trade center ship which is undergoing conservation down in Texas. I'm looking forward to and assisting the SAC members and it looks like I'm going to learn a lot from all these wonderful people.

Recreational Boating

Primary Member: Dale Currier. Thank you and good morning everyone. My name is Dale Currier and like many others I started diving a long time ago in the late sixties in Lake Champlain which obviously had a lot of historical background to it. I'm not from the Oswego area although I live there now. I literally woke up in the back seat of a car in April 1974 along the shoreline at SUNY Oswego. I'm not quite sure how I got there, but spent the weekend there on the Lake and said this is a place I have to come to go diving. The rest as you would say is history. I've been involved with this project literally for

the last 29 years along with Joe Zarzynski, Phil Church and Dennis McCarthy and many others. We started the *David W. Mills* project which was kind of the genesis to all of this with some nudging from Dave White at Sea Grant. I was involved with that for many years until it became an underwater preserve in the Great Lakes of New York. My children have recently reminded me of what this was all about as they spent a lot of their childhood swimming around over the top of the *Mills* watching us map it, that it was all set up and originally started about leaving a legacy for our children, whether it's for historical education or whether it's for economic development for the region and many of the things that have been represented here this morning. There are a lot of things that have gone on here. Students from the college doing studies around marine archeology etc. I'm very pleased and proud to be here on the committee. Also some of the committee members are people that I taught to dive over the years, so a lot of folks are coming back together.

In my role representing recreational boating, I've lived on boats or been involved with boating since I was 8 months old and my mom still has the pictures to prove it. About 12 years ago I got very active with the Coast Guard auxiliary and recreational boating safety. Between the diving and boating safety, I am looking forward to contributing and learning from everybody so thank you for this honor.

Alternate Member: Mark Slosek. I'm really honored to be the council and hope I can be a contributing member. I was born and raised in Oswego and I spent 39 years as a history teacher and middle school administrator. I am currently the Oswego city historian. I'm also on the board of trustees for the association of public historians of New York State. My family has owned lakefront property since 1940 and I live on the shores of Lake Ontario. I'm an avid sailor, power boater, jet skier and kayaker. I look out every morning at the lake and have a keen interest in the lake and the people that sailed on those boats.

Recreational Fishing

Primary Member: Greg Gehrig. I'm Captain Greg Gehrig. I joined the Oswego community about 32 years ago after walking away from a corporate electrical engineering position with ITT to go fishing. I became a charter fishing captain. I hold a 100 ton Coast Guard license and over the last 34 years we have brought, to this community, over 30,000 anglers to this spectacular fishery on the lake. They've also experienced the culture and history of the community. Along with my wife, we operate K&G Resort which has 16 individual housekeeping cabins and 8 lodge rooms and a 68 space RV site. We also operate K&G Sportfishing which has two 40 foot charter boats, one that is operated by my son. We are a family run business. I'm honored to be part of this exciting opportunity and to further showcase this great lake and the tremendous adventures from Lake Ontario.

Alternate Seat: Vacant

Shoreline Property Owner

Primary Member: Ed Mervine. Good morning. One of the advantages coming at the end of this set of introductions is I'm humbled and more honored to be in this group. Now is when I really wish we could be together because I could learn a lot from all the members of this group. I'm a semi-retired senior vice president and general counsel with Pathfinder Bank. I have a camp in Fair Haven, NY. Like other folks I

check a lot of the other boxes, boater and fisherman although not as successful as the other folks that have been on the call. I don't catch as much as they do or at least as big a fish! I have two other interests as well. Pathfinder Bank is a community bank and we have always thought we were a main driver of economic development in our service area and because of that I am on Operation Oswego County which is an economic agency. I personally have an interest in colonial history and a lot of folks think that colonial history is only on the seaboard but there's a significant amount here in this area. I serve on the board of the H. Lee White Museum that Mercedes is the executive director for. I'm very honored and really looking forward to this. I think this will be a great effort and help us a lot and I appreciate being invited to this board.

Tourism

Primary Member: Shane Broadwell. Thank you. Good morning. Again like everyone else I am so happy to be part of the group. I was born and raised on the waters of Lake Ontario. My sons who are 18 and 20 are fourth generation here in Oswego. We like to fish and recreate on all the waterways of Oswego County but mostly on Lake Ontario. I have been involved in many different tourism committees over the last 25 years including the County Tourism Advisory Council. It's important in a group like this because it gets you out throughout the county, meetings are moved around and you get to move around and work with all small pockets of entities and agencies and smaller committees that work together. It's a pretty important theme from tourism that we have a tight group. I work with Greg regularly on fishing as well as Mercedes and Dale regularly. I just finished up working as a county legislature for seven years and finished my term at the end of 2019. There are 22 towns, villages and cities and a lot of different leadership who are all very excited when you talk about this opportunity. They don't know how they want to be involved but it's so positive and exciting. For a long time when there didn't seem to be a lot of growth you were hoping for singles and doubles here and there, and this thing looks like it's a home run with everything we have going on. So many of these great little stepping stones are coming together at the same time. I'm very happy to have been involved with the taskforce at the very beginning and it is so exciting to be sitting here with all the members on this council and see this coming to fruition. I'm happy to be an active member of this council.

Primary Member: Corey Fram. Corey was unable to attend the meeting.

Alternate Member: Janet Marsden. Hi everyone. I want to echo from what I've heard from so many others about what an amazing group of people this is and how excited and pleased I am to be a part of it. I grew up on the shores of Connecticut and went to college at University of Rhode Island at Narragansett Bay. I started sailing and boating when I was single digits and became a scuba diver 20 plus years ago. My academic background is in natural resources and I have a strong interest in data driven development as well as a strong interest in conservation and environmental protection. I have lived within a few miles of Lake Ontario for nearly 30 years now. When I first moved to upstate New York, I feared being away from the ocean because I grew up on the water but I fell in love with the Great Lakes and especially Lake Ontario and the finger lakes. I have been involved with a lot of the effort to create opportunities to share and explore these fantastic natural resources that we have here. I am very excited and very happy to be a part of this effort and I really hope to be able to make a contribution to see this happen.

City of Oswego

Primary Member: Mayor Billy Barlow. Hello everyone. I am Nathan Esson, Director of Economic Development for the City of Oswego. I'm pinch hitting for Mayor Barlow today who is on a regional phone call for COVID 19 response. He wanted me to mention that as being the Mayor of Oswego he is very excited about this project. There's a tremendous benefit and opportunity that could come to the City of Oswego for the marine sanctuary. He feels as though we are primed and ready and would like to even host the home office if it comes to fruition. He wanted me to point out that the city is going through a tremendous revitalization right now with over \$40 million in projects happening in the city at the moment including a lot of work along the waterfront. A national marine sanctuary would be a big, big piece. We are very much looking forward to being part of this group.

Alternate Member: Nathan Esson

County Administrators

Oswego County

Primary Member: Phil Church. Welcome everyone here and thank you for volunteering your time. This has been two to three years in the making. The government folks that you're hearing from now, a lot of them were part of the taskforce and have been a part of the task force over the past two to three years to get us to this point. I'm so happy that so many of you have come forward to be part of the SAC. This is a great next step forward. I would be remiss, and I'm not sure if Bob has audio or not, that we are missing one of our members, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, who was a great supporter of this and represented Jefferson County who passed away a couple of weeks ago. She didn't get to see this day. I know she would be very, very happy to see this going forward. I'd like to ask everyone to keep her family in mind. I'm looking forward to seeing where you all take this. This is a community project over the next year, two or 22 years if we get the designation. Don't underestimate this role. This sanctuary is to be what you and the rest of the committee want it to become.

Alternate Member: Dave Turner. As everyone else has said I'm honored to be part of this group with a wide variety of people with all types of backgrounds. Like Dr. Morgan, my family has a long and rich history in this area. They were among the first settlers in the Town of Sterling on Lake Ontario in 1806. We have a lot of interesting stories about ancestors who used the lake to get back and forth from Fair Haven to Oswego with goods. This protection of the history of people who used the lake and shipwrecks that ended up here as a result of our storms is very interesting to me. I started diving recreationally in the early 1980s, part owner of a dive shop for about three years in the mid-1980s long before zebra mussels so my timing for that business venture was a little off. I'm now the director of Planning, Community Development and Tourism in the county of Oswego and I'm very excited about the opportunity to be working with all of you.

Wayne County

Primary Member: Rick House. Rick was unable to attend this meeting.

Alternate Member: Christine Worth

Cayuga County

Primary Member: Steve Lynch (Cayuga County). Hello and I am very honored to join this very diverse group of individuals whose different experiences, interests and skills are being brought to the service and mission of the national marine sanctuary. I am originally trained as a planner and landscape architect. I've been doing that kind of land use work in the region for the last 25 years. I'm the Director of Planning and Economic Development for Cayuga County and we have a very strong interest and focus on water quality and resource protection. Right now we have staff working to initiate and begin a Department of State funded local waterfront revitalization plan for the Town of Sterling and the Village of Fair Haven. We certainly want to integrate that with the activity, interest and mission of the marine sanctuary. We are also looking to develop the 5,000 square foot Lake Ontario resiliency and education building at the 1,400 acre Sterling Nature Center right on the shoreline. As far as being a member of the county representative I'm looking to liaison with the county legislature and Cayuga departments and agencies we have in bringing whatever resources we can do to assist in the development of the NMS and looking forward to getting an opportunity to meet everyone in person. This is a great group of people and thank you very much.

Jefferson County

Primary Member: Bob Hagemann. Thank you Phil and I appreciate your kind references to Carolyn. Today is a very special day in moving forward with this initiative and she is with us in spirit to say the least. She was a very enthusiastic supporter of this program and I'm looking forward to seeing this coming to fruition and I know she will be with us all along. From my standpoint I'm a history buff. I'm really looking forward to learning more about what's going on on our waterfront. It's been there forever and now we can now finally uncover, not only learning for myself but learning for the residents of our great four county community. Technically speaking, during the day I'm the county administrator for Jefferson County so from a perspective of economic development, research, education and tourism I see tremendous benefits for all of us over the next several years. This is a wonderful initiative and I'm looking forward to making this happen as soon as possible. Also, from the standpoint of four counties working together, I think it's a real plus and an added benefit to this initiative and I think that will prove as a positive as a variety of organizations and agencies have may not worked with one and another in the past and will be doing so in the future so that's an added benefit. Technically speaking I'm a Michigander. One other element I've been very intrigued with is we've come to know and appreciate about Alpena. I have been through the community and I'm happy that it is succeeding. Looking forward to making sure that it works for all us as another neighbor in the Great Lakes. I am looking forward to hearing about the progress progressing.

State of New York

Primary Member: Mike Snyder (introduced above).

Alternate Member: Daniel Mccay. Good morning. Daniel Mccay calling in from Albany, New York. Sorry this meeting is not happening in person but I do so appreciate NOAA's efforts and all your participation to get this process started. I appreciate all the creative work arounds that have been put in place by state and federal agencies to support programs like this. I serve as deputy commissioner for historic preservation for the New York State Parks agency and also serve as deputy state preservation officer. As a federal designation, I along with Commissioner Coolisade, I am responsible for implementing the federal preservation programs in New York State. I have certainly spent a lot of time with Mike Snyder and the NOAA staff supporting this process getting off the ground. I'm so pleased the committee is in place and look forward to supporting your work. If anyone would like to talk offline about the State Preservation's offices role in this process, our various expertise and how we can support this, I am certainly to have those conversations as well.

New York Sea Grant

Primary Member: Dave White. Good morning everyone. My name is Dave White and I work for New York Sea Grant where I am the recreation specialist. I also work with the Great Lakes Research Consortium as the associate director. I will say it's good and bad because I'll say it's good but others on this committee may say it's bad but I've had the opportunity to work with over 90% of the committee members for a number of years working to develop the Great Lakes Shipwreck, Maritime Archaeology, Education and Research program and this is really a culmination thereof. It's an absolute joy to get this point in time. I look forward to moving forward really looking at it from the university side as a partner with the State University of New York, Cornell, and as a local representative with NOAA as our federal partner. I would be remiss if I didn't also remind us all and mention Reed Bohne, who will go down in history when this is all put together as the father, and I consider myself the nephew of this if you will, where this process began at a meeting between Reed and I some 7 or 8 years ago over coffee and a donut on thinking where this could go. I like to bring Reed's name back to the table because as new people come to the table Reed has moved on and is hopefully enjoying his life in retirement, but we will be forever indebted to Reed for bringing this to us and allowing us to participate. So thank you Reed and I look forward to working with everybody moving forward.

Alternate Member: Rebecca (Becky) Shuford. Good morning. It's hard to follow Dave and so folks know I go by Becky so please feel free to call me that. I am the relatively new director to New York Sea Grant so it's beginning to be less new and I started last June. This is one of the first things that I learned about in terms of what Dave and others were working on and it was extremely exciting to me. Like Brad, I have been away for a while working in DC at NOAA but I am a New York native and while you can't come home actually New York never left me and the waters have been a part of my life for the duration. I'm really excited to be back and really excited to hear about the engagement with this and what's happening in the State of New York. While at NOAA, I worked a lot with national marine sanctuaries in my previous job and I understand the importance of sanctuaries in the communities but more importantly see the relevance and contributions of SACs like this and hearing from all of you today has me completely energized. I am really excited to be a part of this and to learn from Dave as well. As you heard Dave has been part of this from the get go. I really see the economic and educational potential and raising the visibility in upstate New York, the lake and the Great Lakes. I'll leave it at that

but I'm really inspired from what I've heard today and from Dave and others over the past several months.

Port Authority of Oswego

Primary Member: Amy Tressider. I am here to represent the Port Authority of Oswego. The port has a long history in Oswego and in fact it was declared a port of entry by President John Adams. Part of our mission statement of support is not only to serve as an economic catalyst but to serve as a steward of the environment as well. Part of our enabling legislation is based in part upon furtherance of recreational opportunities and historical furtherance and historical appreciation of the district. We are very pleased and excited to be a part of this group and we look forward to going forward.

Alternate Member: William Scriber. William was unable to join the meeting.

Ellen Brody: Thank you and you are all incredible. Your passion and experience is amazing.

Back in 2014, NOAA announced a new process for communities to provide their interest to NOAA in the form of a nomination. I think it's fair to say Phil Church spearheaded this nomination with the four counties. A nomination does not guarantee that we would initiate a designation process. We did start this week one year ago.

One year ago this week we published our Notice of Intent to begin the process to consider a designation. We were up in New York last June and held scoping meetings at each of the four counties and then we opened up a three month public comment period. At the end of that public comment period we heard a great deal of support for this idea and we proceeded with the next steps toward designation. This is developing a sanctuary proposal and it comprises three elements, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which describes the resources in the area and what will include alternatives for how we might manage this area for the protection of maritime cultural resources. It includes the draft management plan (DMP) and the proposed rule which lays out how we are proposing to manage the maritime heritage resources from a management plan perspective. We are working on all three of those now.

We have done a great deal of research and are grateful to Jim Kennard and Dennis McCarthy on their input as they have decades of experience. This is what we have been working on since last fall and this is where we will need your input. The next step is to publish the draft documents and hold public meetings where the public will have an opportunity to read the documents and provide comments on the content. We do expect that the SAC will have an influence on what is in the documents.

After public comments we will consider those and make any adjustments and prepare a final document and rule and publish our final documents. At that point it will become a sanctuary. I'd like to mention that this is an administrative decision in that it's a NOAA decision and does not require an act of Congress to approve the sanctuary. It is a two to three year process and it does take some time to go through the process, but as we also highly value our public process in engaging the public and communities, it sometimes takes longer - but the time and review is worth it. I also want to mention that in the past five years ONMS has been working on other designations. I'm excited to let you know

that Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS was designated in September 2019. Paul “Sammy” Orlando spearheaded that effort and we are in the early stages of announcing an advisory council. A little closer to home we are in the final designation process of the Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast NMS. Russ Green is spearheading this effort and will also be designating an advisory council.

Moving on to you and what your role is on the council. Councils represent a community based and broad range of interests, and provide advice to us.

You’re on the council now so what does that mean and generally I think you’ve gotten a sense of this. We need/want you to provide advice to us. It’s incredible to hear the experience on this advisory council. We do want you to be a liaison between NOAA and the communities. If you are representing a certain seat such as education, we would like you to reach out to other educators and try to expand the scope of that connection between NOAA and the advisory council. In terms of partners, in sanctuaries we don’t do things alone and I’ve just heard in your introduction some examples of how we can partner. If there are issues that come up we want our advisory council members to identify them early and help us resolve it because you have the best sense in your communities and what is going on.

We want you to review and provide input into the documents, develop an informed constituency and expertise and I see amazing opportunities of how you can help us and teach us in developing our documents and managing the sanctuary. Those are the roles for all councils across the sanctuary system. For this council in particular, we are looking for your input on how we can best protect the maritime heritage resources and we will put you to work together quickly in reviewing the draft management plan to get the best approach for Lake Ontario. You will put your own stamp on what you do.

We have both primary and alternate members and I want to make it very clear we value both and you will all sit at the table. We are limited by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act for 15 members so by having alternate members it allows us to get more expertise and representation. How does this work? We hope that everyone can come to the meeting. If the primary member can’t attend we hope the alternate would be there and if there was an item that called for a vote, the alternate would vote for the primary member who is absent. I know some of you already know each other but when you see fellow members in your seats you may not. We will share a directory and hope that you will get to know each other.

There are two documents. One is the charter and this is specific to the Lake Ontario advisory council. The charter describes the seats, talks about your responsibilities and contains the nuts and bolts on how the council operates. That document is on our website. The other document we sent out to advisory council members is the National Advisory Council Handbook (truncated version). This gets into the real nuts and bolts of how we select members. I find myself referring to but you will probably not need this on a day-to-day basis.

Thinking ahead to elections and the role on how the council operates, you will need to elect a chair and vice chair. The position of the chair is to work with NOAA and set the agenda. The chair does run the meeting and certainly NOAA staff attends. The vice chair supports the chair in that leadership role. That’s the snapshot of the advisory council process and advisory council roles. I will now turn it over to Joe Hoyt who will talk more about the draft management plan.

Joe Hoyt, Chief Historian, Maritime Heritage Program - NOAA

Good morning everyone. As Ellen and everyone else has said it's really thrilling to hear everybody's unique perspectives of what they bring to the table. This is a fantastic group. I've had the chance to be a part of any of these processes and this approach is good and I just can't imagine a more perfect collection of people to help us get this across the finish line. I feel that I'm a kindred spirit. Just a little bit about me and my background. I was born and raised on the Great Lakes. I grew up on Lake Erie, so your neighbor to the West. I've had the opportunity through my career as an archeologist to work all over the world and there's no place I'd rather be than in the Great Lakes. I've had an opportunity to work up there and in Thunder Bay and when this proposal came to my attention there was no way they were going to keep me out of it. I'm thrilled to be here and my love for the Great Lakes borders on obsession so I can't wait to dive in and continue work with all of you and see this nomination get through.

I think one thing I want to make clear about what's unique about the sanctuary program and your involvement in it, is that there's not a one size fits all in the way we do business. The regulations and the management approach we have at sites whether it's in California or Florida or in the Pacific are not what we will have here in Lake Ontario. It's really a tailored approach where we look at the unique resources that we are trying to protect, the unique users that the community has that interact with those resources and we try to find ways we can balance those uses with protection. The tailoring process is really where you guys come in as the folks that care about these various elements and areas in the community. You help us to make our approach make the most sense for the particular focus that we have here in Lake Ontario.

As Ellen mentioned, there's really three legs of the stool that we need to produce to get this across the finish line and that's the environmental impact statement, the draft management plan and the proposed rule and so we will be seeking your input on all of those elements and I'm going to talk about today is the draft management plan which is the meatiest piece of it and I think at our next meeting will be addressing the environmental impact statement and proposed rule.

We need to tailor this to the specific needs of Lake Ontario but we start by looking at our tried and true playbook on how we approach things in other places. From a broad perspective those include resource protection plans, education and outreach, research and monitoring and sanctuaries operation. For each of these plans we will sit down, and we will provide you after this call, examples of existing plans like in Thunder Bay and of course the draft that we've begun to rough out for Lake Ontario. Each of these elements we go through a process to develop goals, objectives, strategies and activities that are specific to the needs of the resource in the area. What I want to do just really quickly while we have this compressed time here is give you an idea of what the draft management plan looks like and what it contains and the sort of things we will look for your input to contribute.

Resource protection. These are our kind of standard broad categories and there is a lot of room in here for us to fit these to the needs of Lake Ontario. We have begun looking at this based on our knowledge of what works at other sites and are in the process of trying to figure out what's going to make sense here. The broad focus here is to strengthen resource protection through resource specific initiatives and compliance with sanctuaries regulations while increasing public access. This includes looking at how we're going to assess recreational use of shipwrecks, understanding what impacts might be there and

how much activity is interacting and what kinds of things can we do to facilitate access but mitigate possible harm.

In other places we have developed mooring buoy systems to install shipwreck moorings like in Thunder Bay and Wisconsin. Those efforts are underway to make sure we are not limiting access but in most cases we are hoping to increase access but doing it in a way that is going to make sure that the resource is viable for as long as possible and we are getting as much benefit from it as we can and looking to address other threats to shipwrecks and enact programs to reduce impacts. This could be buoys, understanding how many divers are accessing these sites and what kinds of programs we can develop to make sure that we're doing those responsibly, looking at things like ROVs and other systems that might be interacting with these sights and if there are best practices that we can look at to make sure that as those activities move forwards they're done in a way that's beneficial to the resource.

We want to provide the information we learn and share that as broadly as possible to inform folks on the locations of wrecks, access points and make people aware of regulations. All elements of this will be heavily influenced by our co-management relationship with the State of New York. The State already has a lot of protections in place so as we develop this resource protection action plan in the management plan we are really looking for input from you, from the State and understanding where we can be complimentary in what we bring to the table.

Research and monitoring is another element of the action plan and again this is to protect sanctuary resources by inventorying, locating, documenting, assessing, managing and intruding the sanctuaries maritime heritage resources. So I would say that this is sort of fundamental to everything we do and you saw on the slide that Ellen provided that it was kind of the first bullet of what we do. We've already begun working on this because it feeds everything else. This feeds our environmental impact statement in understanding the resources that are there, it feeds our draft management plan, it feeds how we're going to approach resource protection, how we approach education and outreach so this is really foundational to understanding what's there. We've already begun working with Jim Kennard and Dennis McCarthy to get a better understanding of what's out there and begin to figure out how we can develop programs to best approach and manage these things such as conducting historical archival research which we have started to grapple with. Of course once we have identified sites that we believe are there that we don't know the locations to we conduct remote sensing and visual surveys to identify new sites and characterize known sites and then develop and maintain that in the GIS system which leads to our next action plan which is our education and outreach program.

The way we approach as a program, the way that we approach our research activities is we really try to have those research activities do dual purposes. They feed into our resource protection and our responsibilities for protecting these sites and what we need to do to be compliant with other preservation laws like NHPA but we want to make sure that the data that we're collecting also helps us tell a story and get people to care about these resources.

When we do our research activities we are trying to kill 2 birds with 1 stone and satisfy our management needs but also create products and programs that get people to engage with these resources and meaningful ways. At the high level here our goal is to provide innovative and place based educational opportunities to promote understanding, appreciation and involvement in the stewardship of sanctuary resources.

I think if anything is sort of the hallmark of the Office National Marine Sanctuaries is that we do this exceptionally well. We have programs that run the gamut from engaging with elementary school groups all the way up through facilitating history and National Geographic channel documentaries. It's really a pretty broad spectrum of activities. We promote marine technologies, weather and STEM education. We work in the local schools developing curriculum guides to help teachers to engage students in the unique resources that are in the sanctuary and then of course we become an aggregate site for brokering collaboration between visitor centers, museums, other NGOs and other folks that want to work and in the sanctuary and project that story out. There's a lot of opportunity to brand this and the area and develop unique programming.

It's through these broad categories that we will develop the management plan and our approach and we will be needing input to have this make the most sense for those resources. I'm confident hearing everybody's background that what you bring to the table will help guide us and make this even stronger. To date, we have roughed out some elements that we used in places like Wisconsin and Thunder Bay and then we would need to get your input to figure out what's going to make the most sense for Lake Ontario.

That's a pretty quick overview of the management plan. As mentioned, we will get the draft to you shortly and begin to figure out a way to go forward.

Ellen. Thank you Joe. Let's go to the participants and audience if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

What comes next: Next meeting. We believe that we will have monthly meetings at least for the next 3 to 4 months because we have a lot to do and we will be asking you to review the draft management plan and think about different approaches. We are going to propose the 3rd or 4th Thursday in the month which brings us to May. In terms of what we are talking about at the next meeting it will be more substance heavy. We did not talk about historical research, shipwrecks, alternatives, but in a month or two we want to present that to you and begin to get your input.

For our next meeting we want you to think about who you would want to elect but we will ask you in our follow up to this meeting if you would like to nominate yourself as chair or vice chair or if there is someone you would like to nominate. We will compile those names and get that to you at our next meeting. We could have folks that are being considered for those to make presentations.

We would like to set aside once a week where we hang out on a Google chat where you can get to know us and where we can get to know you. This is not required but an optional get together. Look for the proposed times for that to occur. Last time we used Google forms for getting your feedback and it worked great for us and hope it was user friendly for you.

Q: Gail Smith: Has there been a location identified yet for the sanctuary?

A: Ellen: The waters off the four counties of Lake Ontario. If the question is where we are selecting our office we are not certain. For advisory councils meetings we would like to meet in each county.

Q: Gail Smith: Interested in a vacant position on the SAC.

A: Ellen: Members of the council, if you know folks that are interested, please contact Pam or me.

Q: Greg Boyer: Can you let us know when there are council calls at other sanctuaries?

A: Ellen: Great question and yes.

Public Comments: All of our advisory council meetings are public. If we were in Oswego there would have been an opportunity for public comments.

There were no public comments noted.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2020

Meeting Attendees:

Ellen Brody

Matt Brookhart

Joe Hoyt

Pam Orlando

Maddie Roth

Ed Lindelof

Katie Denman

Julia Snouck-Hurgronje

Jean Prevo

Sophie Buckelare