

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES  
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – March 26, 2026**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Robert Boeri\*** (Gubernatorial Appointee, Dive Community Representative [at large])  
**Jack Chapin\*** (Designee of John Monaghan III, Colonel/Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)  
**Justin Malcolm\*** (Designee of Brona Simon, State Archaeologist)  
**Vincent Malkoski\*** (Gubernatorial Appointee, Dive Community Representative [organization])  
**Graham McKay\*** (Gubernatorial Appointee, Marine Archaeologist [at-large])  
**Jonathan Patton\*** (Designee of Gregory Robbins, Director of DCR Division of Waterways)  
**Daniel Sampson** (Designee of Alison Brizius, Director of Coastal Zone Management)  
**John Warner\*** (State Archivist)  
(\*present via remote access)

**David Robinson**, Director (Staff for the Board)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Designee of Brona Simon** (Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission)

**PROCEEDINGS:**

This hybrid-format (i.e., in-person and remote-access) public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources (the Board or BUAR) was convened by its Director, David Robinson (Dave R), at 12:31 PM on March 26, 2026 in the 9<sup>th</sup> floor conference room #9128 at 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, in Boston, with a quorum of eight (8) current members of the Board in attendance (7 remotely and 1 [Sampson] in-person), as confirmed by a roll-call.

The purpose of this public meeting was to conduct the BUAR's business that required the involvement of the full Board.

**Items on the agenda included:**

- approval of the January 29, 2026 Board meeting's minutes
- the Director's report
- Board Member reports
- a summary of the Board's Public Engagement Activities
- Old Business, and
- New Business.

Dave R explained that this meeting's hybrid format conforms with the Commonwealth's temporary provisions (now effective through June 30, 2027) pertaining to the Open Meeting Law that were signed by Governor Healey on March 28, 2025. These temporary provisions allow public bodies to continue holding their meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings. Board votes taken during this hybrid-format meeting were conducted through a roll-call, as required by MGL c. 30A, ss. 18-25.

Meeting ground-rules were reviewed and Board members, permittees, prospective permittees, and members of the public were all welcomed to the meeting by Dave R.

**1. MINUTES**

**A. Minutes of the January 29, 2026 Meeting of the Board**

Dave R asked if the Board had any comments or corrections to the draft minutes of the Board's January 29, 2026 public meeting. There were no comments or corrections to the minutes.

Robert Boeri moved to accept the minutes of the Board's January 29, 2026 public meeting. John Warner seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

## **2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **A. Fieldwork**

- Conomo Point Shipwreck Site Inspection/Condition Monitoring, Essex

On February 4, 2026, the Board's staff, accompanied by Board Member, Robert Boeri, Essex traditional boat-builder and BUAR volunteer, Harold Burnham, and citizen scientist, Glenn Anderson, conducted moon-low low-tide site inspection/site condition monitoring fieldwork at the Conomo Point shipwreck site, located in the intertidal zone of the Essex River in Essex. This fieldwork was part of BUAR's ongoing monitoring and adaptive management program for the site. The wreck's condition, any newly exposed hull elements, and changes to the surrounding environment were documented as part of the inspection. Significant changes to the site, since BUAR's previous site monitoring inspection on September 11, 2025, were observed. These changes included an eastward shift in the Walker's Creek channel about 15 feet away from the wreck. This shift has resulted in the partial reburial of the forward end of the vessel's hull remains. Exposure of the starboard side of the hull has also progressed further with more of its upper section that broke outward and away from the hull now exposed. Dave R shared with the Board and the meeting's participants a series of photographs of the site since its discovery in 2022 in a brief PowerPoint presentation on changes that had occurred to the site since that time.

### **B. Meetings**

- On February 4, 2026, the Board's staff met in-person with Harold Burnham and Mary Kay Taylor (Maritime Heritage Charters/Essex Shipbuilding Museum), Valerie Perini (Trustees of Reservations), and Carole McCauley (MassAudubon), to discuss future opportunities for continued collaboration with BUAR on the Massachusetts North Shore. Dave R reported that one of the opportunities identified included a joint BUAR-Trustees presentation by the Board's staff and Valerie Perini in October 2026 at the "Keeping History Above Water: Looking Back, Moving Forward" Conference, hosted by Newport Restoration Foundation, Newport, RI.
- On February 10, 2026, the Board's staff met via remote access with DCR's new Boston Harbor Islands District Manager, Kailie Benson, DCR Research Vessel Master, Greg Jones, and DCR Archaeologist and BUAR Board Member, Jonathan Patton. The purposes of the meeting, which was set up by Mr. Patton, were to: 1) introduce Kailie Benson and Dave R; 2) increase their familiarity with each other's programs; and 3) to discuss coordination logistics between BUAR, its permittees, and DCR's Boston Harbor Islands District staff for ongoing and future BUAR-permitted projects in Boston Harbor.
- On March 5, 2026, the Board's staff met in-person at the governmental offices of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (MWT) with David Weeden, MWT Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). Dave R was joined in the meeting by Dr. Brendan Foley, the former BUAR Board Member and Lund University researcher who obtained funding for the radiocarbon dating by Lund University of the precontact period Indigenous "bow find" discovered in the intertidal zone in Plymouth and reported to BUAR by citizen scientist, Tony Uva, in 2019. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss next steps in planning for the final disposition of the find. Discussions with the MWT THPO, and with the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) THPO, Bettina Washington, will continue with the goal of developing a mutually-agreeable, culturally sensitive, plan for the find.

### **C. Shipwreck Tagging Archaeological Management Program (STAMP) Update**

Dave R reported that on March 23, 2026, the BUAR and the University of West Florida's Board of Trustees (or "UWF") executed a 10-year Partner Use Memorandum of Agreement bringing the national Shipwreck Tagging Archaeological Management Program (or STAMP) to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Dave R acknowledged and thanked CZM leadership, Director Dr. Alison Brizius, and Assistant Director, Tyler Soleau, as well as EEA's legal counsel, Porter Read and Katrina ChicoJayMoore, for their assistance in adding STAMP to BUAR's resource management toolkit, which the Board's staff strives to make publicly engaging, forward-looking, and proactive.

STAMP is a standard program of the Florida Public Archaeology Network ("FPAN"), a unit of UWF, that is intended to respond to the need to document and track historic shipwreck timbers as they erode, uncover, move, and wash ashore along Florida's, and other states', shorelines. As part of STAMP's development, FPAN provides a training curriculum for teaching agency personnel and citizen scientists how to perform tagging of shipwreck timbers; create durable tags and concise documenting procedures; and collect a robust database to collate, archive, and make usable the accumulated timber data.

The STAMP Program is national in scope and FPAN has been pleased to allow other states and agencies to incorporate STAMP into their historical resource management plans to track timber movement.

In addition to FPAN and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, other STAMP Program Partners include the Maryland Historical Trust's Maritime Archaeology Program, the National Park Service's Submerged Resources Center, the Texas Historical Commission, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The Board's staff is coordinating implementation of BUAR's STAMP Program with the National Park Service's historic preservation staff at the Cape Cod National Seashore, where STAMP was adopted several years ago, to better ensure seamless, integrated STAMP coverage for the entire Massachusetts coast.

Dave R reported that he anticipates BUAR will implement the STAMP Program BUAR sometime in the late Spring or early Summer of 2026, and that its implementation will involve working with multiple regional partners throughout the state to provide new opportunities for greater public engagement and citizen science in the shared stewardship of the Commonwealth's underwater archeological heritage.

#### **D. BUAR Logo**

Dave R reported that after 53 years, a logo for BUAR to use in its digital and hard-copy public engagement materials had finally been developed by the Board's staff and CZM's Communications Team members, Anne Donovan and Betsy Rickards. The logo is several different shades of blue and features a trident (an ancient symbol associated with the sea, authority, protection, and the past, present, and future) forming part of, and interwoven through, the letters "BUAR," with "Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources" spelled out below it.

### **3. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

#### **A. Graham McKay**

In the interest of maintaining a new facet of the Board's public meetings (i.e., brief informative presentations, which began with the excellent presentation by Board member, Dr. John Warner's, colleagues on the Commonwealth's State Archives during the Board's December 2025 meeting, and was followed by the January 2026 presentation on the BUAR/CZM Project of Special Merit's results and next steps by the Board's Deputy Director, Dan Sampson, and Dave R), Board Member and Executive Director of Amesbury's National Register Historic Landmark, Lowell's Boat Shop, Graham McKay, gave a presentation on and virtual video-tour of the extraordinary Lowell's Boat Shop historic property. Established in 1793 by Simeon Lowell, the boat shop is the oldest continuously operating boat shop in the United States and has been cited as the birthplace of the legendary fishing dory. Initially producing 50- to 60-foot-long vessels, as well as gundalows, other river-craft, and "wherries" (small dory-like boats), Lowell's is the only

remaining survivor of the Gloucester fishing fleet's world-renowned dory manufacturing industry that produced more than a quarter of a million dories over a period of two centuries. Known for their efficiency, durability, and sea worthiness, at the business's height in 1911, Lowell's Boat Shop employed 16 staff and built 2,029 dories (completing an average of seven dories per day!). This extraordinary output was made possible by being one of the first in the nation to employ practices resembling assembly line manufacturing. Following the end of Gloucester's dory-based long-line fishing industry, Lowell's dories continued to be produced in smaller numbers for use by rowing clubs, hunting camps, the Boy and Girl Scouts, and the Lifesaving Service. Conveyed through seven generations of the Lowell family, Lowell's Boat Shop was passed to the Odell family in the 1980's, and then to the Newburyport Maritime Society in the 1990's. In 2006, Lowell's was purchased by Lowell's Maritime Foundation, an independent non-profit group with the mission of leading this National Landmark and Working Museum through its third century of wooden boat building. Mr. McKay reported that the boat shop is currently working on a 38-foot gig and he invited anyone interested in learning more to come visit. Lowell's Boat Shop is open to the public Tuesday through Friday between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm.

### **B. Vincent Malkoski**

Vincent Malkoski reported that the Boston Sea Rovers held its 72<sup>nd</sup> annual International Ocean Clinic on March 14-15, 2026. The Clinic was well-attended with lots of interesting presentations and exhibits, including several on the 1950s ocean liner shipwreck, *Andrea Doria*, and a particularly excellent presentation on Harold "Doc" Edgerton, given by his former student, and a scientific legend in his own right, Dr. Martin Klein. Dr. Edgerton (1903-1990) was an American scientist and researcher, and a professor of electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is largely credited with transforming the stroboscope from an obscure laboratory instrument into a commonly used device employed in high-speed stop-motion photography. He was also deeply involved with the development of sonar and deep-sea photography used for, among other purposes, searches for submerged shipwrecks. Dr. Klein is an American engineer and inventor who, following his studies with Dr. Edgerton, worked on the development of the first commercially-viable side-scan sonar system, a tool used extensively in maritime archaeology, deep-sea and coastal survey, marine geology, and offshore engineering and military applications. Mr. Malkoski reported that the Edgerton talk was video-recorded and that he would send out the link to it to interested Board members. Dave R and Mr. Malkoski plan to contact Dr. Klein to invite him to give a presentation on his extraordinary work at a future BUAR meeting.

## **4. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

### **A. Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall Monthly Veterans' Coffee, Hingham**

On March 20, 2026, the Board's staff was the invited guest speaker for the March meeting of the Hingham Veterans' Coffee group, and presented the talk, "Fearless Devotion: An Accounting of the Sinking and the Salvage of the US Submarine S-4." The talk was well-attended and the audience's questions and comments were numerous and interesting.

### **B. City of Quincy Department of Natural Resources Environmental Treasures Program Guided Tour: "Revolutionary History and Cultural Heritage at Squaw Rock," Quincy**

On March 21, 2026, the Board's staff and Robert Damon, the City of Quincy's Director of Historic and Heritage Resources, co-led the walking tour, "Revolutionary History and Cultural Heritage at Squaw Rock," in Quincy. The free tour was the latest installment of the City of Quincy's Department of Environmental Resources' "Environmental Treasures" tour program. The tour was well-attended with a sold-out crowd joining Dave R and Mr. Damon on a sunny, but blustery, day by the coast.

### **C. Hull Life Saving Museum, Hull**

On April 12, 2026, at 2:00 pm, the Board's staff will give a public presentation at the Hull Life Saving Museum in Hull. The presentation will provide a brief introduction to BUAR and summarize the recently completed BUAR/CZM Project of Special Merit.

#### **D. New Bedford Science Café, New Bedford**

On May 5, 2026, the Board's staff will give the invited free public presentation, "The Surprise Discovery of Revolutionary War Shipwrecks in New Bedford Harbor," as part of the New Bedford Science Café's public engagement series. The talk will take place at 6:00 pm at the Last Round Bar & Grille, 908 Purchase St., New Bedford.

### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Neil Good - Reconnaissance Permit (REC 24-002), Waquoit Bay, Falmouth and Mashpee**

Neil Good's Reconnaissance Permit (24-002) for his Waquoit Bay site in Falmouth and Mashpee was up for renewal. Mr. Good requested an extension of his permit's expiration date. If granted, this would be the first extension of this permit in the current permit year. Mr. Good was not in attendance to represent this permit. There was no further discussion.

Jack Chapin moved to grant Neil Good an extension of the expiration date of Reconnaissance Permit (24-002) for his Waquoit Bay site, with all standard and special conditions in effect. Special conditions require Mr. Good:

- 1) coordinate his activities with Tonna-Marie Surgeon-Rogers, the DCR Program Manager at the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve;
- 2) maintain regular communication with Jonathan Patton, the DCR State Parks Archaeologist; and;
- 3) maintain regular communication with David Weeden, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and Bettina Washington, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah).

The duration of this permit extension shall be until the next regular public meeting of the Board where a quorum is present, currently scheduled for May 28, 2026. Vincent Malkoski seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

#### **B. Raymond L. Hayes - Reconnaissance Permit (REC 07-001), Great Harbor, Woods Hole, Falmouth**

Dr. Raymond L. Hayes's Reconnaissance Permit (07-001) for his Great Harbor - Woods Hole site in Falmouth was up for renewal. Dr. Hayes had submitted a complete renewal application, fee payment, and annual report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Dr. Hayes was not in attendance to represent this permit. There was no further discussion.

Vincent Malkoski moved to grant Dr. Raymond L. Hayes renewal of his Reconnaissance Permit (07-001) for the exploration and inspection of underwater archaeological resources at his Great Harbor-Woods Hole site in Falmouth, with all standard and special conditions in effect. The duration of this permit shall be one year from the date of issuance with its new expiration date set as March 26, 2027. Justin Malcolm seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

#### **C. Michael Margulis - Reconnaissance Permit (REC 24-001), Salisbury**

Michael Margulis's Reconnaissance Permit (REC 24-001) for his Salisbury site was up for renewal. Mr. Margulis had submitted a complete renewal application, fee payment, and annual report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Mr. Margulis was in attendance to represent this permit. Mr. Margulis thanked the

Board for its support and guidance during the permit year and for considering renewal of his permit. Mr. Margulis reported that it had been an interesting year of diving within the permit area, and that anchor chain and a lead fishing-weight had been observed on the surface of the seafloor. These finds were reported to the Board's staff. Mr. Margulis reported that historical sources he has reviewed document lots of wrecks, some dating as far back as the 1600s, most off which struck rocks, in his permit area. Mr. Margulis reported that he planned to utilize old magnetic survey data obtained from Victor Ricardo, the previous permit holder in the area, and looked forward to continuing diving activities in the coming year, should the Board renew his permit. There was no further discussion.

Graham McKay moved to grant Michael Margulis renewal of his Reconnaissance Permit (24-001) for his Salisbury site, with all standard and special conditions in effect. Special conditions require:

- 1) Mr. Margulis to coordinate any on-site activities with Michael Magnifico, the DCR facility (Salisbury Beach State Reservation) staff;
- 2) DCR facility staff determine when activities on site take place;
- 3) Mr. Margulis coordinate with Jonathan Patton, the DCR State Parks Archaeologist;
- 4) that no excavation activities can take place under this permit; and
- 5) that no cultural materials leave the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts without the prior written approval of the Board's staff.

The duration of this permit shall be one year from the date of issuance with its new expiration date set as March 26, 2027. John Warner seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

**D. SEARCH, Inc. (SUP 23-002) - Neptune Deepwater Port & Submarine Pipeline Decommissioning (Atlantic Ocean – Gloucester)**

SEARCH, Inc.'s Special Use Permit (23-002) for the marine archaeological assessment of the Massachusetts state waters of the Atlantic Ocean off Gloucester portion of the Neptune Deepwater Port & Submarine Pipeline Decommissioning project area was up for renewal. SEARCH, Inc.'s Principal Investigator for the project, Ben Wells, working with his colleague at SEARCH, Inc., Therese Westman, had submitted a complete renewal application and annual report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Ms. Westman was in attendance to represent this permit. Ms. Westman reported that the permit was being renewed to cover the potential implementation of the project's Unanticipated Discovery Plan once decommissioning activities are underway. There was no further discussion.

Robert Boeri moved to grant SEARCH, Inc. renewal of their Special Use Permit (23-002) for the marine archaeological assessment of the Massachusetts state waters of the Atlantic Ocean off Gloucester portion of the Neptune Deepwater Port & Submarine Pipeline Decommissioning project area, with all the standard and special conditions in effect. The duration of this permit shall be one year from the date of issuance with its new expiration date set as March 26, 2027. Jack Chapin seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

Dave R thanked the Board, permittees, and members of the public who attended the meeting, and reminded everyone that the next regularly-scheduled public meeting of the Board will be at **12:30 pm** on **Thursday, May 28, 2026**. This next meeting will also be held in a hybrid format and accessible both remotely and as an in-person meeting in CZM/BUAR's offices on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor at 100 Cambridge Street in Boston. Instructions for accessing the meeting remotely or in-person will be posted prior to the meeting on the [Board's Public Meetings Information webpage](#). Permittees and interested members of the public were

encouraged to monitor the BUAR webpage's Public Meetings Information section for other updates, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes.

Vincent Malkoski moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:21 PM. Justin Malcom seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,  
David S. Robinson  
Director