

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – 25 MARCH 2004**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Bell (Designee of Cara Metz, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission)
Kathleen Dolan (Designee of Richard Murray, Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)
Terry French (Designee of John Warner, State Archivist)
Lenny Loparto (Designee of Brona Simon, State Archaeologist)
Kevin Mooney (Designee of Nancy Thornton, Director of DCR Division of Waterways)
Joe Pelczarski (Designee of Thomas Skinner, Director of Coastal Zone Management)
Victor Mastone, Director (Staff for the Board)
David Trubey, Deputy Director (Staff for the Board)
Brendan Foley (Marine Archaeologist) – pending reappointment

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marcie Bilinski (Dive Community Representative)
John Hoagland (Dive Community Representative)

PROCEEDINGS:

The public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources was convened by the Director, Victor Mastone, at 1:30 PM on 25 March 2004 in the CZM Conference Room at 251 Causeway Street, Boston.

1. MINUTES

A. Minutes of 29 January 2004

Victor asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes of the public meeting held on 29 January 2004. There were no comments or corrections to the minutes.

Joe Pelczarski moved to accept the minutes of the public meeting held on 29 January 2004. Terry French seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Victor reported that Richard Murray would be retiring from the Massachusetts Environmental Police and therefore his position on the Board. Dick has been the longest sitting member with thirteen years of service as both a gubernatorial and statutory appointee. Victor asked the Board members to officially recognize Dick's dedication and commitment, which has helped to solidify their support for the underwater archaeology program. He added that Dick's work has provided the Board not only with vessels and operators when needed, but also with regular law enforcement representation at its meetings throughout the years.

A. Resolution in Recognition of Richard Murray

Kevin Mooney moved: It is resolved by the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources to express its appreciation and gratitude to Richard Murray, Director of Environmental Law Enforcement, for his thirteen years of service to the Board. Since 1991, Richard has participated in Board meetings with enthusiasm, contributed direct assistance to the Board's field projects and has successfully incorporated the Board's mission of promoting and protecting the underwater archaeological resources of the

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Commonwealth with that of the Massachusetts Environmental Police. Joe Pelczarski seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So resolved.

B. Administrative Changes

Victor reported that he would be leaving his position as Acting Assistant Secretary of Administration and Finance for the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Although he was not certain when his replacement would be hired, he stated that he expects to be dedicating one hundred percent of his time to the Board by July 1st of this year.

3. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Massachusetts Ocean Management Task Force

Joe Pelczarski reported that he received the Board's comments regarding the draft recommendations of the Massachusetts Ocean Management Task Force and that he has posted them on the Coastal Zone Management webpage. Victor added that the Board would also be providing comments on the Task Force's final report entitled *Waves of Change* and its accompanying Technical Report.

B. Massachusetts Archaeology Month

Ed Bell reported that the Massachusetts Historical Commission has sent out information regarding this year's expansion of Archaeology Week to Archaeology Month. He noted that the application for organizations wishing to sponsor an event is available on the Commission's website. Victor stated that the Board is currently organizing at least one event, possibly two, to be held at separate venues. One event will likely be a mini symposium similar to last year's with a more hands on educational based theme for the second. David Trubey added that he has had discussions with the staff of the Customs House Maritime Museum, which is interested in co-sponsoring one of the events again this year.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: OUTREACH

A. Bay State Council of Divers

Victor reported that he attended the February meeting of the Bay State Council of Divers. The organization meets on what is close to a bi-monthly schedule with the purpose of bringing the various Massachusetts dive clubs together to discuss the issues facing recreational divers. He noted that the organization is currently working on the idea of establishing an artificial reef in Massachusetts Bay. This project has been in the exploratory stage for quite some time with the organization collecting data on bottom conditions and topography at a proposed site near Graves Island in Massachusetts Bay. Chris Hugo of the Council stated the data collection is complete and the group is waiting for Vin Malkowski of the Department of Marine Fisheries to examine them. Joe Pelczarski noted that an artificial reef was constructed at Sculpin Ledge near Spectacle Island and in this particular case, rubble that was dumped in the area had more marine growth than the engineered square structures that were to form the foundation of the reef. Chris added that the Council was hoping to utilize decommissioned vessel as a reef, but that environmental concerns have made this an unlikely proposition. Kevin Mooney agreed that the process for cleaning a vessel to the point where it is acceptable to sink is very costly and time consuming. Joe Pelczarski asked how deep the water is in the proposed reef area. Chris Hugo responded that the maximum depth is approximately 55 feet.

B. Boston Sea Rovers

David Trubey reported that he attended the Saturday session of the Boston Sea Rovers 50th Underwater Clinic on March 6th. In addition to participating in the History Submerged seminar, David visited the dive club booths and local dive charter operations. Literature on the Board was available at the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries booth. David noted that interest in shipwrecks among divers was evident from the filled to capacity shipwreck discussions. Among the presentations he attended were *The Bianca C*, as discussion of a

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700 ft. Italian ocean liner that sank in 1961 off Grenada, and the *USS Murphy*, a discussion of the loss of this WWII Destroyer off New Jersey. Christopher Hugo added that he attended a presentation on Sunday by Arne Carr, which discussed the search for and discovery of the six-masted schooner *Wyoming*.

C. Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Maritime Archaeology Working Group

Victor reported that he attended the fifth meeting of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Archaeology Working Group in Scituate on March 16th. The group has been working for the past several months on developing a management plan for submerged cultural resources within the sanctuary boundaries. Victor stated that the plan being developed might assist the Board in developing its own resource management plans for shipwrecks in state waters.

D. Salem Sound Coastwatch Lecture

Victor reported that he presented a lecture entitled Submerged History: Underwater in Massachusetts Archaeology on March 24th at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem. The lecture was cosponsored by Salem Sound Coastwatch and the museum. The presentation was well received by the approximately fifty attendees.

E. Customs House Maritime Museum Shipwreck Exhibit

Victor reported that the Customs House Maritime Museum is planning an exhibit that will feature shipwrecks of the North Shore. The museum has asked the Board to provide information on its work, particularly the permitting of isolated finds, to be included in this exhibit, scheduled to open in a few weeks. Hopefully, this information will encourage the local fishing community to report the locations of areas in which it inadvertently recovers artifacts in fishing nets, etc.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Underwater Discoveries Unlimited

Victor reported that Underwater Discoveries Unlimited (UDU) had submitted its Excavation Permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board's Regulations. Oscar Snow was in attendance to present the application on behalf of UDU.

Mr. Snow reminded the Board that UDU tested its prop wash deflector last season in the manner requested by the Board and had provided the Board with the results. He stated that rough seas and medical problems greatly limited the number of trips that were made to the site. He hopes that with everything in place this year, including the vessel, equipment and the commitment of his archaeologist, UDU will have a more productive field season.

Regarding the prop wash deflector, Victor asked if UDU is planning to continue with testing its performance or if it is satisfied with the results of last season's experiment. Mr. Snow replied that he does not believe it is necessary to continue testing, as they know the depth of the sand in the area and the device's capabilities. Victor asked if this winter's weather had brought more sand onto the site than in previous years. Mr. Snow replied that he has photographs that clearly show the extent of the sand deposits and that he will present them to the Board when he visits again.

Mr. Snow explained to the Board that he is searching for a small section of planking that reportedly washed onto the beach in the vicinity of his permit area at the same time as the timbers that are now housed at National Park Service facility. The planking reportedly contains a number of pegs and corresponding holes.

Lenny Loparto asked Mr. Snow if he anticipates utilizing the prop wash deflector to excavate this season. Mr. Snow replied that UDU intends to deploy the device at two locations within the permit area as soon as possible. Lenny asked what UDU will do if artifacts are encountered during this process. Mr. Snow stated that all work would stop, the Board would be notified, the area would be photographed and his archaeologist would take over. Brendan Foley asked if UDU has a plan in place to record the locations of artifacts and if so, what

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technique would be utilized. Mr. Snow replied that there is a plan on file that involves the placing of a grid over the site by UDU divers. The grid would likely be comprised of steel rods. Lenny suggested that Mr. Snow document the locations of both the prop wash deflector tests that were conducted last year and any areas that it is used this season in his Annual Report for 2004. Mr. Snow stated that everything has been and will be carefully documented. Lenny asked if UDU has outfitted its research vessel with an airlift. Mr. Snow responded that they have four and six inch airlifts that can easily be placed on board.

Ed Bell stated he had hoped to see more details concerning the archaeological methodology proposed for this project, particularly plans for accurately recording artifact and feature locations. Mr. Snow stated that the basic excavation strategy is to deploy the prop wash deflector to remove the sand overburden only to the point where artifacts are detected and not harmed. Divers would then deploy an airlift to remove the remaining sand around the artifact or feature. At this time, the metal grid would be constructed and placed over the site and the artifacts would be photographed and their locations mapped within the grid. Mr. Snow added that the project archaeologist would then make a determination regarding recovery of the artifacts. Kevin Mooney asked Mr. Snow if UDU had submitted a plan for the recovery of artifacts. Victor Mastone replied that UDU had submitted such a plan with its 2000 and 2002 reports.

Brendan Foley asked Mr. Snow how UDU would know and maintain the location of its grid. Mr. Snow responded that the research vessel will be anchored directly over the site and the vessel's location will be recorded using GPS and Loran. Brendan asked if the grid would be removed and repositioned at other times and if so, how the team would know where to place the grid so that its location is consistent. Mr. Snow stated that the grid would be anchored in place with a permanent mooring that will serve as the datum point. Brendan expressed his concern that unless the grid is placed in the exact same spot every time, the location data will never match up from one dive to another.

Victor suggested that Mr. Snow have UDU's project archaeologist provide a more detailed plan in writing concerning the methodology proposed for such tasks as recording artifact locations and in particular, establishing a consistent datum. Kevin Mooney suggested that UDU utilize onshore structures to assist with establishing a datum.

Lenny Loparto asked Mr. Snow if UDU's archaeologist visited the site during last year's field season. Mr. Snow stated that she did not because UDU did not get any further in its fieldwork than the testing of the prop wash deflector due to rough weather and medical problems with his nephew. He added that deploying the device in anything other than calm seas could put the divers and the vessel in danger.

Joe Pelczarski asked if UDU has kept current with its permit from the Wellfleet Conservation Commission. Mr. Snow stated that he is in contact with the Commission as well as the Cape Cod National Seashore several times a year and he always informs both organizations as to when UDU will be in the field and what it will be doing. Victor asked Mr. Snow when he expects that UDU would be in the field this year. Mr. Snow stated that he hopes to be on site sometime in June.

Ed Bell suggested that in addition to the conditions currently in place for this permit, the Board move to require UDU's project archaeologist to provide an updated, more detailed research design methodology describing how the site will be excavated, how artifact provenience will be recorded, how materials will be recovered and conserved. Kevin Mooney asked Mr. Snow if UDU has selected a conservation lab, as that is typically a requirement for the issuance of an Excavation Permit. Victor stated that Mr. Snow had previously considered setting up his own conservation lab, which would be managed by the project archaeologist. Mr. Snow replied he is still considering setting up his own lab and that he would provide the Board with the possible locations. Ed asked Mr. Snow if he had taken into consideration the expense of setting up a conservation lab in terms of space, materials, etc. as opposed to contracting with an existing qualified lab. Mr. Snow replied that he had not given it a lot of thought because UDU has not recovered anything to date. He added that he would like to keep everything in house. Ed suggested that he research the cost involved before making a decision on this. Mr. Snow thanked Ed for the suggestion and stated that he would consider it.

Kevin Mooney moved to renew the Excavation Permit (96-001) held by Underwater Discoveries Unlimited for its Wellfleet site with all standard conditions in effect and with the further conditions that: 1) the permittee coordinate all activities with the staff of the Cape Cod National Seashore; 2) the permittee's project archaeologist

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provide a research design methodology detailing proposed excavation techniques and plans for recording the provenience of recovered materials; and 3) the permittee submit a more detailed plan regarding the handling and conservation artifacts, including the proposed location of a conservation facility. Kathleen Dolan seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Kevin Mooney moved that approval of UDU's submissions pursuant to the renewal of its permit will be completed prior to UDU's recovery of any cultural materials. Such approval will be delegated to the staff of the Board following receipt of comments from those Board members wishing to comment. Joe Pelczarski seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

B. Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Victor reported that Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) had submitted its Reconnaissance Permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Victor reminded the Board that it had, at PAL's request, granted an extension of this permit due to significant delays in the proposed dam repair project at Slaters Pond in Oxford. PAL had hoped that the Town of Oxford would be ready to go forward with the project prior to today's meeting and PAL could complete its survey under the existing permit's duration. However, the project has been further delayed. Victor added that due to the fact that there was no change in the scope of work or the proposed methodology, and the Board is very familiar with this project, a representative of PAL was not required to attend today's meeting.

Ed Bell reported that the State Archaeologist has renewed the permit for the terrestrial component of this project until March 2005.

Lenny Loparto moved to renew the Reconnaissance Permit (03-001) held by Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. for its Slaters Pond, Oxford site with all standard conditions in effect. Terry French seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Wrecks 2004 Symposium

Chris Hugo reported that the Metro West Dive Club would be holding its 12th annual wreck diving show on April 17th. This year's show will include presentations on the discovery of the *YF-415* and the rediscovery of the steamship *Portland*.

Kathleen Dolan moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 PM. Terry French seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor T. Mastone
Director