

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES  
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – 26 MAY 2005**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ed Bell (Designee of Cara Metz, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historic Commission)  
Marcie Bilinski (Dive Community Representative)  
Kathleen Dolan (Designee of James Hanlon, Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)  
Terry French (Designee of John Warner, State Archivist)  
John Hoagland (Dive Community Representative)  
Lenny Loparto (Designee of Brona Simon, State Archaeologist)  
Kevin Mooney (Designee of Nancy Thornton, Director of DCR Division of Waterways)  
Victor Mastone, Director (Staff for the Board)  
David Trubey, Deputy Director (Staff for the Board)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Brendan Foley (Marine Archaeologist)  
Joseph Pelczarski (Designee of Susan Snow-Cotter, Director of Coastal Zone Management)

**PROCEEDINGS:**

The public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources was convened by the Director, Victor Mastone, at 1:31 PM on 26 May 2005 in the CZM Conference Room at 251 Causeway Street, Boston.

**1. MINUTES**

**A. Minutes of 31 March 2005**

Victor reported that due to an unusually large number of project reviews during the past month, the minutes of the meeting of 31 March 2005 were not ready to be voted on at today's meeting. He added that the minutes have been drafted and are awaiting his review.

**CHANGE IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS** – Victor changed the order of business by moving directly to **OLD BUSINESS** to accommodate the schedules of the permittees present.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Philip D. Greco Associates, Inc.**

Victor reported that Philip D. Greco Associates, Inc. (PGA) had submitted its Reconnaissance Permit renewal applications and Annual Reports in accordance with the Board's regulations. Philip Greco was in attendance to present the application on behalf of PGA.

Mr. Greco reported that winter storms have removed a considerable amount of sand from his sites exposing more materials including what appear to be bars of tin that were observed during previous field season. He noted that his project historian has determined there were at least seven tin shipwrecks in the vicinity of the permit areas and he is hoping that an examination of the tin might offer clues to its origin and help identify from which vessel they came.

Mr. Greco stated that his organization purchased a new boat from Florida last year and is currently working on a robotic tracker, which he anticipates will be ready for the field in two to three weeks. He noted that the device is heavier than they expected and has to be fitted with stronger motors. He invited members of the Board to visit his sites this summer and expressed his confidence that this will be a productive year in the field.

Victor asked Mr. Greco if the team had overcome earlier problems with its video equipment. Mr. Greco replied that everything should be working this season and they now have some backup equipment. Kathleen Dolan asked if the new boat is in Massachusetts at this time. Mr. Greco stated that the new boat, which he described as big and heavy, has

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been here since last July and was utilized in the field in August and September. He noted that they are still getting used to it and recalled an incident in which they ran over one of their video cables and nearly ended up running aground.

John Hoagland moved to grant renewal of the Reconnaissance Permit (92-001) held by Philip D. Greco Associates, Inc. for its Eastham/Wellfleet site with all standard conditions in effect. Kathleen Dolan seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Kevin Mooney moved to grant renewal of the Reconnaissance Permit (92-002) held by Philip D. Greco Associates, Inc. for its Wellfleet site with all standard conditions in effect. Terry French seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

**C. Victor Ricardo**

Victor reported that Victor Ricardo had submitted his Reconnaissance Permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Victor stated that he was very pleased with Mr. Ricardo's paperwork, which he described as much improved over past years. He noted that Mr. Ricardo utilized the new application forms approved by the Board at the March meeting. Mr. Ricardo was in attendance to represent his application.

After introducing Mike Starkey, master diver and crewmember, Mr. Ricardo reported that he had a difficult 2004 field season. Following delays with his mooring that kept in out of the water until July, Mr. Ricardo encountered rough seas, which sank his dinghy twice in early August. He added that he had to be rescued by the Newburyport Marine Patrol. In September, Mr. Ricardo made another attempt to get on site, only to find that the float switch for his bilge pump was stuck in the upward position resulting in the continuous running of the pump and eventual draining all of the boat's batteries. The boat accumulated a significant amount of water forcing him to haul it out for the season. Mr. Ricardo replaced this boat in December with a new, lighter boat and equipped it with new electronics including GPS, VHF and depth finder. He provided the Salisbury Beach State Reservation staff with a description, photos and registration numbers of the new boat and is in the process of replacing the aluminum fuel tank with a new one made of polypropylene.

Mr. Ricardo reported that he continues to research newspapers for information regarding his site and routinely walks the beach in front of his permit area. He noted that despite the large amount of displaced sand on Hampton Beach from the recent spring storms, it does not appear that much sand moved on shore adjacent to his permit area. Mr. Ricardo reported that he recently met with archaeologist Robert Cembrola in Newport, Rhode Island. He provided Mr. Cembrola with information regarding the ship for which he is searching and potential shipwreck sites in Rhode Island. Mr. Ricardo stated the Mr. Cembrola has agreed to serve as his project archaeologist should the project move to the excavation level and that he would have access to a conservation lab. Mr. Ricardo asked Victor if Mr. Cembrola had contacted the Board. Victor responded that he had not and that Mr. Cembrola should right a letter to the Board confirming his involvement in the project if Mr. Ricardo applies for an excavation permit. In response to a question asked at by the Board last year during his permit renewal hearing, Mr. Ricardo presented newspaper documentation regarding the history of the ship for which he is searching.

Kathleen Dolan asked Mr. Ricardo about the video recordings he has made during past field seasons, specifically what he is filming. Mr. Ricardo replied that his system consists of sled-mounted cameras connected to a monitor, recorder and GPS unit. He is recording characteristics of the seafloor in an attempt to locate targets and monitor changes in conditions. Some of his past video work has identified what appeared to be bones and more recently a variety of pottery including unusually shaped olive jars. Mr. Ricardo noted that most of the time, all he sees in his permit area is sand, which he believes is a result of the US Army Corps of Engineers depositing dredge spoil from the Merrimack River a short distance offshore. Victor stated that it would be helpful for the Board to see some of the images of artifacts that Mr. Ricardo has recorded. Mr. Ricardo responded that he would produce duplicate images of the artifacts, but that he only had one tape of the material that appeared to be bone and it was passed on to the State Police two years ago as part of a possible crime scene investigation. Victor stated that he would find out where the tape is currently located and if it can be returned or copied.

Lenny Loparto suggested that Mr. Ricardo produce a site map based on the locations of artifacts detected with the video cameras. Mr. Ricardo acknowledge Lenny's suggestion, but stated that the coordinates are not be completely accurate because the GPS antenna is located on his boat, approximately 30 - 50 feet ahead of the cameras. David Trubey stated that if Mr. Ricardo keeps a log of his video survey runs including such information as headings, time, and the layback of the cameras, it would be fairly easy to correct the GPS coordinates to match the camera locations. Mr.

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Ricardo replied that he does keep such a log and would look into it. Lenny added that the maps could be updated on a regular bases and would help Mr. Ricardo keep better track of his survey and recognize depositional patterns. Mr. Ricardo asked if he would need any other equipment to produce these maps. Lenny replied that plotting the locations by hand on a chart would suffice. Victor added that there are software packages on the market that will do this for him and that David could provide assistance in creating a GIS file. Mr. Ricardo showed the Board some of his magnetometer records and log entries.

Kevin Moony moved to grant renewal of the Reconnaissance Permit (94-001) held by Victor Ricardo for his Salisbury site with all standard conditions in effect and the further conditions that Mr. Ricardo coordinate with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) facility (Salisbury Beach State Reservation) staff and the DCR Office of Historic Resources for any on site activities; the DCR staff determine when activities on site take place; no excavation activities take place under this permit; and that no cultural materials leave the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts except with the prior written approval of the Board. Kathleen Dolan seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

**B. Nipmuc Nation – Tribal Historic Preservation Office**

Victor reported that the Reconnaissance Permit held by the Nipmuc Nation – Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NNTHPO) for its site in Worcester is up for renewal and that the NNTHPO has submitted its renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with Board regulations. Rae Gould, Nipmuc Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Cheryl Stedtler, Project Director, were unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments. Victor reminded the Board that as this is not a new permit application, a representative of the permittee is not required to be present. He noted that NNTHPO's renewal application and Annual Report are extremely detailed and should provide the Board with answers to most of its questions.

John Hoagland stated that it appears the project is currently in the fund raising mode. Victor agreed and stated that once a funding source is identified, the permittee will likely request a change in permit status from reconnaissance to excavation as a limited amount of excavation will be required in order to properly recover the dugouts. While the organization had originally intended to recover only one, it now appears it will attempt to recover all three. Victor noted that as long as they have a good conservation plan in place, he does not think the additional dugouts will pose a problem. The project seems to be receiving more interest from the local lake community. Victor added that the Board should ask Ms. Gould for a copy of her recent paper regarding the project and that although he was not able to attend her session at a recent conference, he heard the paper was very good.

John Hoagland moved to renew the Reconnaissance Permit (01-001) held by the Nipmuc Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office for its Worcester site with all standard conditions in effect. Kevin Mooney seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

**CHANGE IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS** – Victor returned to the regular order of business.

**2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**A. Working Group on Marine Protected Areas**

Victor reported that the Secretary of Environmental Affairs has appointed him to her Working Group on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The Working Group's charge is to develop recommendations to the Secretary regarding a formal process, criteria, and information standards for developing MPAs in state waters. To date, the group has met three times.

In a related matter, Victor reported that he was asked by NOAA's Marine Protected Areas Center to serve on a planning committee at its Great Lakes/Northeast/Mid-Atlantic MPA Workshop. The workshop, to be held in Chicago on June 28-29<sup>th</sup>, is the third in a series entitled, *Developing State Recommendations for a National System of Marine Protected Areas*. He noted that there is both a federal commission and a presidential executive order for NOAA to study this issue and develop guidelines.

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**B. Medical Examiner's Office Mutual Aid**

Victor reported that he and David had an informal meeting with Dr. Anne Marie Mires of the Chief Medical Examiner's Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss mutual aid issues, particularly the Board's assistance in cold case investigations in which there are underwater components that would benefit from archaeological techniques. Victor reminded the Board that he and David assisted Dr. Mires last June during an investigation in Townsend.

**3. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

There were no Board member reports.

**4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: OUTREACH**

**A. Bay State Council of Divers**

Victor reported that he attended the meeting of the Bay State Council of Divers on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Among the issues discussed were plans to create an artificial reef and concerns among the diving community regarding ocean management issues, specifically a feeling that the recreational diving is being largely ignored in the planning process. Victor noted that he shared with the members a side scan image of a shipwreck located during one of the recent pipeline surveys.

**B. Conference on New England Archaeology**

Victor reported that he and David attended the 25 Annual Conference on New England Archaeology on May 7<sup>th</sup> in Old Sturbridge Village. The conference was well attended and included two sessions on underwater archaeology. The first, entitled "Diamonds in the Rough: Coal Transport and the American Revolution in Rhode Island" was presented by Kerry Lynch of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and D.K. Abbass of the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project. The second, entitled "Maritime Heritage and Shipwrecks of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary" was presented by Matthew Lawrence and Deborah Marx. Victor reported that he was elected to the conference's steering committee and noted that there seems to be growing interest among attendees in encouraging greater representation of underwater archaeology at future meetings.

**C. NASOH Conference**

Victor reported that he attended the Annual Conference of the North American Society of Oceanic (NASOH) History in Savannah on May 18-22. One of the papers he attended concerned the pre Civil War coastal shipping trade of Georgia. Of interest to him was that, according to this paper, a large proportion of the ships and captains that were employed in this trade were from southeastern Massachusetts, particularly the Buzzards Bay area, which was referred to as the Sippican Coast. The paper also suggested that this area had a much larger shipbuilding industry than people typically think and a shipbuilding tradition that was quite different than that of the North Shore. Victor stated that the conference was an excellent opportunity for him to discuss common issues with his colleagues from Georgia, Florida, Maryland, South Carolina and Texas. He noted that he is the Program Chairperson for the 2006 conference, which will be held at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc in early June.

**D. Cape Cod Maritime History Symposium**

Victor reported that David attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Cape Cod Maritime History Symposium in Hyannis on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The event was sponsored by the Cape Cod Maritime Research Association and featured a wide variety of presentations on such topics as early shore whaling on the Cape, the American China trade, and the archaeological remains of the American coasting trade in the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

**E. Wreck Watchers Program**

Victor reported that he and David are working with the Newburyport Maritime Society in developing a wreck watchers program that would encourage participation from non-diving volunteers in a casual manner. The program would present this group with a training module, which would teach participants to recognize shipwreck components on local

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beaches and provide some preliminary documentation such as their location, photographs, basic measurements and the noting of features. The volunteers would not collect the material, but would pass this information onto the Board's staff. Victor noted that in the field of underwater cultural resource management, many of his colleagues concentrate their outreach effort on the recreational diving community. This program will be geared toward people who are not interested in diving, but walk the beaches on a regular basis and may have an interest in local maritime history. Victor added that there are lots of volunteer groups and opportunities in the field of terrestrial archaeology, but very few for maritime archaeology because of the perception that all the sites are underwater and require scuba training in order to visit them. However, areas such as Plum Island have numerous onshore shipwrecks that are typically only visible after major coastal storms. There are people who are very interested in these types of wrecks and the program could be a way of connecting this audience to the material culture.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

Kevin Mooney moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 PM. Marcie Bilinski seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor T. Mastone  
Director