

FAGATELE BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 24, 2012

DOC Conference Room

1:00-3:30PM

Welcome, Gene Brighthouse

We will defer item #1 in the agenda and move on to the status updates.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Dick Clark

Based in Columbia, SC. Set up the hyperbaric chamber and involved in training operators. The unit is fully operational but must have an operator become certified. James Sunia is registered to come to the June training course. The chamber will be used for diving injuries, but mostly for treatment of non-diving injuries, such as diabetic patients. Normally, 60% of patients treated are for post-radiation therapy side effects. The chamber will likely mostly be used to treat wounds in diabetic patients. New work indicates children with diabetes might benefit greatly from treatment.

Jeff Gray

We have two hyperbaric chambers in Alpena, which also has a large diabetic population. It has treated people for carbon monoxide poisoning, prevented amputations from diabetic complications, and treated several diving injuries.

Thunder Bay has many well-preserved shipwrecks. Initially, 70% of people in the area voted against starting a sanctuary there, with the thought of “keeping the federal government out of our backyard”, now that the community is more connected with the resource, all local agencies are in support of expansion by 10 times. They have many business connections, and focus on trying to get students out on the water to connect with the resource. They have a visitors center that gets 70,000 visitors per year and there is a glass-bottomed boat that does tours. They are involved in the Pure Michigan ads.

They have worked with Alpena Community College to start a Marine Technology program. They are working to develop a Friends program to help with fundraising and volunteer recruitment.

NOAA Holling’s Scholars

Autumn R. is developing a green operations plan for the new building. Working to have better energy use, transportation, etc. Goal is to make it a model for the community. Austin C. will be doing an economic valuation of the reefs under climate change. Looking at the average willingness to pay to prevent reef damage.

Charity Porotesano

Where visitors will be coming from, given the expensive nature of travel to AS?

Jeff Grey

Not everyone will want to come, but there are fabulous natural and cultural resources to attract people.