TWSBA Conference

Indigenous Boats Panel Discussion

Mystic Seaport 10­18­2013

Moderator ­ Dave Helgerson ­ Alexandria Seaport Foundation

Panel Members ­ Dick Wagner, Sam Low, Mike Volmar

1. Haida Native Americans have collaborated with the Center for Wooden Boats since 1999 to

carve 10 canoes, ranging from 30' to 60 ‘ in length.

2. The Fruitlands Museum in Massachusetts has built a log canoe by using traditional methods of

3. A Polynesian double hull voyaging canoe has been built and continues to sail large distances of

4. Haida and other NW Native American tribes paddle canoes to the Center for Wooden Boats in

Seattle every year resulting in exchange of knowledge and understanding of their respective

5. In Nanaimo, there is a large cedar log building which was constructed using native skills and

6. A noted Polynesian navigator came to Hawaii and reintroduced ancient navigation skills using

7. Polynesian navigation is a construct of both science and religion ­ i.e. “If you do things right,

8. Marshall Islands navigation charts made of reeds and shells depict the bending of wave trains

9. Cedar logs have been provided from the Pacific NW to Hawaii to provide traditional material to

10. The construction of a Hawaiian voyaging canoe caused dissension between native Hawaiians

and those who contributed to the project and it took 40 years to resolve.

11. Indigenous watercraft are but a representation of a culture.