



Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee General Membership Meeting

**1000 - 1200
Wednesday, March 12, 2014**

**Venue: Port of Vancouver
3103 NW Lower River Road
Vancouver, Washington**

Managing Board Members Present					
Name of Member and Alternate	Agency/ Industry/ Organization	Sector	Name of Member and Alternate	Agency/ Industry/ Organization	Sector
Robin Wright	Merchants Exchange	Associations	Eric Burnette	Port of Portland	Ports
Anne McIntyre	Columbia River Pilots	Pilots	Susan Johnson	OR Board of Maritime Pilots	State Agencies
Jon Gornick	US Army Corps of Engineers	Federal Agencies	Jim Townley	P.I.E.	Association
Roman Geigle	NWFF Environmental	Port & Vessel Services	Philip Brotherton	Transmarine Navigation	Shipping Agents
Dan Jordan	Columbia River Bar Pilots	Pilots	Andy Meyer	Columbia River Yachting Assn.	Associations
Hans Meere	Export Grain Terminal	Terminal Operators	Kirk Bonnin	Olympic Tug & Barge	Vessel Operators
Capt. Ropp Lt. Morrison	US Coast Guard	Federal Agencies	Lars Uglum	Port of Vancouver	Ports
Andy Meyer	Columbia River Yachting Assn.	Associations	Steve Shaver	Shaver Transportation	Vessel Operators
Michael Zollitsch	Oregon DEQ	State Agencies	Peter Pawlicki	Kirby Offshore Marine	Vessel Operators
Guests in Attendance					
Name	Organization	Name	Organization		
Brad Korpela	Shaver Transportation	Geoff Koefler	Tidewater		
Phil Matteo	Columbia River Bar Pilots	Lon Cain	Norton Lilly		
Cale Karrick	Transmarine/MFSA	Debbie Bischoff	City of Portland		
John Veentjer	MEX/HSC Puget Sound	Rick Gill	COLRIP		
Chris Satalich	COLRIP	Joy Baker	City of Nome, AK		
John Schneider	Tesoro Corp.	Tim Heintz	LC Resident		
Crescent Moegling	NOAA	Geoff Doerfler	Tidewater		
Tony Sellers	USCG/Licensing	Lon Cain	Norton Lilly		
Sean Orr	WA DOE	Doug Coburn	General Steamship		
Pete Bonesbakker	Phillips 66	Christina Neiss	USCG Investigations		

CALL TO ORDER

Chair: Jim Townley
 Vice-Chair: Anne McIntyre
 Secretary: Susan Johnson



Thanks were given to the Port of Vancouver for hosting the meeting. Roman Geigle introduced guest Joy Baker, the Assistant Port Director of the Port of Nome, Alaska.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no outstanding items requiring follow-up from the January meeting.

ACTIVE WORKING COMMITTEES REPORTS

Anchorage – Eric Burnette advised that Steve Dobbins and Anne McIntyre of COLRIP have been working with a group from the Prescott/Cottonwood area, including Tim Heintz, to draft proposed changes to anchorage guidelines to provide more direct guidance in anchoring in that area. He added that they have been working with the four signatory ports for the intergovernmental agreement for the stern buoys; and contacted the Army Corps of Engineers to find out what it would take to restart the project. They will be able to seek funding for up to an additional four stern buoys. Finally, they have been working on defining some new anchorages for Coast Guard designation.

Extreme Water – Eric Burnette is going to be checking with Sebastian Degans to see if he is going to remain in charge of this subcommittee. By the May meeting we are attempting to get an early river forecast.

Harbor Safety Plan – Mike Titone volunteered to lead the subcommittee. It was agreed to try to identify the appropriate people previously involved with the HSP and contact them to find volunteers to review each chapter of the plan to ensure they are up-to-date. Mr. Townley agreed to contact Mr. Titone to see what progress has been made.

Make Way – We'll be looking for a presenter for the May meeting on this year's efforts for Operation Make Way.

Navigation – Dan Jordan advised that the Washington State Legislature has proposed a bill that would require escort tugs for tankers on the Columbia River. The bill (HB 2347) has gone through several revisions and must pass before the session ends tomorrow. Even if the tug escort requirement doesn't pass, proponents will likely raise the issue again in the near future. The bill as it is currently written would require the Dept. of Ecology to make recommendations to the Legislature by December, which would likely require a risk analysis of vessel traffic on the Columbia River. There was a subcommittee meeting yesterday where they discussed what the role of the HSC should be in this process. As the State of Washington looks to provide recommendations for tanker escort tugs, HSC needs to be a forum of stakeholders to contribute to that discussion. There was discussion of the differences between the Columbia River and Puget Sound, and the importance of a risk assessment study. HSC members will be asked to participate in various working groups as we move forward on this issue.

USCG REPORT ON VESSEL INCIDENTS

Since the last meeting there were three deep draft vessel incidents:

- Mokpo Star grounded in the Astoria anchorage
- Clipper Lasko was trying to set anchor in Longview it's engine wouldn't start in reverse
- Westwood Columbia crew member was knocked overboard as a longshoreman was operating a gantry crane



NEW BUSINESS

- **Debbie Bischoff, Central Reach Project** – Ms. Bischoff, Senior Planner, River & Environmental Planning Team, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, gave a presentation on the status of planning for the City of Portland's Central Reach Project. They are in the process of updating a plan that was last adopted in 1988. The Central Reach covers an area of the Willamette River from the Fremont Bridge to the Ross Island Bridge and South Waterfront District. Ms. Bischoff circulated maps of the draft urban design concept, which focuses on celebrating the river and increase human access that is compatible with fish and wildlife habitat. More information about the project can be found on their website at [HTTP://WWW.PORTLANDOREGON.GOV/BPS/42544](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/42544).
- **Capt. John Veentjer (USCG Retired), Executive Director Puget Sound Marine Exchange and Chair, Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee (PSHSC)** – Capt. Veentjer gave a presentation on the PSHSC which was incorporated about 2000 as a not-for-profit, but existed in many forms long before then. Challenges they have faced include voluntary participation of stakeholders, funding (donations about \$6K/year), and recognition that the committee provides any value to the community. They also struggle to get their Harbor Safety Plan to vessels in advance of arrival. They make a point to annually review and republish their HSP. Current projects include a Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment (VTRA), which uses a George Washington University model based on 2010 vessel traffic data. The VTRA was done because of some major projects being proposed that include oil, coal, container and bulk facilities. There are reports available online at [WWW.PSHSC.ORG](http://www.pshsc.org). There was discussion of Washington State NDZ. If an NDZ is established, no vessel could discharge treated sewage anywhere within the designated zone. The waste water would have to be discharged at on-shore facility. The issue is that towboats would have to be retrofitted to accommodate holding the waste water. The public comment period runs through April 21, 2014. It was noted that Grays Harbor is also starting their own HSC and have created their own HSC. They could have their chair give a presentation at a future LCRHSC meeting. Regarding getting the HSP plans to vessels, it was suggested that a digest of ship specific issues be created that would not overload vessel staff in searching for guidelines.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Regarding the upcoming review of the HSP chapters, reviewers do not have to be limited to Managing Board members. Anyone who wants to take a lead on reviewing a chapter is welcome to do so.
- May 3rd is opening day of yachting season. There will be parades on the Columbia River at 42nd Street about 1100 through 1500 hours. There will be boats lining up at the I-5 bridge going east

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

- May 14, 2014 – Merchants Exchange
- July 9, 2014 – USCG Astoria (no managing board meeting)
- September 10, 2014 – Longview, WA (place TBA)
- November 12, 2014 – Portland Spirit

Adjourned 11:45 a.m.