



Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee

0900 - 1200

**Wednesday, January 9, 2013
Venue: USCG MSU Swan Island**

Managing Board Members Present					
Name of Member and Alternate	Agency/ Industry/ Organization	Sector	Name of Member and Alternate	Agency/ Industry/ Organization	Sector
Heather Stebbings	Pacific Northwest Waterways Assn.	Associations	Eric Burnette	Port of Portland	Ports
Robin Wright	Merchants Exchange	Associations	Susan Johnson	OR Board of Maritime Pilots	State Agencies
Jon Gornick	US Army Corps of Engineers	Federal Agencies	Dennis Corwin	Portland Spirit	Vessel Operators
Capt. LeBlanc Lt. Morrison	US Coast Guard	Federal Agencies	Hans Meere	Export Grain Terminal (EGT)	Terminal Operators
Dan Jordan	Columbia River Bar Pilots	Pilots	Mike Zollitsch	Oregon DEQ	State Agencies
Anne McIntyre	Columbia River Pilots	Pilots	Jim Townley Michael Titone	CRSOA	Associations
Roman Geigle	NWFF Environmental	Port & Vessel Services	Phil Brotherton	Transmarine Navigation Corp	Shipping Agents
Duffy Daniels	Wilhelmsen Ships Service	Shipping Agents	Kirk Bonnin	Olympic Tug & Barge	Barge Operators
Guests in Attendance					
Name	Organization	Name	Organization		
Stu Sanborn	Tidewater	Ed Bowles	ODFW		
John Hellberg	USCG	Sencer Under	NCB		
Kimberly Rule	USCG	Dan Justis	USCG		
Mitch Cline	USCG	Ashley Helenberg	Port of Longview		
Maya Connell	USCG	Crescent Moegling	NOAA		

A quorum was present for the meeting.



Call to Order

Chair: Roman Geigle
Vice-Chair: Jim Townley
Secretary: Susan Johnson

Introduced General Membership and Guests

Review of Minutes

Minutes for November 14, 2012 meeting were approved.

Old Business

- **Identify locations for 2013 meetings:**

March 13, 2013 – need confirmation of reserved large conference room at Merchants Exchange

May 8 – Millenium Bulk in Longview a possibility

July 10 – Astoria, Dan Jordan will check for space at the Maritime Museum

September 11 – TBD

November 13 – Portland Spirit

- Review update of **Subcommittee Membership list:**

Outreach – add Ashley Helenberg of Port of Longview

Navigation – get contact information for USCG members added at last meeting

- **Stern Buoy Project Update:** Eric Burnette met with representatives from Foss, Shaver and COLRIP to discuss issues with the new stern buoys (design of hook, placement of light, footholds). They can either retrofit the existing buoys or swap them out with some others that are available. In about a month there will be a request for five more buoys. This can be started as a new project or a continuation of the current one, as the locations have already been identified, permitted and prioritized. The new sites are all within existing anchorages.

Committee Reports

- **Anchorage**

See Stern Buoy Project Update under Old Business. There was also discussion of designating the anchorages to their appropriate state waters in the Harbor Safety Plan.

- **Bridges**

Sellwood span is going to be moved and the bridge closed starting January 17 for several days. Tri-Met is ongoing with no complaints. There was an open house on the Columbia River Crossing in January. There was mention of the recent allision with Bay Bridge in San Francisco, and noted that there is no fendering on the piers of the Longview Bridge, which is a potential problem. The fendering was removed in 2007 as too costly to maintain. HSC had written a letter to WDOT a couple of years ago about the issue but received no response.

- **Extreme Water**

There was nothing new to discuss.

- **Finance**

NWFF Environmental has agreed to cover the cost of website fees for 2013 and the Columbia River Pilots in 2014.

- **Harbor Safety Plan**

The 2013 version of the HSP is almost ready to post on the website. There are a few additional changes needed: removing the “draft” from the bunkering guidelines and the description on Prescott anchorage has a typo. It was agreed to draft the changes and defer approval to the next meeting.



There was also discussion of changing the restricted visibility guidelines to reflect actual practice on the river, which will be addressed by the Navigation committee. There was discussion of abbreviating the document for vessel operations and working through the CRSOA to condense it down to an operational document.

- **Upriver Ports and Navigation**

Roman Geigle has been working to get some momentum going with outreach and communication between stakeholders above Bonneville, whose core issues involve dredging and maintenance. Discussion of trying to pull a subcommittee meeting together and getting periodic updates on issues of concern in the region.

- **Make Way**

The USCG has established four safety zones in the event there is lock out/strike activity by the Grain shippers/ILWU. Make Way was the impetus for the presentation later in the meeting by Ed Bowles of ODFW on the gill net issue.

- **Navigation**

See Emission Control Area Update under New Business. Also see Harbor Safety Plan under Committee Reports.

- **Outreach**

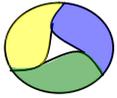
See Update of LCR HSC Flyer under New Business

USCG Report on Vessel Incidents:

- 11/29/12 – Clipper Valour, reduction in propulsion
- 12/24/12 – Trinity, loss of propulsion
- 12/27/12 – Saga Fortune, reduction in propulsion
Low sulfur fuel was determined to not have been a cause in any of the three incidents.
- 1/02/13 – Robert Henry, grounded on the rocks of Cape Arago jetty, vessel complete loss, no human casualties

New Business

- **Update of LCR HSC Flyer:** Heather Stebbings noted that as part of the Outreach committee work that the managing board contact information needed to be updated on the flyer.
- **Emission Control Area Update:** Capt. LeBlanc reminded everyone that the emissions control area went into effect this summer. There has been anecdotal information passed from the pilots to the Coast Guard on power-related issues related to low sulfur fuel usage. At the industry breakfast it was agreed to convene a workgroup. They have assigned Lt. Arven Garcia to convene stakeholders with an eye toward evaluating incidents that happen in the river and present any problems to the EPA for potential solutions. Jeff Cowen has been reviewing incidents related to California emission standards for at least five years. They hope to have him give a talk to the workgroup at their kickoff meeting on his lessons-learned.
- **Discussion on current charter review:** Roman Geigle asked the membership to review the charter posted on the website.
- **ODFW Discussion on Changes to Fishing Practices:** Ed Bowles of ODFW gave a presentation on a solution set emerging from the gillnet issue that was on the November ballot which may impact Make Way issues (i.e. Rule 9 violations). A citizens' initiative on the ballot would have prohibited gill netting below Bonneville dam. The Governor proposed a compromise to finally settle this ongoing issue. The plan shifts emphasis for the commercial gillnet fishery to the off-channel areas in the Spring and Summer, coupled with commercial fishing in the main stem using alternative gear that would be most likely not to harm native fish.



It will be implemented over a transition period of four to five years. Because of potential impacts on commercial vessel activity, outreach is necessary to fill some holes and identify coordination needs. Fisheries change on a daily basis on the Columbia. Notices of these changes are automatically sent from ODFW for those who sign up at their website.

- **Status of Off-shore Wave Buoys:** Dan Jordan showed a map of the National Data Buoy Center's buoys in the ocean which have different purposes (weather, tsunami) and different users. The buoys are funded for one purpose, but they are used for multiple purposes by different users. The bar pilots use the buoys to monitor weather and wave heights as they get closer to shore to determine when it's necessary to close the bar to ship movements. The earmark for one of the buoys they rely on (46089) has expired and when it fails it won't be replaced, which would impact voyage planning with incoming storm activity. They are considering a letter-writing campaign to their congressional delegation to request some funding to maintain the buoy.
- **Discussion of future agenda items:** The renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty between the US and Canada. Matt Ray gave a presentation on the issue at a previous industry breakfast.

For the Good of the Order:

- Lt. Morrison gave a briefing on crude oil exports within the zone. Late last year Columbia Pacific in Clatskanie started exporting crude oil. The ATB Ocean Reliance handles the product on a weekly basis. There have been no issues with the facility to date. Two other prospective crude oil facilities in the Port of Grays Harbor are aggressively planning to be on line mid- 2013. There is an agreement to construct a third crude oil facility at the port.
- The Merchants Exchange received a port security grant to conduct an emergency preparedness seminar on March 1. Preliminary agendas are available.

Next Meeting: March 13, 2013; Location: Merchants Exchange, Portland, OR to be confirmed.

Adjourned 12:00 p.m.