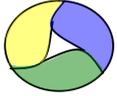


Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee General Membership Board Meeting

**1000 - 1200
Wednesday, July 10, 2013**

**Venue: Columbia River Maritime Museum
1729 Marine Drive
Astoria, Oregon**

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
Kirk Bonnin	Olympic Tug & Barge	Barge Operators	Jon Gornick	US Army Corps of Engineers	Federal Agencies
CAPT Jones CAPT Ropp LT Morrison	US Coast Guard	Federal Agencies	Hans Meere	Export Grain Terminal (EGT)	Terminal Operators
Dan Jordan	Columbia River Bar Pilots	Pilots	Fred Harding	Shaver Transportation	Vessel Operators
Lars Uglum	Port of Vancouver	Ports	Jim Townley Audrey Gurule	CRSOA	Associations
Roman Geigle	NWFF Environmental	Port & Vessel Services	Ashley Helenberg	Port of Longview	Ports
Phil Brotherton	Transmarine Navigation	Shipping Agent	Bob Troyer	Washington State Dept of Ecology	State Agencies
Andy Meyer	Columbia River Yachting Assn.	Associations			
Guests in Attendance					
Name	Organization	Name	Organization		
Randy Clark	USCG	Peter Bennett	Millenium Bulk		
Crescent Moegling	NOAA	Heather Sievers	Millenium Bulk		
Sonha Gomez	USCG	Dale Beasley	CRCFA		
Brian Fletcher	Tidewater	Sarah Pulliam	USCG		
Scott McMullen	OR Fishermen's Comm.	George Kisel	Customs		
Sencer Under	NCB	Samud Looney	USCG		
Hauk Bynaker	Port of Astoria	Sean Clark	Port of Kalama		
Norm Krehbiel	Port of Longview	Tim Patching	Shaver Transportation		



A quorum was present for the meeting.

Call to Order

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

Introductions

Review of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2013 meeting was seconded and carried.

Old Business

Dead ship two guidelines were approved and added to the 2013 Harbor Safety Plan. Electronic charts will be discussed during committee reports.

Committee Reports

- **Anchorage**

Eric Burnette is working on a letter to sponsor ports to begin the next phase of the economic development study for additional stern buoys. The three new stern buoys were swapped out with a more functional style. Paul Amos added that the Prescott deep water buoy isn't working out very well with respect to ships maintaining their positions. There is also a need for funding to dredge the anchorages.

- **Bridges**

The Columbia River Crossing did not receive funding from the Washington legislature. There is nothing new to report on any other bridges.

- **Extreme Water**

There is nothing new to report.

- **Harbor Safety Plan**

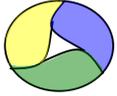
There is an additional update pending before posting the 2013 version to the website.

- **Upriver Ports and Navigation**

Heather Stebbings reported the Army Corps has a public comment period open for Snake River dredging for the first time in eight years. There is likely to be litigation against the dredging. They are going to be hosting Congressional tours in the area to raise awareness. There is funding to do the dredging, but if litigation stops the dredging the funding will be lost.

- **Make Way**

Paul Amos reported that they are planning to conduct some operations in the fall in the upper river and try to focus on ebb tides. Dan Jordan reported that they usually start when salmon season opens at buoy 10 on the bar. The Coast Guard auxiliary helps out at boat ramps and sheriff's departments are involved in ticketing violations. Public announcements on the radio warn recreational boaters of the operations. Sarah Pullium, USCG acting chief of enforcement, explained that they will conduct boater education and enforcement this year. CG Auxiliary will be at ramps handing out packets of information including flyers on Rule 9 violations. Sector boarding teams will be working with Clatsop County Sheriff and Oregon State Police the entire month of August and into Labor Day weekend.



The command center will also be sending out Make Way radio broadcasts. The Port of Longview recently integrated Rule 9 information into their newsletter Port Talk. Make Way information is also published in the state sport fishing regulation publications from in Oregon and Washington.

- **Navigation**

- Dan Jordan reported that two days ago the wave buoy near buoy 2 quit communicating. Station Cape Disappointment went out and towed it in yesterday. A new buoy will be installed within the next week or two.
- A new Corps chart came out about a week ago with the realignment of the Desdemona Channel going from Tansey Point to buoy 14 – a seven year process.
- They are looking at adding a paragraph revising the guidelines to charts and publications to include the use of electronic charts in lieu of paper charts, as long as they are part of an approved ECDIS system. The proposed language repeats what the Coast Guard is already using.

- **Outreach**

Heather Stebbings advised that Congressional tours on dredging, stern buoys and anchorages, will also be taking place on the lower river as well. There was a stakeholder meeting with the Corps regarding sedimentation from the White Salmon and the safety concerns it's causing to barge operations upriver. There will be a follow-up meeting later in the summer.

USCG Report on Vessel Incidents:

- 5/20/13 – Fish processing vessel had engine room fire, causing the vessel to lose power.
- There are no deep draft vessel casualties to report.

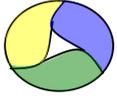
Capt. Patrick Ropp was introduced as the new commander at MSU Portland.

New Business

- **Make Way:** A discussion on Make Way operations, past issues and what works – Paul Amos noted that what has been working well is working cooperatively with the Coast Guard and the sheriff. Coast Guard officers have gone out on vessels with the pilots to identify Rule 9 violators for citation. Sometimes it's difficult to get people out on the best high traffic dates, and it's hard to predict which days will be chaotic for recreational boating traffic. Capt. Jones added that currently, there are a lot of assets on the water for moving grain ships (ILWU lockout) which takes away from their ability to assist Make Way operations. It was noted that one or two tickets issued early in the season helps get the word out and changes boater behavior (ticket early and often). Members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary were in attendance. As a volunteer organization, they don't ticket, but they do hand out informational packets at boat ramps. They reported that in 2012 there were 19 recreational boating deaths in Oregon, and 30 in Washington: 84% of victims were not wearing life jackets. The Auxiliary will be working Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays starting August 9, passing out informational material and conducting courtesy vessel inspections. Stakeholders and members of the public should report recreational boater violations to the regular Coast Guard.

Public Comment/Future Agenda Items:

- There was a question about whether there were any plans in place if a major event such as an earthquake occurs. Under the Maritime Security Plan there are two contingency plans: the Marine Transportation Recovery plan and the Salvage Plan. One focuses more on disruption and priorities and the other on salvage of assets in the affected area. FEMA is planning an exercise event from Washington to California in 2016. There is a website (NANOOS) that list evacuation zones and assembly areas in the event of a tsunami.



- It was noted that the number paddle craft fatalities are catching up with motor boat fatalities – more outreach should be focused on that group.
- Crescent Moegling says NOAA has issued a request to identify data gaps in the primary gauges that exist in the area to see where new gauges should be placed. Feedback is due by July 28.
- Crabbers concerns: avoiding commercial traffic; staying on the edge of the channel; maintaining communications on channel 13. It has been working well and the pilots have maintained good communications with them. There is also a meeting twice a year (towboat-crab lanes agreement) on the second Friday of March and November.
- The fishing industry also has problems with recreational boaters. With the burning of the Pacific Seafood Plant in Warrenton, some fishing vessels have to travel upriver to Tongue Point to offload their catch. Delays in transit equate to loss of income.
- Columbia River Treaty Draft: Would it be appropriate for the committee to provide comment on the draft? PNWA will be submitting comments, which are due August 16. There is concern that navigation has not been an important consideration. There was discussion of having a presentation on the Treaty at a future meeting. PNWA will send a copy of their comments to the managing board, and offered to do a presentation at the next meeting. There are going to be two-hour webinars, one on July 16 and one on July 23 on this issue. PNWA has participation information.

For the Good of the Order:

- There has been a lot of discussion about the new bunkering/lightering facilities being proposed at the Port of Vancouver – possible future presentation.
- The Oregon Legislature has approved funding for another Connect Oregon grant for \$42 million. The program will now consider bike and pedestrian project applications. This program funded the Bar Pilots' Under-keel Clearance Study and included two wave buoys. There has been some discussion about potentially extending that work upstream.
- The Port of Astoria will put a marine asset on the water later this year – a 33-foot quick response vessel with 1500 gallon/minute firefighting capability. It was procured through a port security grant. The Port will be responsible for maintenance of the vessel but the City of Astoria has agreed to provide manpower either through volunteer or staff firefighters. There was discussion of having a presentation on what first responder assets are currently available in the region.
- Capt. Jones reminded everyone about the Coast Guard's monthly industry breakfast on the third Thursday of every month. He noted that Admiral Gromlich, the new commander for the 13th District, will be attending the next meeting on July 18. There will be a presentation from the Army Corps on dredging.
- Jim Townley that they have been asked by the district commander to put together their introduction program called COBALT (Columbia Basin Leadership Training). The program introduces our federal partners to the complexities and capabilities of the river system, stakeholders they can talk to on different issues, industry perspective and priorities. The program will be conducted from 7/16-18.
- NOAA has released for forecast for the lowest river stages for this year (-.5), which will occur from the last week of August through October. Northwest River Forecasters will be posting this information on their website.

Next Meeting: September 11, 2013; Location: Port of Vancouver, WA, with a 9 a.m. Managing Board meeting and a 10 a.m. General Membership meeting.