



Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee General Membership Meeting Minutes

1000 - 1200

Wednesday, 11 July 2012

Venue: USCG Sector Columbia River, Training Room
Warrenton, OR

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
Kirk Bonnin	Olympic Tug & Barge	Barge Operators	Susan Johnson	Oregon Board of Maritime Pilots	State Agencies
Jon Gornick	US Army Corps of Engineers	Federal Agencies	Dennis Corwin	Portland Spirit	Vessel Operators
Capt. Bruce Jones Tony Sellers LT Morrison	US Coast Guard	Federal Agencies	Diane Butorac	Washington State Dept of Ecology	State Agencies
Dan Jordan	Columbia River Bar Pilots	Pilots	Hans Meere	Export Grain Terminal (EGT)	Terminal Operators
Paul Amos	Columbia River Pilots	Pilots	Mike Zollitsch	Oregon DEQ	State Agencies
Roman Geigle	NWFF Environmental	Port & Vessel Services			
Tony Anderson	Transmarine	Vessel Operators			

Guests in Attendance			
Name	Organization	Name	Organization
LT Johna Rossetti	USCG	Dave Taylor	USMC Ret.
Mike Maloney	Portland Reg. Disaster Pl.	Ed Irish	Tesoro Corp.
Brian Fletcher	Tidewater	Chris Farrell	Columbia River Bar Pilots
Brad Warner	Columbia River Pilots	Sean Clark	Port of Kalama
Jennifer Hennessey	WA Dept of Ecology		

A quorum was present for the meeting.

Call to Order

Chair: Eric Burnette

Vice-Chair: Diane Butorac

Secretary: Susan Johnson

Introduced General Membership and Guests



Presentation by USCG

LT Johna Rossetti, USCG Sector Columbia River, gave an overview of the recent exercise deploying their emergency towing system in the East Mooring Basin in Astoria. The system was deployed from a helicopter and tugboat. She then played a video showing a test of the same emergency towing system that was done in Alaska.

Capt. Jones also commented on two issues they have been addressing. The first concerns derelict vessels. They met with Gov. Gregoire and Gov. Kitzhaber two weeks ago for a briefing on this issue and took them on a flight to show them several of the derelict vessels along the Columbia River near Portland. The second issue is tsunami debris and the concerns of the commercial fishing industry of hazards to navigation.

Old Business

- **Stern Buoy Project Update:** The project is currently in the hands of the Army Corps of Engineers. They had planned to install two buoys using sand anchors in August and the third buoy has to be driven into rock in October. The Corps has decided to do all three buoy installations in October. This opens up a window of opportunity to purchase additional buoys with outside funding – the project is permitted for up to seven buoys.
- **Discussion of potentially expanding our AOR to the Tri-Cities:** Roman Geigle provided some background, noting that the committee's original charter covered the entire river system, which became infeasible. Mr. Geigle traveled to Walla Walla to an informational meeting at the Army Corps and had discussions with area stakeholders to determine if there was interest in participation on the committee and what form that participation would take, such as a subcommittee that could be formally adopted at the next meeting. Capt. Jones suggested that the USCG could host an industry breakfast for stakeholders in that region as well. Mr. Geigle has also been in contact with Coos Bay interests who have expressed interest in forming a harbor safety committee in that region. There was discussion of having a committee meeting in conjunction with PNWA's annual convention in October. At the next HSC meeting, we will formally discuss adding an Extended AOR Sub-committee and identify the sub-committee members.
- **River Status and Dredging Plan for 2012 Update:** Jon Gornick from the Army Corps of Engineers gave an update on the dredging season, advising that they are well into it having removed about 900,000 cubic yards of material from the bars at Puget Island and Westport. They meet with the pilots regularly to identify critical areas requiring dredging. The dredge Stuyvesant is about to start on a two million yard project at the mouth of the Columbia River. The dredge Essayons is working on a number of bars from Willow bar down through Longview. The dredge Oregon is currently working on the Pillar Rock-Brookfield reach and will eventually be moved down to Miller Sands. The dredge Yaquina will be back in September to knock down some shoals in the river. There has been more coordination this year between the Army Corps and Bonneville Power to control dam flows.
- **Emission Control Area Update:** Eric Burnette advised that he attended a conference hosted by PMSA in Tacoma where they discussed the mandate for observing the emissions control limits that goes into effect August 1. Vessels operating within 200 nautical miles of the coast must burn fuel with one percent or less sulphur content. Diane Butorac sent out the EPA notice on how to address fuel non-availability. Another mandate will go into effect January 1, 2015, requiring a drop to 0.1% in allowable sulphur in fuel, bears watching. Those fuel stocks are not in hand and ready to test as yet. There was discussion of why other countries were switching to 0.5% at that time, and that Asia, Africa and South America were not yet affected by these limits. It was also noted that these fuels may come at a significantly increased cost over current bunker costs. The USCG will be tracking loss of propulsion in vessels related to fuel switching.

Committee Reports

- **Anchorage (Eric Burnette)**
Related to the stern buoy project is the creation of the Prescott anchorage. The decision on this deep draft anchorage is currently in the hands of the USCG in Seattle.
- **Extreme Water**
A forecast has been received projecting three low water weekends. Only one of those projections dips below 0.0 CRD in the upper river. The finalized forecast will be sent out when it is available.



- **Make Way**
Capt. Paul Amos advised that Capt. Stuart Richard is working with the USCG to set up the next Make Way operation.
- **Navigation**
Capt. Dan Jordan reported that they are drafting a new chapter of the Harbor Safety Plan that deals with navigation within the natural navigable channel and federally authorized channel with respect to vessel traffic. It has been observed that smaller vessels are staying in the channel delineated on the navigation charts and not considering the actual depth needed to operate safely, posing a hazard to deep draft vessels limited to the dredged channel when the smaller vessel refuses to leave the channel even if there is sufficient water available outside .
- **Outreach**
The last outreach focus involved upriver stakeholders. There has been discussion of more outreach to the recreational boating community, yacht clubs, etc.

USCG Report on Vessel Incidents: There were no incidents to report for this meeting.

New Business

- **Coastal Advisory Board Overview:** Jennifer Hennessey of the WA Dept. of Ecology (Ocean Policy) gave a presentation on the WA Coastal Marine Advisory Council and marine spatial planning. More information is available on their website at WWW.ECY.WA.GOV/PROGRAMS/SEA/MSP.

Request for Public Comment

- Capt. Dan Jordan gave an update on the wave buoy project. Two weeks ago one buoy broke loose but was recovered a few hours and redeployed. A NOAA wave buoy is scheduled to be deployed in August fifteen miles offshore. Current tables on the lower Columbia River do not take into account river flows. OSU was commissioned by NWS to develop a model that tie in the river flows. The model is completed and should be posted on the NWS website soon. Mr. Burnette also noted that a presentation would be appreciated when the under-keel clearance study is completed.
- Emergency management groups including the ports are planning a field exercise for next May. The scenario will be a bio-terrorism attack originating from a ship in port. The exercise is to be held in Portland.

For the Good of the Order

- Request for agenda items for the next meeting.
- There were no objections to the minutes of the last meeting submitted to the membership and they are deemed approved.
- Request for volunteers for Vice Chair for 2013.
- Heather Stebbings has been promoted to government relations director for PNWA.
- Tony Sellers brought copies of the latest USCG "Proceedings" magazine to circulate among the membership. It focuses on the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2012; Location: USCG MSU Portland, Swan Island, OR.

Adjourned 12:05 p.m.