



Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee General Membership Board Meeting

**1000 - 1200
Wednesday, May 8, 2013**

**Venue: Millenium Bulk Terminals
4029 Industrial Way
Longview, Washington**

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 LeBlanc LT Morrison	US Coast Guard	Federal Agencies	Hans Meere	Export Grain Terminal (EGT)	Terminal Operators
Dan Jordan Gary Lewin	Columbia River Bar Pilots	Pilots	Mike Zollitsch	Oregon DEQ	State Agencies
Dennis Corwin	Portland Spirit	Vessel Operators	Mike Titone	CRSOA	Associations
Roman Geigle	NWFF Environmental	Port & Vessel Services	Pete Pawlicki	Kirby Offshore Marine	Vessel Operators
Ernie Quesada	Clean Rivers Cooperative	Port & Vessel Services	Ashley Helenberg	Port of Longview	Ports
Andy Meyer	Columbia River Yachting Assn.	Associations	Bob Troyer	Washington State Dept of Ecology	State Agencies
Guests in Attendance					
Name	Organization	Name	Organization		
Rick Williams	Ocean Energy	Peter Bennett	Millenium Bulk		
Crescent Moegling	NOAA	Robert McFarland	USCG		

A quorum was present for the meeting.



Call to Order

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

Introductions

Old Business

The 2013 Harbor Safety Plan has been posted to the committee's website.

Committee Reports

- **Anchorage** – The swap-out of the buoys will take place in the next few weeks. Shaver Transportation was thanked for their help in facilitating the swap-out. After the swap-out is complete, the Columbia River ports will need to discuss whether to petition the Army Corps for expansion of the project to include another two to four stern buoys.
- **Bridges** – Progress continues on the light rail bridge on the Willamette. Capt. LeBlanc and Lt. Morrison noted that the USCG Bridge Administration will be holding two public hearings on the Columbia River Crossing I-5 replacement bridge project:

5-8 PM Tue 04 June 13
Red Lion Inn
909 N Hayden Island Dr.
800-992-2694

5-8 PM Wed 05 Jun 13
Hilton Inn
301 W 6th St.
360-993-4500

There are three upstream businesses that are potentially impacted by restricted bridge heights.

- **Extreme Water**
Eric Burnett reported that he has been in contact with the Northwest River Forecast Center. The freshet has increased in magnitude and the peak seems to have occurred about two weeks earlier, and the tail off into low water could also happen earlier than normal – probably near the end of September.
- **Upriver Ports and Navigation**
No additional outreach has occurred since the last meeting. There was discussion of getting contact information of upriver stakeholders to add to the general membership mailing list. PNWA will advise when the next upriver navigation meeting is scheduled.
- **Make Way**
There was nothing new to report.
- **Navigation**
 - Dan Jordan reported that the managing board approved incorporating USCG standards and language on dead ship towing into the Harbor Safety Guidelines.
 - They will also be revising the guidelines to include the use of electronic charts in lieu of paper charts, as long as they are part of an approved ECDIS system.
 - The new anchorages will be included as well.
 - The Corps of Engineers is in the process of realigning the Desdemona Channel downstream of Astoria.



- Low sulfur fuel issues are being tracked: some vessels cannot provide maximum horsepower or are losing propulsion at lower speeds.
- One of the wave buoys off the bar will be swapped out in June. Nationally, maintenance funding for these buoys is competing with dredging funds.
- Rick Williams gave a wave energy project update. The marine danger zone off Camp Rilea will soon be charted and published. This is an historic live-fire zone that has been there since the 1800's but has never been marked on the charts.

- **Outreach**

Heather Stebbings reported that she has been in contact with Ed Bowles of ODFW to provide information they can incorporate into their make-way education efforts.

USCG Report on Vessel Incidents:

- 3/13/13 – Motor vessel lost propulsion due to a failed valve
- 3/20/13 – Motor vessel lost propulsion; emergency fuel shut down activated accidentally
- 3/31/13 – Motor vessel grounded; no damage
- 4/08/13 – Motor vessel safety inspection found the master was extremely inebriated; arrested and banned from the U.S. for two years
- 4/09/13 – Motor vessel grounded at anchor

Update on safety zones for grain vessels:

- Ships – 500 yards clear ahead; 200 yards clear port, starboard and astern
- Tugs and other support vessels – 100 yards clear ahead; 50 yards clear port, starboard and astern
- There was a violation of the safety zone by a protest vessel on May 7

New Business

- **PNWA 2013 Columbia-Snake River System Funding Update:** Heather Stebbings provided a handout and gave a summary of PNWA supported Corps projects for fiscal years 2013 and 2014. The handout itemized funding for construction projects, studies, operations and maintenance in the region.
- **CRSOA 2013 Organization Vision:** Mike Titone, new executive director for the Columbia River Steamship Operators' Association, gave an overview of the organization's mission and focus. They represent the interests of deep draft vessels and are comprised mainly of vessel agents as members. Their focus is on cross-jurisdictional coordination and acting as an information clearinghouse.

For the Good of the Order:

- Crescent Moegling of NOAA advised that they are doing a study for an ocean use atlas. There will be listening sessions in June in Portland, Coos Bay and Newport.
- Eric Burnett reported that the Army Corps is at the tail end of drawing up an O&M plan for the Columbia River – routine operations and maintenance for dredging. They are in the process of reviewing the draft intergovernmental agreement between the five ports for approval by July.
- Notice of a public comment period for the proposed Columbia River Crossing has been issued by the USCG and will run through June 19, 2013.



- Robert McFarland introduced himself as the Incident Management Preparedness Advisor for the USCG in Seattle. He is involved in vessel traffic risk analysis and the derelict vessel taskforce, and has a role with FEMA for coordination in natural disasters.
- Rick Williams announced that September 24-28 is Oregon Wave Week in Astoria. There will taskforce and developer meetings in the area, and a conference in downtown Astoria with field visits and site trips. Information can be found at WWW.OREGONWAVE.ORG.

Next Meeting: July 10, 2013; Location: Maritime Museum in Astoria, OR. This could be a good time to have a Make-Way discussion on outreach to recreational boaters.

Adjourned 11:35 a.m.