

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

0900 - 1200

Wednesday, 09 May 2012

Venue: Millennium Bulk Terminals, Administration Building
4029 Industrial Way, Longview, WA

Managing Board Members Present

Name of Member and Alternate	Agency/ Industry/ Organization	Sector	Name of Member and Alternate	Agency/ Industry/ Organization	Sector
Jim Townley	Columbia River Steamship Operators	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	Pete Pawlicki	Kirby Offshore Marine	Vessel Operators
Tony Sellers ENS McPhillips	US Coast Guard	Federal Agencies	Diane Butorac Bob Troyer	Washington State Dept of Ecology	State Agencies
Dan Jordan	Columbia River Bar Pilots	Pilots	Hans Meere	Export Grain Terminal (EGT)	Terminal Operators
Anne McIntyre	Columbia River Pilots	Pilots	Fred Harding	Shaver Transportation	Vessel Operators
Roman Geigle George Birch	NWFF Environmental	Port & Vessel Services	Dennis Corwin	Portland Spirit	Vessel Operators
Duffy Daniels	Wilhelmsen	Vessel Operators			

Guests in Attendance

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Tony Sellers	USCG Ret.	Heather Sievers	Millennium Bulk
Stu Richard	Columbia River Pilots	Bruce Reed	Tidewater
Jason Sasso	NWFF	Tom Jacobsen	Foss Maritime
Bruce Skerry	Transmarine Navigation	Mark Bailey	NOAA
Chris Satalich	Columbia River Pilots	Mitch Cline	USCG
Cale Karrick	Transmarine Navigation	Mike Morgan	Willamette Star
Anne Pressentin	Columbia River Crossing	Mike Niemi	Columbia River Crossing
Brett Harding	Shaver	Robert Johnson	Columbia River Bar Pilots
Peter Bennett	Millennium Bulk	KJ Hauge	Wilhelmsen
Brad Warner	Columbia River Pilots	Randy Clark	USCG

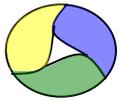
A quorum was present for the meeting. Diane Butorac was given proxy authority by Mike Zollitsch, DEQ.

Call to Order

Chair: Eric Burnette

Vice-Chair: Diane Butorac

Secretary: Susan Johnson



Introduced Managing Board Members and Guests

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the January 11 and March 14, 2012 meetings were approved. The November 9, 2011 minutes are still in need of final review.

Presentation by Peter Bennett of Millenium Bulk Terminals

Peter Bennett, Vice President Business Development, Bulk Products, gave an overview of their facility which sits on the former site of the old Reynolds Aluminum smelter. The bulk import facility has occupied the premises for about one year. They have been engaged in ongoing clean-up efforts on the site and are planning to build an export coal facility. The company plans to build two docks for coal export operations and expects to load two ships a day at maximum capacity. Plan permits were submitted in February to the required agencies.

Old Business

- **HSC Letter of Support for Willamette Dredging in Albina Turning Basin:** The Port of Portland is in the process of hiring Parsons Brinkerhoff to do a feasibility study for that project as was done for Post Office Bar. Eric Burnette proposed to delay submission of the letter until the study is released. He added that the Army Corps has a placeholder for the project in their 2014 budget request.
- **2013 HSC National Conference:** Diane Butorac made some contacts to confirm the actual cost of this event, which was \$50,000 for the conference plus an additional \$15,000 - \$20,000 for a social event. The work involved is also more than previously believed. It was proposed and approved that the committee not host the 2013 event. There was discussion of one of the board members attending the conference being held this August in Pittsburgh.
- **Stern Buoy Project Update:** The project is still on track, with installation scheduled for August for one in Vancouver and one in Prescott. The third buoy had also been intended for Prescott but it will likely be placed in Rainier in November. Prescott-area residents and officials have tentatively agreed to one anchorage upriver near Trojan with some restrictions. A formal written approval and withdrawal of previous objections is expected from them within the next few weeks. Subsequent changes to the anchorage guidelines will then be submitted for approval. Emerging anchorage issues given future traffic projections are that there are just not going to be enough – prompting additional feasibility studies, stern buoys, and identification of additional anchorage areas for dredging.

Committee Reports

- **Anchorage**
The Port of Portland, Columbia River Pilots and Army Corps have met three times to review river status and note a remarkable rate of shoaling again this year. Dredge funding will not be adequate to address the current rate of shoaling. As of April 30, 18 of 29 reaches of the Columbia River have shoaling less than 43 feet. The Columbia River Pilots have requested an inventory of berths suitable for vessels 40-43 feet, including specs and if there's a current survey, to temporarily site loaded vessels in the event they can't move them out immediately. There are discussions of following a more aggressive two-step departure model, which will tax the existing anchorages.
- **Bridges: Presentation on the Columbia River Crossing**
Mike Niemi and Anne Pressentin provided an overview and history of the project and its current status. A project fact sheet and email sign up for periodic updates was made available.
- **Extreme Water**
A forecast has been requested from the NW River Forecast Center expected by late May or early June. The Army Corps is working with pool managers upstream to try to equalize flows to avoid the peak overflows from dams that cause extreme shoaling and sand waves. However, this will complicate the forecasting model.
- **Finance**
Port of Portland paid the annual fee for the website for 2012.



- **Navigation**

There was a committee meeting a couple of weeks ago. Discussed was the creation of a chapter in the Harbor Safety Plan for guidelines to include; minimum number of operating radars onboard, navigating inside or outside the authorized dredged channel; possible new passing lanes; and dead ship tows. The Columbia River Bar Pilots will be submitting changes to the Coast Pilot for changes in the pilotage area and updated information on the pilot boat and helicopter.

- **Make Way**

There was discussion of whether any actions were needed in preparation for the Spring and Fall seasons. The Coast Guard intends to conduct another May Way operation in late summer. Washington Fish and Wildlife has published Make Way information in their guide. HSC will be looking into publishing information in a similar Oregon issue. The Columbia River Pilots are working with the Oregon State Marine Board to put a presentation together for recreational boaters.

- **Outreach**

Following up on discussion from the last meeting about establishing an inland HSC or extending the scope of this committee, an email report was submitted. A PNWA poll of inland ports and navigation interests indicated a preference for one committee for the river system. They recommended that the committee could hold a meeting in the Tri-Cities or Walla Walla once a year in conjunction with Army Corps navigation outreach meetings. Another option would be to establish a subcommittee dedicated to upriver concerns or have an upriver representative on the Managing Board. Roman Geigle agreed to take the lead and attempt to recruit upriver participants. He has also been in contact with Capt. Charlie Yates in Coos Bay about establishing a HSC in that area, who has safety concerns with the port's expansion plans. There was discussion of having a representative from LCRHSC attend meetings in Coos Bay.

USCG Report on Vessel Incidents: No report available.

New Business

- **Regional Growth Discussion (Capt. Anne McIntyre and Jim Townley):** Earlier in the year the Columbia River Pilots in sponsorship with the Port of Portland held a regional planning meeting to determine if infrastructures were adequate to accommodate projected growth. Infrastructure concerns include stern buoys, emergency anchorages, pilot dispatch systems, enough pilot trainees, capacity of the river system and dredging. Since then there have been a few informal meetings with the Ports of Portland and Vancouver, Pilots, and PNWA. There will be another regional planning meeting on May 30 at the Port of Vancouver. The plan is to form a subcommittee under the PNWA to start looking at how to address these infrastructure issues. Better communication between stakeholders will be needed to avoid unintentionally working at cross-purposes and developing and funding duplicate systems.
- **Derelict Vessel Taskforce Update (Randy Clark, USCG):** A few weeks ago a floating home which had been illegally moored at Ackerman Island left its moorings and was captured by the Coast Guard before it could hit the I-5 bridge. A standoff between authorities for its removal from a boat ramp where it was docked under emergency circumstances is ongoing. The State of Washington has legislatively increased their vessel removal fund from \$1.7 million to 3.7 million. Oregon's fund is \$150,000 (per biennium). An upcoming Clean Pacific Conference will devote a segment of their program to submerged wrecks and abandoned vessels.
- **Dead Ship Tow Policy (ENS McPhillips, USCG):** Before a tow plan can be approved, it needs to be submitted to the USCG for permit. Plan details must include departure point, destination, vessel being towed, partners in the project, and communications schedule. Berth to berth movements within port would not require such an all-encompassing plan, but the Coast Guard does need to be informed.
- **River Status (Eric Burnette):** Continued discussion on issues noted in Anchorage Committee report and need to be aware of shoaling concerns.

Next Meeting: July 11, 2012; Location: USCG Sector Columbia River, Warrenton OR. There will be just a general membership meeting from 10:00-12:00.

Adjourned 12:01 p.m.