



## Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee Meeting

0900 - 1200

Wednesday, 12 September 2012

Venue: USCG MSU Portland, Swan Island

Managing Board Members					
Name of Member and Alternate	Agency/ Industry/ Organization	Sector	Name of Member and Alternate	Agency/ Industry/ Organization	Sector
Heather Stebbings	Pacific Northwest Waterways Assc.	Associations	Eric Burnette	Port of Portland	Ports
Kirk Bonnin	Olympic Tug & Barge	Barge Operators	Lars Uglum	Port of Vancouver USA	Ports
Jon Gornick	US Army Corps of Engineers	Federal Agencies	Mike Zollitsch	Oregon Dept of Environ. Quality	State Agencies
LT Morrison CDR Williamson	US Coast Guard	Federal Agencies	Chip Boothe Diane Butorac	Washington State Dept of Ecology	State Agencies
Dan Jordan	Columbia River Bar Pilots	Pilots	George Birch	NWFF Environmental	Port & Vessel Services
Paul Amos Anne McIntyre	Columbia River Pilots	Pilots	Fred Harding	Shaver Transportation	Vessel Operators
Guests in Attendance					
Name	Organization	Name	Organization		
MS1 John Newcomer	USCG	Ed Irish	Tesoro Corp.		
Pete Bonebakker	PGG	Brian Fletcher	Tidewater		
Mike Maloney	Regional Disaster Preparedness	Mike Morgan	Willamette Stevedores		
Sean Clark	Port of Kalama	Tony Sellers	USCG Rec		
Calum McClure	Liquiline				

**A quorum was present for the meeting.**

### Call to Order

Chair: Eric Burnette

Vice-Chair: Diane Butorac

Secretary: Susan Johnson

Introduced Managing Board Members and Invited Guests

Introduced LT Morrison, Chief of Waterways Management, USCG Representative to the LCR HSC.

### Review of Minutes

Minutes for July 11, 2012 meeting approved.



## Old Business

- Discussed LCR HSC Officers for 2013. Dan Jordan volunteered to be chair or vice-chair and Eric Burnette volunteered to be chair or vice-chair. Further discussion needed.
- Discussed need to establish an Inland Ports and Navigation Subcommittee. Good local interest shown so it was agreed to establish the subcommittee and re-evaluate in six months. Roman Geigle volunteered to be Subcommittee Chair and Heather Stebbings, Paul Amos and Jon Gornick volunteered to be on the subcommittee. PNWA said there was a related meeting on October 10 in Vancouver and Roman will attend to provide information
- Eric Burnette discussed the HSC Conference in Pittsburg.
- Current and future dredging plans were discussed. The USACE is flat funded and costs are going up. There is not enough funding for the navigation channel work right now and no change to that expected. Discussed the Miami model where the deepening project was almost all funded locally. Work continues on the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and groups realize a solution is needed.
- Eric Burnette presented information on the stern buoys. Three will be installed in October at Vancouver, Prescott and Rainier. The permit for impact hammer work at Prescott has been approved.
- Discussed implementation of the Emission Control Area (ECA).
  - There have been 8 deficiencies for low sulfur fuel (LSF) for arriving vessels but no detentions.
  - The EPA report form was used and the vessels took LSF before departing.
  - No marine casualties have been reported to the USCG related to LSF usage.
  - Pilots reported seeing problems when maneuvering ahead and astern where the engine won't start and problems with power availability at slower transit speeds. About 1/3 of the ships can't achieve full horsepower with the LSF. Some ships can't achieve sea speeds and can't fully counteract strong winds or tides and this is also creating longer transits. The fuel does not have enough BTUs for power. Pilots are collecting data to determine the extent of the problem and are ordering more or stronger tugs to address the safety issue. USCG reinforced that they will support the pilots. Any reduction in power or speed should be reported to the USCG as a Loss of Propulsion and pilots will ensure this is being done.
  - There is no problem with availability of the blended fuel to meet the requirements.
  - The USCG said it is critical to have the proper switching procedures and they are checking this during their inspections.
  - No action by the LCR HSC but continue discussion at November meeting and check in on issues.

## Active Working Committees Reports

### Anchorage

- Discussed of creation of Prescott Anchorage by USCG, it will be official in one week. The Harbor Safety Guidelines will be amended and will be sent out for Managing Board review and approval by email.
- The Columbia River Infrastructure meetings have identified critical needs and need for a long term execution strategy. We all need to look at issues and funding.

### Extreme Water

- Draft restriction to 41 ft along the Columbia River. No incidents were reported during the last extreme low water event. It is likely the draft restrictions will happen more in the future as the condition is becoming more typical. Funding for dredging is an issue.
- Crescent Moegling corrected the app interface and it is now in order by navigation sequence.
- Two more events this year with the lowest water level in October.
- USACE said there are numerous sand waves and higher than normal deposition. Dredges Essayons and Stuyvesant will be used over the next weeks to deal with those and hope to do enough so that draft restrictions can be lifted. Dredge Oregon's last day is October 12 and then it is going in for repowering. Since it operated last year until January, expect its absence will impact dredge operations. May be able to use Stuyvesant after the dry dock period before it leaves the area.

### Finance

- Website funding will be covered by NWFF in 2013 and Columbia River Pilots in 2014. There may be an additional cost this year; Hans Meere will let NWFF know the total amount needed.



#### Harbor Safety Plan

- USCG may have some administrative changes, CDR Williamson will check.

#### Make-Way

- There was an incident recently 2-3 miles below Bonneville Dam where a ship had to stop because smaller vessels would not move and had to blow the danger signal 7 times. The incident was reported to the USCG.
- USCG started Operation Make-way and Buoy 10 Operations on August 24-26 and September 1-2. Will conduct again starting September 13. USCG will be passing out flyers at boat ramps and will look at going out with towboats or sheriff boats with USCG enforcement personnel onboard soon. There have been 4-5 citations issued this year already.
- USCG will plan to enforce make-way requirements regularly using USCG personnel on chase boats or pilot boats.
- Columbia County Sheriff has been very helpful in enforcing make-way requirements.

#### Navigation

- If Dan takes over as chair or vice-chair, may need a new lead for the subcommittee.
- Draft Navigation Guidelines have been sent to the Managing Board for review. A safety issue is that with electronic charts being used more, some vessels are navigating within the chart lines for the federal channel and are not willing to go outside of the lines even if there is sufficient safe depth. Changes to the chapter were discussed during the meeting and will be made. The revised version will be sent out to the Managing Board for review and approval by email.

#### USCG Report on Vessel Incidents

- July – MV Hosanger had LOP due to electrical generator trip. COTP order issued.
- August – MV Bahial had soft grounding in Longview. Dive survey found no damage. COTP order issued.
- August – MV Pioneer had Asian gypsy moth infestation. Actions taken to eradicate.
- September – MV Vivosa Wisdom moved from Rainier anchorage to Prescott anchorage without a pilot, with no notice, and caused an obstruction of the navigation channel.
- FV Lady Cecilia – sank last year and the location has now been identified. Vessel is in 400 ft of water off Ledbetter Point. Still investigating cause.

#### New Business

- Committee Membership list needs to be updated. A list will be sent out to all members with the current subcommittees and people will add their name to the subcommittees they are active on.
- Grain terminals are in discussions with unions on contracts and the talks are expected to conclude at the end of September. If they are not agreed upon, protests are possible. USCG will enforce the Facility Security Plan as needed.
- Tsunami debris – NOAA said upwelling is keeping debris off the coast but expect to see some in the winter from the storms. WA and OR have plans in place for monitoring and public outreach and the USCG is doing outreach.
- PMSA meeting in Tacoma to talk about change for fuel requirements to ULSF and how to meet this requirement.
- Calum McClure from Liquiline presented information on use of LNG as a 2015 compliant bunker alternative.

**Next Meeting:** November 14, 2012; Location: Portland Spirit

#### Motion to Adjourn