



LOWER COLUMBIA REGION
HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee General Membership Meeting Notes

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 | 1430-1600hrs
Virtual Meeting

In attendance virtually:

Pete Pawlicki, Kirby Offshore Marine Chair	Susan Johnson, OBMP Secretary
Larry Landgraver, Port of Longview Vice Chair	Liz Wainwright, Merchants Exchange
Bekah Brinkmeier, Merchants Exchange	Kate Mickelson CRSOA
Jon Hellberg, Shaver Transportation	Holly Robinson, MFSA
Ross McDonald, Sause Brothers	Anthony O'Reilly, Merchants Exchange
Curtis Cannizzaro, Clean Rivers Cooperative	Art Dahlin, Foss
Ken Lawrenson, Columbia River Pilots	Steve Ackerman, Columbia River Pilots
Dena Horton, PNWA	Joshua Emerson, DEQ
Bruce Lambert, MARAD	Scott Smith, DEQ
Tereza Edwards, CRSOA	Jessica Stokke, USACE
Hans Meere, EGT	Mark Curtis, Crowley
Lars Uglum, Port of Vancouver	Lorraine Heilman, NOAA
Captain Bailey, USCG	Cale Karrick, Transmarine
LCDR Sean Morrison, USCG	Dan Jordan, Columbia River Bar Pilots
Captain Scott Jackson, USCG	Sean Kuschel, WA Ecology
Jill Lazo, USCG	Brian Kirk, WA Ecology
Stephanie Prybyl, Business Oregon	Jeffrey Ferguson, NOAA
Chris Liezirt	Casey O'Donnell, USACE

1. Meeting Called to Order: *Presiding Officer*

Pete Pawlicki, Chair and Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 1430hrs.

2. Additions/Corrections to Agenda

There were no corrections or additions

3. Review of Meeting Notes from May 12, 2021

The meeting notes from November 10, 2021 were presented, there was an amendment to item 6. D due to a typo in one of the river chart numbers. A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes as amended, the motion was seconded and approved.

4. Board of Directors Meeting Update: *Presiding Officer*

a. Financial Report & Administrative Updates

i. 2022 Dues Billing Notice

Bekah announced that invoices for membership dues for 2022 were sent out at the beginning of this week. Anyone that does not receive their invoice or would like to receive an invoice to support the committee was urged to make contact with Bekah by email.

ii. **2022 Meeting Schedule**

Bekah reported that meeting time and frequency for 2022 would not be changing as a result of the responses to the end of year member survey. Meetings will continue to be scheduled for afternoons on the 2nd Wednesday of odd numbered months, calendar requests for 2022 meetings will be sent out shortly.

Responses regarding preference of meeting formats going forward will be addressed by officers at an upcoming meeting along with consideration of the current pandemic situation. Bekah invited anyone that was willing and able to host a hybrid meeting to make contact with her.

5. Harbor Safety Plan Status

a. **Harbor Safety Sub-Committee**

i. **Subcommittee Leadership Transition Notice**

Pete expressed thanks to Dan Jordan and Kate Mickelson for the work they had done and for their willingness to assist going forward. Pete announced that leadership is transitioning to Ross McDonald and Jeremy Nielsen, anyone interested in serving on the subcommittee was encouraged to send an email to Ross rossm@sause.com.

6. Regular Committee Reports & Agency Updates

a. **Navigation Subcommittee (Dan Jordan)**

Dan reported that the committee has not met recently so did not have anything to report. He expressed thanks to NOAA and the Coast for getting the missing buoys reported at the last meeting back in place and operational. Pete added that if anyone has an interest in serving on the Navigation Subcommittee they should make contact with Dan by email.

b. **USCG Sector Columbia River Update (MSU Portland/Sector Columbia River Representative)**

Capt. Bailey greeted the group and reminded everyone that with Crab Season underway the Coast Guard are available for vessel examinations before handing over to Sector Columbia River Commanding Officer Capt. Scott Jackson to provide an update. Capt. Jackson advised that there was going to be some reorganization which will include moving Sector Columbia River Command back to Portland.

Additional Departmental Updates from USCG:

Vessel Inspections Division advised of changes taking effect as a result of the Conception fire incident effective March 28, 2022, vessels affected are being given until 2023 to make the necessary modifications to become compliant, it is thought that the changes will affect less than 20 vessels in the AOR.

Investigations Division reported that during 2021 there were 397 marine casualty investigation activities, 26 enforcement activities and 10 suspension and revocation proceedings.

A reminder was given that heavy weather advisory information can be found in a special notice to mariners and that the National Weather Service website is a good resource for weather conditions, restrictions and closures.

PAC-PARS; a detailed presentation was included in November's LCRHSC meeting and a reminder given that the public comment period for the study ends on January 25, 2022.

Marine Event Permits are required for organized water activities that take place on navigable waters, the process from permit application through to event execution and monitoring was detailed for the group.



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c. **MARAD – West Coast Update**

Bruce Lambert advised the group that NOFOs will be coming out in February for Raise and PIDP Grants and gave a reminder that the application deadline for America's Marine Highway ends January 31, 2022

Bruce asked the group if there are any dynamic air draft sensors along the Columbia River system, Dan Jordan advised there are not currently but it is something that is being considered with the possibility of larger vessels entering the river system. Bruce advised he is looking at what type of funding assistance might be available for such a project and will keep Dan in the loop as he finds out more information.

Finally, Bruce advised he is in the process of transferring to a similar role in New Orleans and encouraged anyone interested in finding out more about the position he vacated to make contact with him.

d. **NOAA – Office of Coast Survey Update**

Lorraine Heilman reported that the NOAA current survey is back underway after a 2-year hiatus and the information gathered will be used to update tidal current tables. The survey will involve the placement of 16 current meters on the Lower Columbia River with a further 11 stations deployed when the survey continues in 2023.

7. Presentations/Speakers

a. **Stern Mooring Buoys and Barge Channel Survey Updates**

US Army Corps of Engineers – Jessica Stokke

Jessica advised the group that the Corps owns and maintains 8 ship stern mooring buoys in designated USCG anchorages. Jessica shared her contact information and advised that she is a great point of contact for any issues, damages or defects concerning these buoys. Secondly Jessica presented some slides showing results from their multibeam surveys downstream of the Bonneville and the Dalles locks. The survey showed areas of shoaling in the barge channel and the Corps is looking for input or support from channel users to indicate if they would like to see these particular areas dredged. The survey results will be made available to the group for sharing and Jessica will be available for questions or comments.

b. **Derelict/Sunken Vessels**

Oregon DEQ – Scott Smith

Scott delivered a presentation to the group on derelict vessels with some focus on two of the well-known cases in the river *FV Tiffany* and *Cutter Alert*. Scott advised that removal is estimated to cost around a million per vessel and Oregon does not have the funds to do so. Scott talked about the challenges and hazards when dealing with derelict vessels of this nature including comparisons of how similar cases are dealt with on the Washington side of the river. DEQ intends to make use of their GIS system to record locations and specific information on ADV's and vessels identified as at risk and work with other agencies to get a placeholder/legislative concept to put forward their collective Blue Ribbon Recommendations with the hope that it will be part of a future law to allow them to deal with these vessels.

8. New Business/Good of the Order

- a. Dena Horton advised the group that there is an agreement in place between Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA fisheries related to permitting of existing structures which is anticipated to result in the deferral of some maintenance activities. Dena advised she is happy to give a presentation on this topic at a future meeting if there is interest.
- b. i. Jill Lazo, USCG advised the group that a notice of proposed rule-making was posted detailing changes to user fees for inspected towing vessels, the comment period will end on April 11, 2022.
 - ii. The deadline for the Sub Chapter M certification process is approaching, Jill reminded all towing vessel companies to have their certification of inspection scheduled by April 19, 2022.
 - iii. Jon Hellberg gave some feedback on the proposed changes to user fees advising that the proposed fees reflect an increase of 112% and urged others with tow boat fleets to read the notice. Jill shared a link to the notice with the group.

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1555hrs.



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Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee General Membership Meeting Notes

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 | 1415-1515hrs
Virtual Meeting

In attendance virtually:

Pete Pawlicki, Kirby Chair	Susan Johnson, OBMP Secretary
Larry Landgraver, Port of Longview Vice Chair	Liz Wainwright, Merchants Exchange
Bekah Brinkmeier, Merchants Exchange	Carl Bertapelle, Merchants Exchange
Jeremy Nielsen, Columbia River Pilots	Holly Robinson, MFSA
Ross McDonald, Sause Brothers	Anthony O'Reilly, Merchants Exchange
Curtis Cannizzaro, Clean Rivers Cooperative	Steve Ackerman, Columbia River Pilots
Ken Lawrenson, Columbia River Pilots	Sean Clark, Port of Columbia County
Dena Horton, PNWA	Elliot Levin, Port of Columbia County
Bruce Lambert, MARAD	Scott Smith, DEQ
Tereza Edwards, CRSOA	Jessica Stokke, USACE
Hans Meere, EGT	Mark Curtis, Crowley
Samuel Diedrick, Foss	Joshua Ferguson, NOAA
Brian Kirk, WA DoE	Joshua Emerson, DEQ
Sean Kuschel, WA DoE	Kristin Meira, American Cruise Lines
LT Sean Murphy, USCG	Dan Jordan, Columbia River Bar Pilots
Captain Scott Jackson, USCG	Tom Griffiths, OBMP
Carl Obermeier, Foss	Brian Fletcher, Tidewater
LT Lisa Siebert, USCG	Janet Shaw, USA H1 Unlimited
Taylor-Lynn Kunkle, USCG	Ken Tennefoss, CRYA
Rod Moritz, USACE	Gregg Bertrand, USACE
Casey O'Donnell, USACE	Max Wilson-Fey, USACE
Annette Larson	Alina Orlenok, USCG

1. Meeting Called to Order: *Presiding Officer*

Pete Pawlicki, Chair and Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 1415hrs.

2. Additions/Corrections to Agenda

There were no corrections or additions

3. Review of Meeting Notes from January 12, 2022

The meeting notes from January 12, 2022 were presented, there were no amendments proposed.

4. Board of Directors Meeting Update: *Presiding Officer*

a. Financial Report & Administrative Updates

Bekah reported that accounts payable and accounts receivable are both current. Some requests for change of contact details and addresses have been fulfilled and invoices resent. If anyone has not received their invoice by the end of this week, they should make contact with Bekah by email.

It was reported that the 2021 Meeting notes link on the website was not going to the correct destination, this has now been corrected.

An amendment to Section 2.4 Ex Officio Members of the Bylaws was presented and approved at the Board Meeting which states that the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Washington Department of Ecology are Ex Officio members of the Board of Directors. This amendment was initiated at the request of the two state agencies.

5. Harbor Safety Plan Status

a. Harbor Safety Plan Sub-Committee Section Reviews (Ross McDonald and Capt. Jeremy Nielson)

Ross updated the group on progress of the review, advising that suggested edits to the Introduction and Severe Weather Sections were presented at the Board of Directors meeting today. The changes to the Introduction Section were highlighted as language changes to replace “stakeholders” with “interested parties” and an updated summary under Washington Department of Ecology. The Severe Weather Section received an update to the definition of severe weather but has been recommended for some additional review.

6. Regular Committee Reports & Agency Updates

a. Navigation Subcommittee (Dan Jordan)

Dan reported that a container ship, larger than the historical norm, transited the river system this week and it looks likely that we will continue to see larger container ships on the river in the future. With this there is a renewed focus on the charted bridge heights for Astoria-Megler and Longview to make sure that the larger vessels can pass safely underneath the bridges. A suggestion was made by the Coast Guard on the Dead Ship Tow procedures of the Harbor Safety Plan. Historically the Harbor Safety Plan guidance has been a small document which directs to a Coast Guard CFR but the suggestion is to incorporate the two into one document. If anyone has any interest in assisting, they were advised to make contact with Dan. There have been some serious incidents in the past month which have put a renewed focus on pilot ladders and gangway safety. Dan reminded anyone that is boarding ships to keep a sharp eye out for pins on the hinges to avoid potential incidents from occurring.

b. USCG Sector Columbia River Update (MSU Portland/Sector Columbia River Representative)

LT Sean Murphy greeted the group and advised that he has recently taken over the Waterways Division and Facilities Division as LCDR Sean Morrison prepares for his retirement on April 1.

Additional Departmental Updates from USCG:

- Vessel Inspections Division gave a summary of 2021 activities advising the number of COI inspections was up due to the deadline for full compliance on Subchapter M Towing Vessels coming up in July of this year. Some clarification was given on the information provided during the last meeting on the topic of necessary safety modifications for Small Passenger Vessels to become compliant as a result of the dive boat Conception fire incident in 2019.
- Investigations Division reported that since the last meeting there have been 51 Marine Casualty Investigation Activities with 26 of those being for Commercial Fishing Vessels. In addition, there have been 5 Enforcement Activities and 1 Suspension and Revocation Proceeding.



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- The Emergency Management and Force Readiness Dept. advised of their upcoming drills and exercises.
- Incident Management Division gave an update on their activities including a recent test of a GRP which turned into an incident when two drums were discovered floating down the river and the recovery/clean up of a derelict/sinking vessel off Hayden Island which the owner claims was stolen. As part of Operation Nomad USCG is recording locations and any identifying marks of derelict or abandoned vessels for a database to help Oregon State Marine Board show that money is needed to be able to remove these abandoned derelict vessels from the waterways.
- Waterways Management and Facilities reported on Facility Cyber Security Plan Amendments which were due last year and cyber security.
- Finally, a reminder was issued on Marine Event Permit Applications that event permit applications should be submitted 135 days before the start of the proposed event.

c. **MARAD – West Coast Update (Bruce Lambert)**

Bruce gave an update advising that there is a large amount of money flowing through the DOT at the moment in the way of grants for small ports with an emphasis on environmental activities such as decarbonization of ports and also a lot of money for infrastructure. Bruce advised anyone with an interest to make contact with him for further information.

d. **NOAA – Office of Coast Survey Update (Jeff Ferguson)**

Jeff advised that he will be covering for Crescent Moegling, NW Navigation Manager for the next year and asked that anything which would normally be sent to Crescent be sent to Jeff. Jeff reminded the group that Raster Charts are being discontinued and on April 6 charts 18527, 18528 and 18529 will no longer be available. After this date for real time navigation everybody should be using the ENC. For those who want to print their own charts there is a tool to do so on the NOAA website.

7. Presentations/Speakers

a. **Shoaling at Reed Island**

US Army Corps of Engineers – Jessica Stokke

Jessica gave an update on the impact of shoaling in the area of Reed Island which is encroaching on the Federal Navigation Channel. Jessica presented graphics to show the current situation and forecasted future shoal encroachment for the area. Proposed plans were shared with the membership to re-align the Federal Navigation Channel outside of the shoaling area which more or less mirrors the route currently being taken to navigate the area.

USACE is seeking feedback on the proposal from channel users that transit through this area and a Local Notice to Mariners will also be issued on the subject. Upon completion of the feedback period USACE will change the official channel framework and NOAA will update the navigation charts. USCG will then make changes to the channel markers and issue the necessary Local Notice to Mariners detailing the change. The graphics presented will be shared with the group to encourage feedback on the proposal.

b. **Vancouver USA H1 Unlimited Exhibition Event - Janet Shaw**

Janet informed the group of a planned upcoming event to hold an exhibition/demonstration of unlimited hydroplane racing in the center of the Columbia River on a two-mile circuit course.

The event plan particulars were detailed as:

- The plan is to use the Columbia Business Park as the access point to the river.
- Event will take place between 0830-1530 on May 20 beginning with a boat show in Vancouver being led to the area they are going to use for the event.
- The group is insured with American Powerboat Association
- Own Safety Team will be on site including two rescue boats, one fire boat
- Four-Six vessels on the course outskirts to keep people away when boats are on the water.

USCG will also be in attendance at the event and the shipping channel will not be shut down, the group will have a boat on hand at the marina nearby to assist with directing vessels that need to come out from the marina onto the river. Janet advised that she is in Vancouver currently and her plan is to visit the Marinas to provide them with this information tomorrow as she has not received any responses from them – Ken Tennefoss offered to provide assistance with this.

Lt Murphy added that the permit application is being processed for this event which will require a safety zone with a Coast Guard asset or two. One thing to note is that the event will have an impact on tug and barge traffic through the area.

8. New Business/Good of the Order

Bekah advised that a debrief email with contact information and materials presented would be sent to the membership the week following the meeting.

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1515hrs.



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Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee General Membership Meeting Notes

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 | 1415-1439hrs
Virtual Meeting

In attendance virtually:

Pete Pawlicki, Kirby Chair	Susan Johnson, OBMP Secretary
Larry Landgraver, Port of Longview Vice Chair	Liz Wainwright, Merchants Exchange
Alex Scott, Anchorage Launch	Bekah Brinkmeier, Merchants Exchange
Bill Crabbs, Phillips 66	Brett Bybee Columbia River Launch Service
Brian Kirk, WA DoE	Casey O'Donnell, USACE
Catherine Simons, MARAD	Dan Jordan, Columbia River Bar Pilots
Dave Berliner, USCG	Dena Horton, PNWA
Dustin Johnson, Columbia River Pilots	Elliot Levin, Port of Columbia County
Eric Sigfridson, Shaver Transportation	Hans Meere, EGT
Janet Shaw, USA H1 Unlimited	Jeffrey Ferguson, NOAA
Jill Lazo, USCG D13	John Moriarty, USCG
Jon Hellberg, Shaver Transportation	Ken Lawrenson, Columbia River Pilots
Kristin Meira, American Cruise Lines	Lars Uglum, Port of Vancouver
Luke Otteson, CRLS	LT Ortiz, USCG
Mark Curtis, Crowley	Mary Wiley, Merchants Exchange
Miriam House, Port of Columbia County	Samuel Diedrick, Foss
Scott Smith, OR DEQ	Sean Kuschel, WA DoE
Tereza Edwards, CRSOA	Tom Griffitts, OBMP

1. Meeting Called to Order: *Presiding Officer*

Pete Pawlicki, Chair and Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 1415hrs.

2. Additions/Corrections to Agenda

There were no corrections or additions

3. Review of Meeting Notes from March 9, 2022

The meeting notes from March 9, 2022 were presented, there were no amendments proposed.

4. Board of Directors Meeting Update: *Presiding Officer*

Pete gave an overview of the Board Meeting and advised that he will be attending next month's National Harbor Safety Committee Conference on behalf of the LCRHSC.

5. Harbor Safety Plan Status

Larry gave an update to the General Membership on the following sections of the Harbor Safety Plan which have been under review by the Harbor Safety Plan Review Sub-Committee.

i. Lightering Guidelines

The Lightering Guidelines have been reviewed and no changes are necessary at this time.

ii. Bunkering Guidelines

Upon review the Bunkering Guidelines are consistent with the C-State Guidance from other ports and all requirements for this section are present and current.

In conclusion, Larry advised on behalf of Ross and Jeremy that there have been no changes and all the links have been updated. Pete expressed thanks to Ross and Jeremy for their work on the Harbor Safety Plan Section Review.

6. Regular Committee Reports & Agency Updates

a. Navigation Subcommittee (Dan Jordan)

Dan reported that the Navigation Subcommittee had nothing to report at this time.

b. USCG Sector Columbia River Update (MSU Portland/Sector Columbia River Representative)

David Berliner and LT Ortiz reported that they would be giving the update today due to a Regional Leadership Conference taking place.

Additional Departmental Updates from USCG:

- Vessel Inspections Division gave a summary of 2021 activities including the figures for Port State Control exams and Domestic Vessel Inspections. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore gave notification that a number of ships had been supplied contaminated fuel from the Port of Singapore. It was reported that approximately 200 ships had been supplied with the affected fuel and of these 3 have been seen in our river system. The fuel has been reported to cause issues with fuel pumps and fuel systems going in to the engines. As a result, the Maritime Port Authority of Singapore is looking to implement additional fuel quality checks and screenings for unacceptable chemicals.
- Investigations Division reported that since the last meeting there had been 38 Marine Casualty Investigation Activities, now 40 as of today with 20 of those being for loss of propulsion. In addition, there are 2 active Suspension and Revocation Proceedings including a hearing for drug usage and a positive drug test. An overview was given of a recent Findings of Concern Notice issued March 30, 2022 with the subject 'Don't replace locknuts with standard hexnuts'. LT Ortiz gave details of the incident which prompted the issuance of the Findings of Concern and stressed the importance of not replacing locknuts with standard hexnuts.
- The Emergency Management and Force Readiness Dept. advised of their upcoming drills and exercises including a full-scale role play exercise simulating a downed passenger jet in the Columbia River and a 9.0 earthquake with subsequent tsunami drill.
- Incident Management Division reported that compared with last year's statistics they are already at double the amount of National Response Center Notifications with 44 already for the calendar year of 2022. An overview of USCG's Operation Nomad was presented, the mission is to search, locate, evaluate and log abandoned/derelect vessels in the AOR. Dave Berliner advised that as of April 7, more than 190 derelict vessels have been identified and updated the group on some of the commonly known vessels in the area which fall under this category.



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- Cyber Security continues to be a priority for the Coast Guard, a Marine Safety Bulletin 02-22 was issued reminding of CISA's (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) "Shields Up" website which is the primary location for information and recommendations for adapting a heightened cybersecurity posture.
- USCG Boating Safety App A general reminder was given that the App is available for use and has numerous features including a safety equipment checklist, ability to file a float plan, hazard, pollution and suspicious activity reporting.

c. **MARAD – West Coast Update (Catherine Simons)**

Catherine Simons greeted the group and announced they are the new Gateway Director for the Maritime Administration here in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, Catherine is Seattle based and looks forward to meeting with everyone.

d. **NOAA – Office of Coast Survey Update (Jeffrey Ferguson)**

Jeffrey reminded the group that he will be covering for Crescent Moegling, NW Navigation Manager for the next year and asked that anything which would normally be sent to Crescent be sent to Jeff.

7. New Business/Good of the Order

Dan shared details with the group of an incident which occurred onboard a vessel at anchor in Kalama and resulted in launch operators providing medical assistance to a crew member before they were airlifted by Life flight. Dan reflected that this was a good example of the Emergencies at Anchor section of the Harbor Safety Plan. Brett Bybee of Columbia River Launch Service added that it was his crew members working the incident and echoed that this is an example which brought to light some of the gaps in the crew member emergency response scenarios and highlighted areas that could do with fine tuning, Brett advised he would like to be part of any future discussions on this topic.

Dena Horton advised that a joint letter was submitted to the Coast Guard to detail concerns over the proposed navigation clearance determination that had recently been presented for the Interstate Bridge Replacement. Responses received confirm that the 300ft channel will be contained in a 400ft width space.

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1439hrs.