



LOWER COLUMBIA REGION
HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 | 1415-1545hrs
Port of Port of Portland & Virtual Meeting via MS Teams

In Attendance: Steve Ackerman, Jeremy Nielson, Kate Mickelson, Mason Sullivan, Carl Bertapelle, Tom Griffiths, Larry Landgraver, Fred Myer, Jessica Stokke, Ross McDonald and Michelle Eyres, *Merchants Exchange*

Attending Online: Vanessa Green, Hans Meere, Curtis Cannizzaro, Dena Horton, Jon Hellberg, Jill L. Lazo, USCG D13, LT Daniel Russo, Joshua Emerson, Thomas Semrau, LTJG Will Landry (USCG IMD), Scott Wullger, Alex Gorbachov, Jim Merten, USCG, Sean Kuschel, James McLay, Cecil M. Tipton, Jeffrey Ferguson, Dan E McFadden, Eric Sigfridson, Keith Curl-Dove, Kristin Meira, Christi Dunham, Ken Lawrenson, Carl Obermeier, Brian Kirk

1. Welcome—The Chair began the meeting at 1417 hrs.
2. Additions/Corrections to Agenda—Correction, take off “action item” for topics 3 and 4.
3. Review of Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2024 – correction to Kate Mickelson name on item 10 of the meeting minutes.
4. Board of Directors Meeting Update
 - a. The Chair reported that a letter had been received from the Columbia River Pilots regarding their concerns. The Board decided to stand up a committee to address those concerns. Several Board members have volunteered for the committee. Larry will chair the committee which is to be called the Bridge Committee. Additional interested members are welcome to join.
 - b. Financial Report & Administrative Updates (*Merchants Exchange*).



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- c. 2024 Meeting Schedule—next meeting is in July in Astoria at the Barbey Center. In September, the meeting is tentatively at the Port of Kalama and the November meeting will be at the Columbia River Pilots.
5. Speaker/Presentation: *Fred Myer, Manager Port of Portland T6* – Port of Portland Update—Terminal 6 is open and will continue to be open. The Auto Warehousing Corporation brings in around 250,000 to 300,000 autos per year and Terminal 6 is going to expand its auto capability. SM Line and Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) are still calling at the port. The Port also handles a fair amount of break bulk. The Port has been losing \$12-13 million per year for the last few years. An independent operator was sought but has not been found. Negotiations are ongoing with SM and MSC regarding raising their rates.

The Port Executive Committee voted that the container operations at Terminal 6 will cease on October 1, 2024. Additional funding is being sought from the State of Oregon but as of now, the October 1 closure date stands. Closing container shipping will result in a loss of jobs and tax revenue. Dena asked about special district taxes and Fred did not have any knowledge of those but would reach out to the Port's State Affairs Manager. For ships to call at other nearby ports, it would increase the shipping costs to those companies.

6. Update of July 9, 2024, Regional Harbor Safety Committee meeting in Astoria, OR—Save the date coming soon and Agenda to follow. Lunch at 1100 and the meeting starts at 1200. RSVP as soon as possible for planning purposes.
7. Harbor Safety Plan Status, Chapter 10: Required Charts and Publications Guidelines—Ross let us know that the plan needs to be updated so it matches reality (paper charts v. electronic) and it needs to stay consistent based on regulations. A committee is being formed and interested members can reach out to Ross.
8. Standard Committee Assignments & Discussions
 - a. Membership Outreach Committee -- Committee has been idle due to staffing changes at Merchants Exchange. The first order of business is to produce collateral for outreach. Any interested parties, please contact Carl Bertapelle.
9. Regular Committee Reports & Agency Updates—
 - a. Navigation Subcommittee -- Bridge issues on the Columbia River



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- b. Columbia River Bar Pilots -- Dan Jordan presented information regarding the pilots' role in safety on the river. Due to the accident in Baltimore, processes have been put in place to deal with loss of navigation near infrastructure, but discussions are ongoing regarding how to deal with this issue.
- c. Columbia River Pilots -- Jeremy Nielson spoke about the lack of space around the Longview Bridge. The River Pilots are proposing a channel realignment to have the S-turn around the gypsum dock removed and the turn is located exactly under the bridge. There are issues with calling 9-1-1 and a different system needs to be designed. USCG Command Center stated that it has Quick Response Cards to address these types of emergencies.
- d. MARAD – West Coast Update
 - i. Information about our National Security Multi-Mission Vessel: These are vessels that will be located at all six maritime academies (Cal Maritime is the only west coast academy) with delivery in 2025. People should have awareness of the disaster relief aspect of the vessels.
 - ii. Video link provided by Xochitl Castaneda
<https://youtu.be/v0PqggApR88>
- e. US Army Corps of Engineers -- Jessica Stokke is working for USACE regarding a channel realignment at Longview. Normal Corps policy would dictate not having a turn right a bridge. However, with all the infrastructure and the river flow, there is no other place to place a turn except under the bridge. It should be a year before the actual dredging would take place. Between the St. Johns Bridge and the railroad bridge. There is shoaling and Superfund related issues which the USACE is proposing to move the channel into the center of the river to avoid those issues. This is more of an administrative change. No dredging required.
- f. NOAA – Office of Coast Survey Update – Jeffrey Ferguson presented information regarding updates to the ENC. You can visit their [website](#) to see where the process is.
- g. USCG – Sector Columbia River Update (LT Carlie Gilligan)
 - i. Safety Issues, Capt. James McClay -- The Coast Guard extended the comment period for the notice of proposed rulemaking on cyber security through May 22nd, 2024. This is the proposed rulemaking that addresses reporting requirements for cyber.



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- ii. The Coast Guard has reopened the comment period to establish Anchorage Grounds near Rice Island, Port Westward and Crimms Island. The first two will close on June 7th and the Crimms Island on May 10th.
- iii. The next Maritime Morning Meetup is May 29th from 0800 to 1000 at Sector Columbia River.
- iv. Fleet Week is from June 5th to June 10th. The security zone will be in place between the Hawthorne and Steel bridges on the Willamette River.
- v. Inspections Division, LCDR Eugene Chung—USCG issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin in September 2023 and most recently, Coast Guard Engineering released Policy Letter 0124, which is the guidance regarding the devices that alter maneuvering characteristics of ships to ensure safe operations in waters of the US.
- vi. Incident Management Division, LTJG Will Landry—Six people passed their FAA exam for drones. This will allow for more “eyes” and more capability for spotting and measuring spills.
- vii. Emergency Management and Force Readiness, Jim Merten, USCG—AMSC and planning workshops are coming up. EMFR can host a test of the communications between pilots and shore. Reach out if any parties are interested.
- viii. Cyber Command, Lt. Carlie Gilligan USCG—2023 Annual Report: Cyber Trends and Insights in the Marine Environment. The report is available [here](#).

10. New Business—Information from Evan Clemson, VP of Operations, Advanced American Construction, Inc., heavy civil marine contractor. After doing all the due diligence and nav assessment, there should have been no issues. The vessel impacted the 125 kv overhead cables 10 feet below the top of the mast. No one was injured but both cables parted. One cable belonged to PGE and the other Pacific Power. Neither company responded in a helpful way and did not seem to understand why the vessel was where it was when the accident happened. BPA provided a survey of the Willamette River as but it was inaccurate due to several factors.



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Fred Myer, Port of Portland, stated this brought the “circle back around” because the lines went across Port property, and he was never informed about what happened to those lines. Jeff from NOAA stated that those line heights can vary based on temperature, line load, wave, wind, etc. The survey of a powerline only gives you a information on the day of the survey.

11. Good of the Order

- a. Weather buoy 46029 is due to be deployed May 20.
- b. Next meeting is July 9th, in person only, in Astoria.

12. Adjourned at 1558 hours.

2024 LCRHSC Meeting Schedule

Board of Directors: 1330-1405hrs

General Membership: 1415-1545hrs

Date	Location
January 10, 2024	Port of Vancouver USA (Hybrid)
March 13, 2024	Merchants Exchange (Hybrid)
May 8, 2024	Port of Portland
July 9, 2024	Barbey Center Astoria, OR(Hybrid)
September 11, 2024	TBD (Hybrid)
November 13, 2024	TBD (Hybrid)