



LOWER COLUMBIA REGION  
HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

## Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 | 1415-1600 hrs  
Port of Vancouver & [Virtual Meeting via MS Teams](#)

### **Officers:**

**Chair:** Larry Landgraver, *Port of Longview*

**Vice Chair:** Ross McDonald, *Sause Bros.*

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Carl Bertapelle, *Merchants Exchange*

**Association Account Specialist:** Michelle Eyres, *Merchants Exchange*

1. The meeting was called to order at 1415 hours.
1. There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.
2. The meeting Minutes from September 11, 2024, were presented. The Chair asked if there were any additions or corrections to reach out to the Executive Committee or staff.
3. Board of Directors Meeting Update—*Presiding Officer*
  - a. The Chair reported the Board had approved the Merchants Exchange Service Agreement 2025-2029. There are no significant changes to the agreement other than the 3.5% increase each year and the fact that the agreement is for a five-year period compared to the previous one-year period.
  - b. The Chair reported that the Board had elected the following members to two-year terms starting *January 2025* and ending *December 2026*:
    - i. Jeremy Nielsen, Columbia River Pilots
    - ii. Kenny Davais, Port of Vancouver USA
    - iii. Ross McDonald, Sause Bros.
    - iv. Carl Bertapelle, Merchants Exchange
    - v. Randy Cooper, EGT, LLC
    - vi. Elliot Levin, Port of Columbia County
    - vii. Neal Feustel, Foss Maritime



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- viii. Carl Obermeier, Maritime Fire & Safety Association
  - c. The Chair reported that the Board had elected the following members to one-year terms as officers:
    - i. Chair: Larry Landgraver, Port of Longview
    - ii. Vice Chair: Ross McDonald, Sause Bros.
    - iii. Secretary/Treasurer: Carl Bertapelle, Merchants Exchange
  - d. The 2025 budget was approved by the Board and will have no increase to membership dues.
- 4. Subcommittee Assignments & Discussions
  - a. Membership Outreach Subcommittee: Carl Bertapelle reported that there will be a new member in 2025. Blue Water Shipping has joined the LCRHSC. Due to scheduling challenges, the membership subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for January.
  - b. Bridge Subcommittee: Larry Landgraver reported that the work of this committee has been completed and the subcommittee has been stood down. Further bridge issues will be addressed by the Navigation Subcommittee
  - c. Navigation Subcommittee: Captain Dan Jordan was not able to attend the meeting. Captain Steve Ackerman spoke on his behalf and let the LCRHSC know that Captain Jordan no longer wants to head this subcommittee, but he does still want to be on the subcommittee. Captain Ackerman volunteered to co-chair the subcommittee. The LCRHSC Chair noted that these subcommittees, such as the Navigation Subcommittee, need to remain active and available to support the marine community, meeting as needed.
  - d. Harbor Safety Plan Subcommittee: Ross McDonald thanked the Board for their input on changes to the Plan. Most of the changes are replacing information that has changed such as Coast Pilot #7 is now Coast Pilot #10 and references to paper charts have been removed and replaced with their digital equivalents. The updated Plan will be presented at the January Board Meeting.
- 5. Regular Committee Reports & Agency Updates
  - a. Columbia River Bar Pilots—Captain Steve Ackerman reported that nothing unusual is going on, but the weather has been uncooperative. Bar Pilots will continue to work to clear up the backlog tonight. Members appreciate the communication from Pilots.
  - b. Columbia River Pilots—no River Pilots were present.
  - c. MARAD – West Coast Update: Xochitl Castañeda reported that there is \$1.5 billion in grants available for infrastructure projects (intermodal and port). Xochitl



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is happy to help anyone make their grant more competitive. Her contact information is:

Xochitl Castañeda  
Pacific Northwest and Alaska Gateway Director  
915 Second Ave  
Room 2608 Box 8  
Seattle, WA 98137  
(202) 494-4564

- d. US Army Corps of Engineers—Casey O’Donnell reported that their dredge is standing down for the winter.
- e. NOAA – Office of Coast Survey—Laura Pagano reported that survey planning is underway at the Hydrographic Survey Division for the Comprehensive Columbia River Survey which is slated to come out March 2025. The survey will cover from the mouth of the Columbia River to Bonneville Dam. Co-ops office launched the new Salish Sea and Columbia River Operational Forecast System in September. This system will forecast water levels up to three days in the future. By clicking on a pin you can find wind, waves, current speeds, directions, water temperatures and salinity. The old model has been retired. A clarification question was asked about the difference between NOAA survey and USACE survey. Laura said the USACE survey is just the federal channel. The NOAA survey will cover everything else.
- f. United States Coast Guard – Sector Columbia River Update – [See presentation here](#). Next 3M meeting is in January. When reviewing the slides there is a slide about regulations regarding ports and terminals being required to have garbage disposal.
- g. Oregon DEQ—Josh Emerson—Josh reported that a new type of invasive mussels, Golden Mussels, have been found in California. Zebra Mussels are in Idaho.

## 6. New Business

## 7. Good of the Order

- a. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at Port of Kalama
- b. March meeting is tentatively scheduled for a MARAD ship.
- c. A location is needed for the May meeting.

## 8. Adjourned at 1503 hours.