



LOWER COLUMBIA REGION
HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee General Membership Meeting Notes

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 | 1416-1519 hrs
Venue: Port of Vancouver USA & Microsoft Teams

In attendance:

Larry Landgraver, <i>Port of Longview</i> Chair	Colin Nelson, ISA WAV Surveillance
Ross McDonald, Sause Brothers Vice Chair	Jeremy Brock, Shaver Transportation
Carl Bertapelle, Merchants Exchange Secretary	Dan Jordan, Columbia River Bar Pilots
Dan Jordan, Columbia River Bar Pilots	Carlie Gilligan, Sector Columbia River
Steve Ackerman, Columbia River Bar Pilots	Andy Hudkins
Jeremy Nielson	Sean Whalen
Neal Feustel, Foss Maritime	Shannon Anthony, Sector Columbia River
Kenny Davais, Port of Vancouver USA	Eugene Chung, Sector Columbia River
Richard Vincent, Port of Portland	Jody Stiger, Sector Columbia River
Kevin Steder, TEMCO	Ron Gill, Port of Vancouver USA
Fred Myer, Port of Portland	Jill Lazo, Sector Columbia River
Joshua Emerson, DEQ	Tonya Lim, Sector Columbia River
Brian Kirk, WA Department of Ecology	J. Anthony, Sector Columbia River
Kate Mickelson, CRSOA	Eric Sigfridson, Shaver Transportation
Tereza Edwards, CRSOA	Kenny Koebberling
Hans Meere, EGT, LLC	Randy Reinhofer
Luke Otteson, CRLS	Alex Gorbachov
Brian Carrico, Interstate Bridge Replacement	Tony Sellers
Cory Cothren, Tidewater	Jeffrey Ferguson, NOAA
Tori Thomas, Crowley	Carl Obermeier, MFSA
Christi Dunham, Inchcape Shipping Service	Vanessa Green, Clean Rivers Cooperative
Jon Hellberg, Shaver Transportation	Curtis Cannizzaro, Merchants Exchange
Dena Horton, PNWA	Ashley Ros, Merchants Exchange
Ken Mishler, Port of Vancouver USA	

1. Meeting Called to Order: *Presiding Officer*

Larry Landgraver, Chair and Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 1426 hrs.

2. Additions/Corrections to Agenda

There was no additions or corrections to the agenda.

3. Review of Meeting Notes from November 15th, 2023

There was one amendment to the correct spelling of a name on the attendance list.

The meeting notes from the November 15th, 2023 were presented and there were no additions or corrections.

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

a. Financial Report & Administrative Updates:

Ashley Ros presented the December 2023 financials. Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable are current. There is one remaining outstanding 2023 member dues, the company has agreed to pay but are still awaiting payment. The membership may need to be reversed; an update will be given at March Meeting. It was noted, our annual Oregon Corporation Fee was included on the December financials.

b. 2024 Dues Billing Notice & Meeting Schedule

It was reported that the 2024 dues invoicing will be completed this month. The invoices will be addressed to the elected Board member. The 2024 meeting schedule is listed on the agenda with the meetings primarily being hybrid. We are in need of hybrid meeting hosts. If you're interested in hosting a LCRHSC meeting, please reach out to the executive committee.

5. Harbor Safety Plan Status

a. Membership Outreach Committee

- i. One of our goals for 2024 is to expand our membership base and foster new partnerships. Carl has agreed to be the chair on the committee. If you have interest in participating in committee, please contact Carl.

6. Speaker/Presentation

- a. Port of Vancouver USA - Brief Commercial Outlook – Zack Merrill, Sale Account Manager
Zack Merrill gave brief commercial outlook as he researches macroeconomics that impact the river. He gave an overview of what's happening on the Columbia River in terms of volume of maritime transport compared to what's happening in the United States. He discussed critical minerals & qualifying deglobalization predictions. He briefly touched on geopolitical and climate risks critical to waterways in 2023. And lastly, he noted, a climate record low water on the Mississippi. Zack's presentation and contact information will be shared via the post meeting debrief email.

7. Regular Committee Reports & Stakeholder Updates

a. Navigation Subcommittee

Dan Jordan delivered a brief update; there are three missing weather Buys (2 NOAA's, 1 scripts). The scripts buoy should be redeployed when weather permits. The NOASS's Buys timeframe is late march or Ealy April. The Coast Guard has issued a safety notice, emphasizing the importance of ships including the types and limitations of their horsepower limiters on copilot cards which ships have been doing which is a positive step.

b. MARAD – West Coast Update

No representative was present.

c. Army Corps of Engineers

No representative was present.

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

Jeff Ferguson delivered a brief update; NOAA is phasing out paper charts for the Columbia River, with all current raster charts becoming final editions by January and officially discontinued by July 2024. An alternative is our website's custom chart tool, which converts ENC data into printable PDFs sold by specific vendors. Jeff will be intown January 22nd at a meeting hosted by the Columbia rive pilots with stakeholders and senior management to learn about traffic on river, how everyone uses NOAA products and services, and how to prioritize surveys and work moving forward. If anyone has items you would like on agenda for senior NOAA individuals, please let Jeff know.

e. USCG Sector Columbia River Update (Sector Columbia River Representative)



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- Vessel Inspections Division noted the National Passenger Vessel Association conference is in Portland January 27th-January 30th. The 2024 Q1 Enhanced Exam Program (EEP): Immersion Suits were reviewed. The Enhanced Exam Program (EEP) with an aim to increase focus on a specific aspect of ship safety. This increased focus can be due to the implementation of new regulations, deficiency trends discovered, or other program interests.
- Investigations Division reviewed there is a bulletin and graphics explaining the process for a sexual assault and harassment procedure. There were 279 marine casualties in Sector Columbia River Area of responsibilities. 144 marine casualties were commercial fishing vessels. Coast Guard has released a Findings of Concern titled: *Findings of Concern 001-24 Commercial Fishing Can Be Dangerous for the Unprepared*. The findings of concerns address several factors that increases the risk to crewmembers and decreased the crewmembers' readiness to respond to emergencies. Factors such as medical issues of crewmembers, drug use, fatigue, & lack of written procedures.
- Emergency Management and Force Readiness Dept. reported the upcoming drills/exercise events which includes 15 FEB: Area Maritime Security Meeting, 22 FEB: SCR Continuity of Ops TTX – Clean Rivers, 6 APR: Reserve Mobilization Mass Rescue Op TTX, 22-26 APR: Tsunami Seminar/Drill, 8 May: Area Maritime Security Plan Workshop.
- Incident Management Division responded to 11 cases. Issued 1 LOW's, and 1 Federal Projects, Upcoming events and project include FY24 Government Initiated Unannounced Exercise (GIUE) Program Update. ON Dec 28th, 2023 the Removal of sunken KMT-3 Tug took place. Vessel was found approximately 1 week after sinking. KMT-3 was removed by crane from 40 feet deep with no pollution. The Federalized Case: Contractor Ballard Marine Construction assists with removal of 135 gallons diesel fuel and 100 gallons oily water from M/V NAIAD II near the mouth of the Lewis River.
- Waterways Management/Facilities reported on the Notices of Proposed Rule Making: Anchorage Grounds in the Columbia River. NPRM's are posted on the Federal Register with a public comment period ending on February 26th. If you would like to make a comment, visit Regulations.gov and search "Establish Anchorage Grounds: Columbia River"
- Cybersecurity The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is hosting a free two-hour security webinar to enhance your organization's resilience in case of an active shooter incident on January 18th, 1200-1400 PST.

8. New Business/Good of the Order

The Executive Committee announced that they are working on hosting a Regional Harbor Safety Committee Meeting with Coos Bay and Grays Harbor. The current working plan is to host the groups with the Astoria Meeting in July. Please provide feedback and input if there are ideas for presentations/topics.

Larry announced that this was Ashley's last meeting and thanked her for her time working on LCHRSC.

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1519 hrs.



Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee General Membership Meeting Notes

**Wednesday, March 13, 2024, | 1423-1519 hrs.
Venue: Merchants Exchange & Microsoft Teams**

In attendance:

Larry Landgraver, <i>Port of Longview</i> Chair	Sean Morrison, USCG Sector Columbia River
Ross McDonald, Sause Brothers Vice Chair	Sector Columbia River
Carl Bertapelle, Merchants Exchange Secretary	Justin Peterson
Dan Jordan, Columbia River Bar Pilots	Andrew Brady, Shaver
Steve Ackerman, Columbia River Bar Pilots	Xochitl Castaneda, MARAD
Tom Griffiths, OBMP	Earl Dixon, United Grain
Neal Feustel, Foss Maritime	Shannon Anthony, Sector Columbia River
Kenny Davais, Port of Vancouver USA	Scott Wullger
Richard Vincent, Port of Portland	Casey O'Donnell, USACOE
Sean Kushel, WA Department of Ecology	Alex Gorbachov, Nat Cargo
Fred Myer, Port of Portland	Jill Lazo, Sector Columbia River
Joshua Emerson, DEQ	Hans Meere, EGT, LLC
Brian Kirk, WA Department of Ecology	LCDR S. Anthony, Sector Columbia River
Kate Mickelson, CRSOA	Brian Carrico, Interstate Bridge Replacement
Tereza Edwards, CRSOA	Cory Cothren, Tidewater
Tori Thomas, Crowley	Carl Obermeier, MFSA
Brianna Cho, BEST	Mason Sullivan, MFSA
Thomas Semrau, Merchants Exchange	Vanessa Green, Clean Rivers Cooperative
Polly Hyke, Clean Rivers Cooperative	

1. Meeting Called to Order: *Presiding Officer*

Larry Landgraver, Chair and Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 1423 hrs.

2. Additions/Corrections to Agenda

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

3. Review of Meeting Notes from January 10th, 2024

The meeting notes from the January 10th, 2024, were presented and there were no additions or corrections.

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

a. Financial Report & Administrative Updates:

Polly Hyke presented the January 2024 financials. Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable are current with the Accounts Receivable balance reflecting unpaid 2024 Annual Dues as of January 31, 2024. Statement of Activities reflects regular monthly expenses in January. There were no questions or comments.



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b. 2024 Dues Billing Notice & Meeting Schedule

2024 Annual Dues invoices were sent in January.

Announced was that the July meeting has been changed from July 10th to July 9th and will be an in-person only meeting to be held in Astoria, OR

5. Speaker / Presentation

a. Businesses Ending Slavery & Trafficking (BEST)- Brianna Cho, *Corporate Relations Coordinator*

Bianna Cho from BEST presented to the Committee. BEST is an organization dedicated to ending human trafficking and slavery. The presentation distinguished the differences between trafficking and smuggling, the types of trafficking and slavery that are common, signs to look for and what to do if you suspect that someone needs help. The presentation included a short training video specific to the maritime industry and highlighted the ongoing slavery and trafficking incidents seen with foreign fishing and cargo vessels. For more information, contact Bianna Cho brianna@bestalliance.org.

6. Harbor Safety Plan Status

There was nothing to report.

7. Standard Committee Assignments & Discussions

a. Membership Outreach Committee

The Membership Outreach Committee is looking for participants. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Carl Bertapelle.

8. Regular Committee Reports & Stakeholder Updates

a. Navigation Subcommittee

Steve Akerman delivered a brief update; There is a need for weather buoys offshore. These are important for the safe operations of maritime vessels. There were no questions.

b. MARAD – West Coast Update

Xochitl Casteneda delivered a brief update; Notice of funding opportunity for infrastructure grants PIDP Full NOFO, closes May 10th. EPA Clean Ports Grant – Optional letter of intent due by March 28th – Applications due May 28th. Xochitl will send a follow up email to the membership. There were no questions or comments.

c. Army Corps of Engineers

No representative was present.

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

No representative was present.

e. USCG Sector Columbia River Update (Sector Columbia River Representative)

- Vessel Inspections Division noted Sexual Assault / Sexual Harassment Job Aid recently released. The newly revamped boating safety App contains float plans, NOAA buoy info, state & navigation rules, and info on safety checks. <https://uscgboating.org/mobile/>. There is a new format for Merchant Mariners Credential format rolled out on March 1st. Will now be an 8.5" x 11" water resistant page with security features instead of the passbook style. Noted annual FPAAC summit – lithium-ion battery discussion.
- Investigations Division Reiteration of contact information.



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- Incident Management Division Responded to twenty-four cases; issued 9 LOWs; Issued 2 NOVs; there were 2 Federal Projects. Brief overview: 08MAR: IMD Astoria identified a collapsed boat house w/ submerged boat FEATHER in Skipanon, OR as discharging diesel, impacting Pacific Seafood Co. OSLTF accessed for \$130K, cleanup efforts going on today. 22JAN: Ilwaco Landing Fire, the Borstein Seafood processing facility and the pier burned completely. Cleanup efforts are still ongoing. 23JAN: Federal case M/V NAIAD II, vessel was actively discharging, contractor removed approximately 250 gallons fuel from vessel. 04MAR: SCR IMD conducted joint assessment of M/V EL CONQUISTADOR with CG Strike Team, DEQ, DSL, and local sheriffs. IMD determined the vessel did not pose a significant threat to the environment.
- Emergency Management and Force Readiness Dept. reported the upcoming drills/exercise events which includes, 6 APR: Reserve Mobilization Mass Rescue Op TTX, 22-26 APR: Tsunami Seminar/Drill, 30 April: Area Committee Meeting, 8 May: Area Maritime Security Plan Workshop, 5-10 Jun: Rose Festival, 10-11 Sep: CG-Led Oil Spill/Boom Deployment FSE.
- Cybersecurity Presidential Executive Order signed on February 21, 2024: Amended 33 CFR Part 6 to ensure USCG authorities are aligned with today's threat environment by explicitly addressing cyber - data, information, networks, programs, systems, or other digital infrastructure and defined "Cyber Incident". Website: [Executive Order on Amending Regulations Relating to the Safeguarding of Vessels, Harbors, Ports, and Waterfront Facilities of the United States | The White House](#)
Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 02-24: Clarifies reporting requirements for MTSA-regulated entities and non-regulated entities. Website: [Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular \(NVIC\) 02-24](#).
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM): Proposes new cybersecurity requirements for MTSA-regulated vessels and facilities. USCG will consider all comments submitted to the docket. Public comment period closes on April 22, 2024. Website: [Federal Register :: Cybersecurity in the Marine Transportation System](#)

9. New Business

There was none.

10. Good of the Order

- a. A Kate Mickelson, CRSOA asked whether the May 8th USCG Security Workshop would interfere with the LCRHSC meeting scheduled for that same day. USCG representatives replied that the time for the Security Workshop is not yet finalized yet and that it will be scheduled around the LCRHSC meeting in order not to be a conflict.
- b. Richard Vincent, Port of Portland made note of the new river level gauge that is now live at the TEMCO Dock in Kalama, WA.

11. Adjourn

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 1519 hrs.



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Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee
General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 | 1415-1545hrs
Clean Rivers Cooperative & Virtual Meeting via MS Teams

Officers:

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

Vice President: Ross McDonald, *Sause Bros.*

Secretary: Carl Bertapelle, *Merchants Exchange*

Association Account Specialist: Michelle Eyres, *Merchants Exchange*

1. Welcome at 1425 hours.
2. Additions/Corrections to Agenda
3. Review of Meeting Minutes from May 8, 2024 (*attached*)
4. Board of Directors Meeting Update—*Presiding Officer*
 - a. Financial Report & Administrative Updates (*Merchants Exchange*)
 - b. Appointment of Randy Cooper, EGT, to Board of Directors; replacing Hans Meere, retired.
 - c. Appointment of Carl Obermeier, MFSA, to Board of Directors replacing Mason Sullivan.
5. Subcommittee Assignments & Discussions
 - a. Membership Outreach Subcommittee—The next meeting is September 27 at 1000 via Teams. Any interested member may join.
 - a. Bridge Subcommittee--a joint meeting was held with CRSOA two months ago. No formal response to the letter from the Pilots has been crafted. Several projects are underway which address areas of concern from the letter. The Executive Committee would like guidance from the board regarding whether or not a formal letter is needed. Given the high cost and complications associated with channel widening, it was suggested that a separate subcommittee be created to address this one issue. The subcommittee would review navigation and safety concerns of ports, pilots, USACE, etc. Ports are concerned regarding the cost of channel widening in that Ports bear one quarter of the expense. USACE would like to meet to discuss the air gap sensor. The EIS has just been finished. The



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Bridge Subcommittee will have one more meeting to finalize the letter. On September 26, there will be a meeting with Pilots, local law enforcement, Washington and Oregon DOT and 911 representatives to discuss how to deal with closing bridges in the event of a strike.

- b. Navigation Subcommittee—the Chair reported there was no response to the request to meet or request for topics needing discussion. Weather buoys, engine failures and bridge visibility were suggested by the board as possible topics.
 - c. Harbor Safety Plan Subcommittee—the Chair had no updates to report.
6. Agency Updates
- a. Columbia River Pilots reported there have been 1,152 arrivals on the river. The navigation realignment is moving forward for the Lewis & Clark Bridge. NOAA is conducting a new survey of the river for bridge and power cable heights. It was suggested that current velocity sensors are also needed.
 - b. MARAD – West Coast Update, *Xochitl Castaneda (virtual)*—MARAD has a survey seeking information regarding what equipment needs ports have. LCRHSC will send out the survey to members. The MARAD ship is available for drills and other activities. The OPPA meeting is in The Dalles and grants are available through the Department of Transportation and MARAD will be reaching out to ports and cargo shippers.
 - c. US Army Corps of Engineers, *Jessica Stokke (online)*—The new ship simulator has come online for the new turn. LCRHSC will share out the Material Management Plan.
 - d. ~~NOAA – Office of Coast Survey, *Laura Pagano*~~
 - e. United States Coast Guard – Sector Columbia River Update, *LCDR Jesse Wallace & Staff*
7. Speaker/Presentation: Clean Rivers Cooperative, *Vanessa Green*
8. Old Business: Astoria Meeting Recap--attendance was very good and appreciated by the meeting planners. Please send any feedback regarding the meeting (what worked or what didn't) to Michelle Eyres at eyres@pdxmex.com. Decisions will need to be made to start planning the 2025 conference.
9. New Business:
- a. Oregon Board of Maritime Pilots sent a letter to Washington and Oregon governors supporting the pilots' letter.
 - b. COBALT starts September 21.
 - c. An agent reported that one of their ships was unable to offload garbage and sludge at the United Grain Terminals
10. Good of the Order



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- 11. CRC Tour
- 12. Adjourn

Next Meetings:

Board of Directors: 1330-1405hrs

General Membership: 1415-1545hrs

Date	Location
November 13, 2024	Columbia River Pilots
January 8, 2025	Port of Kalama
March 12, 2025	TBD
May 14, 2025	TBD
July 9, 2025	Astoria



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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



- 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.