



LOWER COLUMBIA REGION  
HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

**Wednesday, January 8, 2025 | 1415-1545hrs**

Mountain Timber Market, 254 N Hendrickson Drive, Kalama, WA

& [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 1425 hours.
1. There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.
2. Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2024 (*attached*)
3. Board of Directors Meeting Update—*Presiding Officer*
  - a. Financial Reports from November 2024 were presented. Staff noted that, as of the end of November, LCRHSC has \$13,347.55 in cash. Office supplies and vehicle expenses are slightly above budget, but steps are being taken by staff to reduce those costs. There were no questions or concerns, and the financial reports were approved.
  - b. Membership renewals are in the process of being sent out. The Chair asked board members to watch for those and reach out to Michelle if there are any concerns or questions.



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4. Subcommittee Assignments & Discussions

- a. Membership Outreach Subcommittee: Carl Bertapelle reported that this committee has been reduced to just himself and Michelle due to various reasons. If any board members are interested in participating, a meeting can be scheduled. The subcommittee is currently gathering names of potential members and creating content for outreach. The Chair asked for the board's assistance in suggesting potential members. Jon Hellberg suggested Advanced American due to their bringing an incident with powerlines to the LCRHSC's attention.
- b. Navigation Subcommittee: Capt. Dan Jordan and Capt. Steve Ackerman reported that engine failures continue to increase and related an incident of one vessel having three different incidents of engine failure in one trip to and from a terminal. The Captains suggested asking the USCG for more information in order to see any patterns or trends to these failures. Carl Obermeier reported that the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee has a standing agenda item on this topic. It was decided that the LCRHSC would ask the USCG to make this part of their meeting report. The subcommittee asked the USCG in the room if it was possible to receive more regular reports on the causes of engine failures, loss of propulsion, steering and/or mechanical failures. Carl Bertapelle from Merchants Exchange can also produce a report from Marine Operations on this information also. Brian Kirk, ECY, put a link in the chat to the [Focus on: Vessel Loss of Propulsion Incidents](#).
- c. Harbor Safety Plan Subcommittee: Ross McDonald reported on the known changes to the HSP and asked that any new changes be submitted to the subcommittee prior to the next LCRHSC meeting for the HSP to be updated and presented to the board for approval at the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Kate Mickelson reported that the changes she and Jeremy Neilson are working on might be ready in time for the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ross acknowledged this and let the board know it could be the May meeting when the updated HSP is presented.

5. Agency Updates

- a. MARAD – West Coast Update—Xochitl Castaneda
  - i. [FY 2025 RAISE Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).
  - ii. [Port Infrastructure Development Program](#)
- b. US Army Corps of Engineers – not present



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- c. NOAA – Office of Coast Survey Update--Laura Pagano
    - i. Working with Ross McDonald to update language in the Harbor Safety Plan - Electronic Charts and Publications Guidelines. Will be removing and updating all sections that refer to the now retired Raster Nautical Charts.
    - ii. 2025 Columbia River Survey:
      - 1. Intention is to solicit a contract for this work by early Spring 2025; however, final appropriations have not been received therefore the final allocations and time of this hydrographic survey have not been finalized.
      - 2. OCS has been coordinating with both the Columbia River Pilots and the Columbia Bar Pilots, as well as other maritime stakeholders to ensure that the requirements and specifications of the proposed survey will generate navigational products that will meet their needs, as well as properly depict accurate heights of the bridges that cross the Columbia.
      - 3. This would include high-resolution laser scanning of the Lewis and Clark Bridge, the Astoria-Megler Bridge, as well as other bridges that cross the river within the proposed survey area.
      - 4. Marine Charting Division rescheme is almost complete for the entirety of the Columbia River. The ENC's have been reschemed to a 1:12,000 scale making them a larger and more detailed scale than the previous suite of charts.
  - d. United States Coast Guard – [Sector Columbia River Update Presentation](#)
6. Speaker/Presentation: [Infrastructure Projects and Priorities presented by CRSOA, Columbia River Bar Pilots and Columbia River Pilots](#)
7. New Business
- a. The Chair asked for volunteers for a Regional Conference Planning Advisory Task Force. This ATF would assist in the planning of the next conference and meetings would be held virtually. The Chair would like the conference to be more structured with possible moderated panel discussions. It is hoped that the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee can be invited. Thanks to Jim Merten for volunteering to assist with the Conference Advisory Task Force.



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8. Good of the Order
  - a. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2025
  - b. Location: MARAD Ready Reserve Ship at Port of Portland, Terminal 2
  
9. The meeting was adjourned at 1615 hours.