



LOWER COLUMBIA REGION  
HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, | 1415-1545hrs  
Port of Vancouver, WA

### **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. Safety Moment – Kenny Davais, Port of Vancouver
2. Welcome
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 1415 hours.
3. Additions/Corrections to Agenda
  - a. There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.
4. Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2025
  - a. Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2025, were presented. No additions or corrections were made.
5. Board of Directors Meeting Update
  - a. Financial Reports from February 2025 and March 2025: Staff noted that, as of March 31, 2025, LCRHSC has \$22,030.82 Cash in Operating. Revenue and expenses are within budgeted amounts. Accounts Payable sits at \$1,500 which includes a \$500 overpayment from Port of Portland that will be applied to 2026 dues.
  - b. Approved cancellation of the July 9, 2025, Board Meeting due to the Regional Conference. Next Board Meeting will be September 10, 2025.



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6. Presentation: NOAA 2025 Columbia River Survey – Jon Dasler, PE, PLS, CH – David Evans and Associates, Inc.
  - i. Mr. Dasler presented the NOAA 2025 Columbia River Survey. The survey's objective is to support safe and efficient maritime commerce on the Columbia River System, update data including high resolution electronic charts at 1:12,000 scale to replace 1:40,000 paper charts, and produce accurate mapping of shoreline and underwater features, water depth, and data regarding clearance obstacles such as overhead power cables and bridge spans. Data will be acquired using a full coverage multibeam object detection utilizing three survey vessels. A "Notice to Mariners" will go out the duration of the survey and the vessels will be in communication with the Bar and River Pilots.
7. Standing Subcommittee Assignments & Discussions:
  - a. Membership Outreach Subcommittee (*Carl Bertapelle*)
    - i. Carl Bertapelle welcomed new member NYK Group Americas
  - b. Navigation Subcommittee (*Capt. Dan Jordan/Capt. Steve Ackerman*)
    - i. Members of this committee were not present at the meeting.
    - ii. Update was given by Corey Williams, Columbia River Pilot, that they have tentatively made a decision on ship arriving to go to anchorage waiting in queue for anchorage.
  - c. Harbor Safety Plan Subcommittee: Ross McDonald addressed the members that the Board approved updated Plan Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 10. The updated chapters and full plan will be posted to the LCRHSC website within the next week.
8. Agency Updates
  - a. Columbia River Bar Pilots: Not present at meeting.
  - b. Columbia River Pilots: (*Corey Williams*)
    - i. On track for 1,400-1,500 arrivals this year. Current water supply for the Dalles Dam is 85 billion acre feet which is 90% of the 30-year average. This means that the water supply is good for sailing deep ships.
    - ii. As of May the Columbia River Treaty has not been modernized or finalized. Negotiation continues between the US and Canada. Pilots continue to engage with PNWA to do what they can to lobby for improvements in our system.
    - iii. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Pilots along with several other organizations accompanied Congress Woman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez on a tour of



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the Lewis and Clark Bridge aboard on of Columbia River Launch's launch boats to voice concerns of the risk of catastrophic failure of the bridge and lack of fendering and air gap sensor on the bridge. Per WADOT representative, in 18-24 months there will be an air gap sensor on the Lewis and Clark Bridge. Federal funds for bridge replacement of traffic arm are unlikely.

- iv. Issues with Port of Portland Terminal 6 cranes if longshoreman leave them down during poor visibility.
- v. Expressed importance of building docks with access to dolphins.
- c. MARAD – West Coast Update: Not present at meeting.
- d. US Army Corps of Engineers (Casey O'Donnel)
  - i. Update on the Lower Willamette River Federal Navigation Project: USACOE is implementing a channel realignment to better serve the public interest. Key Points:
    - 1. Safety concern of vessels overlaps with the historical channel while at berth. The USACO is not authorized to maintain local service facilities including berths. The Channel realignment addresses this issue by removing berth overlaps in the maintained area.
    - 2. Performed a user survey with input from navigation users.
    - 3. Enhanced safety features: Shifts the turning area father away from the BNSF bridge 5.1 and better aligns the area with the highest vertical clearance underneath the St. Johns Bridge.
    - 4. Supports the potential future deepening to 43 feet plus the 2-foot overdraft dredging allowance. Fifty ft lateral buffer will remain the same.
    - 5. Anticipating on requesting from the USCG a Local Notice to Mariners in early June that will include a link to the National Channel Framework with the updated data.
  - ii. Dredging update
- e. NOAA (Laura Pagano)
  - i. Comments on the Columbia River Survey. Contract is being signed.
  - ii. Hydrographic surveys for the year in the Columbia River east of the Bonneville Dam.
- f. United States Coast Guard – Sector Columbia River Update (Jesse Wallace)
  - i. Opening Remarks (Capt. Noggle)



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1. 68 ft fishing vessel inbound to Grays Harbor went down. Recovered three persons. The Captain of the Vessel perished. Pollution response and salvage operation.
  2. Rose Festival Fleet Week: Coast Guard *Mark Eagle* at 295ft tall ship used for training cadets and officer candidates will be in port. June 4-8, 2025.
  3. Maritime Commerce Blog has posted the 2024 Port State Control Annual Report. Shown number of deficiencies declining.
  4. Captain Noggles' last Harbor Safety Meeting, he will be retiring June 13, 2025, after 24 years of service.
- ii. Investigation Office Updates (*Commander Lim*)
1. Marine Casualty Report for the last 60 days: 37 casualty investigations.
  2. Working with the Navigation Subcommittee to ensure they provide the most beneficial information. The USCG is willing to provide a representative to sit on this subcommittee.
  3. Providing information on cause of deep draft vessel casualty incidents.
- iii. Presentation: USCG Search & Rescue (SAR) Command Center – Greg Merten, Civilian Asst. Command Center Chief.
- Overview of the Command Center statistics, organization, and personnel positions (Communications Unit; Situation Unit; Operations Unit; Command Duty Officer. As the persons in positions change you can call the 24x7 Phone Line 833-PNW-USCG or 833-769-8724 and be put in touch with the right person if you do not know the name of the person you need. If you receive a phone call from an 833 number, it is the USCG.), Information needed when communicating with SAR, and the SAROPS tool used during planning and rescue.
- USCG is part of the River Safety Taskforce, a Marine Inter-Agency organization to promote mutual aid support and the sharing of resources. If you would like to get involved or have resources you can contribute, please contact Greg Merten.

9. New Business

- a. Next Meeting: July 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference – Pier 39 Astoria, OR  
There will not be a Board Meeting on this date – only a General Meeting.



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Pannel-style conference that will include Grays Harbor HSC and Coos Bay HSC.

- i. Registration opens May 15, 2025 – Capacity limit is 100 persons.
- b. Meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> will be at the Clean Rivers Cooperative Operations & Training Facility in Portland.

10. Good of the Order  
There was none.

11. Meeting adjourned at 1542 hours.