



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 12th meeting. Kate Mickelson reported that the changes she and Jeremy Neilson are working on might be ready in time for the March 12th 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.



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Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 | 1415-1545hrs
MARAD ship MV *Bob Hope*
Port of Portland, Terminal 2

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. MARAD Safety Speech
 - a. *MV Bob Hope* Chief Mate Crystal Maass briefed the attendees on emergency procedures.
2. Welcome
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 1422 hours.
3. Additions/Corrections to Agenda
 - a. There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.
4. Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2025
 - a. Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2025, were presented. No additions or corrections were made.
5. Board of Directors Meeting Update
 - a. Financial Reports from December 2024 and January 2025: Staff noted that, as of January 31, 2025, LCRHSC has \$21,156.82 in cash. Revenue and expenses are within budgeted amounts. \$14,000 in membership dues has been received so far this year. Staff were reimbursed for out-of-pocket mileage expense to travel to the Port of Kalama for the last meeting. There were no questions or concerns, and the financial reports were approved.



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- b. Membership Renewal: Thank you to those who have already renewed. Reminders have been sent to those who have not yet paid and, if needed, reminders will be sent in April.

6. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Membership Outreach Subcommittee: Carl Bertapelle welcomed new member Advanced American Construction. If members know of a company which should be part of LCRHSC, please send the name and contact information to Carl.
- b. Navigation Subcommittee: Capt. Steve Ackerman reminded us that River and Bar Pilots need to be notified if a ship does not have a berth before transiting up the river begins. Capt. Ackerman also said that if NOAA and USACE layoffs continue, the Pilots might not have enough accurate, timely data and will need to proceed more cautiously (i.e. reduce traffic) when crossing the bar and navigating upriver. Wave buoys, wind sensors and river level sensors give critical information but also must be maintained and data gathered summarized and dispensed to Pilots.
- c. Harbor Safety Plan Subcommittee: Ross McDonald reported that revisions are underway and the updated HSP should be ready for the Board to review and vote on at the May meeting.

7. Agency Updates

- a. Columbia River Bar Pilots—Recorder was unable to hear.
- b. Columbia River Pilots —Recorder was unable to hear.
- c. MARAD – West Coast Update: Unfortunately, no update about the timeline for signature and posting of the amended NOFO. When the amended NOFO is signed, we will extend the application due date as required by the NDAA.

Potential applicants who have reached out to MARAD through PIDPgrants@dot.gov can always submit an application based on the current NOFO by the current deadline. They could then later amend that submission once the amended NOFO is published. Since we always accept the latest submission from an applicant, the amended application would be the one that would be evaluated. If it is any consolation, the changes reflected in the amended NOFO do not impact any of the statutory merit criteria so much of what potential applicants have put together to date will be able to be used in their amended applications.



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We'll let stakeholders know as soon as the amended NOFO is signed. We will also let addressees on our distribution list (people can register for that through PIDPgrants@dot.gov) know when the amended NOFO is posted. In addition, grants.gov will automatically send notices out to entities that have registered for updates on that site. Finally, we've posted two FAQs related to the matter of the amended NOFO to our website. We will also update that as soon as the amended NOFO is signed.

[Port Infrastructure Development Program | MARAD](#)

Apologies for the continuing uncertainty.

- d. US Army Corps of Engineers: Jessica Stokke reported government hopper dredges Essayons and Yaquina are finishing up a shipyard maintenance period and should be dredging in Columbia River in late March/early April before leaving for coastal projects. Our annual west coast hopper contract was just awarded to Manson Construction, dredge and schedule TBD. USACE will survey the two new USCG designated anchorages at Rice Island and Port Westward. A stern anchor buoy at Rainier was recently repaired. There will be inspections of all USACE stern anchor buoys this summer and we'll plan any necessary repairs after.
- e. United States Coast Guard – Sector Columbia River Update:
 - i. Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS) Compliance: The Coast Guard has identified cases where vessels are using unauthorized chemicals in their BWMS, which invalidates the system's type approval and may lead to fines, deficiencies, or ineffective treatment. Inspectors are verifying that chemical usage aligns with the system's Operations, Maintenance, and Safety Manual (OMSM) and that all treatment chemicals match the manufacturer specifications. Using non-approved chemicals poses safety risks for the crew, inspectors, and vessel operations. Additionally, failure to use the correct treatment chemicals may result in non-compliance with federal ballast water discharge standards, impacting vessel operations. For further details, please reach out to LCDR Carmine Faul (Carmine.a.faul@uscg.mil 503-849-1265).
 - ii. New Cybersecurity Rule for U.S.-Flagged Vessels & MTSA Facilities: As you are all aware, the Coast Guard has issued a final rule to strengthen cybersecurity requirements for U.S.-flagged vessels, Outer Continental



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Shelf (OCS) facilities, and Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA)-regulated facilities. Effective July 16, 2025, this rule requires operators to:

1. Develop and maintain a Cybersecurity Plan
2. Designate a Cybersecurity Officer (CySO)
3. Implement security measures to detect, respond to, and recover from cyber incidents

The Coast Guard is considering a 2-5 year delay for vessel implementation and is soliciting industry feedback through March 18, 2025 which is next Wednesday. Vessel and facility operators should review available guidance and prepare for compliance to avoid cybersecurity vulnerabilities that could impact maritime operations.

- iii. Sector Columbia River has released a new Marine Safety Information Bulletin for "Notification of Oil or Hazardous Material Transfers within the Sector Columbia River Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone." This MSIB replaces the previous MSIB and requires all mobile facilities and vessel to vessel transfers of regulated oil or hazardous materials where the vessel has a total capacity, from a combination of all bulk products carried, of 39.75 cubic meters (250 barrels) or more to provide advanced notice of such transfers. Additionally, any facility conducting infrequent transfers are required to provide advanced notice of transfer. This MSIB will be sent out to all our Harbor Safety Committees for wide distribution. For any questions, please reach out to CDR Tonya Lim (tonya.m.lim@uscg.mil 503-706-9873).
- iv. Since Wednesday, March 5, 2025, the U.S. Coast Guard's online public access portal, **Homeport**, has been unavailable due to technical issues with no estimated time to repair. We will provide an update to the LCRHSC once we receive updated information.
- v. Next 3M Maritime Morning Meet Up is scheduled for 29 April at 0800 at Sector Columbia River. We will provide a flier with keynote speaker information shortly.

8. Presentation

- a. Proposed Ship to Ship LNG Bunkering – Seaspan Energy

Seaspan Energy Ltd, a subsidiary of the Washington Group of Companies, is seeking to provide ship to ship (STS) LNG bunkering services at Terminal 4. NYK have requested this service with ideal operations co-current with cargo operation



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(SIMOPs). Seaspan Energy is first to market and actively providing STS LNG Bunkering within the Ports of Long Beach (California) and Vancouver (British Columbia). They bunker during container operations in Long Beach, and have bunkering container ships, PCTCs, and tankers at anchor in Vancouver. Seaspan operates three LNG bunkering vessels. The Seaspan Garibaldi, Seaspan Lions, and Seaspan Barker, delivered August 2024, October 2025, and January 2025 respectively. These state-of-the-art vessels have robust safety transfer systems aligned with the robust safety standards of the LNG industry.

For questions or more information, contact Zack Garland, Manager of Business Operations, Seaspan Energy, at Zack.Garland@Seaspan.com or 778-870-3601.

9. New Business

- a. President Larry Landgraver asked for volunteers to assist with planning the July 2025 regional conference. An email will go out on or before Friday, March 14, asking for volunteers. All meetings will be held virtually. Grays Harbor and Coos Bay Harbor Safety Committees have already confirmed their participation.

10. Good of the Order

- a. Next meeting: May 14, 2025
- b. Location: Port of Vancouver

11. Meeting adjourned at 1515 hours.

12. Speaker/Presentation: MARAD tour



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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 18th, 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 9th 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 10th 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.



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Wednesday, September 10, 2025, | 1415-1545hrs
Clean Rivers Cooperative & Virtual vis MS Teams

Officers:

Chair: Larry Landgraver, *Port of Longview*

Vice Chair: Ross McDonald, *Sause Bros.*

Secretary/Treasurer: Carl Bertapelle, *Merchants Exchange*

Association Account Specialist: Brianna Derham, *Merchants Exchange*

1. Safety Moment
 - a. Presented by Vanessa Green, Clean Rivers Cooperative.
2. Welcome
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 1428 hours by Larry Landgraver.
3. Additions/Corrections to Agenda
 - a. No additions or corrections were proposed. The agenda was accepted as presented.
4. Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2025
 - a. The minutes of May 14, 2025, General Membership Meeting were presented.
 - b. No amendments were offered.
 - c. The minutes were approved as presented.
5. Board of Directors Meeting Update
 - a. The board approved the minutes of the May 2025 meeting.
 - b. Financial reports for June, July, and August 2025 were reviewed and approved.
 - c. A Nominating Subcommittee was formally established.
 - d. Preliminary planning discussions were held regarding the 2026 Regional Conference and the 2026 National Conference.



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6. Standing Subcommittee Assignments & Discussions:
 - a. Membership Outreach Subcommittee (Carl Bertapelle)
 - i. Outreach efforts to potential new members are ongoing.
 - ii. Subcommittee is open to additional participants.
 - b. Navigation Subcommittee (Capt. Dan Jordan/Capt. Steve Ackerman)
 - i. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the completion of the three jetty repairs.
 - ii. Two dredges are currently operating on the Columbia River Bar.
 - iii. Construction underway on piled dikes.
 - iv. NOAA is conducting a survey of the Astoria Bridge heights.
 - c. Harbor Safety Plan Subcommittee (Ross McDonald)
 - i. Corrections made to updates from earlier this year.
 1. Coast guard issued new guidance.
 2. Contact information and sector references updated.
 3. Revised Harbor Safety Plan will be posted to the website.
 - d. Nominating Subcommittee (Larry Landgraver)
 - i. Subcommittee Formed: Members include Carl Obermeier, Neal Feustel, and Kenny Davais.
 - ii. Recommendations and proposed slate to be presented at the November meeting.
7. Regular Committee Reports & Agency Updates
 - a. Columbia River Bar Pilots Updates
 - i. No updates.
 - b. Columbia River Pilots Updates
 - i. No updates.
 - c. MARAD – West Coast Update (Xochitl Castaneda-virtually)
 - i. Infrastructure Development Program grant deadline approaching tonight.
 - ii. \$5 million in grant funding available for 2025.
 - iii. Encouraged members to reach out if planning to apply.
 - iv. Marine Highway Program closed out for Columbia Snake River; grants available to support Jones Act cargo movement between U.S. ports.



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- v. Small Shipyard Grant Program announcement forthcoming.
- d. US Army Corps of Engineers Update (Casey O'Donnell)
 - i. No updates.
- e. NOAA – Office of Coast Survey Update (Laura Pagano, Jon Dasler-virtually)
 - i. Hydrographic surveys conducted by David Evans and Associates; progress viewable via NOAA Story Maps.
 - ii. Laser scans of bridges and overhead cables completed.
 - iii. Work underway on pictorial representations (“Pic Reps”) of bridges.
 - iv. Survey vessels Seahawk, Brennan, and Broughton are active in the Columbia River region, collecting shallow water data and bottom samples.
 - v. Scans of marine terminals are ongoing; additional work planned near Beacon Rock and Multnomah Channel.
 - vi. Lidar point cloud data will be used to determine low and high steel values for charting purposes.
 - vii. Discussions underway regarding air gap sensor installation on the Lewis and Clark Bridge.
 - viii. NOAA’s Navigation Response Team (Seattle) expects vessel return by end of September to resume hydrographic surveys and emergency response operations.
 - ix. Additional surveys completed around jetties in Rogue, Coquille, Coos Bay, and Columbia River.
- f. United States Coast Guard – Sector Columbia River Update (USCG Personnel)
 - i. Introductions of new personnel:
 1. Capt. Tony Migliorini – Sector Commander & Captain of the Port
 2. Cmdr. Eric Paré – Deputy Sector Commander
 3. Cmdr. John Robertson – Prevention Department Head
 - ii. Brief discussion on Buoy 10 operations.

Information Presentation (Prior to New Business)

Carl Bertapelle introduced guests from Oregon State University’s marine programs. He shared highlights from a recent visit to OSU’s Newport campus, including a tour of their new facility and participation in a training session led by Taylor and Doug from the Small Boat Program. Taylor and Doug provided an overview of OSU’s marine safety initiatives, including:



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- The Motorboat Operator Training Course (MOTC), a federally recognized program focused on safe small boat operations.
- OSU's involvement in the Scientific Boating Safety Association (SBSA), a national consortium promoting safety standards for research vessels.
- Opportunities for collaboration with industry professionals and potential use of OSU's Newport facility for the 2026 Regional Conference.
- A call for donations of recreational boats to support hands-on training, noting that several current vessels were acquired through donation.

Contact information was shared in the meeting chat. Members expressed appreciation for the presentation and interest in future engagement.

8. New Business

a. 2026 National Conference – Seattle, WA – March 24-25

- i. Larry Landgraver presented details of the upcoming National Conference in Puget Sound.
- ii. Board directed staff to prepare a budget to send one representative from LCRHSC.
- iii. A 2026 Regional Conference is also planned; Newport, OR is under consideration as the host location.
- iv. Ross McDonald is serving on the National Conference planning committee, representing both his employer and LCRHSC.
- v. Key agenda topics include marine firefighting, bridge safety, and regional coordination.
- vi. Sponsorship opportunities will be shared with industry; support is sought for a planned reception.
- vii. Workforce development will be a featured theme, highlighting maritime training and career pathways.
- viii. Members discussed the success of local programs, including Clatsop Community College's Maritime Department.

b. Next meeting Wednesday, November 12, 2025

1. Location: Merchants Exchange

- a. The committee expressed appreciation to the Merchants Exchange for hosting the upcoming meeting and to Clean Rivers Cooperative for hosting the current session.

9. Good of the Order



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- a. There were no additional items brought forward.

10. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1506 hours.



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Wednesday, November 12, 2025, | 1415-1545hrs
Merchants Exchange & Virtual vis MS Teams

Officers:

Chair: Larry Landgraver, *Port of Longview*

Vice Chair: Ross McDonald, *Sause Bros.*

Secretary/Treasurer: Carl Bertapelle, *Merchants Exchange*

Association Account Specialist: Brianna Derham, *Merchants Exchange*

1. Welcome
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 1415 hours by Larry Landgraver.
2. Safety Moment
 - a. Presented by Carl Bertapelle, Merchants Exchange.
3. Additions/Corrections to Agenda
 - a. One adjustment was made to the agenda: the presentation of the Anchor of Excellence Award to Captain Dan Jordan was moved from New Business to precede the review of the September meeting minutes.
 - i. Larry Landgraver presented the Anchor of Excellence Award to Captain Dan Jordan.
4. Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2025
 - a. The minutes of September 10, 2025, General Membership Meeting were presented.
 - b. No amendments were offered.
 - c. The minutes were approved as presented.
5. Board of Directors Meeting Update
 - a. The board approved the minutes of the September 10, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.
 - b. The financial reports for September and October 2025 were reviewed and approved.
 - c. The proposed 2026 budget was reviewed and approved.



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- d. The board voted on the 2026 slate of nominees, which will be presented under New Business.
6. Standing Subcommittee Assignments & Discussions:
- a. Membership Outreach Subcommittee (Carl Bertapelle)
 - i. Carl Bertapelle welcomed two new members to the committee: Diversified Marine Inc. and United Grain Corporation.
 - ii. He noted that the committee remains open to additional membership and invited suggestions for prospective members.
 - b. Navigation Subcommittee (Capt. Steve Ackerman/Capt. Jeremy Nielsen)
 - i. Captain Ackerman and Captain Nielsen led the Navigation Subcommittee discussion on the following:
 - 1. Buoy Safety: Damaged stern anchor buoys were noted; potential safety improvements under review, including quick-release mechanisms and stanchions.
 - 2. Channel Realignment: Longview channel dredging is complete; final Coast Guard approvals pending. Realignment will enhance safety and clearance near the bridge and docks.
 - 3. Guideline Updates: Movement guidelines now emphasize vessel compliance with regulations and visibility standards; tug class ratings require certification and periodic recertification to ensure safe operations.
 - c. Harbor Safety Plan Subcommittee (Ross McDonald)
 - i. No updates.
7. Regular Committee Reports & Agency Updates
- a. Columbia River Bar Pilots Updates
 - i. No updates.
 - b. Columbia River Pilots Updates
 - i. Captain Nielsen provided the following updates on behalf of the Columbia River Pilots:
 - 1. Office Relocation: Plans are underway to move the office to Ridgefield in the new year. The new facility will include meeting space for committee use.



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2. Anchor Relocation: The 30,000-lb anchor will be moved as part of the office transition.
 3. Next Steps: An official announcement will be made once the move is finalized.
 - c. MARAD – West Coast Update (Xochitl Castaneda-virtually)
 - i. No report.
 - d. US Army Corps of Engineers Update (Casey O'Donnell)
 - i. No report.
 - e. NOAA – Office of Coast Survey Update (Laura Pagano-virtually)
 - i. No report.
 - f. United States Coast Guard – Sector Columbia River Update (USCG Personnel)
 - i. Representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard provided an update on the current government shutdown and progress to date.
 - ii. They outlined activities and responsibilities the Coast Guard can and cannot participate in during the shutdown.
 - iii. A general discussion followed among committee members.
 - iv. USCG Personnel thanked those involved in the COBALT training.
8. New Business
 - a. 2026 Board of Directors Election Results
 - i. Larry Landgraver reported the results of the 2026 Board of Directors election. The board approved the following members to serve two-year terms from January 2026 through December 2027:
 1. Larry Landgraver, Port of Longview
 2. Capt. Steve Ackerman, Columbia River Bar Pilots
 3. Fred Meyer, Port of Portland
 4. Steve Gunn, Shaver Transportation
 5. Vanessa Green, Clean Rivers Cooperative
 6. Kate Mickelson, Columbia River Steamship Operators Association
 7. Dena Horton, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
 8. Earl Dixon, United Grain Corporation (new member)
 - ii. The Board also approved the slate of officers for 2026:
 1. Chair: Larry Landgraver, Port of Longview
 2. Vice Chair: Ross McDonald, Sause Bros.
 3. Secretary/Treasurer: Carl Bertapelle, Merchants Exchange
 - iii. The officers expressed appreciation for the continued support and involvement of all members.
 - b. Regional Conference Task Force Request for Volunteers



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- i. Carl Bertapelle gave a brief update on the Regional Conference, which is scheduled for July 8, 2026, in Newport, OR.
 - 1. He invited volunteers to join the Regional Conference Task Force/Planning Committee, which will continue preparations in the new year.
 - ii. Ross McDonald reported on the National Conference, scheduled for March 24-25, 2026, in Seattle, WA.
 - 1. Carl Bertapelle noted that the LCRHSC has budgeted to send one representative to the National Conference, with Chair Larry Landgraver designated to attend.
 - c. LCRHSC Anchor of Excellence Award – Dan Jordan
 - i. This item was addressed earlier in the meeting under Additions/Corrections to the Agenda.
 - d. LCRHSC LinkedIn
 - i. Brianna Derham announced the launch of LCRHSC's new LinkedIn page and encouraged members to follow and engage with its content.
 - e. Next meeting January 14, 2026
 - i. Larry Landgraver announced that the next meeting is January 14, 2026, at Clean Rivers Cooperative.
9. Good of the Order
- a. Coast Guard Recognition: Members of the committee expressed appreciation to the U.S. Coast Guard for their assistance in restoring a critical gauge used for forecasting and vessel operations. He emphasized the importance of cooperation among agencies and industry partners.
 - b. Captain Nielsen reported on the Air Gap Sensor Funding:
 - i. Oregon and Washington have allocated \$2 million for installation of air gap sensors on the Longview and Astoria bridges.
 - ii. Concern was raised that progress has been slow, with only one study group meeting held in six months.
 - iii. It was noted that the funds will expire in approximately 15 months and urged timely action to avoid losing the allocation.
 - iv. A letter has been sent to Washington State representatives to encourage movement, and further advocacy (including community engagement) may be pursued if necessary.
 - c. Members were invited to assist with outreach efforts as needed.



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10. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1450 hours.