

**Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area
0900 hours Thursday November 19, 2009 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room**

The Harbor Safety Committee meeting was convened at 0903 hours.

Members Present:

Mr. David Hull (Port Authority)
Ms. Suzie Howser (Port Authority)
Capt. John Powell (Bar Pilot)
Capt. Gilbert Groszmann (Tug Operator)
Capt. Tim Klassen (Recreational Boat)
Mr. Rich Trygar (Dry Cargo)
Ms. Vanessa Metz (Coastal Commission)
Mr. Gerald Wheaton (NOAA)
BOSN2 Jon Placido (USCG Group Humboldt Bay)
LTC Don Davis (US Army Corps of Engineers)

Others Present:

Mr. Al Storm (OSPR)
Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR)
Mr. Ken Bay (Commercial Fishing)
Mr. Stephen Kullmann (Environmental)
MST1 Matt Cunningham (USCG MSD Humboldt Bay)
Ms. Hellman (USCG Sector San Francisco)
Mr. Carpenetti (USCG Sector San Francisco)
Mr. David Ammerman (USACOE)
Mr. Scott Owen (USF&WS)
Mr. Dan Larkin (HCSO – OES)
Mr. Jeff Raimey (City of Eureka)
Capt. Leroy Zerlang (Brusco Tug and Barge)

1. Introductions were made.

2. There were no members sworn in. Mr. Storm (OSPR) reported that he had received three applications. Two from the Wiyot Tribe for the environmental position, Mr. Stephen Kullmann as the member and Mr. Dylan Gray as the alternate, and one application from Mr. Ken Bay for Commercial Fishing Alternate. Mr. Storm will swear in all new members at the March 2010 meeting. Mr. Storm also listed member categories whose terms would expire in the coming year; Port Authority, Bar Pilots, Tug Operators, and Commercial Fishing. The Labor Position is still vacant.

3. Floor was opened to public comment. No public comment.

4. Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of September 17, 2009. Correction on 6h - Aberdeen, OR to Aberdeen, WA. Correction on 6j - Woody Dock to Humboldt Bay Forest Products Dock. Corrections on member ranks and spelling of member names. Mr. Wheaton (NOAA) motion to approve minutes of September 17, 2009 as amended, Capt. Powell (Bar Pilot) seconded to motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Harbor Safety Committee Meeting Schedule for 2010. Meetings are scheduled for the following dates and all meetings will begin at 0900

January 21, 2010
March 18, 2010
May 20, 2010
July 15, 2010
September 23, 2010 or September 16, 2010 - to be determined at the July meeting.
November 18, 2010

5. Status/Updates

a. Federal Channel Maintenance. Mr. Hull (Port Authority) reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District has the funding available to conduct the annual maintenance of Humboldt Bay in spring 2010. It is his understanding that the Yaquina is scheduled to be repowered in the near future and wondered about the schedule. LTC Davis (USACE) will check on the Status and report back via email. LTC Davis reported the Larksbury to Cloverdale section of the railroad will go out to contract this coming spring and the Sonoma Marin section of Highway 101 will be changing to six lanes. Oakland was just deepened to 50 feet and with the upcoming transportation opportunities available, now is the time to revitalize Humboldt Bay.

- b. **Oil Spills/Accidents.** MST1 Cunningham (USCG) reported that two vessels sunk in Noyo. The first one did not have any oils or fuel; the second vessel had to be federalized.
- c. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** Mr. Dayton (OSPR) reported that the sub-committee meeting scheduled for November 02, 2009 was cancelled since he was assisting with the M/V Dubai Star oil spill. Mr. Wheaton (NOAA) inquired about the new program for money. Mr. Dayton acknowledged that there is a new surrender program but it is through the Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund and only for recreational vessels. Mr. Wheaton will gather vessel abatement information from the SF HSC meeting in December and forward to Mr. Dayton.
- d. **Boater Safety.** BOSN2 Placido (USCG) reported no boating classes or auxiliary classes were being held at this time.
- e. **Navigational Aids.** BOSN2 Placido (USCG) reported all okay. Buoy 2 is holding in the new position. Mr. Wheaton (NOAA) reminded the committee that all Local Notice to Mariners are picked up automatically by NOAA for incorporation into the new raster charts and print charts. All changes are made within 2 weeks.
- f. **Ship Traffic.** Capt. Powell (Bar Pilot) reported that the M/V Wiebke had come in to the Schneider Dock and delivered 10 engines for PG&E. Mr. Trygar (Dry Cargo) reported that while the vessel was in port, a Tsunami Advisory was issued due to the American Samoa earthquake. Mr. Trygar discussed all options with the Captain of the vessel. All decisions made were based on the best information available. Mr. Larkin (HC OES) reported that this was a great exercise for everyone involved and all responded appropriately to the information provided. Mr. Bay (Commercial Fishing) reported that the crab season should begin on time. Crabs appear to be healthy but quantity is always unknown.
- g. **Navigational Chart Changes.** Mr. Wheaton (NOAA) reported that the dolphins north of the Fairhaven Pier will be changed to submerged on the Humboldt Bay Navigation Chart. Capt. Zerlang (Brusco Tug) reported that the piles looked as though they had worked their way out of the mud and did not appear to be broken. The submerged designation will stay until NRT6 or the USACE can verify the piles are completely gone. The Pipeline at Humboldt Bay Forest Products has been removed. LTC Davis (USACE) reported that the survey crew will be in Noyo to conduct a hydro-survey.
- h. **Port Security.** Mr. Hull (Port Authority) reported that this item will be deleted from future HSC agendas per direction from OSPR Administrator Steve Edinger. Mr. Hull also reported on the status of Prop 1B grants. The Harbor District is the recipient of a grant which includes the purchase of a fireboat and PORTS-capable equipment.
- i. **TWIC.** MST1 Cunningham (USCG) reported that the TWIC office has relocated to the UPS Store in Eureka.
- j. **Potential Bay Projects.** Mr. Hull (Port Authority) reported on current projects around Humboldt Bay which include a dock rehabilitation in King Salmon, the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center floating dock, and the Fisherman's Terminal. Mr. Raimey (City of Eureka) reported that the fuel dock project was complete and the Ice Plant is close to being finished.
- 11. Reports/Presentations**
- a. **USCG.** BOSN2 Placido (USCG) reported that Operation Safe Crab and the Commercial Fishing Vessel Program were the slowest they have ever seen. USCG will continue to walk the docks and will be available if a vessel needs an inspection.
- b. **USACOE.** LTC Davis (USACOE) reported that the Corps of Engineers will be in Noyo within the next few weeks, if Humboldt is in need of a hydro survey now would be the time to ask.
- c. **OHS.** Mr. Hull (Port Authority) reported that we should change this agenda item to Cal EMA. Mr. Larkin (HCSO-OES) reported that four Tsunami sirens are currently in place. Orick, King Salmon, Samoa and Shelter

Cove are all manually operated. Big Lagoon, Trinidad, Manila, Clam Beach and Fields Landing will all be in place and operational by this summer. Mr. Larkin also informed the committee that there will be a Tsunami Communications exercise March 24, 2010. This will include activation of local sirens and flyover by a plane out of Oregon equipped with a new public address system that is supposed to be crystal clear. OES is looking for local agency participation at any level they wish to participate. The American Samoa earthquake identified areas where data buoys are need.

d. **CPB.** No report

e. **OSPR.** Mr. Storm (OSPR) reported that Ms. Vanessa Metz is officially the member for the Coastal Commission and Ms. Robin Blanchfield is the alternate. Mr. Storm was please to see the US Army Corps of Engineers representative at the HSC meeting and will inform the OSPR Administrator of the Corps participation. The secretariat contract was sent out and the Port Authority will now be providing secretarial services for the Harbor Safety Committee. The Harbor Safety Summit was held on November 3rd and the main focus was on fuel switching and propulsion failures. Representatives from the Air Resources Board (ARB) were in attendance however, no guidance by their department was offered. When asked to place the regulation on hold so that more research could be gathered, ARB refused. Capt. Powell (Bar pilot) reported that he and Capt. Petrusha were riding aboard ships in the San Francisco Bay area and the pilots there are keeping records of all incidents.

Mr. Dayton (OSPR) reported that Oil Spill Response Trailers are now staged at Woodley Island Marina, Shelter Cove, Trinidad and Crescent City. All trailers were obtained through a grant from OSPR and Global Diving and Salvage conducted the classroom and field training. The M/V Dubai Star oil spill in the San Francisco bay area activated some agencies with grant trailers and the equipment was put to use.

Mr. Storm (OSPR) reported that Best Maritime Practices will be a focus this next year and encouraged the committee to keep working on the issues.

f. **HC Sheriff.** No report

g. **NOAA.** Mr. Wheaton (NOAA) reported that there was a Change of Command. Capt. John Lowell is now Director of Office of Coast Survey. The Department of Commerce turned down the request to federalize PORTS.

h. **Coastal Commission.** No report

i. **Member Reports.** Mr. Hull (Port Authority) reported that Mr. John Martin (Recreational Boater) who is not present, has been working with others on the water trails project. The Harbor District was fortunate to receive a \$5,000 grant from the Headwaters fund to place the water trails map in the publication "101 Things to do in Humboldt County" This publication has a circulation of approximately 120,000 copies. The front cover has a picture of Humboldt Bay and inside the publication is the water trails map and information on Humboldt Bay. This map will be on the HSC website, once it is developed.

Mr. Klassen (Recreational Boater) reported that despite all efforts, the rowers still have inadequate lighting. One week prior, a chase boat was reported in the Fairhaven Terminal area with no lighting or inadequate lighting. The scull with the chase boat reportedly had a little blue light on the person's forehead you could not see the light unless the rower turned and looked at you, even then it was barely visible. Canoes were also reported in the vicinity of Woodley Island without lights and traveling along the edge of the marina in the dark. Mr. Klassen also inquired about the status of DSC in our area. BOSN2 Placido will find out the status and pass the information to Ms. Howser for distribution to the committee.

Other. Capt Zerlang (Brusco Tug and Barge) informed the committee that the vessels Yankee Girl and Golden Rule were due to be destroyed within the next couple weeks.

Mr. Larkin (HCSO-OES) reported within the next 1-2 years broadband and voice communications would be expanding in our area.

Capt. Groszmann (Tug Operator) reported the fuel barge would be in before the weekend. PGE is still working on options to move the generators from Schneider Dock to Fields Landing.

Mr. Storm (OSPR) reported that the application period for the Labor Representative was closed and he would take the next application with the Port's recommendation.

Mr. Raimey (City of Eureka) reported that the Fishermen's Terminal building should begin the first of the year. This is the last phase of a long project. A 28 foot sailing vessel ran aground across from the Eureka Public Marina Monday evening. The M/V Chinook was able to reach the vessel and took approximately 9 to 11 passengers off the disabled vessel. The M/V Chinook attempted to dislodge the grounded vessel but was unable to do so and opted to wait until high tide at around midnight. Vessel was freed at high tide.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 1044 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie V. Howser
Port of Humboldt Bay