

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

0900 hours Thursday January 21, 2010 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room

The Harbor Safety Committee meeting was convened at 0904 hours.

Members Present:

Mr. David Hull (Port Authority)
Ms. Suzie Howser (Port Authority)
Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot)
Capt. Gilbert Groszmann (Tug Operator)
Capt. Tim Klassen (Recreational Boater)
Mr. Rich Trygar (Dry Cargo)
Ms. Vanessa Metz (Coastal Commission)
Mr. Gerald Wheaton (NOAA)
Mr. Stephen Kullmann (Environmental)
Mr. Dylan Gray (Environmental)
LT Rob Starr (USCG Humboldt Bay)
BMCM Peter Janusch (USCG Humboldt Bay)

Others Present:

Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR)
MST1 Matt Cunningham (USCG MSD Humboldt Bay)
MST2 Michael Nosbaum (USCG MSD Humboldt Bay)
Mr. David Ammerman (USACOE)
Mr. Scott Owen (USF&WS)
Mr. Jeff Raimey (City of Eureka)
Mr. Troy Nicolini (NOAA)
Mr. Darren Wright (NOAA)
Ms. Laura Rear (NOAA)
Ms. Maggy Herbelin (USCG Aux)

1. Introductions were made.

2. There were no members sworn in.

3. Public comment. Ms. Herbelin (USCG Aux) reported that she represents the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and that they will be conducting Boating Safety Classes beginning the 1st. Saturday of March and classes will be held every other month. Vessel Exams for recreational boaters will begin on the 2nd Saturday of March and start with the Humboldt Yacht Club members.

4. Presentation by Darren Wright and Laura Rear, NOAA, regarding PORTS. Mr. Wright (NOAA) gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding Physical Oceanographics Real-Time System (PORTS). Discussion was held regarding types and locations of monitoring equipment.

5. Update on January 09, 2010 earthquake. Mr. Nicolini (NOAA) gave an overview of the earthquake on January 09, 2010 including a written summary from Dr. Lori Dengler, Geologist, Humboldt State University. Mr. Nicolini also wanted to acknowledge the response by children during the earthquake. Children remembered to DROP, COVER, and HOLD, whereas most adults failed to remember these safety instructions and ran outdoors. Mr. Nicolini also discussed the process that led to the tsunami information statement indicating that a tsunami was NOT expected and that this statement was issued within a matter of 4 minutes.

6. Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of November 19, 2009. Mr. Trygar (Dry Cargo) motioned to approve minutes of November 19, 2009; Capt. Groszmann (Tug Operator) seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Status/Updates

a. Federal Channel Maintenance. Mr. Hull (Port Authority) reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredges Yaquina and Essayons are on schedule to arrive in Humboldt Bay this spring. Mr. Hull also informed the committee that there may be two new captains for the dredge Yaquina as Capt Ted Hunt had retired and Capt. Miguel Jimenez had unexpectedly passed away.

- b. **Oil Spills/Accidents.** MST1 Cunningham (USCG) reported everything was quiet except for Clam Beach – on the Strawberry Creek. Two vehicles had attempted to cross the creek and became stuck in the creek causing an oil spill. USCG has also been chasing a mystery sheen in Fort Bragg area.
- c. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** Mr. Dayton (OSPR) reported that the sub-committee has not had a chance to meet. Mr. Hull (Port Authority) reported that the Bar Pilots were able to retrieve a few items they found floating in the bay. Namely old piles, logs and a couple of abandoned dock floats.
- d. **Boater Safety.** The USCG Auxiliary classes were mentioned again. Mr. Nicolini (NOAA) reported that the boating safety advertisements initially funded by the Water Safety Coalition and California Department Boating and Waterways would be airing again on local television thanks to private funding provided by Juniper Salon.
- e. **Navigational Aids.** LT Starr (USCG) reported that light 16 (8230) had leaned over because of the earthquake but Aids to Navigation were able to straighten the marker boards and the light. The pile itself will be straightened at a later date.
- f. **Ship Traffic.** Mr. Trygar (Dry Cargo) reported that the PG&E generators currently located at the Schneider Dock will be moving to the Fields Landing Terminal via barge and then transported to the PG&E plant in King Salmon via truck. This will take place during the evening. Mr. Trygar also stated that he has been receiving many phone calls in regards to potential shipping opportunities and that Freshwater Tissue Company may start receiving water as early as July or August. Freshwater Tissue Company's business plan may be reviewed at <http://www.freshwaterpulp.com/>
- g. **Navigational Chart Changes.** Mr. Wheaton (NOAA) reported no new chart changes.
- h. **TWIC.** MST1 Cunningham (USCG) reported no changes to the TWIC office.
- i. **Potential Bay Projects.** Mr. Hull (Port Authority) reported that the Fields Landing Boat Ramp is nearing completion and the movement of the PG&E generators should begin soon. Mr. Raimey (City of Eureka) reported that Fisherman's Terminal and C Street project are ongoing. Ms. Herbelin (USCG Aux) reported that PG&E will hold a public meeting on February 2nd at the Veteran's Hall in regards to the Wave Connect project.

11. Reports/Presentations

- a. **USCG.** BMCM Janusch (USCG) reported that due to the recent series of storms, there is lots of debris in the area and multiple crab pots are now at the entrance of Humboldt Bay. Discussion was held regarding the storms and problem vessels.
- b. **USACOE.** Mr. Ammerman (USACOE) reported that the Chevron Dock dredging permit is being handled by the San Francisco office of the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Ammerman is currently involved with the Shelter Cove project as well as the PG&E Wave Connect.
- c. **CalEMA.** No report.
- d. **CPB.** No report.
- e. **OSPR.** Mr. Dayton (OSPR) reported that there were no pollution incidents with the exception of the vehicles at Strawberry Creek and a release at the bio-diesel facility of 1000 gallons that entered Janes Creek.
- f. **HC Sheriff.** No report
- g. **NOAA.** Mr. Wheaton (NOAA) reported that there are a couple of changes in command at NOAA. John Dunnigan is retiring and David Kennedy will be taking over as acting Assistant Administrator for NOAA's Ocean Service. Also, Mike Szabados is retiring and Richard Edwing be taking over as Director of CO-OPS.

h. **Coastal Commission.** Ms. Metz (Coastal Commission) reported that during the earthquake the Chevron pipeline had flexed but did not break. State Lands required numerous tests and checks to ensure the pipeline was sound before allowing the fuel barge that arrived the day after the earthquake, to offload. After the second delivery of fuel, due to arrive this weekend, the pipeline will be tested and checked again. A replacement pipeline is ready if needed.

i. **Member Reports.** Mr. Kuhlmann (Environmental) reported all okay with the Indian Island project. No adverse effects from the earthquake.

Mr. Klassen (Recreational Boater) reported that Mr. Martin (Recreational Boater) is continuing to work on the BMPs for small craft. Mr. Klassen also reported on the status of the MLPA. There are potential sites that may restrict vessel traffic. Mr. Hull (Port Authority) asked Mr. Klassen to continue to report back to the committee regarding these potential restrictions.

Capt. Groszmann (Tug Operator) reported that he had gone out to escort the barge in the day after the earthquake and did not notice any problems around the bay. Mr. Hull (Port Authority) relayed to the committee that Mike Dillabough from the USACOE asked if any changes had been noticed in the jetties. It was noted that with the recent storms, waves are continuing to break on the jetties and no one has been able to detect any changes. Committee members will look when they have an opportunity and report back to Mr. Hull.

Capt. Petrusha (Bar Pilot) reports that he and Capt. Powell will be attending an Emergency Ship Handling course in Seattle at the end of March. This is a course using the simulator for Humboldt Bay.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 1053 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzie V. Howser
Port of Humboldt Bay