

APPROVED

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area 0900 hours Thursday May 20, 2010 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room

The Harbor Safety Committee meeting was convened at 0908 hours.

Members Present:

Mr. David Hull (Port Authority)
Ms. Suzie Howser (Port Authority)
Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot)
Capt. John Powell (Bar Pilot)
Capt. Gilbert Groszmann (Tug Operator)
Mr. Hawk Martin (Recreational Boater)
Mr. Rich Trygar (Dry Cargo)
Dr. Vanessa Metz (Coastal Commission)
Deputy Roy Reynolds (Local Law Enforcement)
Mr. Stephen Kullmann (Tribe/Environmental)

Others Present:

Mr. Al Storm (OSPR Liaison)
MST1 Matt Cunningham (USCG MSD Humboldt Bay)
Mr. David Ammerman (USACE)
Mr. Dave Nakamura (HSU Center Activities)
Ms. Alison Talbott (PGE)
Dr. Brendan Dooher (PGE)

Capt. Rick Williams (SAIC) by telephone
Mr. Ian Caliendo (PGE) by telephone

1. Introductions were made.

2. **Members sworn in.** Mr. David Hull (Port Authority Member), Ms. Suzie Howser (Port Authority Alternate), Capt. Gilbert Groszmann (Tug Operator Member), Mr. Stephen Kullmann (Tribe/Environmental Member), Capt John Powell (Bar Pilot Member) and Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot Alternate) were sworn in by OSPR Liaison Mr. Al Storm.

3. Public comment.

4. **Presentation by Pacific Gas & Electric Company regarding WaveConnect.** Ms. Talbott (PGE) and Dr. Dooher (PGE) provided a PowerPoint presentation in regards to the proposed PG&E WaveConnect pilot project off of Humboldt Bay. This project is within three-miles of the State of California and is situated off the north jetty of Humboldt Bay. The footprint of the project is anticipated to be ½ mile wide by 2 miles long. Current plans are for four (4) buoys to mark the corners and will conform to International Maritime Organization (IMO) and International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) standards. During high traffic periods, such as openings of fishing seasons, a vessel may be utilized to help identify areas to be avoided. The WaveConnect pilot project is anticipated to last between 5 to 10 years with construction to begin approximately summer of 2012. For more information you may visit the Pacific Gas & Electric Company website at www.pge.com/waveconnect.

5. **Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of March 18, 2010.** Capt. Groszmann motioned to approve minutes of March 18, 2010; Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Consideration of Best Maritime Practices for Small Craft.** Mr. Martin and Mr. Nakamura (HSU Center Activities) presented the Best Maritime Practices in four segments for the Committee to review; paddlers; kayaks, sculls, rowboats; sailing vessels; and recreational boating and sport fishing vessels. Some modifications have been made prior to the meeting in regards to float plans and marking of equipment. Discussion was held regarding difference between what is needed for the Harbor Safety Plan and what should be in a safety brochure. Some format changes will be made and re-submitted for the Committee's review.

7. **Consideration of 2010/11 Harbor Safety Plan.** Mr. Hull reported on Harbor Safety Plan changes. Changes include update of members, spelling, casualty numbers, inclusion of NOAA in the by-laws, and update of Tasks. Ms. Howser asked if the letter of appreciation to Scripps could remain in the

recommendations or as ongoing, as their buoys provide valuable information to local mariners. Mr. Storm reported that a letter was already being drafted to Scripps thanking them for their buoys and data. Ms. Howser also reported that she had spoken with the crew of the USCGC *ASPEN* in regards to their current visit to Humboldt Bay and inquired about NOAA buoy 46022. Buoy 46022 has been out of service since February 2010 and is one of the most valuable buoys along our coast. USCGC *ASPEN* was able to contact NOAA and discovered that buoy 46022 is scheduled to be reinstalled September 01, 2010. Mr. Storm will ask the Administrator about sending a letter to NOAA in regards to deploying a temporary buoy until buoy 46022 can be re-deployed. Mr. Trygar motioned to approve the Harbor Safety Plan with the changes discussed; Capt. Petrusha seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Howser unveiled the new Harbor Safety Committee website to the members and asked for suggestions. Although still under construction, the site will be up within the next few weeks.

8. Status/Updates

a. **Federal Channel Maintenance.** Mr. Hull reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredge *ESSAYONS* is currently working Humboldt Bay. Mr. Storm asked if the Port was happy with the response from the US Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Hull stated that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have always responded quickly to our needs and the working relationship is excellent. However, the Federal government was unable to fund the entire Operations and Maintenance request for Humboldt Bay so the *YAQUINA* was not able to come in and the *ESSAYONS* will only be here for approximately 19 days.

b. **Oil Spills/Accidents.** Questions were raised in regards to oil spill response equipment. Mr. Storm reported that OSPR was keeping a close eye on the equipment and is making sure that the amount of equipment required by regulations stays where needed. Ms. Howser reported that the Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS) equipment was removed from Redwood Dock and was already in the Gulf. MST1 Cunningham (USCG) reported that an inventory of available equipment was made prior to removing VOSS and between public agencies and the private sector; there was plenty of containment and sorbent boom in the Humboldt Bay Area.

c. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** Mr. Hull reported that the US Army Corps of Engineers' new debris removal boat *JOHN A.B. DILLARD JR.* stopped in port last week. The new 87 foot Kvichak vessel was being delivered from Seattle to Sausalito. While the debris boat was in town, the Bar Pilots were able to speak with USACE personnel regarding a debris removal vessel visiting Humboldt Bay in the near future.

d. **Boater Safety.** No report.

e. **Navigational Aids.** Capt. Powell reported that buoy 2 (#8135) and buoy 5 (#8175) were moved by the USCGC *ASPEN* to assist with annual dredging of Humboldt Bay.

f. **Ship Traffic.** Mr. Trygar reported a Sause barge had come into the Schneider Dock carrying heavy lift trailers with Hyundai transformers for a local PG&E sub-station. Tug *KOOS KING* was used to help maneuver the barge into position in order for the trailers to roll off the barge. Interest in Humboldt Bay has increased.

g. **Navigational Chart Changes.** No report.

h. **TWIC.** No changes.

i. **Potential Bay Projects.** Mr. Hull reported no new projects. However there has been interest at the Redwood Marine Terminal and the Fields Landing Marine Terminal by various shipping interests.

6. Reports/Presentations

- a. **USCG.** No report.
- b. **USACE.** No report.
- c. **CalEMA.** No report.
- d. **CPB.** No report.
- e. **OSPR.** Mr. Storm read a letter from the OSPR Administrator to Mr. Hull appointing him as chairman of the Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area. Mr. Storm also reported that with the oil spill in the Gulf, OSPR continues to monitor the amount of equipment available in the State.
- f. **HC Sheriff.** Deputy Reynolds reported that the Hoopa Jet Boat races were held last weekend on the Trinity River. While a few boats had trouble, there were no major injuries. The Sheriff's department conducted two search and rescue cases involving kayakers misjudging distance and time to complete their river journeys; one on the Mattole River and one on the Mad River. A man was found on the shore south of Centerville Beach. He had been hiking along the bluff when the ground gave way causing him to fall to the shore below. A commercial fishing boat crabbing in close to the beach spotted the word HELP written in the sand and saw the man. The Captain of the fishing vessel relayed information to the US Coast Guard and was able to tell the man, via loud hailer, that help was on the way. A USCG helicopter was used to rescue the man from the shore and it was found that he had fallen from the cliff on the previous Sunday and was rescued on Friday. The man had sustained injuries from the fall and was extremely dehydrated. He was airlifted to the local hospital and has since been released.
- g. **NOAA.** No report.
- h. **Coastal Commission.** Ms. Metz reported no changes or updates.
- i. **Member Reports.** Mr. Kullmann reported on the Indian Island project. The upland portion of the project will begin in July and fill dirt is scheduled to be barged to Indian Island beginning in September. Mr. Kullmann also reported that Eureka Police Department has responded to calls from the general public regarding persons trespassing on Indian Island. When EPD arrives to investigate, they find tribal personnel working on the site. The tribe will be rigging up a flag to indicate when tribal personnel are on the Island.
- j. **Other.** Mr. Hull discussed the handouts provided to the Committee. California Maritime Academy is offering courses in Eureka at the Wharfinger Building; First Response Operational Maritime Security (FROMS) and Company, Vessel & Facility Security Officer Course. Cal Maritime is also working with local high schools, College of the Redwoods and Humboldt State University to develop a maritime curriculum. Coincidentally, while attending the Maritime Leadership Symposium in Sacramento, it was noted that there is need for trained maritime personnel.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 15, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1100 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzie V. Howser
Port of Humboldt Bay