

APPROVED

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area 0900 hours Thursday January 20, 2011 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room

The Harbor Safety Committee meeting was convened at 0911 hours.

Members Present:

Ms. Suzie Howser (Port Authority)
Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot)
Capt. Gilbert Groszmann (Tug Operator)
Deputy Roy Reynolds (Local Law Enforcement)
Mr. Gerry Wheaton (NOAA-OCS)
Capt. Jay Jewess (USCG Sector San Francisco)
LT. Rob Starr (USCG Group HB)
BMC Clare Linder (USCG)
Capt. Tim Klassen (Recreational Boater) 0930

Others Present:

Mr. Al Storm (OSPR Liaison)
Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR)
LTJG Nick Lajoie (USCG)
CWO Curtis Barthel (USCG)
MST1 Matt Cunningham (USCG)
Mr. Jim Egbert (USCG)
Mr. Dan Larkin (HC OES)
Capt. Leroy Zerlang (Brusco Tug & Barge)
Mr. Donald Wilkes (City of Eureka)
Mr. David Ammerman (USACE)
Ms. Julie Salminen (Pacific Affiliates)

Ms. Howser announced that due to lack of a quorum, the Committee could not vote on any item on the agenda. All items would be discussed without voting and placed on the March 17th agenda.

1. **Introductions were made.**

2. **No members were sworn in.** Mr. Storm reported that he would give an update on applications received for the 4 vacant positions during OSPR Reports. Mr. Newman was unable to attend today's meeting and therefore will be sworn in as member representing commercial fishing at the March meeting.

3. **Public Comment.**

4. **Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of November 18, 2010.** Brief discussion was held.

5. **Consideration of Establishing a Tug Committee.** Ms. Howser and Mr. Storm discussed whether this item needed a committee vote. Mr. Storm reported that forming a committee was at the pleasure of the chair and did not require a vote. Ms. Howser read Mr. Hull's notes.

Over the past 4-5 months, the Harbor District has talked with several businesses that want to export logs or wood chips from the Port of Humboldt Bay. One of the potential wood chip exporters has stated that starting the fourth quarter of 2011, they anticipate exporting at the rate of 8-20 ships per year for an estimated 8-10 years. Similarly, log exporters have also stated that they anticipate approximately 8 ships per year in the same time period. With this potential increase in shipping activity, I think it is necessary that the HSC examine our tug capability to handle the size and frequency of these ships. My suggestion is that we form a committee to have a couple of meetings to examine what we have; what we think we will need; and how to fill any gaps in available service. At a minimum, I would like to suggest the tug committee include the port, bar pilots, tug member, dry cargo member and the USCG.

Consensus was to form a committee comprised of Port Authority, Tug Operators, Bar Pilots, USCG and OSPR Liaison.

6. **Status of Humboldt Bay Shoal.** Ms. Howser reported that the shoaling in Humboldt Bay has returned and read Mr. Hull's notes regarding the USACE.

Dredges Essayons and Yaquina are technically scheduled for late March-April 2011. However, for the current (2011) federal fiscal year, no appropriations have been made and the feds are under a continuing resolution until March 4, 2011. On or before then, Congress either needs to do another CR or an omnibus bill. The President's 2011 budget has enough \$ for both dredges for Humboldt O&M dredging, but that budget has not been enacted. The current CR is working off of 2010 budget where there was only enough O&M funds to dredge the bar and entrance. The 2011 budget was supposed to be done in Sept 2010 so now 4 months into the 2011 fiscal year, there is no real sign of how it will work out and they can't start the 2012 budget until the 2011 budget is completed. So it is still all up in the air. However, as you are meeting today, I am meeting with the Corps of Engineers to try and get some clarity.

7. Status/Updates

- a. **Federal Channel Maintenance.** As reported in item 6 above.
- b. **Oil Spills/Accidents.** Mr. Dayton reported that a recreational vessel overturned in Noyo River with little to no discharge. Sheen was reported in Humboldt Bay with the first round of rains in December. MST2 Cunningham reported a small spill in Crescent City with the Southern Belle.
- c. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** Captain Zerlang reported he had removed a submerged duck boat from Humboldt Bay.
- d. **Boater Safety.** Mr. Howser reported that Ms. Beverly Noll will be conducting a Commercial Fishermen's Safety Course in Eureka on March 15 and 16.
- e. **Navigational Aids.** Ms. Linder reported that all Aids to Navigation are watching properly.
- f. **Ship Traffic.** Captain Petrusha reported that a log ship is due in February.
- g. **Navigational Chart Changes.** There were none. Mr. Wheaton reported that the new Coast Pilot #7 Edition 43 is out and also available on line. www.nauticalcharts.gov
- h. **TWIC.** MST2 Cunningham reported that the TWIC office is currently operational.
- i. **Potential Bay Projects.** Ms. Howser read Mr. Hull's report.

Cal Redwood Company is working to rehabilitate the chip export facility.

Harbor District conducts hydrographic surveying, soils analysis and biological assessment in anticipation of maintenance dredging Redwood Marine Terminal berths 1 and 2 and the Fields Landing Boat Yard slip in ~2012.

Harbor District is working out final scope of work with consultant to design improvements to 3 water trail launch sites (Arcata Marsh, WIM and Samoa County Boat Ramp).

Reactivation of upland dredge disposal site is still in process – presently stalled at the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Hole in the north jetty: District has been monitoring this and the Congressman's office has been working with the Corps to assess damage and develop repair strategy.

Ms. Linder reported a second hole has developed in the North Jetty. Ms. Howser asked Ms. Linder if she would take photos of both and send them via email to the Harbor District. Ms. Linder agreed to do so.

Elk River spit erosion monitoring: District and USCG have been monitoring erosion at the base of the Elk River Spit. In the last 6 months, the beach has eroded 30-50' and is occasionally overtopped by large swells.

Ms. Howser reported that the Harbor District is still not sure what the structure was and aerial photos from the 40's and 50's do not show a structure. Mr. Wheaton suggested that we look at NOAA historical charts to see if a structure was ever noted on the chart.

Mr. Wilkes reported that the walls were going up on the Fishermen's Terminal building.

8. Reports/Presentations

- a. **USCG.** Mr. Egbert reported a change in the Fishing Vessel Safety. Some of the changes include: the boundary line will now be 3 miles offshore; required safety training every five years; voluntary dock side exams will become mandatory every 2 years; and new boat construction standards. Mr. Egbert provided a hand out to members.
- b. **USACE.** Mr. Ammerman reported that Cal Redwood Company permit is pending. Humboldt State University has submitted a permit to construct a permanent dock at the temporary dock site.
- c. **OES.** Mr. Larkin reported that the Tsunami Warning Communications Test will take place March 23 of this year. Participating counties will include Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino. Part of the test will include reverse 911 calling, tsunami sirens, Civil Air Patrol and EAS broadcasting stations. USCG will conduct a Mass Casualty exercise April 13 with an alternate date of April 27. The exercise will involve moving 80 people to local facilities for care. Hospitals, ambulances, fire departments, law enforcement, USCG and others will be involved in the exercise.
- d. **CPB.** No Report.
- e. **OSPR.** Mr. Storm reported that Mr. Scott Schaefer was now the Acting Administrator for OSPR. Mr. Storm received applications for the positions of Recreational Boater, Dry Cargo and Tank Barges. Mr. Storm anticipates all applications will be approved in time for the March 17 meeting. Mr. Parsons has not submitted his application for the position of Marine Terminal Operator however, he would be asked again at the ACP meeting.

Mr. Dayton reported that the Area Committee was now a subcommittee to the San Francisco Area Committee. The new strategies will be due and Mr. Dayton would like to have all changes in by April.

- f. **HC Sheriff.** Deputy Reynolds reported that the Sheriff 44409 was back in the water. Deputies conducted searches on the Trinity River for a person who may have entered the water after fleeing the scene of a stolen vehicle accident. Two abandoned Hobie Cats have been a problem on Big Lagoon. The Sheriff's department has now drug the vessels up the bank at least 50 feet beyond the high water mark. Neither one is registered, and due to their configuration, they cannot be trailered by the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Larkin reported that the narrowbanding requirements will be in effect beginning January 01, 2013. Ms. Howser reported that the Harbor District will be required to change to narrowbanding and that she was on contact with David Christian at the County of Humboldt regarding grant funds that may be available to assist with the conversion.

- g. **NOAA.** No report.
- h. **Coastal Commission.** No report.

i. **Member Reports.** Captain Klassen reported that there will be a MLPA meeting tomorrow in the Supervisors' Chambers regarding the MLPA. Items on the MLPA maps to consider are the designation of the special closures. These closures prohibit humans from entering within 100 yards. This could be hazardous to persons needing to get in the lee of certain areas during periods of inclement weather. Entry would be in violation of state law.

9. **Other - Consideration of Lighting of Commercial Docks in Humboldt Bay during hours of darkness.** Ms. Howser read Mr. Hull's report. A commercial fisherman came to me recently and noted that despite radar, the large commercial docks in Humboldt Bay are not as visible as they used to be when there was a lot of shipping activity and lights were constantly on and around the docks. They asked the HSC if there was a way to have some type of lights installed on these docks to help avoid collisions.

Discussion was held in regards to a rumored recent collision between a commercial fishing vessel and Schneider Dock. BMC Linder reported the red flashing lights at the North End of the Samoa Bridge are still visible at night and can be confusing when entering the Samoa Channel. Captain Zerlang reported there is a light at the Fairhaven Terminal that resembles a fishing vessel crab light heading down the North Bay Channel. Further discussion was held. Captain Powell will be tasked with communicating with Caltrans to further shield the flashing red lights. Fairhaven Terminal will check if their light can be adjusted. USCG will investigate further into the rumored collision and the Committee will monitor the lighting situation for further action.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for [THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2011](#).

Meeting adjourned at 1031 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie V. Howser, Port of Humboldt Bay