

APPROVED

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

0900 hours Thursday March 17, 2011 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. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot)
Deputy Phil Daastol (Local Law Enforcement)
Mr. Gerry Wheaton (NOAA-OCS)
Dr. Vanessa Metz (Coastal Commission)
LT. Rob Starr (USCG Group HB)
Mr. Hawk Martin (Recreational Boating)
Mr. Stephen Kullmann (Tribal/Environmental)
Mr. Aaron Newman (Commercial Fishing)
Capt. Gil Groszmann (Tug Operator)

Others Present:

Mr. Al Storm (OSPR Liaison)
BMCM Peter Janusch (USCG Station HB)
CWO Curtis Barthel (USCG Group HB)
Mr. John Prince (US Customs)
Mr. David Ammerman (USACE)
Mr. Troy Nicolini (NOAA-NWS)
Mr. Scott Owen (USF&WS)
Mr. Kevin Miller (CalEMA)
Mr. Rick Wilson (CA Geological Survey)
Mr. Chuck Real (CA Geological Survey)
Mr. Jim Falls (CA Geological Survey)
Mr. Dan Larkin (HC OES)
Mr. Jeff Raimey (City of Eureka)
Mr. Donald Wilkes (City of Eureka)
Mr. Craig Richardson (Trinidad Harbor)
Mr. Michael Hostler (Trinidad Rancheria)
Ms. Julie Salminen (Pacific Affiliates) via telephone

1. Introductions were made.

2. **Members were sworn in.** Mr. Storm swore in Mr. Aaron Newman as Member representing Commercial Fishing and Mr. Hawk Martin as Member representing Recreational Boaters. Mr. Dick Lauer, Capt. Jeff Hill, Mr. Rich Trygar and Capt. Tim Klassen will be sworn in at the next meeting.

3. Public Comment.

4. **Presentation by Mr. Kevin Miller, Research Program Specialist CalEMA, regarding Tsunami Hazard Mapping Activities in California.** Mr. Miller reported on the need for Tsunami Hazard Mapping in California including Tsunami Inundation Mapping, Probabilistic Tsunami Hazard Mapping and Tsunami Guidance for the Maritime Community. California Tsunami Maritime Safety Goals include creating an offshore safety zone map (for use by Harbors that recommend sending vessels to sea), create in-harbor hazard maps by modeling 5 major harbors' tsunami hazards (damaging currents), provide statewide guidance for evacuation planning and harbor protection (based on above results).

Mr. Larkin reported that overall everything went well. We were better prepared and fortunate that the tsunami occurred at low tide. Public education is still the challenge. People were still driving to Kneeland and out Highway 299. There were a few problems that are being addressed. An after action meeting will be held March 23, 2011. All agencies are invited to attend. The live code test scheduled for March 23rd has been cancelled. For more information you can go log onto www.myhazards.calema.ca.gov or www.tsunami.ca.gov or contact Kevin.Miller@calema.ca.gov

Discussion was held and all members and participants reported on the effects of the tsunami at their facilities.

5. **Dredging activity report by US Army Corps of Engineers.** Mr. Hull reported that the USACE had just completed the survey for Humboldt Bay prior to the tsunami and is not sure if they will be back before the

dredge *YAQUINA* arrives. Dredge *YAQUINA* called yesterday (March 16) to verify they will be arriving in Humboldt Bay this weekend. Unknown if sediment has shifted since the tsunami event.

6. **Tug Committee report.** Capt. Groszmann reported that Knutson Towboat Company will bring the tug *KOSS KING* to Humboldt Bay before the arrival of the next ship. Brusco Tug and Barge is also looking into staging another tug in Humboldt Bay.

7. **Bylaw language change.** Mr. Storm reported that this language is to clear up the issue of quorums. State law allows Federal agencies to have a vote however Federal agencies choose not to vote. Capt. Klassen motioned to approve the Bylaw changes as recommended; Mr. Newman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Update on regulations for local government oil spill plans.** Mr. Storm reported on the regulations for local oil spill plans. Discussion was held regarding the difference between the ACP and the local plan. It was suggested that Melissa Martel from the County of Humboldt attend the next Harbor Safety Committee meeting to give an overview of the local plan.

9. **Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of November 18, 2010.** Deputy Daastol motioned to approve the minutes of November 18, 2010; Capt. Powell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of January 20, 2011.** Deputy Daastol motioned to approve the minutes of January 20, 2011; Capt. Powell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Status/Updates

- a. **Oil Spills/Accidents.** No report. Most local oil spill representatives are currently in Crescent City.
- b. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** Deputy Daastol reported on a 25 foot motor vessel abandoned at the Fields Landing Boat Ramp. Deputies tied the vessel up on three different occasions as they attempted to contact the owner. The vessel broke loose and drifted out of Humboldt Bay and grounded on a beach near Crescent City. The Del Norte County Sheriff's Department attempted to pull the vessel off the beach however the vessel broke in half during the attempt. The Humboldt County Sheriff's Department was unable to locate an owner of the vessel and they are unable to use abatement grant funds to assist with removal and disposal. Boating and Waterways will not issue abatement grants for vessels that have been removed from the water and abatement grant applications must pre-identify vessels and the grant funds are only issued once per year. Long term solution to this problem is to have Boating and Waterways modify their abatement grant or we need to find another source of funding. Derelict canoes and kayaks continue to be recovered by the Sheriff's department. Since they are not registered with the State there is no way to track ownership. The Sheriff's department will continue to push the ID stickers provided by the USCG PaddleSmart program.
- c. **Boater Safety.** Ms. Howser reported the last boating safety class was held on March 5th and the next class is scheduled for Saturday May 7th. Ms. Bev Noll held a commercial fishermen's safety class this week.

Deputy Daastol reported an Oregon high school class came down for a weekend and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department was able to arrange tours of the USCGC *BARRACUDA*, tug *HUMBOLDT* and rides on two Sheriff vessels. The City of Eureka will be hosting an open house at the Wharfinger Building April 17th. Participants include the Humboldt Yacht Club, USCG and USCG Auxiliary, and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department. Activities will focus around marine safety.

- d. **Navigational Aids.** Crescent City lighted bell buoy number 6 and lighted buoy number 7 are missing.

- e. **Ship Traffic.** Capt. Powell reported that the USS FREEDOM, a 378 foot naval vessel, made a quick stop in Humboldt Bay for fuel. Boom was deployed prior to fueling and safety/security buoys were placed to maintain a security zone. Sheriff's Department patrolled the area and redirected vessel traffic as necessary. The next log ship is due to arrive April 2nd and two more are due to arrive within the first two weeks of April.
- f. **Navigational Chart Changes.** Mr. Wheaton reported that a NOAA survey crew is currently in Crescent City with side scan sonar to determine location of sunken vessels and obstructions to navigation after the tsunami event. A survey crew was also sent to Santa Cruz.
- g. **TWIC.** None

12. Potential Bay Projects. Mr. Hull reported that the Humboldt Bay Rowing Association has filed an application for permanent status at the temporary facility between the Samoa Bridge and the Bonnie Gool Guest Dock. Mr. Wheaton stated he will bring up the DGPS to mark the position of the dock for the navigation chart.

Mr. Hull also reported that MARAD Administrator David Matsuda was in town on February 19th to tour Humboldt Bay. The USCGC Barracuda helped facilitate the tour.

Mr. Ammerman reported that USACE LTC Torrey DiCiro paid a visit to Humboldt Bay.

Mr. Hull reported that he met with Boating and Waterways staff in Shelter Cove and that the Shelter Cove Breakwater project is now complete. This project took 11 years from start of paperwork to completion of project.

Mr. Owen reported there are ongoing levee repairs in Hookton Slough, but USFWS is not sure when the dike repairs will take place.

13. Reports/Presentations

- a. **USCG.** None
- b. **USACE.** Mr. Hull reported that according to the 2012 budget there is not much money budgeted for operations and maintenance dredging of Humboldt Bay.
- c. **OES.** Mr. Larkin reported that next week is tsunami preparedness week, March 20-26. The live test scheduled for Wednesday March 23rd has been cancelled. On April 13th there will be a mass casualty exercise simulating an 80 passenger aircraft going into the water off Humboldt Bay. Due to ocean conditions predicted for the date, the simulation will take place inside Humboldt Bay off the USCG Station. 80 persons will be in the water, rescued and then transported to area care facilities using only local resources.
- d. **CPB.** Mr. Prince reported more ships entering Humboldt Bay and he has been working with agents to make sure everything runs smoothly.
- e. **OSPR.** Mr. Storm reported that OSPR has been on scene at Crescent City and Santa Cruz and after this meeting he and Mr. Wheaton will be heading to Crescent City.
- f. **HC Sheriff.** Deputy Daastol reported there was a drowning at the Bonnie Gool Guest Dock. The incident was first reported as a possible abduction. HC Sheriff, Eureka Fire, Eureka Police and USCG responded to the area and searched for a child in a stroller. Divers were then hired and the stroller with the child was recovered from the water. The accident is under investigation. The Discovery Museum's annual Perilous Plunge fundraiser took place at the F-Street Dock in Eureka with no incidents. Boating

and Waterways is conducting a law enforcement kayak survey. Expired marine flares were collected from the public over a weekend. Air Quality Management will not allow the State Fire Marshall to collect expired flares for destruction. All pyrotechnics are now sent to Utah for disposal.

- g. **NOAA.** Mr. Wheaton reported that Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke has been appointed as Ambassador to China and will be resigning from NOAA. It is unknown who will replace Mr. Locke.
- h. **Coastal Commission.** Dr. Metz reported that the Dockwalker training program is scheduled for April 16th. Unfortunately due to the State budget they will not be able to hand out the clean boating bags.
- i. **Member Reports.** Mr. Raimey reported that the City of Eureka is looking for tenants at the new Fishermen's Terminal. Electrical and plumbing are being installed now and should be complete by early summer.

14. **Other –**

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for [THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011.](#)

Meeting adjourned at 1120 hours.
Respectfully submitted,
Suzie V. Howser, Port of Humboldt Bay