

APPROVED

**Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area
0900 hours July 18, 2013 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room**

The Harbor Safety Committee meeting was convened at 0915 hours.

Members Present:

Ms. Suzie Howser, Chair (Port Authority)
Deputy Roy Reynolds (Local Law Enforcement)
Capt. John Powell (Bar Pilot)
Capt. Gilbert Groszmann (Tug Operator)
Mr. Jonathan Bishop (Coastal Commission) via phone
Mr. Gerry Wheaton (NOAA-OCS)
CWO2 Billy Gartman (USCG MSD HB)
BM1 Jared Calobreves (USCG AtoN HB)
Captain Leroy Zerlang (Tug Operator)
Mr. Dick Lauer (Tanker Operations) via phone

Others Present:

Mr. Al Storm (OSPR Liaison)
Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR)
Mr. Josh Zulliger (OSPR)
Mr. John Prince (US Customs)
Mr. Jeff Raimy (City of Eureka)
Mr. Dan Larkin (HC OES)
Mr. Kyle Noderer (Cal OES)
MST3 Rustin Battermann (USCG MSD HB)
Mr. Philip Wright (HB Aquatic Center)
Mr. Wade Krietich (HB Aquatic Center)
Mr. John Giles (USCG MSD HB)
Ms. Julie Salminen (Pacific Affiliates)
Mr. P.S. Lynch (Humboldt Bay Fire)
Mr. Troy Nicolini (NOAA/NWS/Eureka)

Chair, Suzie Howser announced a quorum was not present, however the meeting would continue without voting.

Mr. Lauer phoned in at approximately 0930. A quorum was present for voting.

1. Introductions were made.

2. Swearing in of new members. Mr. Storm congratulated and swore in Captain Leroy Zerlang as Alternate representing Tug Operators.

3. Public Comment. None

4. Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of January 17, 2013. Mr. Lauer motioned to approve the minutes for the meeting of January 17, 2013 with the correction to the NWS designation. Captain Powell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of March 21, 2013. Captain Powell motioned to approve the minutes for the meeting of March 21, 2013. Captain Groszmann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of May 16, 2013. Mr. Lauer motioned to approve the minutes for the meeting of May 16, 2013. Deputy Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consideration and approval of changes to the Harbor Safety Plan. Discussion was held and Mr. Storm and Ms. Howser went over the changes and updates needed in the plan. Captain Powell motioned to approve the changes to the Harbor Safety Plan as discussed and recommended. Captain Groszmann seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

8. **Consideration of approval of the Harbor Safety Plan.** Captain Powell motioned to approved the Harbor Safety Plan and submit to the Plan to OSPR. Captain Groszmann seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

9. **Consideration and approval of sending a letter to Congressman Huffman.** Discussion was held in regards to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) and the need for dredging in Humboldt Bay especially in the vicinity of Buoy 9. There is currently a draft restriction of 36 feet. Congress did release HMTF necessary for the US Army Corps of Engineers to bring the dredge YAQUINA to Humboldt Bay. Dredge YAQUINA should arrive approximately July 24 and will be able to dredge for approximately 5 days primarily in the vicinity of Buoy 9. Captain Powell motioned to send a letter to Congressman Huffman thanking him for the release of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and to cite safety concerns. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion. The letter will be drafted and sent to the Committee Members prior to sending to the Congressman. The letter will also be copied to the US Army Corps of Engineers and OSPR Administrator. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Status/Updates

a. **Oil Spills/Accidents.** CWO2 Gartman reported there were four mystery sheens in the operational area.

Mr. Dayton reported that the Dodge truck discussed at the last meeting which was stranded at Moonstone was recovered without incident. The RP was very cooperative and the incident was handled quickly.

b. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** Ms. Howser reported that the Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Funds were used by the Harbor District to dispose of one recreational vessel and a couple of old floats.

Discussion was held in regards to Tsunami Debris funds. Mr. Noderer gave a brief review of the funds available to the State of California regarding the Tsunami Debris. Most all debris will be removed and funded by local agencies. The State funds may be used to assist with removal of very large debris such as the giant dock that floated up in Oregon.

c. **Boater Safety.** Mr. Kriletich reported that small vessel boater training would be taking place tomorrow for his staff. Mr. Kriletich would like to coordinate with USCG Auxiliary Safe Boating Classes. CWO2 Gartman will provide Mr. Kriletich with USCG Auxiliary contact information.

Ms. Howser reported that USCG Auxiliary conducted a Safe Boating class at the beginning of June and they are scheduled to conduct a class the first Saturday in August. Signs will be distributed throughout the community.

d. **Navigational Aids.** BM1 Calobreves reported that Humboldt Light will be discontinued as of August 07, 2013.

Ms. Howser asked if BM1 Calobreves received a copy of the letter from the Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association in regards to the buoys off Mendocino Bay and Little river. BM1 Calobreves stated that yes he had received the letter and that the information provided by the Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association is exactly what the US Coast Guard needs when making decisions to continue or discontinue an Aid.

Ms. Howser asked if the USCGC *ASPEN* was coming back to attempt to move Buoy 9 prior to the arrival of the dredge YAQUINA. BM1 Calobreves will check with the *ASPEN* and report back to the Committee.

Captain Powell reported that PORTS would be reinstalled after the YAQUNIA was finished with dredging in Humboldt Bay.

- e. **Ship Traffic.** Captain Powell reported that the AFRICAN SWAN was in port June 14-20 at the Schneider Dock. The DURBIN BULKER was in port July 09-16 at the Schneider Dock and another ship is scheduled for August 06 at the Schneider Dock.

Captain Zerlang reported that California Redwood anticipates its first ship to arrive the first week of October.

- f. **Navigational Chart Changes.** No changes.

- 11. **Potential Bay Projects.** Captain Zerlang reported that the Indian Island project is about to commence. Barge and vessel traffic from the Schneider Dock to Indian Island may be heavy at times. The project may begin as early as July 23.

Captain Powell reported that the Harbor District and the Wiyot Tribe are working together on a Marine Debris Abatement Grant to remove old floats from Humboldt Bay.

CWO2 Gartman asked about the fireworks display on Humboldt Bay. Mr. Raimey provided an overview of the permits necessary and the process involved to conduct the show. Discussion was held regarding the numerous challenges faced this year by all parties involved. The lack of USCG presence was a huge factor as the Sheriff's Department was called at the last minute to assist with stranded boaters in the Mad River Slough. That left only one Sheriff boat available for law enforcement and security issues on the bay. Captain Zerlang reported that numerous kayaks were without lights and violating the security zone. The USCG normally provides escort for the fireworks barge, however this year they did not. The Committee discussed the need for the Fire Boat to be underway and available in case of emergencies and that USCG presence is needed for events such as the July 4th fireworks and the Kinetic Sculpture Race. Letters are to be drafted and placed on the next Agenda for the Committee to approve for sending at the beginning of 2014.

12. Reports/Presentations

- a. **USCG.** CWO2 Gartman reported the new Captain of the Port, Captain Gregory Stump, is tentatively scheduled to be here for the next Harbor Safety meeting. Mr. Storm asked to be kept informed of his schedule as the OSPR Administrator may also wish to attend.

The USCG is consolidating all VOSS equipment and the equipment located in Humboldt Bay will be leaving. Discussion was held in regards to available equipment. The State of California requires local ORSOs to have a certain amount of equipment be on hand to meet terminal and shippers needs. The VOSS equipment, other government equipment (such as the OSPR trailer) and other private equipment is not included in the State of California requirements.

- b. **USACE.** No report.

- c. **OES.** Mr. Larkin reported the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is almost complete. 7 Cities and 25 special districts, including the Harbor District are involved in the Plan. An approved Hazard Mitigation Plan gives the participating agencies access to funding for pre and post events.

A survey is currently available on line for Humboldt County residents.

<http://surveymonkey.com/s/humboldtcohamit>

The next operational area meeting will be held on August 15th beginning at 1330 at the HC jail.

The Humboldt County Fair will run August 14 -25. The Tsunami room will be shared by Tsunami Debris information.

The County is setting up a presentation by Cal OES and FEMA Region 9 regarding the Cascadia Subduction Zone Plan. They are hoping to hold the presentation around the 4th week of September at the Wharfinger Building in Eureka. Mr. Larkin will distribute information as things are finalized.

The great Shakeout will be held October 17, 2013. To participate in the shakeout you may go to <http://www.shakeout.org/california/>

Mr. Noderer reported the 2014 Golden Guardian exercise will be focused on a North Coast Cascadia Event. More information will be provided as the exercise is developed.

- d. **CPB.** Mr. Prince reported that it has been quiet on the North Coast. His Chief will be in town the end of this month.
- e. **OSPR.** Mr. Dayton reported there will be an equipment deployment September 25th with a back up date of September 26th. The deployment will take place by the Mad River Slough Bridge on Hwy 255 near Sierra Pacific Industries.

Since Mr. Dayton was unable to attend the last Harbor Safety meeting, he gave an overview of the Woodley Island Marina strategy that was conducted in March. A telephone pipeline from Woodley Island to Indian Island concerned a few residents as the exact location was unknown and containment boom and anchors were placed in the vicinity. Vessel traffic was a little heavier than anticipated along the Eureka Inner Reach, but the overall exercise was successful.

The ACP will be revised next year. Some information contained in the ACP is currently being moved into the Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA).

The Kure/Stuyvesant Trustee Council has been working with the Humboldt Bay Harbor District, City of Eureka and Crescent City Harbor District to address the issues associated with the Brown Pelicans and Fish Waste. All agencies have taken action and adjusted their fish waste handling practices.

Mr. Storm reported that on May 29th Mr. Tom Cullen was confirmed by the Senate as the OSPR Administrator.

A vacancy announcement has been issued in regards to Recreational Boaters. Mr. Martin moved out of the area and resigned as member. Ms. Howser will distribute the announcement to all members and interested persons. The announcement will also be placed on the website. Applications are due August 30th.

A vacancy announcement will be issued in regards to Commercial Fishing. The term will expire in November of this year.

The Harbor Safety Summit is tentatively scheduled for this fall in San Francisco Bay Area. Mr. Storm will provide more information as it becomes available.

Commercial Dungeness Crab Season has been extended to August 14th.

The Pacific States / British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force will hold its annual meeting in Seattle on September 25th.

- f. **HC Sheriff.** Deputy Reynolds reported there were three fatal drownings in the Humboldt Area. A fatal Jet Ski accident on the Klamath River, a swimmer drowned in the Eel River and a suicide by drowning in the Shelter Cove area.
- g. **NOAA.** Mr. Wheaton reported that a letter writing campaign by Harbors has begun asking for Congress to support Federalization of PORTS®. The San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee is also asking for this support.

Mr. Nicolini reported that the Scripps Waverider Buoy 46212 formerly located off the Humboldt South Spit will not return unless Scripps receives funding for the Buoy. The Waverider located off the North Spit 46244 is currently funded by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

- h. **Coastal Commission.** Mr. Bishop reported he sent an email to Committee Member this morning in regards to an education video available titled "Oil Pollution Prevention". The video may be viewed at <http://www.dbw.parks.ca.gov/Environmental/CleanGreen/Default.aspx> Ms. Howser will add the video to the Harbor Safety Committee website.
- i. **Member Reports.** Captain Groszmann reported that the fuel barge is currently in town and will be leaving in the afternoon.

- 13. **Other.** Mr. Raimey reported that the recreational season has been a huge success.

Mr. Kriletich reported that Paddlefest will take place September 14th.

The Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center will participate in the Coastal Clean Up day as a location to pick up bags.

A staff development day will take place tomorrow.

With paddle sports being the fastest growing outdoor sport, the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center would like to assist in educating the public in regards to boater safety.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for [THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013](#).

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1107 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie V. Howser, Port of Humboldt Bay