

APPROVED

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

0900 hours January 15, 2015 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room

Members Present:

Ms. Suzie Howser, Chair (Port Authority)
Capt. John Powell (Bar Pilot)
Capt. Leroy Zerlang (Tug Operator)
Mr. Tim Nelson (Tribal/Environmental)
Ms. Julie Salminen (Dry Cargo)
Mr. Casey Allen (Rec Boater)
Mr. Jeffrey Ferguson (NOAA-OCS)
Lt. Michelle Foster (USCG Sector HB)

Others Present:

Mr. Reuben Macaspac (OSPR Liaison)
Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR)
Mr. Josh Zulliger (OSPR)
Capt. Greg Stump (USCG Sector SF)
Mr. Jack Crider (Port Authority)
Mr. Jeff Raimsey (City of Eureka)
Mr. Donald Wilkes (City of Eureka)
Mr. Charlie Helms (Crescent City Harbor)
Ms. Amy Wirts (USCG Sector SF)
Mr. Mark Labert (USCG Sector SF)
Mr. Kent Hulbert (HB Fire)
Mr. PJ Lynch (HB Fire)
Mr. Guy Hughey (USCG MSD HB)
Mr. Chris Ramp (USCG Sector HB)
Mr. JP Giles (USCG MSD HB)
Ms. Margaret Herbelin (USCG Aux HB)

Chair, Suzie Howser called the meeting to order at 0907 hours.

1. **Introductions were made.**
2. **Swearing in of new members.** Mr. Macaspac reported there were no new members.
3. **Public Comment.** None.
4. **Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of November 20, 2014.** Capt. Zerlang made a motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2014. Ms. Salminen seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Consideration of approval of the September 2015 meeting date.** Ms. Howser explained that this item will continue to be on the next couple of agendas until a date can be set. The item will be tabled for now.
6. **Status/Updates**
 - a. **Oil Spills/Accidents.** Mr. Dayton reported it has been quiet in our area. However, the rest of the State has been busy.

Mr. Gartman reported the same, only 1 incident in our area and that was due to a vehicle on the beach in Crescent City. On the accident side, the USCG is investigating the damage to two Aids to Navigation.
 - b. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** Mr. Gartman reported the USCG is doing what it can in regards to documenting potential problem vessels. There is only one source of funding available for recreational vessels and currently nothing is available for commercial vessels. They would like to see someone take the lead on the recreational grant.

Ms. Howser explained that the Harbor District has participated in the Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Grant but this is not where the problem lies.

Mr. Crider explained that the commercial vessels are the ones that everyone has difficulty destroying as this can cost anywhere from \$5-15,000.00 apiece sometimes more depending on the vessel. Federal funding should be made available to dispose of these aging and derelict commercial vessels.

Capt. Stump explained that the Coast Guard is only authorized to remove hazardous materials. We would need to get Congress involved for funding resources to assist with the removal and disposal of a commercial vessel.

Mr. Raimey reported that the cooperative efforts of Zerlang and Zerlang, the Harbor District and the City of Eureka, lead to the vessels CLUNY, CHICKAPIN, ECHO and WAKAN being removed from the water and destroyed.

- c. **Boater Safety.** Ms. Herbelin reported that the USCG Auxiliary classes will begin in March.

Ms. Howser reported that beginning in March Ms. Beverly Noll will be conducting another round of AMSEA Drill Conductor Courses.

- d. **Navigational Aids.** Ms. Howser reported the tentative schedule for deployment of Buoy 46022 is March 2015. St. Georges Buoy 46027 and Pt. Arena Buoy 46014 are scheduled for May 2015.

- e. **Ship Traffic.** Capt. Powell reported that the CRIMSON POLARIS was here in December for a load of chips. Shoaling has been noticed and a surveyor is currently conducting soundings in the area.

Ms. Salminen reported a chip ship is possibly due in February-March. Many companies are looking at Humboldt Bay for shipping activities.

Capt. Zerlang reported the US Navy may be back.

Mr. Crider reported companies have contacted the Harbor District regarding shipping of aggregate, pellets, and other items.

- f. **Navigational Chart Changes.** None. However, there may be a future chart change if Buoy 2 is determined to be in a good location that will not require being moved for dredging activities.

- 7. **Potential Bay Projects.** Capt. Zerlang reported the marine debris grant project will be starting up again.

Mr. Nelson reported the Spartina removal on Indian Island is still on hold. The Wiyot Tribe, Humboldt State University and HT Harvey will be conducting another round of monitoring of the MPA in South Bay.

Mr. Crider reported a significant increase in aquaculture activity around the bay. A couple of companies are investing millions of dollars in flupsies at Berth 2. The Harbor District is adding another 1200 acres for aquaculture expansion. The bathymetric survey for Woodley Island Marina, Eureka Public Marina, Redwood Terminals, Fields Landing Boat Yard, and King Salmon are complete. The Harbor District anticipates, once the engine is replaced in the dredge, the King Salmon entrance channel dredging may begin as early as this summer. The Harbor District is looking at options for sediment disposal.

8. Reports/Presentations

- a. **USCG.** Mr. Gartman reported the USCG has an organizational chart for our area. This chart is available for members and includes phone numbers.

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

- c. **OES.** No report.

d. **CPB.** No report.

e. **OSPR.** Mr. Macaspac reported that he is getting the committee costs on reprinting of the Harbor Safety Brochure. The brochure will need to be re-formatted so that it is consistent with the other Harbor Safety Brochures in the state.

Ms. Howser asked the committee to review the old Harbor Safety Brochure and recommend updates. The brochure should also contain information on tsunamis and paddlecraft.

Mr. Dayton reported that the inland program is keeping OSPR busy. New positions are still being filled. A drill is tentatively scheduled for sometime in March-April for the Elk River Spit. Another drill is tentatively scheduled for the end of September behind target in the Eureka Slough. The Area Committee has mirrored the Harbor Safety Committee meeting dates with the exception of September. They have booked September 17 as their meeting date. Also, in reviewing the Economic Sites for the ACP, the Area Committee needs to consider the water issues with aquaculture leases. Mr. Dayton has been talking with the Harbor District consultant in regards to these leases.

f. **HC Sheriff.** No report.

g. **NOAA.** Mr. Ferguson reported that NOAA has discontinued the large format chart catalog and have transformed the chart catalogs into letter sized documents. Coast Survey would like to know if demand still remains for the large format chart catalog. Users should submit comments to NOAA before April 30, 2015. Mr. Ferguson also reported that the Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC's) are updated first and then the Raster Navigational Charts (RNC's).

h. **Coastal Commission.** No report.

i. **Member Reports.**

Mr. Crider reported that the Harbor District issued a vessel seizure notice to the vessel at anchor last Friday and the seizure was to take place at 2pm on Monday January 12, 2015. Very early Monday morning the deckhand of the vessel drowned. After initial investigation by the coroner's office and Eureka Police Detectives, the vessel was determined not to be a crime scene and the Harbor District seizure of the vessel could proceed. The Harbor District towed the vessel to Fields Landing Boat Yard and the owner stated he was preparing to leave the Harbor when the accident took place. After discussion with the owner of the vessel, Mr. Crider agreed to launch the vessel only if the vessel passed a US Coast Guard inspection, was given a cursory approval by a marine surveyor and the owner agreed to leave Humboldt Bay. The vessel was launched on Wednesday and the vessel is currently tied to Englund Marine dock. The Harbor District will be enforcing the Anchoring Ordinance.

Mr. Allen reported that he is still looking for an alternate for the Harbor Safety Committee. There is a new Director for the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center and he will be making contact. Ms. Margo Brown from the San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee did send some San Francisco Harbor Safety Brochures regarding paddlecraft.

Mr. Nelson reported that a time lapse camera was set up at Indian Island and they were able to view the high water events.

9. **Other.**

Mr. Raimey reported that the First Annual Crab Crawl will take place February 6 and 7 in the C Street Market area. The event is being organized by the City of Eureka, Eureka Main Street, Eureka Lodging Association and the Maritime Museum. Friday Night events will be similar to Arts Alive with local

restaurants serving their favorite seafood dishes. Saturday's festival at the C Street Market will include educational booths, different activities, music, and a beer and wine garden. All are invited to attend. Mr. Helms reported that the Crescent City Harbor reconstruction project is officially complete as of December 31, 2014. Last week a group of Japanese students were in town to view the reconstruction of the Harbor and the area. This is in direct relation to the tsunami vessel that was found and returned by Crescent City students. Rumor has been circulating that the Crescent City Harbor District will be raising their rates this year. Mr. Helms wished to clarify that the rates will not be increasing.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for [THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015](#)

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1007 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie V. Howser, Port of Humboldt Bay