

APPROVED

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

0900 hours January 17, 2019 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room

Members Present:

Ms. Suzie Howser, Chair (Port Authority)
LCDR Gabriel Vigil (USCG Sector HB, OPS)
Capt. John Powell (Bar Pilot)
Mrs. Julie Moug (Fairhaven Terminal)
Mr. Leroy Zerlang (Z and Z / Brusco)
Mr. Eddie Koch (Tribal/Environmental)
Ms. Bridget Hand (HB Aquatic Center)
Mr. Kent Hulbert (Hum County Fire)
Mr. Joshua Hackney (USCG Aids to Navigation HB)
Mr. Ross McDonald (Sause Brothers)
Ms. Jacqueline Tageropoulos (USCG Aids to Nav HB)

Others Present:

Mr. Reuben Macaspac (OSPR Liaison)
Mr. Jeff Dayton (CDRW-OSPER)
Ms. Jenna Gennuso (Secretariat)
Mr. Adam Shilts (MSD HB)
MST1 Jared Bivens (MSD HB)
MST2 Katherine Horn (MSD HB)
MST1 Nick Johnson (MSD HB)
CWO Robert Canepa (USCG Sector HB)
Mr. Donald Wilkes (City of Eureka)
Ron McCready (USCG Station HB)
Victoria Marshall (CGC Barracuda)
Ian Newton (CGC Barracuda)
Carl Campbull (FV Madiline)
Harrison Ibach (commercial Fisherman)
Mr. Brian Griffin (CA Chip Export) phone
Mr. Larry Oetker (Harbor District)

Port Authority, Suzie Howser, called the meeting to order at 0901 hours.

1. Introductions were made.

Former Chair, Suzie Howser, announced her retirement from the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (Harbor District). Ms. Howser then introduced Jenna Gennuso from the Harbor District as the Secretariat for the Harbor Safety Committee.

2. Swearing in of new members.

Kent Hulbert was sworn in by Reuben Macaspac. Suzie Howser announced her stepping down from the Chair. Leroy Zerlang was appointed as Chair and Julie Moug was appointed as Vice Chair.

3. Public Comment.

Harrison Ibach stressed the severity of Buoy #9, its placement, and its need to be fixed. Mr. Harrison also discussed his deep concern regarding the shoaling near Buoy #9 and east of Buoy #10. He also stated that the shoaling is extremely dangerous and greatly affects smaller boats. Mr. Ibach then discussed how the Channel will soon become impassible; dredging is desperately needed to abate this issue.

Larry Oetker announced that he is planning on having a discussion of shoaling and potential solutions at the next Harbor District Board Meeting to be held 1/24/19. Mr. Oetker then handed out a draft staff report and attachments regarding shoaling that will be seen by the Harbor District's Board of Commissioners at the aforementioned meeting.

Leroy Zerlang asked Mr. Oetker when and if surveying and soundings would be completed and if they would begin the process in February of this year. Mr. Oetker confirmed February as the beginning of the soundings and surveying processes. MR. Oetker then discussed the upcoming dredging events and stated there will most likely be two phases of the dredging process.

Mr. Zerlang then asked all those present in the meeting room if we (the Harbor Safety Committee) can put pressure somewhere to get dredging occurring sooner. MR. Zerlang then asked for options to move forward to solve the problems at hand with dredging, shoaling, etc.

Brian Griffin (phone) requested expedites of soundings and dredging. This request was followed by recommendations from Ms. Howser and the Coast Guard regarding how to accomplish expedited soundings and dredging. LCDR Gabriel Vigil recommended to stress the financial impacts and indirect financial impacts in letters to the State.

Ron McCready and Mr. Ibach then discussed the increasing danger of navigating the channel safely with the misplaced buoys present. Mr. Ibach stated that the higher the water is, the worse the conditions become to pass the bar. Mr. McCready discussed that the Coast Guard must use aerial photos in order to be able to safely navigate the channel and determine who is qualified in their staff to navigate the channel at certain times.

Ms. Howser recommended writing a letter to the Core of Engineers and stress the severity of the current situation.

4. **Chair and Vice Chair Recommendations to OSPR Administrator – action anticipated.**

5. **Buoy 2, Buoy 9, etc. – action anticipated.**

Buoy 9 was discussed extensively in Section 3. Public Comment. See Section 3 for more details.

6. **Status/Updates**

a. **Nuisance vessels, unseaworthy vessels, sunken vessels, abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris Abatement**

USCG Station HB announced an abandoned Jeep near Manila that is currently in the surf zone.

The status of Vessel San Juan was discussed by Mr. Zerlang as being completely removed from the water and currently located at Fort Bragg.

b. **Oil Spills / Accidents / Incidents**

USCG Station HB announced the removal of fuel from tanks from a boat taking on water. No specific location of the vessel within the Humboldt Bay was given to the committee. USCG Station HB also announced a bio-sheen in King Salmon with no fuel or oil found in the water.

Jeff Dayton discussed the oil spill in Humboldt Bay across from the Marina on the Eureka side. Mr. Dayton stated that the OSPR Response Trailer helped and that there is currently a plug to ensure there is no more spillage. Mr. Dayton also announced the spill of roughly 100 gallons onto dry land that ran off into a creek east of Willits. There are no other updates on the Willits spill as of yet.

c. **Boater Safety Training**

Bridget Hand with the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center announced their new Rig and Rent Program which is currently in effect. Ms. Hand detailed the program as well as the safety programs being held at HSU for incoming students on safety around the Humboldt Bay.

Ms. Howser discussed the hand out regarding updated regulations and costs for recreational fishermen.

d. **Navigational Aids – Location and Status**

Mr. Zerlang stated that he is receiving several calls regarding when Buoy 12, 13, etc. will be replaced.

USCG Station HB responded to Mr. Zerlang by stating that the misplaced buoys will be replaced this summer.

e. **Ship Traffic**

Capt. John Powell detailed the list of ships that came in and out of Humboldt Bay in 2018. HE then discussed possible ships to be entering the Bay in mid-February of 2019.

Mr. Griffin (phone) discussed possible vessels coming in mid-March of 2019. He stated that a total of seven vessels were in Humboldt Bay in 2018. He concluded with stressing the importance of more

soundings for safer travel channels.

f. **Navigation Chart Changes**

Mr. Oetker discussed the possibility of obtaining more soundings within Humboldt Bay.

g. **Work Group Updates**

7. **Potential Bay Projects.**

Mr. Oetker discussed the Harbor District's Piling Removal Project for mitigation as well as the new installation of flupsies as part of an aquaculture project at Red Tank Dock.

8. **Reports/Presentations**

a. **OSPR.** Reuben Macaspac awarded Mrs. Howser with an appreciation of her hard work and dedication to the Harbor Safety Committee and commemorating heron her excellent leadership, hard work, and dedication.

b. **USCG.** Adam Shilts announced that the Coast Guard can do vessel exams.

c. **NOAA.** No report.

d. **Pilots.** Ms. Howser announced that Capt. Tim Petrusha is no longer working for the Harbor District, however he will still be a member of the Harbor Safety Committee.

e. **Tug Operations.** Mr. Zerlang reported that tug operations are still occurring at this time and that all operations are proceeding well.

f. **Tank Barge.** Mr. Powell announced all operations are proceeding well.

g. **Dry Cargo.** Mrs. Moug discussed the possibility of three to five loads of potential Dry Cargo coming into Humboldt Bay in the next few months.

h. **Recreational Boating.** No Report.

i. **Local Law Enforcement.** No Report.

j. **Tribal/Environmental.** Eddie Koch announced water quality tests are being done by the Wiyot Tribe. Results have not been received yet.

k. **Coastal Commission.** No Report.

l. **Port Authority.** Mrs. Howser further discussed her retirement and Capt. Petrusha's leave from the Harbor District. Mrs. Howser informed the Committee that there has been no action taken to replace either position at the Harbor District and her position on the Harbor Safety Commission.

m. **Other Reports.**

Mr. Oetker announced that the Harbor District is in the preliminary stages of planning for offshore wind energy at Redwood Marine Terminal II on the Samoa Peninsula. He discussed the need for a wet dock for deploying wind energy materials. He concluded with announcing that the Harbor District is getting modeling done over the next year to move forward with the wind energy project.

9. **Other.**

Mr. Zerlang introduced Ms. Courtney Gram who will be running his office. Mr. Zerlang provided his contact information at this time as well.

Mrs. Moug discussed the need to place changes for the Harbor Safety Plan on the Agenda for the upcoming meeting. She also stated that Commercial Vessels and Fishermen are not currently represented in the Harbor Safety Plan and recommended Mr. Ibach to be the new representative.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for [THURSDAY, March 21, 2019](#)

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1008 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenna Gennuso, Port of Humboldt Bay