

APPROVED

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area 0900 hours January 16, 2020 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room

Members Present

Leroy Zerlang (Z&Z/Brusco/Coos Bay Tug)
Larry Oetker (Port Authority)
Harrison Ibach (HFMA)
Ross McDonald (Sause Bros)
Eddie Koch (Wiyot Tribe)
Bridget Hand (HBAC) PHONE
Julie Moug (Fairhaven Term) PHONE
Jeffrey Ferguson (NOAA) PHONE

Others Present:

Britni Anderson (Secretariat, HBHD)
Adam Wagschal (HBHD)
Jackie Tagaropoulos (USCG HB)
Jeff Dayton (CDFW, OSPR)
Reuben Macaspac (CDFW, OSPR)
Daniel Rehse (CDFW, OSPR)
Adam Shilts (USCG)
Scotty Thomas (USCG HB)
Katherine Horn (USCG HB)

Nick Johnston (USCG HB)
Chris Hinote (USCG HB)
Robert Canepa (USCG HB)
Melinda Bacon (USCG)
Brendan Hilleary (USCG)
Gabriel T. Vigil (USCG)
Julie A. Recima (USCG)
Troy Nicolini (NWS)

Leroy Zerlang called the meeting to order at 0900 hours.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Introductions were made.

3. Swearing in of new members – Eddie Koch, Wiyot Tribe

4. Public Comment – None

5. Chair and Vice Chair Recommendations to OSPR Administrator – action anticipated – No Report

6. Buoy 2, Buoy 9, etc. – action anticipated – Leroy Zerlang commented that the Humboldt Fisherman's Wives Association has expressed their concerns with buoy #2 being gone.

Harrison Ibach also commented that he thinks the local mariners would prefer to have the buoy back and risk potentially losing it than to not have it at all.

Jackie Tagaropoulos stated that if the buoy goes off station it will become a hazard, especially if it drifts into the channel. She also reiterated that if that happens it could be years before it is replaced.

Leroy Zerlang suggested that the Harbor Safety Committee write a letter to USCG requesting that buoy #2 be placed back in service and state their reasons.

Jackie Tagaropoulos suggested a private Aid to Navigation funded by the Harbor District.

Leroy Zerlang suggested that buoy #4 could be brighter as an alternative.

Chris Hinote stated that the Sea Buoy is the navigational aid that mariners should be using.

Larry Oetker made recommendations for the letter to be written to USCG.

7. Status/Updates

- a. **Nuisance vessels, unseaworthy vessels, sunken vessels, abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris Abatement.** – Leroy Zerlang discussed a sunken recreational vessel at Redwood Dock. He also stated that they destroyed two vessels out of King Salmon and one vessel out of the Eureka Public Marina. Brendan Hilleary and Chris Hinote discussed the sinking of the commercial fishing vessel, ELLY.
- b. **Oil Spills / Accidents / Incidents.** – Leroy Zerlang announced that they pulled a sailboat off the West side of Indian Island on January 15th.
- c. **Boater Safety Training.** – Bridget Hand announced the statistics for 2019 that included 72 training courses, 862 participants, and 1044 users renting equipment.

- d. **Navigational Aids – Location and Status** – Jackie Tagaropoulos announced that Fort Brag buoy #2 is extinguished, and it's not currently safe to go out to repair. Harris Ibach requested brighter lights at the tips of the jetties.
 - e. **Ship Traffic** – Leroy Zerlang announced that the Ocean Pegasus will be arriving January 28th for a half load of wood chips and another ship is expected in March. He also stated California Redwood will not be scheduling any full load ships until after July when they know about entrance dredging.
 - f. **Navigation Chart Changes** – Jeffrey Ferguson reported that Coast Pilot #7 is delayed until May and will only cover California.
 - g. **Work Group Updates** – No Report
8. **Potential Bay Projects** – Larry Oetker and Adam Wagschal talked about a potential seaweed farm going in at Redwood Dock. Larry Oetker announced that he submitted a grant for replacement of the dock at Redwood Marine Terminal I.
9. **Reports/Presentations**
- a. **USACOE** – Larry Oetker reported that repairs to the North Jetty could potentially happen this year.
 - b. **OSPR** – Reuben Macaspac announced OSPR headquarters has moved to a new location with new phone numbers. Jeff Dayton reported that ACP has approved the change to 1-310.
 - c. **USCG** – Adam Shilts announced that the incident report for the vessel, ELLY, will be available to the public once its completed. He also commented that their safety equipment played a huge role in their survival. Leroy Zerlang praised Melinda Bacon for her performance as the new USCG Vessel Safety Examiner.
 - d. **NOAA** – No Report
 - e. **Pilots** – Larry Oetker announced that fees have been increased to offset the costs of hiring a new bar pilot and they are actively working on details for recruitment of an out of the area bar pilot.
 - f. **Tug Operations** – Leroy Zerlang reported which tugboats are currently operating in the bay. Adam Shilts announced that July 1, 2020 is the deadline for tugboat Certificate of Inspection.
 - g. **Tank Barge** – Ross McDonald announced that a tank barge is due to arrive next week.
 - h. **Dry Cargo** – No Report
 - i. **Recreational Boating** – Bridget Hand commented on recent sneaker waves and the video circulating of the surge at Moonstone Beach.
 - j. **Local Law Enforcement** – No Report
 - k. **Tribal/Environmental** – Eddie Kock announced that there will be a ceremony on Indian Island some time in March. More details to come.
 - l. **Coastal Commission** – No Report
 - m. **Port Authority** – Nothing Further
 - n. **Other Reports** – No Report
10. **Other**
- a. **Meeting Schedule for 2020** – Schedule to remain the same as 2019 (3rd Thursday of the month).
 - b. **Bar Closures** – Leroy Zerlang thanked USCG for the phone call that the bar would be closed.
 - c. **Sunken Vessel Procedure** – Leroy Zerlang commented on the need for an official procedure for handling sunken vessels. Chris Hinote recommended contacting Morrow Bay about their abandoned vessel procedure. Larry Oetker commented that the California Department of Boating and Waterways has a grant for destroying recreational vessels. Jeff Dayton discussed vessel abatement program for recreational vessels and that Delta is starting a commercial program.
 - d. **US BOATS requesting presence here/USCG plan for towing disables vessel** – Leroy Zerlang questioned USCG on their towing policy for disabled vessels. USCG stated that they cannot interfere with the opportunity for local enterprise to tow the boat, but that if the need arises or the mariners

become in danger, they will step in. Leroy Zerlang commented that he heard US BOATS tow company may be coming to Humboldt Bay to offer their towing services, but nothing is confirmed.

- e. **Bar restrictions to 32'/Current soundings** – Leroy Zerlang announced that two soundings were completed at the entrance by USACE. Official soundings should be released in the next two weeks. The Humboldt Bay Bar Pilots placed a Deep Draft Restriction to 32 feet. Larry Oetker gave potential upcoming dredge updates.
- f. **Volunteer Fire Boat Group** – Leroy Zerlang gave an update on the fire boat program and stated that recruitment and training is currently in progress. Larry Oetker states that they are just waiting on insurance and announced that the fire boat program is going to be combined efforts with Humboldt Bay Fire.

11. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Larry Oetker moved to approve November minutes. Ross McDonald Seconded.
VOICE VOTE WAS CALLED, MOTION CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for [THURSDAY, March 19, 2020](#)

Meeting adjourned at 1025 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Britni Anderson, Port of Humboldt Bay