

**Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area
0900 hours November 19, 2020 – Via ZOOM Conference Call**

Members Present

Julie Moug (Fairhaven Term)	Harrison Ibach (Commercial Fishing)
Larry Oetker (Port Authority)	Pete Jackson (Green Diamond)
Ross McDonald (Sause Bros)	
Bridget Hand (HBAC)	
Eddie Koch (Wiyot Tribe)	
Jeffrey Ferguson (NOAA)	
Jonathan Bishop (Coastal Commission)	

Leroy Zerlang called the meeting to order at 0903 hours.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Introductions were made**
3. **Swearing in of members** – Leroy Zerlang, Pete Jackson
4. **Public Comment** – None
5. **Buoy 2, Buoy 9, etc. – Action Anticipated** – USCG announced they are working on mechanical issues and will provide an update when it becomes available.
6. **Status/Updates**
 - a. **Nuisance vessels, unseaworthy vessels, sunken vessels, abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris Abatement** – Larry Oetker announced that five nuisance vessels were demolished in Fields Landing over the last two months and they are working on grant funding for additional boats. Leroy Zerlang stated that two boats from King Salmon were demolished and he is working with the City of Eureka on destroying five from the public marina. USCG Master Chief briefly discussed two jet skis that were found adrift in Humboldt Bay.
 - b. **Oil Spills / Accidents / Incidents** – Leroy Zerlang discussed the F/V SOKO running aground near the North Jetty; no injuries or spills reported. Adam Shilts, USCG, reported a 17ft recreational vessel that sank in the entrance bar in October; all passengers rescued. Leroy Zerlang briefly mentioned an oil spill incident currently happening at Woodley Island Marina and Larry Oetker talked about potential grant funds to replenish the supplies in the oil spill response trailer. Leroy announced that the sunken vessel, DENNIS GAIL, is drifting into the navigational channel. Jeff Dayton discussed a PG&E transformer spill in Martin Slough in September.
 - c. **Boater Safety Training** – Bridget Hand announced that most Aquatic Center activities are still on hold, but virtual trainings are available as well as rental reservations to locals.
 - d. **Navigational Aids – Location and Status** – Leroy Zerlang stated that the USCG plans to replace buoy #9 with a tower around the first of the year. Jeff Ferguson discussed the four-year plan to phase out paper charts.
 - e. **Ship Traffic** – Leroy Zerlang reported that the research vessel, Nathaniel B. Palmer, departed. He announced that the entrance dredge was in port twice for fuel while it was here and once for a mechanical issue. California Redwood had one full cargo chip ship last month and another vessel anticipated for December and January.

f. **Work Group Updates** – N/A

7. **Potential Bay Projects** – Leroy Zerlang reported that West Coast Contractors are working at the USCG station. He also announced that grant funds are looking to be obtained for piling removal at Wild Planet. Harrison Ibach reported that LACO took survey photos last week. Larry Oetker discussed the work on Redwood Marine Terminal 1 dock, and the multi-year project with Cal-Trans for Spartina removal on Indian Island.

8. **Reports/Presentations**

- a. **USACOE** – Leroy Zerlang discussed the recent dredging and reported that this is deepest the entrance has been in years. He discussed a potential meeting with USACOE to create a dredging schedule to maintain depth. Larry Oetker discussed HOODS data, entrance dredging locations, and potentially amending the contract to dredge further in the entrance, towards the Coast Guard station. Pete Jackson discussed fueling issues for dredge/ships in the bay. Glenn Galman, CalOES, talked about future dredging plans. Leroy Zerlang and Julie Moug discussed jetty repairs. Rock is being piled for work to continue in the spring.
- b. **OSPR** – Reuben Macaspac discussed the new members sworn in and announced the vacancy for the Local Law Enforcement member position. Jeff Dayton gave COVID-19 updates, stated that spills are currently the only permitted activity, and they are conducting virtual drills.
- c. **USCG** – Adam Shilts discussed fueling the entrance dredge, and issued with the Woodley Island Marina dredging.
- d. **NOAA** – Jeff Ferguson discussed recent high tides.
- e. **Pilots** – Leroy Zerlang and Captain John Powell discussed the need for new bar pilots.
- f. **Tug Operations** – Leroy Zerlang stated there is no current barge traffic, and gave a report on local tug companies.
- g. **Tank Barge** – Ross MacDonald gave a tugboat update.
- h. **Dry Cargo** – Nothing further.
- i. **Local Law Enforcement** – N/A
- j. **Tribal/Environmental** – N/A
- k. **Coastal Commission** – Jonathan Bishop discussed the need to update the current Harbor Safety Plan. Leroy Zerlang, Julie Moug, and Britni Anderson to have a meeting to work on updates.
- l. **Port Authority** – Larry Oetker gave a Woodley Island Marina update. He discussed the fire boat being hauled out to remove tangled line and announced that the first group of people are almost ready to be certified. He also announced that he is working on a report discussing the capabilities of Humboldt Bay being able to support offshore wind energy. There is a Harbor District meeting this evening to potentially approve a contract for a fiberoptic cable landing at Redwood Marine Terminal 2 in 2021.
- m. **Other Reports** – Harrison Ibach reports that crab season is delayed until at least December 15th, and that due to low quality crab and COVID-19 constraints, they are expecting this to be a challenging and low-profit crab season.
Leroy Zerlang discussed the Commercial Fishermen’s Wives Association crab pot Christmas tree, and a Christmas boat parade on December 19.
Charlie Helms from Crescent City harbor reported that dredging from the entrance to the marina is complete and the Dredge Material Management Plan is up and running.
Donald Wilkes gave a report on the City of Eureka Public Marina.
Tamara Barriquand and Amanda Admire from HSU gave a PORTS update.

9. **Other**

- a. **Axys Industries Weather Buoy** – Leroy Zerlang reported that Coos Bay Tug deployed a weather buoy 25 miles offshore. It will be maintained by Axys and Coos Bay Tug.
- b. **Cruise Ships** – Leroy Zerlang reports that there are 3 cruise ships scheduled for 2022. Larry Oetker reported that Humboldt Bay Cruise Ship meetings have been on hold due to COVID, but that the majority of the ships interested in visiting Humboldt Bay have been smaller sized vessels.

10. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – September 17, 2020
Larry Oetker moved to approve minutes. John Powell Seconded.
Voice vote was called, minutes were approved unanimously.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for [THURSDAY, January 21, 2021](#)

Meeting adjourned at 1023 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Britni Anderson, Port of Humboldt Bay