

**MINUTES – Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area
9:00 a.m., Thursday May 21, 2009 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room**

The Harbor Safety Committee meeting was convened at 9:05 AM.

Members Present:

Mr. David Hull (Port Authority)
Ms. Suzie Howser (Port Authority)
Capt. Gilbert Groszmann (Tug Operators)
Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot)
Mr. John “Hawk” Martin (Pleasure Boat)
Mr. Rich Trygar (Dry Cargo)
Ms. Robin Blanchfield (Coastal Commission)
Mr. Gerald Wheaton (NOAA)
Lt. Scott Parkhurst (USCG Group Humboldt Bay)
CWO Tom Haug (USCG MSD Humboldt Bay)

Others Present:

Mr. Steve Edinger (OSPR Administrator)
Mr. Al Storm (OSPR)
Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR)
Mr. Josh Zulliger (OSPR)
Ms. Ellen Faurot-Daniels (OSPR)
Ms. Diane Ross (HCSO – OES)
MST1 Matt Cunningham (USCG MSD Humboldt Bay)
MST1 Peter Zazzali (USCG MSD Humboldt Bay)
Mr. Jeff Raimey (City of Eureka)
Mr. Dave Nakamura (HSU Center Activities)

- 1. Introductions were made.**
- 2. There were no members sworn in.**
- 3. Floor was opened to public comment.** No public comment.
- 4. Consideration of Approval of Minutes.** Minutes unavailable, place on next agenda.
- 5. Consideration of safety regulations regarding low visibility and small boat activity.** Mr. Hawk Martin (Pleasure Boat) reported on the status of safety regulations regarding low visibility and small boat activities. Two meetings have been held. The first meeting consisted of Harbor Safety Committee ad hoc members to discuss Best Practice concept. Second meeting included HSC ad hoc members and local rowing organizations. All parties agree that the Harbor Safety Plan should include Best Practices for small boat activity, including but not limited to sculls, canoes, kayaks, sailboats, recreational motor vessels and commercial fishermen. With main focus is on the Eureka Inner Reach. Current safety guidelines from local organizations will be gathered and used to draft the Best Practices for the Humboldt Bay Area. Safety signage at all launching areas to be consistent and a website to include a calendar listing bay events i.e.: sailboat races, rowing regattas, Blues By the Bay, fishing openers, etc. Mr. Martin hopes to have a draft of the best practices before the HSC at the next meeting.

Mr. Steve Edinger (OSPR Administrator) thanked the Harbor Safety Committee for its efforts. Having grown up on the north coast, Mr. Edinger is aware of the unique qualities and hazards of the local area and Humboldt Bay. He discussed ways to reach the general public is by the use of social media; BlogSpot, Facebook, Twitter, etc. as these have become effective tools in reaching the public quickly. Since Humboldt Bay’s entrance is one of the most dangerous on the coast, Mr. Edinger suggested the US Army Corps of Engineers attend the HSC meetings. It was noted that the local Corps office is a regulatory office. Mr. Al Storm (OSPR) will draft a letter for Mr. Edinger’s signature to the US Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District suggesting a representative for dredging and debris removal attend the Harbor Safety Committee meetings.

- 6. Consideration of Harbor District Permit Application No. 09-03 to Humboldt State University for the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center Floating Dock Project.** Mr. David Hull (Port Authority) provided background information on Humboldt State University’s Aquatic Center and thanked the HSC for their previous suggestion on the design of the dock. The Harbor District has brought this before the HSC to see

if the committee would want any specific conditions be placed on the Harbor District's permit to HSU. After discussion on Best Practices, violations, enforcement and penalties, the committee suggested to the Harbor District that some language be inserted into the Permit stating that Best Practices, when adopted by the Harbor Safety Committee, be used. Mr. Dave Nakamura (HSU Center Activities) had no objection to some good faith language.

7. **Consideration of forming a subcommittee on debris management.** Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot) gave a briefing on the seminar the Bar Pilots attended at Humboldt County OES. Debris Management to the Harbor Safety Committee is the clearing of debris after a major event i.e.: tsunami, earthquake. How to define debris, hazardous waste and personal property, storage of debris until appropriate disposal is available, pre-identified contractors, and the clearing of navigation channels to facilitate emergency response, continued commerce, and transportation in the Humboldt Bay area. In order for FEMA to reimburse for claims following a disaster, they require a debris management plan. Coast Survey, Sheriff, OSPR, Stevedore, USCG MSO, Pilots and Tribe to participate. Would also like to have USACOE debris removal representative from San Francisco on committee. It would be helpful to coordinate the meeting close to the next Harbor Safety meeting or be able to conference in by telephone.
8. **Harbor Safety Plan Revisions/Updates for 2009/10.** Place on next agenda.
9. **Status/Updates**
 - a. **Federal Channel Maintenance** – Mr. David Hull (Port Authority) reported that while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dredge Yaquina was here, they worked the Fields Landing Channel and turning basin. The dredge Essayons worked the bar and entrance and just departed Wednesday. Each year, the Harbor District asks the federal government that \$500,000 be placed into the Shoal Management Study for the South Jetty. The USACOE started out with 11 different fixes for the shoal and have pared it down to 9. There is a 50/50 cost share for the project and the Harbor District has been the local sponsor in the past. The Corps estimates the project at \$4 million; therefore the Harbor District will need to come up with \$2 million. Mr. Hull informed the HSC that he has asked the State of California in the past for funding assistance and has so far received a negative response. The USACOE has also cut back on the money allocated to the Operations and Maintenance of Humboldt Bay. The Harbor District will continue its efforts to obtain full funding for annual O&M as well as funding for Shoal Management.
 - b. **Oil Spills/Accidents.** No oil spills or accidents to report.
 - c. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR) reported a barrel filled with oily rags was found on U.S. Fish and Wildlife property along the Eureka Slough. U.S. Fish and Wildlife took care of the disposal. The ACP sub-committee on abatement met April 23, 2009 and the Warden from Fort Bragg was able to attend. Primary focus for Humboldt Bay will be vessel abatement. There may be some limited funding available through another source, however, we will need to wait and see if this actually comes through. Other areas in the state are conducting similar meetings as vessel abandonment is on the increase. Having an inventory list of potential problems should assist agencies in contacting owners to be pro-active about hazardous material removal and explaining the new law that states a spill of 42 gallons or more may result in a fishery closure for the area. There are definite gaps in the system on what certain agencies can do. This abatement program will help identify the gaps and hopefully streamline the process for removal.
 - d. **Boater Safety** – Mr. Hawk Martin (Pleasure Boat) conducted a full moon boater safety course. He is also training staff to rescue people off the mud. This is class #3. Lt. Scott Parkhurst (USCG) held a Digital Selective Calling (DSC) class at the request of the Humboldt Tuna Club. The USCG should have full DSC operations beginning October 2009. Mr. Martin was in Shelter Cove with 70 Kayakers for the rockfish opener. One kayaker called the USCG and the SC Volunteer Fire Department was unsure how to deal with a kayak problem. Mr. Martin has offered to go to Shelter Cove to teach boater safety

classes to the volunteer fire department. NOAA will be conducting a Boater Training course over at the Bonnie Gool Guest Dock, shooting flares, deploying a life raft, etc.

- e. **Navigational Aids.** Lt. Scott Parkhurst (USCG) reported the USCGC Aspen was in town to move the buoys out of the way for the USACOE dredging. They will return to move buoys back into place. Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot) reported that Buoy 2 was moved out 200 yards along the channel line and is now lit. USCG would like to make this a permanent location. USCG will swap buoy 8 and buoy 2. Buoy 8 is a bigger buoy and should do well on the outside. NOAA will pick up the change on the light list and incorporate this into the new charts.
- f. **Ship Traffic.** Mr. Rich Trygar (Dry Cargo) has traveled to Coos Bay and San Francisco and stated that everyone is slow everywhere. Humboldt Bay is still doing log barges, but when the economy picks up, traffic should increase. PG&E is expected to bring in a ship for their construction project sometime in the late summer.
- g. **Navigational Chart Changes.** Mr. Gerald Wheaton (NOAA) reported that the north side of the North Jetty is on the NRT6 list to do this year and the Port Authority just received the raw data from the south side of the South Jetty. Coast Survey only received 75% of their request budget for this next fiscal year and NRT6 may need to relocate to the Gulf. Hopefully they will be able to complete the north side of the North Jetty before they leave.
- h. **Port Security.** Mr. David Hull (Port Authority) reported all port security grants were on hold. Previously awarded grants were just allowed to resume within the last few days, however, all new grants are still on hold.
- i. **TWIC.** CWO Tom Haug (USCG) reported no problems locally. Loss of passwords is not a problem as all affected persons were contacted. Ms. Robin Blanchfield (CA Coastal Commission) asked why Port Security was not part of the HSP. Discussion was held stating this idea has gone back and forth with different administrators. Mr. Steve Edinger (OSPR Administrator) will check into this further. Mr. David Hull (Port Authority) inquired if the HSC Summit would be a good place to discuss this topic. With budgets as they are, and with everyone reducing costs, Mr. Edinger stated the HSC Summit will probably be on hold this year.
- j. **Potential Bay Projects.**
 - a. The HSU Aquatic Rowing Center rowing dock is going through the permitting process and is currently in the CEQA stage. The permit should be on the Harbor District agenda in June.
 - b. Shelter Cove breakwater has been 10 years in the making, but the Harbor District hopes to go out to bid around Labor Day.
 - c. City of Eureka will be cleaning the boat ramps and their debris curtain should be here soon. They are receiving calls from all over the state for the salmon season.

10. Reports/Presentations

- a. **USCG** - Lt. Parkhurst (USCG) reported that there will be a 10-day Salmon Season coming up the end of August. They have heard of people coming from all over the country. Abalone season has kept the Coast Guard busy. Ms. Bev Noll has been conducting the fishermen's class this week in Eureka and next week she will be in Crescent City. Digital Selective Calling (DSC), brand new system, should be on line with Coast Guard October 2009. Change of Command for Barracuda next Friday. Lt. Parkhurst will be leaving in July. Voss deployment is scheduled for first week in June.
- b. **USACOE** – no report

- c. **OHS** – no report
- d. **CPB** – no report
- e. **OSPR** - Mr. Storm (OSPR) will draft a letter for Mr. Edinger's signature to the USACOE regarding attendance at the Harbor Safety Committee meetings. There is a new director of California Department of Fish and Game, Mr. Don Koch. Mr. Edinger's confirmation hearing will be on July 8th. Everyone should check out www.CeNCOOS.org as there are local buoys identified on this website. Also noted that there is another David Hull, one is located at DFG. So everyone be careful with your email.

Ms. Faurot-Daniels (OSPR) reported that her new assignment with OSPR is to assist during oil spills, fishery closures and be the Northern California ACP coordinator.

Mr. Dayton (OSPR) reported that the quarterly drills are taking place. Next one will most likely involve a North Bay strategy. Next ACP will be in Eureka after the HSC meeting.

- f. **HC Sheriff** – no report
- g. **NOAA** - Fed PORTS is not on the administrative plate at this time. Port Hueneme also wants PORTS. Port of Humboldt Bay may acquire parts through grant funding.
- h. **Coastal Commission** - Mr. Hull (Port Authority) inquired about Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for the purpose of ocean zoning. He had heard this mentioned at a wave energy meeting earlier in the week and was looking for background information. Ms. Blanchfield (CA Coastal Commission) said she would inquire.
- i. **Port Authority** - Mr. Hull (Port Authority) reported that the Harbor District has been working on a Coastal Regional Sediment Plan from False Cape to Trinidad. The Harbor District's Director of Conservation put together a presentation for the USACOE.

Mr. Hull (Port Authority) reported that the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) is under attack again. The Governor would like to eliminate the DBW and place all control and assets with Parks and Recreation. All Ports and Harbors are against this merger.

Ms. Howser (Port Authority) reported the upcoming sport salmon season should be a very busy 10-days for the local area. The only sport salmon fishing in the state will be from Horse Mountain (north of Shelter Cove) to the Oregon Border. Numerous calls have been coming into the Woodley Island Marina and the Eureka Public Marina. The Harbor District is coordinating local efforts to welcome the sport fishing community and the idea of having some sort of Salmon Festival has been tossed around.

Ms. Howser (Port Authority) reported that the Harbor District had applied to OSPR for an Oil Spill Response Equipment Grant. The Harbor District was awarded the grant and should be receiving the equipment very soon. Ms. Howser thanked OSPR for the Grant.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2009. The Committee will discuss possibly moving the September meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie V. Howser
Port of Humboldt Bay