



Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Held:

May 12, 2010

1000 - 1200 hours

Venue: Sector Portland

6767 North Basin Ave

Portland, OR 97217

Training Deck



1000 Call to Order

Attendance Report					
Member	Alternate	Present	Member	Alternate	Present
Paul Amos	Steve Woods	Present	Kristin Meira	Glenn Vanselow	GV Present
Ernie Quesada		Not Present	Pete Pawlicki		Not Present
Chip Boothe	Bob Troyer Diane Butorac	BT Present	Peter Richards	John Withers	Not Present
Dennis Corwin		Present	Steve Shaver	Robert Rich Fred Harding	FH Present
Eric Burnette	Sebastian Degens	Present	Jim Townley	Audrey Gurule	Not Present
Roman Geigle	George Birch	Present	Lars Uglum		Present
Dan Jordan	Gary Lewin	Present	Michael Zollitsch	Garret Wickham	Present
Heather Moats	Patrick Grill	PG Present	Liaison	Liaison	
Tom Markgraf		Not Present	Tiffany Clark	Jaime Sayers Jason Bonham	Present
Hans Meere		Present	Jon Gornick	Doris McKillip	Present
12 Members or Alternates were present; the meeting was conducted with a Quorum.					
Guests in Attendance					
Name	Organization	Email or Telephone			
CDR Mike Zamperini	USCG				
William Randy Clark	USCG				
Captain Scott Heesacker	Portland Fire Dept.				

Introductions

Officers, Managing Board Members, Alternates, USCG Liaison Personnel and Guests were introduced.

Old Business

Review of Minutes

Dan Jordan reported that the Minutes from Managing Board Meeting 03-10-10 and General Membership Meeting 03-10-10 were approved at the Managing Board Meeting.



New Business

CDR Zamperini, Chief of Prevention, Sector Portland, gave a brief of Coast Guard activities since the beginning of the year. This will be a normal report at all LCRHSC meetings to keep the LCRHSC informed of incidents that might warrant further discussions among LCRHSC members.

Mr. William Clark with the Planning Department, Sector Portland, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Marine Transportation System Recovery Unit plan. He requested volunteers to assist with prioritizing the various aspects of the marine transportation system on the river systems within the Sector area of responsibility. He stated that most work could be completed via email and online venues. He also asked for a group of industry personnel who may be willing to take ICS training to be able to work together virtually in the case of an incident that requires implementation of the plan.

Captain Scott Heesacker and Mr. Tim VonSeggern with Portland Fire and Rescue presented a PowerPoint showing a proposed regional response vessel that Portland Fire and Rescue are currently trying to get a security grant to have the funding to purchase this boat and then once it is received Portland Fire and Rescue will carry all costs for maintenance, upkeep, and staffing of the new fireboat. It was proposed that the LCRHSC draft a letter of support for the regional response vessel.

Mr. Brian Fletcher with Tidewater discussed the following two issues:

The first issue was in regards to the deteriorating pile dikes in the vicinity of Hayden Island. He was specifically asking if there is something the LCRHSC can do to assist the ACOE get funding for the upkeep and/or repair of the pile dikes. There is a concern that newer or unfamiliar users may run aground on submerged piles of rocks at dikes where the "teeth" are not visible damaging their vessels. He asked if there is a way that the rocks may be marked such as a buoy. The Corps of Engineers requested that the tug companies that use the river compile a list of the missing and unmarked dikes along the rivers. It was discussed if a working group should be created for this issue.

Mr. Fletcher discussed a near miss that one of his vessels had while transiting the northern section of the Columbia River when a bridge operator started closing a bridge with approaching river traffic. Not every bridge is issuing a radio broadcast to alert mariners the bridge will be closed and the CFR does not require the bridges on the Snake River to announce closures of the bridge. Mr. Fletcher noted that it appeared Burlington North Railroad Bridges was having issues with closing with approaching marine traffic and the bridge tenders were not listening to radio traffic for bridge notifications. The suggestion was made that John with the Columbia River Towing Association contact Burlington North Railroad to speak to them about the near miss situations. It was also suggested that Austin Pratt get involved with this conversation.



Mr. Fletcher also mentioned a 35 foot long shelf that is on the Snake River that vessels have been running aground on causing them to damage their vessels. He requested assistance from the Coast Guard in marking this area. CDR Peloquin, District Waterways Department, stated they will look into marking this area of concern.

Working Committee Reports

Anchorage – Eric Burnette

The committee reported that the scope, schedule, and budget should be provided by the ACOE in approximately the next four weeks for the stern buoys project. The Port of Portland has been identified as the primary sponsor for the feasibility study funding and will be reaching out to various river users for funding of the project. The rough estimate of cost per buoy is \$200,000-\$300,000; of this construction cost sponsors will be needed for 10% of that cost.

Bridges Committee - Dennis Corwin

The Tri-met Bridge is on schedule and the first piles are scheduled to be set in July of 2011. There is concern that Tri-Met hasn't responded to comments on the bridge.

Extreme River Levels - Eric Burnette

There will be a meeting on river levels at the Port of Portland office on May 26, 2010 at 9:30 A.M.

Finance

Nothing Significant to report since the last meeting.

Harbor Safety Plan – Diane Butorac

The Aids to Navigation chapter was voted on and approved with a statement added that requests changes/recommendations to Aids to Navigation on the river be forwarded to the LCRHSC as well as to the Coast Guard District Thirteen office.

Revisions to the Anchorage guidelines were voted on and approved to include Cottonwood Island Anchorage and bring other sections in line with the new CFR.

Outreach

Peter Richards and Chip Booth gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Oregon Board of Maritime Pilots to share with them what the LCRHSC is and what our goals and concerns are.



Make- Way

It was discussed that the Willamette Falls locks will now be operational and with the opening of the locks there will be make-way concerns due to the high volume of pleasure craft in the channel. There was a request for assistance from the Coast Guard Auxiliary with escorts to the locks.

Request for Public Comment

It was reported that the City of Portland's Healthy and Working Rivers committee is interested in attending the next meeting.

The National Harbor Safety Committee joint Area Maritime Security Committee meeting will be held in Jersey City, New Jersey June 8-11, 2010.

Mr. Mark Daily with NOAA Load-Max introduced himself to the committee and reported they will be adding a Load-Max station in Hammond.

For the Good of the Order

The area of responsibility for the LCRHSC covers the waters of the Columbia River from the Pacific Ocean to the Bonneville Dam to include the Willamette River as far inland as Oregon City and the Willamette Falls, but that doesn't prevent discussion of safety related issues that cross the boundaries.

Schedule and Place for Next Meeting

Next meeting is to be held at the Maritime Museum in Astoria, Oregon hosted by the Columbia River Bar Pilots. Items proposed for that agenda are:

1. The move of the Coast Guard COTP to Astoria and hopefully, a tour of the new Sector and an introduction to the incoming Captain of the Port.
2. Vessel quarantine issues in the Astoria Quarantine Anchorage

Adjourned at 1147