

PUGET SOUND HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE
December 1, 2010

Bruce Reed called the meeting of the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee (PSHSC) to order at 10:00 on December 1, 2010 in the Galaxy Room of Federal Center South.

Voting Members Present

Aquaculture	
Commercial Fishing	Leslie Hughes
Environmental	Bill Anderson
Labor	
Native American	Fred Felleman
Passenger Vessel Industry	Darrell Bryan
Petroleum Shippers	Ed Irish
Puget Sound Pilots	Capt. Andy Coe
Public at Large	Theresa Connor
Public Ports	Tom Brown
Recreational Boaters	Richard Marshall
State Ferry System	Darnell Baldinelli
Steamship Lines	Mike Moore
Tug & Barge	Bruce Reed
Local Government	

Advisors Present:

USCG, Sector Seattle	Capt. Scott Ferguson
US Army Corps of Engineers	John Hicks
NOAA	Matt Ringle
US Navy	
WA Dept of Ecology	Norm Davis

Executive Secretary:

Marine Exchange	John Veentjer
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Others Present:

Mark Ashley	USCG VTS Puget Sound	Todd Hass	PSP
Charles Costanzo	AWO	Gary Medina	USCG Sector PS
Lon Cain	Transmarine	Chris Woodley	USCG Sector PS
George Clark	Penn Maritime	Jeff Shaw	Polar Tankers
Matt Denning	USCG	Pam Kromholtz	USACE
John Dwyer	USCG		
Tim Kline	Harley Marine		
Heather St. Pierre	USCG Sector PS		
Steven Stowers	USCG Sector PS		

Roll Call and Introductions

- ♦ Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Meeting Notes: There were no corrections to the minutes of the October 6th, 2010 meeting; thus they were approved and accepted.

Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound Report

- ♦ Ashley Waldner highlighted several incidents listed in the CG Harbor Safety Committee Report.

US Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District Report

- ♦ John Hicks highlighted the USACE Seattle report on navigation related projects.
- ♦ There is no dredging being done in Puget Sound currently. Grays Harbor Inner Channel has clamshell dredging ongoing through end of 2010. 2011 will include Quillayute, Duwamish River, Everett (two times), Keystone, Grays Harbor and potentially Swinomish. All projects are coordinated through VTS.
- ♦ Debris patrols so far this year have collected 131 tons of material with 35% of that being recycled. Please contact Capt. Skip Green or Joe Gustafson regarding debris in navigation channels. Please provide the location and description of debris.
- ♦ The Chittenden Locks – Large Lock is now open after lightening strike damage repairs and annual closure.
- ♦ Expect funding to be substantially reduced on a national basis in 2012.
- ♦ Pier 90/91 Discarded Military Munitions – Pam Kromholtz is Corps Project Manager for this site. Pam gave a short synopsis of the progress on the project to date. All of the inter agency team members were briefed yesterday. At this point the site is believed to be safe based on what has been found to date; however, the plan is to have divers in the water to further investigate what might be there. An aggressive

plan is in place to try to make the April 15th deadline so as not to interfere with the start of cruise season. USACE is working with the Port of Seattle, the Coast Guard, NOAA and the tribes to make sure project is coordinated and issues are addressed and resolved quickly. The site is designated as a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) and funding will come from the USACE.

Advanced Report Tugs and Tows to and from Alaska via Inside Route – Mark Ashley, Puget Sound Vessel Tracking Service

- ◆ Presentation of Canadian Coast Guard off shore reporting requirements for vessels travelling to Alaska using the Inside Passage. Reporting requirements are separate from US reports. The Canadians have kept their requirement for 24hr VTS report.
- ◆ Northbound traffic leaving the ports of Washington bound for Canada has not been sending a VTS report. Recently there have been some tug and tow groundings and other casualties that have occurred in the Inside Passage that have resulted in the Canadian Coast Guard scrambling to figure out what the cargo is onboard the barges. They would like to know what they are dealing with prior to arriving on scene especially when it comes to hazardous material. This information can dramatically improve safety for the Canadian Coast Guard when responding to events.
- ◆ Starting in December the Canadian Coast Guard Maritime Communications and Traffic Services regional office will start sending letters out to each company that they know are involved in making these transits. The companies are being asked to submit the VTS offshore reports starting on January 1, 2011.
- ◆ Industry should be using existing VTS offshore report template. This report can be accessed online.

News from the Seafarers Center – Jim Burns, Father Tony Haycock, Catholic Seafarers Center

- ◆ Jim Burns and Father Tony gave a presentation describing the services offered by the center to seafarers arriving at the Port of Seattle.
- ◆ The tradition of religious organizations seeing to the welfare of seafarers continues through the valuable services provided by the Lutheran, Episcopal and Catholic centers (collectively known as United Port Ministries). The mission of the Seafarer Centers is to welcome the seafarers that arrive at the Port of Seattle and see to their welfare while they are in port. Primarily these are people working on the container vessels, grain and cruise ships as well as fishing vessels. In 2009 they visited 1,140 ships and transported 5,250 seafarers. The annual budget is approximately \$340,000.
- ◆ Crew members who are able to leave the ship are taken to the Centers where they can use computers to communicate with family members, have something to eat and drink. The center also provides them transportation to stores like Costco, Best Buy, and Target etc.
- ◆ The center also does ship visits for those crewmembers that cannot leave the vessel. They bring phone cards, sim cards, books, magazines and pastries. The center most recently began providing Wi-Fi to crewmembers while in port. During the holidays, the center brings “ditty bags” for the seafarers.
- ◆ Ship board ministry is also provided.

Letter from State Representative Rolfe regarding beach degradation concerns

- ◆ The committee received a letter from State Representative Rolfe regarding concerns of wave energy and some beach degradation in the intertidal region of Puget Sound. The letter was a request for the committee to take action by updating the Harbor Safety Plan and explore the issue further. The committee chose to craft a letter in response to Rolfe’s request. A draft response letter prepared by John Veentjer was distributed to committee members. After thorough review and discussion, the committee determined it was a request that fell outside the core mission and role of the PSHSC. The committee may in the future be in a position to comment provided more information, analysis, a complete study and/or risk assessment of the specific area of degradation is made available. A redraft of the response letter will include constructive recommendations to Representative Rolfe to seek out federal and state agencies or other organizations with expertise in this area. A draft of the letter will be sent to members before it is sent on.
- ◆ Representative Rolfe’s letter included a reference to a European study on wake wash management from high speed vessels. A link to the study was provided and copies of a summary of the study were distributed.

Member and Advisor Reports:

- ◆ **Mike Moore-Steamship Lines:** Standard of Care (SOC) for heavy weather and propulsion were reviewed since the last meeting. Not certain the SOC needs to be changed but perhaps some additional language could be included noting what information is available online (in near real time) via updates

provided by the National Weather Service. Any changes to the propulsion SOC will be affected by the looking at detailed analysis of propulsion incidences in California. After we compare and contrast incidences from our area we may consider changes.

- ◆ **Administrative –John Veentjer:** National Harbor Safety Committee conference will be held in Houston in mid-June. Expect it to be similar to the conference format from last year.
- ◆ **Matt Ringle-NOAA:** O’Neill Island will now be known as Avalon Island.
- ◆ **John Dwyer – USCG Sector Puget Sound:** Meeting on Salvage Maritime Fire Fighting regulations will take place on December 8th. The person who wrote the regulations will attend the meeting and will cover how the regs will be implemented for tank vessels. Non tank regulations will come out at the beginning of the year – expect a lot of similarities to tank vessel regs.
- ◆ **Captain Scott Ferguson – USCG Sector Puget Sound:** The Continuity of Operations Plan is still in the process of being updated. Captain Ferguson requested members to consider how they would reconstitute their own day to day mission and connect with the greater community after a disaster.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Next Meeting: February 2th, 2011 Federal Center South

Respectfully submitted by:
Polly Kirkpatrick, Recorder