Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee
Managing Board Meeting Summary
May 15, 2025
10:00 am – 11:00 am

Board Attendees:
Captain Buddy Custard (USCG, Ret.), President
Peggy McLaughlin, Vice President/WSC Chair
Shari Coleman, Secretary/Treasurer
Mayor Joe Bereskin, Board Member

Ex-Officio:
Rachel Lekanoff, ABSI
Others:
Sierra Fletcher, Nuka Research
Haley Griffin, Nuka Research

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda
The May 2025 meeting of the AIWSC Managing Board was called to order at 10:01 am by the AIWSC President, Captain Buddy Custard.

Motion Shari Coleman, Mayor Joe Bereskin to approve the agenda as presented. Motion approved by non-objection.

Approval of Meeting Summary of February 27, 2025

Motion Ms. Coleman, Mayor Bereskin to approve the February 27, 2025, meeting summary minutes. Motion approved by non-objection.

Financial Report
Captain Custard reported that the Committee's bank account balance remains unchanged at $1,638. Additional contributions are expected soon: $2,000 from the Aleutian and Bering Sea Initiative (ABSI) and $5,000 pledged by Alaska Chadux̂ Network. Captain Custard worked with Bryce Edgmon during the recent state legislative session but was unable to secure funding for the AIWSC. He suggested collaborating with the City of Unalaska and the Port of Dutch Harbor Council to support future funding efforts, including potential access to Cruise Ship Head Tax funds.

Peggy McLaughlin offered to add the AIWSC to the agenda of an upcoming City Financial Subcommittee meeting. While acknowledging limited Cruise Ship Head Tax funds, she will ask the subcommittee to consider supporting AIWSC through a Letter of Support or other mechanisms. Ms. McLaughlin also plans to speak with organizers of the annual Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators Conference about including both AIWSC and the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee (CIHSC) in the program to build visibility and support. (Bryan Hawkins and Mayor Rachel Lord are both involved with the Association and CIHSC as well.)

Facilitator's Report
Sierra Fletcher reported that Nuka Research has participated in two calls with the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) regarding the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant. This is the grant under which APIA has included a subaward to AIWSC. Rachel Lekanoff has also been involved, as ABSI is another sub-awardee.

The Coast Guard has been invited to present a briefing on the M/V *Pan Viva* incident at the next Committee meeting, scheduled for May 27. Their briefing was previously shared at the Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee Meeting and would complement Captain Steve White's overview of the Storm Avoidance Guidance Document. As of now, there has been no response from the Coast Guard.

Ms. Fletcher proposed revisiting and updating the Committee's Bylaws, suggesting considerations such as electronic vs. in-person voting and the requirement that Board members be Alaska residents. She recommended reviewing the document ahead of the annual Board meeting. Captain Custard supported the idea, noting that the Bylaws are a living document that should evolve with the organization. He suggested making updates before the annual meeting. Ms. Coleman agreed, emphasizing the need for alignment with current operations.

Ms. McLaughlin asked whether amendments could be made immediately but stressed the importance of a thorough review. Captain Custard proposed a two-step approach: first, approve a change to remove the Alaska residency requirement for Board members, then propose other amendments through a redlined draft. The Board will review the Bylaws before the next meeting.

Ex Officio Member Roundtable

Rachel Lekanoff, who joined the call for Nadine Kochuten, described recent ABSI activities. She and Nadine have been working on Adapt Alaska workshops, focusing on green resilience in the face of climate change in Bristol Bay Region. They are also working with the Aleutian Guardians to host a workshop in in Unalaska in late July-early August. Finally, they are working on SWIFR subaward with Karen Pletnikoff. They have a navigator position available for the ABSI region to help with grants and other items. Captain Custard thanked Rachel for her participation in today's meeting.

Old Business

Captain Custard will reach out to William Wright (International Group of P&I Clubs) to formally invite him to apply to the Primary P&I Clubs committee seat. Nuka Research will send an invoice to Buddy for the website hosting and domain renewal.

Committee Seat Appointments

Captain Custard reviewed two applications for Committee seats. Patrick Burns applied for the alternate Barges & Associated Tugs seat. He is the Director of Operations for Crowley, based in Anchorage, and has previously worked with Captain Custard on various projects, including during his time as a terminal manager in Dutch Harbor. Shannon Carroll applied for the primary At-Large seat. Captain Custard noted Carroll's strong experience and potential connections for securing state funding.

Ms. McLaughlin cautioned that in general the Board and Committee members need to stay mindful of avoiding favoring commercial interests over broader Committee goals.

Motion Mayor Bereskin, Ms. Coleman to approve Resolution 25-05 appointing Patrick Burns to the alternate Barges & Associated Tugs seat, and Shannon Carroll to the primary At Large seat. Motion approved by non-objection.

APIA Subaward Contract

Board Members present expressed their approval of the APIA Subaward Contract and Resolution 25-03. This contract was previously reviewed and approved by all Board Members electronically via email. Captain Custard will sign the contract, which awards the AIWSC $45,000 annually over a three (3) year period.

Motion Ms. McLaughlin, Mayor Bereskin to approve Resolution 25-03 for APIA's Subaward Contract to the AIWSC as part of the EPA SWIFR Grant. Motion approved by non-objection.

Review Draft Nuka Research MSA and Work Authorization

Ms. McLaughlin asked whether the agreement was the same as a previous draft. Ms. Fletcher confirmed it was, explaining that the MSA and Work Authorization is a standard contract Nuka offers to clients without an existing agreement. Shirley Marquardt, former AIWSC president, had reviewed the contract two years ago, but it was not signed due to a lack of funding at the time. This is a one-year work authorization, aligned with the APIA subaward, and includes the same deliverables. It can be revisited in October to coincide with the APIA contract timeline. Ms. Fletcher added that the Board is welcome to discuss the agreement independently of Nuka Research, if preferred.

Motion Ms. McLaughlin, Ms. Coleman to approve Resolution 25-04 for Nuka Research's MSA and Work Authorization to the AIWSC. Motion approved by non-objection.

Next Committee Meeting

Ms. Fletcher asked whether the Committee meeting should be postponed if the U.S. Coast Guard is not available to present. Ms. McLaughlin responded that she would prefer to proceed as planned to discuss the Storm Avoidance Guidance document and recognize the Work Group's efforts. The next Committee meeting is expected to take place in the August/September timeframe. Ms. Griffin noted she plans to gather input on preferred fall dates from members at the meeting.

Closing Comments

Captain Custard expressed his appreciation towards those who attending the meeting, emphasizing that positive things are in motion for the AIWSC.

Review Action Items & Next Steps

- Ms. McLaughlin will add Safety Committees to the agenda of an upcoming City of Dutch Harbor Financial Subcommittee meeting.
- Ms. McLaughlin will ask the City Financial Subcommittee to consider supporting AIWSC funding, potentially through a Letter of Support or other means.
- Ms. McLaughlin will speak with organizers of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators Conference about including Safety Committees on the agenda.
- Board members will review the Committee Bylaws before the next meeting.
- Captain Custard will formally invite William Wright (International Group of P&I Clubs) to apply for the Primary P&I Clubs seat.
- Captain Custard will work with Nuka Research to finalize the APIA Subaward and Nuka Research MSA/Work Authorization contracts.
- Ms. Fletcher will coordinate with Captain Custard to pay for the AIWSC website renewal.
- Ms. Griffin will send Resolutions 25-03, 25-04, and 25-05 to Ms. Coleman for signature.
- Ms. Griffin will distribute a draft summary from the meeting.

Set Next Meeting

A date and time will be confirmed at a later date for the next meeting of the Managing Board.

Adjourn

Motion Ms. Coleman, Ms. McLaughlin to adjourn the meeting at 10:42am. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Materials:

1. Meeting Summary – February 27, 2025
2. Committee Vacancy Applications (1 attachment)
    a. Resolution 25-05 – Committee Appointments
    b. Patrick Burns, Alternate Tug and Barge Seat
    c. Shannon Carroll, Primary At Large Seat
3. Draft Contract Resolutions (1 attachment)
    a. 25-03 – AIWSC APIA Subaward Contract
    b. 25-04 – Nuka Research MSA and Work Authorization
    c. Draft Contract Language – Nuka Research MSA and Work Authorization