

Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee

Meeting Summary

October 28, 2019
10AM – 12PM (AK)
Teleconference/Webinar

Attendees

Committee Members

Chris Woodley - At Sea Fish Processors, Primary
Frank Vargas – Commercial Fishing, Primary
Dustan Dickerson – Commercial Fishing Vessels <60ft., Primary
Steven Gabelein – Passenger Vessels, Primary
David Ridge - Barges (including cargo and petroleum) and associated tugs, Alternate
Captain Chris Iszler – Assist Tugs, Primary
Ernie Weiss – Local Government, Alternate
Jennifer Tungul – Terminal Operators, Primary
Todd Duke – Salvage, Primary
Thomas Robinson – Alaska Native Interest, Primary
Andrew Hartsig – Conservation Organization, Primary
Captain David Arzt – Alaska Marine Pilots, Primary
Karen Pletnikoff – Subsistence User, Primary
Peggy McLaughlin – Chairwoman & Managing Board Representative
Leslie Pearson – At Large, Primary
Melissa Good – At Large, Alternate

Managing Board

Shirley Marquardt, Vice-President
Captain Buddy Custard, Secretary/Treasurer

Ex Officio

CDR Justin Jacobs, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Anchorage
LT Matt Lemanski, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Anchorage
Aaron Poe, Aleutian Bering Sea Initiative
Bernie Nowicki, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Miranda Westphal, Alaska Department of Fish & Game
LCDR Bart Buesseler, NOAA

Other

Keith Criddle, University Alaska Anchorage
Lauren Divine, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island
Brad Kroon, Olympic Tug & Barge, Cook Inlet HSC Member
Sara Nichols, Nuka Research and Planning Group
Olivia Norton, Nuka Research and Planning Group
Tim Robertson, Nuka Research and Planning Group

Call to Order

The fifth meeting of the Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee was called to order at 10:02AM by Chairwoman McLaughlin.

Approval of Agenda

Motion Weiss, Hartsig to approve the Agenda. Motion passes by non-objection.

Approval of Meeting Summary May 1, 2019

Motion Pearson, Woodley to approve the meeting summary of May 1, 2019 as presented. Motion passes by non-objection.

USCG Report

CDR Justin Jacobs introduced LT Matt Lemanski as the new Waterways Management Chief.

NOAA Report

LCDR Bart Buessler reported that the Office of Coast Survey is developing a plan to sunset paper charts. It is a five-year plan to gradually phase them out. He will distribute an informational flyer out to the group.

Aleutian Bering Sea Initiative Report

Aaron Poe reported that they are undertaking an Areas To Be Avoided (ATBA) analysis utilizing the geo-fencing tool and working with Marine Exchange of Alaska and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game with a focus on Togiak Bay area. They are working on getting the information out to coastal communities.

Managing Board Report

Tim Robertson reported that the Managing Board is currently fielding applications for vacant and expiring Committee seats. NFWF grant deadline was extended through the end of 2020, and enough funds remain to continue Committee and Board functions through the first half of 2020. The Board is working on developing a sustainable funding plan through several avenues (Cruise Ship excess head tax funds; NRDA Selendang Ayu funds; and Committee Contributions). These are all possibilities, but the likelihood of seeking modest contributions from Committee Members is high in the future. The Board will be looking at this in-depth at their next meeting and should they seek contributions, they will be clear to show what your contributions will be for.

Tom Robinson offered to approach Legislators during an upcoming Arctic and Bering Sea strategy conference on behalf of the AIWSC.

National Harbor Safety Committee Conference Report

Shirley Marquardt reported that she was able to attend the Conference in June as the Managing Board Vice President and AIWSC representative, along with Peggy McLaughlin. They came away with a tremendous amount of information regarding new technology and trends. Most of the Safety Committees represented deal with small, very chaotic areas, whereas the geographic scope of the AIWSC is unique in its massive size and vessel traffic. They made great contacts on behalf of the AIWSC and received a solid education from people who have been in the business of Harbor safety and organization for many years.

WSC Chair Report

Chairwoman McLaughlin reported that there had been several workgroup meetings over the summer, producing edits to the Waterways Safety Plan and developing ideas on how best to distribute the Plan to potential users.

Waterways Safety Plan Workgroup Report

Leslie Pearson reported that the WSP edits requested by the Committee in May were developed during the Summer via email discussions and teleconferences. Later in the agenda, they will be presented.

Navigation Workgroup Report

Captain David Arzt stated that from a Navigation standpoint the contributions to the WSP are fairly complete.

WSP Communications Workgroup Report

Tim Robertson reported that the group met on October 3 and discussed some ideas for distributing the WSP to potential users outside of the AIWSC website and distribution list including:

- Provide a link in periodicals aimed at mariners;
- Develop a Facebook page;
- Ask Industry representatives to distribute to their users;
- Format into a smaller electronic document that can be downloaded easily by mariners at sea or others with limited bandwidth;
- Publish a summary document with a link to the full plan or AIWSC Website;
- Make hardcopies available via print, thumb drives, and CD format.

The Committee discussed developing a brochure highlighting a short version of the plan rather than printing the whole document, or a version that includes only the Best Practices. It was recommended to maximize digital distribution efforts since it is an evergreen document yet provide some hard copies with durable covers to Village and Harbormaster Offices as an introductory tool. The Board will look into the costs associated with some of these ideas and report back to the Committee.

Facilitator's Report

Tim Robertson reported that Nuka Research has been working with the various Workgroups to achieve the tasks laid out by the Committee and has been assisting the Board in developing a sustainable funding plan. Nuka will also be planning for the next in-person Committee and various Board meetings. He asked that all members be open about how Nuka Research can best serve the WSC.

West Coast Harbor Safety Committee Summit

Tim Robertson was able to attend the Summit in September on behalf of the AIWSC Managing Board. The attendees represented many Safety Committees on the West Coast, including the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee. It was beneficial learning experience. One important highlight was the issue of cyber security and the importance of keeping software up to date and password management. He recommended that the Chair attend every year and suggested that the Alaska committees hold a similar summit for the State.

Severe Weather Guidelines

Motion Hartsig, Pearson to approve the 2019-2020 Severe Weather Guidelines, adding the full definition of Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) as a footnote; approval of these guidelines will be revisited each year prior to distribution. Voice vote, unanimous. Motion passes

Waterways Safety Plan

Motion Weiss, Hartsig to approve the Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Plan, amending the first bullet in section C.4.1, Tsunami Awareness to read “get” instead of “vet”. Voice vote, unanimous. Motion passes

Review Action Items

- **Managing Board will deliberate costs associated with proposed WSP Communications Plan**
- **USCG/Nuka Research will process the amendments to the Heavy Weather Guidelines, sign and distribute**
- **Nuka Research will process the amendments to the WSP and post an updated version on the Website**
- **LCDR Buesseler will report back to the Committee regarding NRDA funding**
- **Nuka Research will poll for next teleconference and in-person meeting**

Closing Committee Comments

Andrew Hartsig announced that the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is seeking input on oil contingency plan regulations. The comment period closes January 15.

[Update: The comment period has been extended to March 16]

Next Meeting

Possible teleconference in January and in-person meeting in March – to be scheduled around SWAMC.

Adjourn

Motion Pearson, Pletnikoff for adjournment. Motion passes by non-objection. Meeting adjourned at 11:31AM.