

# Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee Meeting Summary

February 28, 2018

9:00 AM

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association  
Conference Room  
Anchorage, AK

## Attendees

### Committee Members

Peggy McLaughlin, Managing Board of Directors Representative, WSC Chair  
Captain David Arzt, Marine Pilots – Primary  
Scott Brown, Port Director, Harbormaster, Local Government – Primary  
Gary Covich, Commercial Fishing – Alternate (*Webinar*)  
Todd Duke, Salvage – Primary  
Steven Gabelein, Passenger Vessels – Primary  
Melissa Good, At Large – Alternate  
Andrew Hartsig, Conservation Organizations – Primary  
Captain Chris Iszler, Assist Tugs – Primary  
Matt Melton, Response Organizations – Primary  
Andrew Mew, Ships Agents – Primary  
Captain Ed Page, Vessel Monitoring and Tracking – Primary  
Leslie Pearson, At Large – Primary  
Karen Pletnikoff, Subsistence Users – Primary  
Bert Ray, P&I Clubs – Primary  
Thomas Robinson, Alaska Native Interest – Primary  
Ingo Rose, Tank Vessels – Primary  
Thomas Tunnell, Response Organizations - Alternate  
Frank Vargas, Commercial Fishing – Primary  
Chris Woodley, At Sea Fish Processors – Primary

### Managing Board of Directors

Captain Buddy Custard, Secretary/Treasurer  
Mayor Frank Kelty, President (*Webinar*)

### Ex Officio

CDR Justin Jacobs, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Anchorage  
Lisa Krebs-Barsis, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
CAPT Sean Mackenzie, U.S. Coast Guard, COTP  
LT David Parker, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Anchorage  
Aaron Poe, Aleutian Bering Sea Islands LCC

### Other

Jeanette Alas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Ben Matheson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Judy Miller, Alaska Response Company  
Wyatt Morgan, Delta Western (*Webinar*)  
Sara Nichols, Nuka Research and Planning Group  
David Ridge, Crowley Fuels  
Tim Robertson, Nuka Research and Planning Group  
Laura Tanis, Aleutians East Borough (*Webinar*)  
Ernie Weiss, Aleutians East Borough  
Jeff Williams, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (*Webinar*)

Capt. Sean Mackenzie, U.S. Coast Guard, COTP for Western Alaska (USCG) welcomed all involved, stating that the USCG has a major interest in the success of the Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee (AIWSC), and will provide the support of Sector Anchorage to that end.

### **Call to Order**

The first AIWSC Committee (WSC) meeting was called to order at 9:11 AM by Chairwoman Peggy McLaughlin.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with no objection.

### **What is a Waterway Safety Committee?**

CDR Justin Jacobs and LT David Parker, USCG, Sector Anchorage, gave an overview of Harbor Safety Committees around Alaska and the United States, the purpose they serve and their origination, and the geographic scope of Alaska's three safety committees. The group discussed the importance and effectiveness of Best Practices that will be established by the Committee. The Best Practices do not carry the weight of law, but they are presented as a consensus of the WSC, and become a standard by which marine operations are normally conducted within the region. [AIWSC Harbor Safety Committees\\_101 PDF](#)

### **Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee (AIWSC) Purpose and Construct**

Mr. Robertson provided a presentation covering the background of how the AIWSC was formed, and the series of events leading up to today's meeting. [180228 AIWSC How We Came To Be PDF](#)

### **Management Board report to the Committee**

Mayor Frank Kelty, AIWSC Managing Board of Directors President, reported that over the past four months, the Board has adopted the Committee Bylaws and Charter, establishing it as a non-profit, and worked with staff to recruit Committee members. He thanked his fellow Board members and Nuka Research for all of the accomplishments of the AIWSC thus far, and wished the WSC success, moving forward.

### **Non-profit Corporation Bylaws review**

Mr. Robertson provided an overview of the AIWSC Bylaws, describing the process of selecting Board members and the structure of Board. President – Mayor Frank Kelty; Vice-President – Shirley Marquardt; Secretary/Treasurer – Captain Buddy Custard; WSC Chair – Peggy McLaughlin; Member – Mayor Joe Bereskin. [AIWSC Bylaws PDF](#)

### **Committee Charter review**

Mr. Robertson reviewed the AIWSC Charter, highlighting the mission statement, geographic scope, and committee governance. He pointed out that the scope of the AIWSC coincides with the Aleutian Islands Sub-Area Plan which governs oil and hazardous substance response in the region. The AIWSC's primary interest is marine safety and prevention, while the primary interest of the Sub-Area Plan Committee (SPC) is spill response. However, there are some overlaps between the two groups. Mr. Robertson suggested that

the WSC might consider sending a representative to a future meeting of the SPC to coordinate.

Mr. Robertson further defined “stakeholder representation”, specifying that committee members represent all the stakeholders in their category, not just the member’s organization. Committee members are expected to coordinate between the primary and alternate members and with other individuals and organizations in their stakeholder category. [180130AIWSC Charter PDF](#)

### **Workgroups**

The Committee Charter establishes two standing workgroups for the WSC: Waterways Safety Plan (WSP) Workgroup and the Navigation (Nav) Workgroup. The WSP Workgroup is responsible for collating Best Practices for the region into a Waterway Safety Plan which is a public facing document for the maritime community operating in the region. The Nav Workgroup is more mariner-centric. It will be comprised of mostly mariners to develop recommendations for Best Practices related to navigation issues. Additional workgroups can be established by the Committee as necessary.

In practice, the Committee appoints a Chair and Vice-chair for any workgroup. The chair then solicits workgroup members to volunteer from the Committee. Subject matter experts outside of the Committee can also serve on a workgroup. The Workgroup Chair nominates the members of the workgroup and they are confirmed by the Committee. Each Workgroup will develop a mission statement and scope of work, which will then be approved by the Committee. The workgroup will meet as often as necessary, at the call of the Chair, to accomplish their scope of work. All work products of a workgroup are considered draft and confidential until they are submitted to the Committee for review and approval.

### **Workgroups & Waterways Safety Plan**

Mr. Robertson gave an overview of the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Plan, but specified that using examples of other Safety Plans does not mean that the AIWSC Plan has to look the same. The group has the opportunity to construct the WSP as it uniquely applies to the region. [Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Plan 10/17/17 PDF](#)

### **Committee Vacancies**

The Board of Directors has conducted a broad outreach twice since October, 2017, to try and fill vacant seats. The Committee was asked to reach out to qualified parties to fill the 4 primary and 17 alternate remaining open seats. Any suggestions for ex-officio representatives will also be welcomed by the Board. Captain Custard asked that the Board be kept apprised of the efforts to this end so that people are not working in cross-purposes in filling the seats. President Kelty specified that he feels strongly that the WSC needs representation from Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) serving in an ex-officio capacity.

## **Discussion of marine safety issues/concerns in the Aleutian Islands Waterways**

The floor was opened for the discussion of issues and concerns related to marine safety in the region. Issues from this discussion may be considered for inclusion in the WSP. The following is a list of issues and concerns raised during the discussion.

### **Marine Safety Issues/Concerns**

- Anchoring locations – at sea medical transfers; vessels under distress
- Severe Weather advisories and best practices.
- Derelict vessels
- Standing policies/directives of USCG
- Deep draft traffic through fishing grounds
- Technology – what technologies would help us? Explore the powerful tools of technology to reduce risk
- Endangered/threatened marine mammals – migration areas
- Review Potential Places of Refuge during heavy weather events; where it is safe to drift
- Work on the communication procedures between Marine Pilots, USCG, captains when encountering heavy weather
- Update charts with assistance from NOAA and crowd-based data sources
- Abandoned vessels – tracking device to equip responders with ability to find adrift vessels that have been abandoned
- Update charts with assistance from NOAA and crowd-based data source
- Coordination between the AIWSC and the Sub-Area Committee for spill response
- Off-shore lightering and lightering in State waters
- Review recommendations from the Aleutian Islands Risk Assessment and review their status of implementation
- Small community Emergency Preparedness, Prevention and Response
- Include Pribilof and Shumagin Islands, bring in people from Adak for next meeting
- Exit strategies for vessels in need of help- how long do we keep them at dock, anchor or buoy? Need a plan when bringing a disabled vessel into the communities – end game for moorage, caretaking.
- Provide potential anchorages – create guidelines
- Get background briefing from USCG, ADEC, EPA, Customs and other regulatory agencies
- Better identification of vessels through AIS

### **Lunch Break 11:40AM – 12:20PM**

#### **Workgroup formation and assignments**

As long as funding allows, Workgroups will be supported by Nuka Research in the following capacities: helping the Chair communicate with members, facilitate meetings (teleconference mostly), developing documents, and maintaining contact information and records. Committee members may volunteer to be on the Workgroups, and the Workgroups can bring in subject matter experts not on the Committee to help. Members of

the public will be subject to Board approval. First task of the Workgroups is to develop their mission statement and scope of work for Committee approval.

**Motion Brown, Melton to appoint Leslie Pearson as the Chair of the Waterways Safety Plan Workgroup. Motion Passes with no objection**

**Motion Brown, Woodley to appoint Captain Ed Page as the Vice-Chair of the Waterways Safety Plan Workgroup. Motion Passes with no objection**

**Motion Page, Brown to appoint Captain David Arzt as the Chair of the Navigation Workgroup. Motion Passes with no objection**

**Motion Arzt, Mew to appoint Captain Chris Iszler as the Vice-Chair of the Navigation Workgroup. Motion Passes with no objection**

Ms. Pletnikoff volunteered to serve on the Waterways Safety Plan Workgroup.

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grant and Nuka Research and Planning Group's role**

Mr. Robertson gave a presentation of the grant received from the NFWF to establish the AIWSC and fund its operations for the first year. This grant is set to expire in December of 2018 and the Managing Board is exploring other ideas for establishing a sustainable cash flow. If the group continues to be frugal with the funds, it may last longer. For example, APIA donated the meeting room for today's meeting and Nuka Research donated the lunch. [180228 AIWSC Grant Nuka's Role](#)

### **Introduction to website**

Mr. Robertson gave a visual overview of the AIWSC Website for those in attendance. It was suggested that the AI Sub-Area Committee and AIRA Documents be linked to the website. Additionally, Ms. Pletnikoff requested that a glossary of acronyms be developed and posted on the website. <https://www.aleutianislandswsc.org/>

### **Public Comments**

Ernie Weiss, Natural Resource Director for the Aleutians East Borough stated that someone from the Borough will be applying to a stakeholder seat for the AIWSC. He also expressed appreciation the USCG for their forward deployment in Cold Bay.

### **Committee Comments**

Thomas Robinson stated that he would like to share this information with his constituents and asked if he could initiate a conversation regarding future funding of the organization with the Departments of Defense, Interior and EPA while in Washington D.C. in the coming

weeks. (Board and Committee members indicated approval of the idea of socializing the concept.)

Captain Ed Page added a topic for consideration in upcoming meetings. Ship arrestors, emergency towing and mooring systems.

**Review action items and set next meeting**

- Nuka will add the following to the Website: AIRA Conclusion Report; AI Sub-Area Plan; AI Sub-Area Committee weblink and meeting updates; glossary of acronyms
- All will reach out to qualified individuals to help fill the remaining seats on the WSC
- Workgroups will populate and work on Mission Statements
- Managing Board will explore and discuss adding more Ex Officio representatives

The Next Meeting of the WSC will be a teleconference held at 9AM on Tuesday, May 1, 2018

**Adjourn**

**Motion Arzt, Brown to adjourn. Motion Passes with no objection.  
Meeting adjourned at 1:31PM**