

# Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee

## Managing Board Meeting

### Minutes

April 28, 2020  
1:30pm (AKDT)  
Webinar

#### Attendees:

Mayor Joe Bereskin, Board Member  
Shari Coleman, Secretary/Treasurer  
Captain Buddy Custard, Vice President  
Shirley Marquardt, President  
Peggy McLaughlin, WSC Chairwoman

#### Ex Officio:

Aaron Poe, Aleutian Bering Sea Islands,  
LCC (ABSI)

LT Mateusz "Matt" Lemanski, U.S. Coast  
Guard, Sector Anchorage (USCG)  
LCDR Bart Buesseler, NOAA Office of Coast  
Survey

#### Others:

Tim Robertson, Nuka Research and  
Planning Group  
Sara Nichols, Nuka Research and Planning  
Group

The 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee was called to order 1:34pm (AKDT) by President Marquardt.

#### Review of Action Items From Last Meeting

- a. Buddy – **All are ongoing, with some progress hampered by hunker down orders in place**
  - Set-up Bank accounts on behalf of AIWSC with AMPRN staff and seed \$
  - AMPRN will analyze vessel traffic data and compile statistics appropriate for NRDA Funding application
  - Set-up funding sub-committee (LCDR Buesseler, Aaron Poe, Steven Gabelein, Bert Ray, Tim Robertson) and begin work on NRDA application and Legislative appropriation
  - Talk to AK Legislators in Juneau about supporting the Excess Head Tax Initiative for Alaska Maritime Safety Committees
  - Experiment with vessels to see if they can download small version of WSP
  - Contact DOD Representative, re: Presentation at next WSC Meeting
- b. Peggy McLaughlin
  - Bring Legislative Appropriation request to the attention of State Harbor Association and solicit their support – **this group is scheduled to meet in September and Peggy will bring it to them**
  - Work with Tim Robertson to develop agenda for next WSC Meeting - **ongoing**
- c. Nuka Research
  - Draft 'Thank You' letters to Frank Kelty and Leslie Pearson - **done**
  - Notify Committee Members of appointments and new seat terms - **done**

- Circulate previously sent letters to Governor Walker regarding the Excess Head Tax Initiative - **done**
- Set up Special Board Meeting for the week of Feb 2 (30 min) for election of Board Officers and possible discussion of next WSC Meeting – **done, meeting held Feb 20, 2020**
- Set up meetings of the various AIWSC Workgroups in preparation for a Spring WSC Meeting - **ongoing**
- Continue work on further shrinking the size of the WSP digital document. AMPRN has capability to email the individual ships with the smaller plan - **ongoing**

## **Agenda Approval**

**Motion Bereskin, Custard to approve the Agenda as presented. Roll call vote, agenda approved unanimously.**

## **Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2020**

**Motion Bereskin, Custard to approve the Minutes of January 15, 2020 as presented. Motion passes by non-objection**

## **Special Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2020**

**Motion Bereskin, Custard to approve the Minutes of February 20, 2020. Motion passes by non-objection**

## **Secretary/Treasurer Report**

Robertson gave overview of current financial report through March 31, 2020 and the budget document, as approved at January meeting. Expenditures for 2020 to date are \$7289, with approximately \$20,000 remaining in the NFWF grant. The organization is on track to spend out the remaining grant funds by the end of the calendar year.

## **Committee Chair Report**

McLaughlin reported that due to the interruptions of COVID-19, the WSC has not made any forward motion so far this year. Have discussed NRDA funding with that sub-working group and am doing some legwork on compiling the requested data. Looking at incidents that apply to the use of the WSP. Would be good to work with WSP workgroup on communication during potential future incidents and tighten up the communication issues as outlined in the plan. Need to identify where or if the plan needs amendments. Once the other workgroups can get together, we will come up with action items for the Committee.

The WSC will most likely meet via webinar rather than in person. Not sure about the possibility of a summer meeting due to other's schedule or COVID restrictions.

## **Facilitators Report**

Robertson reported on action items that Nuka Research has been working on:

- The efforts to get legislative funding through excess cruise ship tax is at a standstill for now.
- The NRDA funding effort is ongoing, Buddy got the group together to begin compiling data and Tim is working with USCG to help with some of the incident reports. They are working with us for the information this may require a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for some of the details, but LT Lemanski is helping with that.
- Sara developed a new Workgroup Task Tracker to help keep momentum going across all the groups and ensure that action items are followed up on.
- Some progress has been made on the waterway safety plan download size issues. Nuka Research was able to decrease the size, but the clarity of figures is sacrificed in the process. We are now looking at some other options to bring to the WSP Workgroup, including offering separate downloads for each section of the Plan. This would allow vessel operators to identify what part of the Plan they need to address their situation and download only that portion while onboard. This idea will be presented to the WSP Workgroup when they can meet.
- Nuka Research thinks that it would be beneficial to create a forum for the Navigation Workgroup to come together annually (off the record) and debrief on recent marine incidents in the region.

## **Membership Committee and Workgroups**

The group reviewed the current AIWSC Roster and identified seats that need to be filled.

Shirley will reach out to potential cargo representative options for a volunteer. Peggy has reached out to APL in the past and there is some hesitation on being able to commit. This effort will be ongoing.

All members will endeavor to reach out to their appropriate contacts to try and fill some of the vacant alternate seats.

## **WSC Spring Meeting Agenda, program and date**

The group decided to hold off on scheduling the next meeting due to COVID-19 – possibly late summer or early fall (Aug/Sept)

Workgroup chairmen will be encouraged to develop action items for the Committee level - need this to provide 'meat' to the WSC agenda;

## **Some Potential WSC Agenda Items**

- Compliance with the Aleutians ATBA in Aleutians. Aaron report 96% compliance rate overall based on AIS data. Scientists are aiming to have something ready for publication in a week. Aaron Poe could arrange a presentation for the next meeting.
- Critical habitat issues and how that pertains to WSP – humpback whales, stellar eiders
- AK Geofencing announcement - Organizations can create own geofence in an area (virtually) using the online tool – possible to put on website

## **Funding**

- The group noted that it is important to clarify/quantify why we are asking for contributions and what the money is used for.
- Robertson noted that there is sufficient budget in grant to last the rest of the year, but by the beginning of 2021 we will start at zero - need to get a plan in place.
- It was suggested that there is a need to get commitments from those involved in the region.
- The group agreed that contribution letter needs to go out to the organizations that are members/players in the region.

Group discussed the need to wordsmith the draft letter for distribution this Summer:

- Decide on a contribution amount – sliding fee based on size of entity and/or usage of waterways in the Region?
- Add wording at the beginning something to the effect of: “and if you are not yet a member, we encourage you to sign up as financial contributor to protect the environment and the industry”
- Same idea at end of letter: “and the maritime industries – you are our partners...”
- Municipalities and tribes benefit from AIWSC and should be also be asked to contribute.
- Seafood processors should also be asked to contribute- “The reason this is good for our industry partners fishing, etc....”

Tim will take a shot at wordsmithing and then circulate it to the group for approval.

Discussion of contribution amount - \$2000 per year, per contributor vs. asking less from municipalities and tribes

Group acknowledged that it is a tough fiscal environment right now and that strategically, it might be good to wait.

## **Review Action Items**

- Shirley will recruit cargo seat representative
- All will look for alternates for all empty seats
- All will send Nuka a list of industry/community/tribe names that should be included in contribution effort
  - Sara will summarize the entity names currently on the WSC and circulate to Board for help in this effort
- Buddy will continue efforts to set up AIWSC checking account
- Aaron and Tim will look at other grant fund potential together

- The ad hoc workgroup will continue to work the NRDA process – Bart will let us know when a proposal process has begun
- Nuka Research will encourage Workgroup chairs to meet and offer facilitation assistance
- Tim will wordsmith contribution letter and send to board for final review
- All will send Sara any newsworthy information to be posted on the Website for the purpose of keeping it up to date and relevant

**Next Meeting - TBD**

**Adjourn**

**Motion Coleman, McLaughlin to adjourn. Motion passes by non-objection. Meeting adjourned at 2:39pm.**

Meeting Materials:

1. January 15, 2019 draft minutes
2. February 20, 2020 draft minutes
3. Financial Report
4. Current AIWSC Roster
5. Draft WSC Agenda
6. Draft Stakeholder contribution letter