

Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee Meeting Summary

May 1, 2019

10:30AM – 2:30PM

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
Conference Room
Anchorage, AK

Participants

Committee Members

Chris Woodley - At Sea Fish Processors, Primary
Frank Vargas – Commercial Fishing, Primary
Dustan Dickerson – Commercial Fishing Vessels <60 Feet, Primary (*webinar*)
Steven Gabelein – Passenger Vessels, Primary
Wyatt Morgan - Barges (including cargo and petroleum) and associated tugs, 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
Matt Melton – Oil Spill Response, Primary
Herbert Ray – P & I Clubs, Primary
Todd Duke – Salvage, Primary
Andrew Hartsig – Conservation Organization, Primary
Captain David Arzt – Alaska Marine Pilots, Primary
Andrew Mew – Ship’s Agents, Primary
Karen Pletnikoff – Subsistence User, Primary
Peggy McLaughlin – Chairwoman & Managing Board Representative
Leslie Pearson – At Large, Primary
Melissa Good – At Large, Alternate (*webinar*)
Captain Ed Page – Vessel Monitoring and Tracking, Primary (*webinar*)

Managing Board

Mayor Frank Kelty, President (*webinar*)
Shirley Marquardt, Vice-President (*webinar*)
Captain Buddy Custard, Secretary/Treasurer (*webinar*)

Ex Officio

CDR Justin Jacobs, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Anchorage
LT David Parker, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Anchorage
Aaron Poe, Aleutian Bering Sea Islands Association, LLC
Cindy Kirkham, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Other

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

Call to Order

The fourth meeting of the Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee (WSC) was called to order at 10:31am by Chairwoman McLaughlin.

Approval of Agenda

Motion Woodley, Morgan to approve the agenda with the addition of Ad hoc Communication Committee for the distribution of the Waterways Safety Committee (WSP) as item c. under New Business. Motion passes unanimously

Approval of Meeting Summary of November 8, 2018

Motion Hartsig, Mew to approve the Meeting Summary of November 8, 2018, as prepared. Motion passes by non-objection

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Ex Officio Report

CDR Justin Jacobs reported that the USCG, over the next five years, will be inspecting vessels and communities that receive fuel by barge. There are over 400 locations, which poses a logistical man-power problem to visit all sites. "Hubs" have been created to make visitation more feasible. All locations in the Aleutian Islands will be visited in 2020. This project is intended to be both educational and regulatory. LT David Parker will be leaving to a new post and the person replacing him will have big shoes to fill. He has been invaluable in his help with Alaska's Safety Committees and the Safety Plans associated with them.

Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands (ABSI) Ex Officio Report

Aaron Poe explained that ABSI is a public and private cooperative to do good works for conservation in the Region. Staff is working to update the historic oil spill figures in the WSP Appendix, drawing on ADEC and NOAA databases. The Geofencing project reported on at the previous WSC meeting is on-going, utilizing AIS data from Marine Exchange of Alaska to create virtual boundaries around sensitive areas.

Managing Board Report

Managing Board President, Frank Kely reported that the Board met on April 25 to discuss a sustainable funding plan, and sending a representative to the National Harbor Safety Convention in June. It is likely that the Managing Board will need to create a funding structure that will include membership contributions from Committee Stakeholder groups to keep the AIWSC Organization functioning.

WSC Chair Report

Chairwoman Peggy McLaughlin extended a big 'thank you' to Leslie Pearson, David Arzt and their workgroups for the large-scale effort to develop the WSP into the document before the group for approval. She also expressed her appreciation to Karen Pletnikoff and Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association for the meeting place and to Andrew Hartsig and the Ocean Conservancy for donating the cost of a catered lunch for the meeting.

Waterways Safety Plan Workgroup

Leslie Pearson reported that the sub-groups have held working group calls since last November to put the pieces of the plan together. Everyone has their thumbprint on this plan, getting it to where it is today. The document has been reorganized since the November meeting to make it more user friendly and to more specifically target the maritime users who will be referencing it.

Navigation Workgroup

Captain David Arzt thanked Nuka Research for keeping all on track and implementing the groups intent into the WSP.

Facilitator's Report

Tim Robertson thanked Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association for donating the meeting space and Ocean Conservancy for donating the catered lunch. These membership contributions help make the grant funds go farther. The Committee and Workgroups getting the WSP to this point in such a short amount of time is a tremendous accomplishment for the AIWSC organization. The Managing Board has submitted a letter, with accompanying letters of support from ADEC and USCG, to the granting agency requesting an extension beyond June 30, 2019 to spend the rest of the grant money. Aaron Poe and Tim Robertson met with NOAA to discuss utilizing NRDA Selendang Ayu funds to support the further processes of the AIWSC. There is potential for this approach, but would need to document metrics showing how the AIWSC prevents incidents from happening in order to be considered. The other potential source of funding – a legislative appropriation utilizing excess cruise ship head tax funds – is not tracking well in Juneau, given the current state of the budget. It is ultimately up to the Managing Board to develop a sustainable funding plan – minimum \$30k annual operating budget - for the organization, but this body should be aware that the collection of membership contributions is being considered as a funding source. Please let the Board know your thoughts on this. Nuka Research would like to extend our appreciation to LT David Parker for all of his input in the process of developing the AIWSC organization and wish him the best in his new post.

Bert Ray offered his insight into the NRDA/NOAA funding process and proposed setting up a call to further discussions to that end.

Heavy Weather Guidelines

CDR Jacobs asked the group to consider the document that has been used by the USCG for seasonal awareness to maritime users in the region for the past 6 years. He expressed that these are guidelines only, not a legally binding document. The group discussed keeping them as broad as possible to keep away from over defining vessels and creating problems through over interpretation. The Captain of the Port is seeking the Committee's input and requesting that the Heavy Weather Guidelines be incorporated into the Waterways Safety Plan and be issued every year.

Motion Woodley, Ray to form a Heavy Weather Guidelines sub-committee of the Navigation Workgroup to work on the language of the USCG document and develop standards of care from an AIWSC perspective. Voice Vote, motion passes unanimously.

Sub-committee Members: Frank Vargas, Chris Woodley, Bert Ray, Chris Iszler, Justin Jacobs, David Arzt

Waterways Safety Plan

- Remove Figure B-4 and insert ADEC website link
- Change “fishing vessels” to fishing industry vessels - Section B.8, paragraph 2; Section B.9, paragraph 7
- Update Figure B-6 to remove Resolve Marine logo
- Section B.11, paragraph 2 – change “commanders” to coordinators
- Add ADEC after hours number to action box in Section B.11.3
- Change color scheme of Figure B-8 to make the track lines more clear (question for Ed Page)
- Delete Figure B-9
- Chris Woodley will submit updates to Leslie regarding Table B-1
- Navigation and WSP Workgroups will discuss and organize Section B.9 (AIS) - moving it into Standards of Care section
- WSP Workgroup will review and amend Section C.3.1 to eliminate conflicting guidance

Motion Mew, Iszler to approve the Waterways Safety Plan as amended. Voice Vote, motion passes unanimously.

Coordination between AIWSC and the Sub-area Committee

Karen Pletnikoff will be attending the AI Sub-area Committee meeting and will make them aware of the AIWSC. CDR Jacobs expressed that the AIWSC can coordinate with them, feeding them information that they don't already have access to, such as local knowledge.

Review AIRA Recommendations

Group decided that though some of the recommendations have been addressed, there remains some low hanging fruit that the Committee could follow through on. No action taken at this time.

Communication Plan

Tim Robertson, Todd Duke, Jennifer Tungul, Andrew Mew, Frank Vargas and Shirley Marquardt volunteered to form a sub-committee to develop a distribution plan for the newly passed Waterways Safety Plan. Navy and Marines will be invited to the meeting as well.

Nuka Research will develop and distribute a News Release announcing the passage of the WSP and post it on the website before the sub-committee meets.

USCG recommended that the group maintain its momentum and relevance by advertising itself and keep a steady output of articles or documentation going out to the public.

Andrew Hartsig and Aaron Poe offered to help refine and develop figures for the Plan, moving forward, specifying that enough lead time is necessary in order to produce them.

Action Items

- Ad-hoc group for further NRDA Funding options – Bert Ray, Aaron Poe, Tim Robertson
- Heavy Weather Guidelines (sub-workgroup) will meet to work on language for the annual document
- Navigation and WSP Workgroup will organize AIS section of the Plan to move it into Standards of Care Section
- WSP Workgroup will refine language of the Tsunami section to eliminate conflicting language
- Leslie and Sara will implement the amendments to the WSP and finalize it for public distribution.
- Ad-hoc communication committee will devise plan for distributing WSP to maritime community. Tim Robertson, Todd Duke, Jennifer Tungul, Andrew Mew, Frank Vargas and Shirley Marquardt volunteered.
- Karen Pletnikoff will report AIWSC progress to AI Sub-area Committee
- Nuka Research will develop and distribute a News Release announcing the passage of the AI WSP and post a downloadable version on the website.

Next Meeting

Group settled on first week of October – Nuka Research will poll group for best day

Motion Arzt, Morgan to adjourn. Motion passes by non-objection. Meeting adjourned at 2:34 pm.

Meeting Materials:

1. Meeting Protocols and Roster
2. Meeting Minutes November 8, 2018
3. Waterway Safety Plan Record of Changes – Actual Plan is included as a *separate* attachment
4. Heavy Weather Guidelines – 12/20 Email Language
5. Heavy Weather Guidelines – USCG 12/20 Draft
6. Heavy Weather Guidelines – USCG 1/22/19 Notification
7. List of WSC Issues and Concerns – next steps