

Harbor Safety Committee

MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2020

Harbor Safety Committee Meeting 2020

The Harbor Safety Meeting of February 18, 2020 was called to order by Kevin Campbell at 10:10 a.m. at the Port of Grays Harbor Commissioning Chamber in Aberdeen, WA.

Those in attendance at the meeting were as follows:

Mike Johnson	Port of Grays Harbor
Christina Traxtle	REG Grays Harbor
John Doucette	REG Grays Harbor
Brian Kirk	Department of Ecology
Kevin Campbell	Brusco Tug and Barge
Dixon Whitley	USCG
Fred Goheen	Jones Stevedoring
JD Ross Leahy	Department of Ecology
Larry Thevik	WDCFA
Michael Jung	USCG
Dan Jarrett	USCG
Alan Moore	USCG
Gretchen Bailey	USCG
Elizabeth Chen	US Army Corps of Engineers
Bryan Shay	City of Hoquiam
Brian Fry	PASHA Stevedoring & Terminals

Introductions:

From the Chairman

Kevin Campbell completed roll call for all attendees present and over the phone.

Approval of Minutes:

Quorum was met during meeting. December 17, 2019 minutes were not approved. Minutes need amended and will be issued for approval, along with the February 18, 2020 Minutes during the April 21, 2020 meeting.

Reports:

Port

Mike Johnson, Port of Grays Harbor, reported that terminal maintenance dredging was completed. 10,000 cy was removed from Terminal 1, 28,000 cy from Terminal 2 and 10,000 cy from Terminal 4. An extension was granted to complete operations. The window to dredge reopens on July 15th. American Construction will be the contractor used at that time.

Ecology

Brian Kirk, Department of Ecology, reported that a rule making is currently being conducted for advanced notice of transfers for pipelines and rail crude oil transfers. The Department of Ecology continues to support tug escort requirements in the Rosario Strait along with modeling analysis work.

Coast Guard

Dixon Whitley, USCG, reported that the Mariner Exam process was being updated. He discussed the need for increased cyber security with heightened cyber security requirements for facilities soon to be updated. Whitley reported that NOAA will stop production of paper charts. All charts will now be electronic. He also discussed Coast Pilot 7 splitting. Covid-19 was discussed along with the 14-day travel ban from Chinese Ports. Whitley communicated that the CDC is investigating anyone who shows signs and that all vessels are required to submit an arrival form through their ship agent. He reported that there is a recommendation of ships to stay 25 miles off-shore, but cannot require them to stay more than 12 miles off-shore. The CDC makes the recommendation on quarantine and when/where to board. Testing will take place based on a case-by-case basis. Whitley stated that it is Marine Permit Season and that permits are also required for one-time special events such as fireworks or sport fishing events. The permits are requested 135 days prior to the event date.

Gretchen Bailey, USCG, reported that there are two quarantine areas for vessels who have individuals showing signs. They can be placed under a Captains Port Order but will be allowed to proceed if they (vessels coming from China) do not have sick individuals on board.

Alan Moore, USCG, discussed an Advanced Notice Arrival Screen and that they are asking for communication with ships/vessels to happen frequently.

Corps of Engineers

Elizabeth Chen, Corps of Engineers reported that the Inner Harbor dredging for the Federal Channel was completed. Results of the dredge have not been received yet. The hope is that Terminal 2 and turn basin areas are both cleaned out. Dredging will begin again July 15th when the window for summer dredging begins. The contract for dredging expires on September 30th, so the expectation is that dredging will finish on that date, at the latest. A new contract will be put into place roughly December 1, 2020.

The planning for dredging the Outer Harbor area is beginning and surveys are finished. Results are coming and expected to show which areas need to be dredged. A bulk of the disposal will go to South Beach and then Point Chehalis for the remaining. No material was placed in the South Beach area last year and the intent is to place as much in that location as possible. There is evidence that the area has widened, is holding its profile and not eroding. Material placed there will assist with erosion. The plan is to start with the Equina in April and the ESSAYONS will do the bulk of the dredging in May.

Buoy 2 will be moved out of the channel for dredging and moved back upon completion. There is a possibility of Buoy 21 being moved as well, but it will depend on needs. It could be moved as early as March.

Incidents / Communications Discussion

Larry Thevik, WDCFA, reported two ships with behavior outside of the norm, that resulted in damage to crab pots. No specific date on incident. USCG confirmed there were no medical issues last week or reported abnormal behavior.

Kevin Campbell, Brusco Tug and Barge, reported that a crab boat cut in front of a vessel, resulting in the vessel losing sight of the boat. No injuries reported. Incident reported to Coast Guard.

Presentations

None.

Old Business

Future discussions needed surrounding designated anchorage area and pilot boarding area. Pilot not in attendance. Issue will be discussed when all personnel are in attendance.

Port of Grays Harbor Fire Fighting Plan subcommittee discussed. Aberdeen Fire Department and GH County Emergency are both interested. Aberdeen Fire Department Chief will sit in, Kevin Campbell, PASHA Representative (Brian Fry), and John Doucette volunteered to join the subcommittee.

Discussion surrounding Homeland Security and the lack of knowledge surrounding cargo on arriving vessels. Discussion included the VTRA and recommendation for increased tug escort for tanker traffic if port activity increases.

New Business

None.

Public Comment

None

Next Meeting

April 21, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned: 11:21 AM