

Harbor Safety Committee

MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2021

Harbor Safety Committee Meeting 2020

The Harbor Safety Meeting of February 16, 2021 was called to order by Kevin Campbell at 10:04 AM via Zoom Webinar.

Those in attendance at the meeting were as follows:

Larry Thevik	WDCFA
Chris Hunt	Port of Grays Harbor
Jamie Bever	Washington State Board of Pilotage Commissioners
Brian Kirk	Dept. of Ecology
Kevin Campbell	Brusco Tug and Barge
Brian Shay	City of Hoquiam
Joseph Tabisola	General Steamship Corp.
Penny Eubanks	PASHA
Fred Goheen	Jones Stevedoring
Brian Fry	Pasha Stevedoring & Terminals
Steve Williams	BWC Terminals
Capt. Dixon Whitley	USCG
Elizabeth Chien	US Army Corps of Engineers
Mike Johnson	Port of Grays Harbor
Christina Traxtle	REG Grays Harbor

Introductions:

From the Chairman

Kevin Campbell completed rollcall for all attendees via Zoom Webinar.

Approval of Minutes:

Quorum was met during the February 16, 2021 meeting. Meeting minutes from the December 15, 2020 meeting were approved.

Reports:

Port

Mike Johnson, Port of Grays Harbor, reported that the first round of dredging was completed. HME Construction was awarded a full contract for 2021. HME Construction removed 19,000 cy of sediment from Terminal 2 (T2). Terminal 1 and Terminal 4 did not require dredging during this current round. HME Construction will return after July 16, 2021 to continue working. Terminals 1, 2 and 4 will have work performed during the next round of dredging.

Ecology

Brian Kirk, Dept. of Ecology, reported that the weather has caused an increase in Department of Ecology responders reported to incidents. Dept. of Ecology has responded to boats that have sunk among other situations. The Dept. of Ecology Preparedness Section is addressing non-floating oils in Geographic Response Plans. Brian stated that the Dept. of Ecology Prevention Section continues work to keep our partners, inspectors, interactions and themselves safe. They are looking at Summer/Fall rule making updates. Brian reached out to MFSA asking if they would like to assist in the Fire-Fighting Sub Committee. He is currently waiting on a response.

Coast Guard

Capt. Dixon Whitley, USCG, reported on the dissemination of Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 02-21. The MSIB points out that all individuals on commercial and passenger vessels must wear a mask. This includes all types of commercial vessels. Capt. Dixon Whitley also explained that the Coast Guard is participating in a trial run of plastic buoys. This includes a steel skeleton with a plastic hull. The trial run will occur mostly offshore of the Columbia River in 2022-2023. The Coast Guard has been assisting with changes to Security Plans.

Larry Thevik, WDCFA, asked Capt. Dixon Whitley, USCG if there are any caveats to the ruling. Capt. Dixon Whitley, USCG, responded that there may be situations in which it is unrealistic, but the ruling does not include any caveats.

Corps of Engineers

Elizabeth Chien- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Inner-Harbor: HME Construction completed dredging during this work period and will return home once an open window is provided. HME Construction began work on January 4, 2021 to remove an estimated 375,000 cy. This material went to the Point Chehalis disposal site. The work focused on Channel 4. HME Construction worked their way downstream into Channel side by the Turning Basin and Turning Basin Proper. All areas were cleaned out. The next dredging window begins July 15th, 2021. Outer-Harbor: Both dredges are in dry dock working on maintenance issues. These issues are not expected to impact start dates. The Yaquina is expected to begin in April and the Essayons is expected to begin in May. Notices on exact start dates will be sent out to the public.

Incidents / Communications Discussions:

Larry Thevik, WDCFA, reported that the crab season started late due to elevated levels of toxins in crab. Quinault Fishery was able to start on December 23, 2020 with other Commercial boats starting on February 13, 2021. There are now over 80,000 pots in the water. Harsh weather has caused pots to spill over the vessel over the weekend. A vessel was disabled in Long Beach. Larry also reported the Terry F. was lost over the weekend in Westport. Larry included that he did not have any official reports of lost pot locations, but would report if he hears of any.

Kevin Campbell, Brusco Tug and Barge, mentioned that he did not have any official reports of lost crab pots and will be in that area within the next 24 hours.

Presentations

Penny Eubanks, PASHA, discussed the success of the COVID-19 immunizations. This

success has been a collaboration between different entities leading to about 3,000 inoculations. The inoculations have been by appointment only with traffic flowing to Terminal 1.

Old Business

Committee to continue working on VTRA Fire Plan. A subcommittee is being planned with members:

John Doucette
Brian Kirk
Matt Millen
Tom Hubbard
Rich Malizia
Kevin Campbell
Mike Johnson

Brian Kirk, Dept. of Ecology noted it would be good to get a planning structure in place. He is hoping the MFSA will help with planning process and provides direction on where to start.

Larry Thevik, WDCFA posed the question on where the Committee was with submissions on VTRA by priority list. He also asked about the progress of enforcing vessels off of the shore. Larry requests that this information be verbally communicated via Pilots and/or Vessel Agent.

New Business

None.

Public Comment

None.

Next Meeting

April 20, 2021

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned: 10:48 am.