

SAN DIEGO HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE
Full Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: May 27, 2009
TIME: 10:00 AM- 11:45 AM
PLACE: **Port District of San Diego**
Administration Building
3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101
First Floor Board Room

I. Introductions

Voting Members: *Capt. Debra Marks, Mr. Jim Peugh, Mr. Gary White, Capt. Ken Guyer, Capt. Ed Brooks, Capt. Harvey Vallier, Capt. Mark Taylor, Capt. Lyle Donovan, Ms. Robin Blanchfield, Mr. Sterling Stires, Capt. Rich Goben, Capt. Steve Frailey, Capt. Marc Schourwe*

Non-Voting Liaisons and Visitors: *Ms. Jessica Drownowski, Mr. Paul Patricio, Capt. Josh Gaylord, Mr. Jack Prescott, Mr. Gerry Wheaton, LCDR Michael Leon Guerrero, Richard Fleming, LT Phil Granati, Ms. Monica Dillard, Ms. Taree Hines*

II. Minute Review: March 25, 2009

Mr. Gerry Wheaton attended the last meeting and should be included as a non-voting liaison.

Motion to approve the minutes with the above revision: Sterling Stires.

Second: Capt. Ken Guyer

Yea – 13, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0

Motion Approved.

III. Harbor Safety Plan Discussion and Vote: Ms. Robin Blanchfield

a. Capt. Goben: The Harbor Safety Plan needs to be updated annually. Robin Blanchfield has diligently worked on the plan and sent to the committee.

Motion to approve to 2009 Harbor Safety Plan: Capt. Lyle Donovan.

Second: Capt. Steve Frailey

Yea – 13, Nay – 0.

Motion Approved.

b. Prescott: The regulations call for you to do a review if an update is necessary for the Harbor Safety Plan. Other than statistical numbers in the Plan, you reach a point where you do not have to keep making changes. Last year's scope, all the Harbor Safety Committees were required to add the Best Marine Practices because of the Cosco Busan.

- IV. Unusual/Near Miss Incidents
 - a. Goben: Red Bull took place. Capt. Guyer will be attending a debrief meeting.
 - b. Guyer: There were not any issues and the air races were a great event.
- V. USCG Report, San Diego Sector
 - a. Guerrero: The last meeting, Capt. Farris and LCDR Dolan spoke about the naval protected zones and the incident that took place. The incident is still under ongoing investigation but the Coast Guard has gone out to all of the marinas and provided literature about security and safety zones. The goal is to post hard placards so the general boating public will see the information at the marinas.
 - b. Waterways Analysis Management System (WAMS) - LT Phil Granati
The survey was sent ahead of time to the committee members. WAMS addresses all aspects of our waterways. The budget talks about safety, standardization, efficiency and effectiveness. Based on the criticality of the waterway, there is a matrix that the Coast Guard goes through to make sure the waterway stays at the same criticality level based on navigation, environment and military aspects. The three waterways the Coast Guard is responsible for in San Diego are San Diego Bay Channel, Del Mar Boat Basin, Mission Bay/San Diego Bay. The survey is located on Homeport on the non-user side.
 - c. Marks: Capt. Marks is on the Federal Advisory Council for Navigation and Safety and one of the issues that was brought up to review from Coast Guard Headquarters level was that the maintenance of physical aid and the cost being extremely high. There is a push to eliminate as many physical aids of navigation as possible to save money. It is very important for everyone to fill out the survey if you value the aids of navigation.
 - d. Peugh: What environmental elements the Coast Guard is looking at?
 - e. Granati: For most of San Diego, there are not too many sensitive areas. There is a checklist that is gone through. The Coast Guard is not critical when it comes to environment, they are mostly critical when it comes to military.
- VI. NOAA - Mr. Gerry Wheaton
 - a. Wheaton: The PORTS was under review for federal funding. It is now off the new administrator's radar and will probably not be back on for another two years. Port Hueneme is writing a letter to OSPR stating a strong need for PORTS in their community.
 - b. Blanchfield: Port Hueneme realizes there is not promise in the near term of getting funding but would like to keep the issue alive. They are trying to work on some new partnerships, particularly with the Navy to see if

the Navy can contribute some funding. Ms. Blanchfield will forward the letter to the San Diego committee once it is complete.

VII. OSPR Update - Mr. Jack Prescott

- a. The Port has decided to assume the secretary contract starting July 1. Coastkeeper will be stepping down. Ms. Dobbins and Ms. Hines have already had a preliminary meeting.
- b. The Committee itself has several vacancies. Please put the word out to maritime community constituents that may be interested. An application needs to be filled out and sent to Mr. Prescott.

VIII. Sub-Committee Reports –

- A. Education – Capt. Mark Taylor deferred to Justin Conoy from the Marketing department for a presentation on the Mariner’s Guide.
- B. Navigational Safety and Pilotage – Capt. Bill Bartsch was not in attendance.

IX. Mariner’s Guide – Capt. Mark Taylor

- a. Taylor: The guide has been worked on for a couple of years. The document will be something that can be handed at marinas and to professional mariners that come to the Port of San Diego. The guide includes key components from the Harbor Safety Plan.
- b. Conoy: The guide is a hybrid of many of the maritime books and publications that the Port puts out. The guide is about a 60 page booklet and is broken down into either sections. The cover will be printed on waterproof paper. Please forward any comments on the content as soon as possible. It will take a couple of weeks to print the booklet. The projected completion date is by the end of June because of the budget and as far as distribution, the marinas will be targeted.
- c. Stires: Does the Port have anything put together for a person that is buying a new boat?
- d. Taylor: This is a good idea.
- e. Blanchfield: The design is very appealing.
- f. Taylor: 5,000 copies will be printed
- g. Guyer: The July Dockmaster’s meeting would be a great place to present the Mariner’s Guide.
- h. Peugh: The two national wildlife refuges should be mentioned because they have a special protective status.
- i. Taylor: Please email comments to Capt. Taylor to streamline all of the recommendations.

X. South Bay Marine Turtle Ecology and Assessment Program, Buoy Deployment - Tomo Eguchi of the National Marine Fisheries Service

- a. Eguchi: There are 20-80 turtles in San Diego bay annually. One thing that is done is acoustic tags to track the turtles. The effort has been focused in South Bay. Semi-permanent stations have been set up to put hydrophones in. The receivers have to be retrieved for data. The visibility is very low and retrieving the receivers is a bit time consuming. Mr. Eguchi explained that they would like to start putting the receivers in buoys to retrieve data with more time efficiently. All the buoys are located on the outside of the shipping and boating channels and would like to start with semi-permanent meaning anchors at the bottom and buoys at the surface. The turtles breed in Mexico.
 - b. Wheaton: We would need more details but could possible put out a local notice to mariners.
 - c. Blanchfield: This practice may need to be approved by the Coastal Commission.
 - d. Goben: Will the status of the powerplant change the behavior?
 - e. Eguchi: Mr. Eguchi would like to get the buoys in place before the power plant shuts down so they are able to monitor to turtle behavior before and after.
 - f. Marks: Thinking about the vessels in the area, many people use jet skis and it may be a good idea to most signs.
- Peugh: birds will probably want to habg out on them

XI. Public Comment

XII. Staff and Liaison Announcements

- a. Marks: Capt. Marks is chair of the Federal Navigation and Safety Council in Washington D.C. One discussion was about possibly clarifying the BTS Authority. The Coast Guards guidelines for installing offshore renewable energy insulations were also reviewed and how this will effect navigation of ships, search and rescue missions, etc. In regards to the barge lighting issues, there are a lot of issues in inland waters with 200 foot long barges that may be pushed by tugs in the waterways. There is a study going on about putting additional lighting on the sides of barges. The inland rules of the road are being codified and moved over to the CFRs. Once that is done, there will be a notice on proposed rule making. Capt. Marks will bring the changes to the committee.
- b. Goben: Hornblower has a hybrid vessel that was built in San Francisco and goes out to Alcatraz for education and to show that the technology is being developed.
- c. Goben: There is an article in the Fog Horn Magazine. Hornblower is partnering with the Port of San Diego to test bottom paints on a vessel.

A diver is checking the condition of different paint stripes and hopes to come out with some good information.

- d. Guyer: The Regional Water Control Board, by the end of 2010, will be monitoring that all boats have non-copper based bottom paint.

XIII. Next Meeting

Full Committee: July 22, 2009

Blanchfield: In the past, the summer meetings have been canceled at times.

Goben: The meeting will be kept on the schedule for now.

XIV. Adjourn

Motion: Sterling Stires. Second: Mark Schouwe