



LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mandated by
California Oil Spill Prevention and
Response Act of 1990

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FOURTH MEETING OF THE LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE, 2009

The One Hundred and Twenty Fourth Meeting of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee was convened in the main auditorium of the Port of Long Beach. **Chairman Strong** called the Meeting to order at 1004 a.m. The **Executive Secretary** determined that there was a quorum present, as listed below --

FOR THE PORT OF LONG BEACH
Mr. Ed Green

FOR THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES
Capt. Jim Morgan

FOR THE LONG BEACH PILOT
ORGANIZATION
Capt. John Strong (JPS)

FOR THE TANKER OPERATORS
Capt. Norman George
(Crowley)

FOR THE LOS ANGELES PILOT
ORGANIZATION
Capt. Capt. John Betz

FOR THE MOORING MASTERS
Capt. Baz Al Sayed
(Chevron)

FOR TUG & BARGE OPERATORS
Capt. Doug Houghton
(Millennium)

FOR THE DRY CARGO CARRIERS
Capt. Sam Jebaranathan
(APL)

FOR RECREATIONAL BOATERS
Ms. Camille Daniels

FOR ORGANIZED LABOR
Mr. Jeff Turkus
(SIU)

FOR THE CALIF. COASTAL COMM.
Ms. Robin Blanchfield

FOR THE MARINE OIL TERMINALS
Capt. Rob McCaughey
(Tesoro)

FOR THE U.S. COAST GUARD
SECTOR LA/LB
Capt. Paul Wiedenhoeft
(USCG)

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS
(SANTA MONICA BAY)
Mr. Tom Ford

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS
(LA/LB HARBOR REGION)
Mr. Ray Hiemstra

FOR THE CDF&G/OSPR
Mr. Mike Coyne
(OSPR HQ)

FOR PASSENGER FERRY
OPERATORS
(Absent)

FOR THE USACOE
Mr. Jim Fields

FOR THE CALIF.
STATE LANDS COMM.
Mr. Gary Gregory

FOR NOAA/NOS
Mr. Gerry Wheaton

FOR THE U.S. NAVY
Lt. Jim Foster, USN

FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATORS
(Absent)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Capt. Dick McKenna (MX-SOCAL)

ALTERNATES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC,
AND OTHER PARTIES (SEE ATTACHED LIST)

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Chairman Strong opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance, thanking all for their interest and participation in the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee. He expressed the Committee's appreciation and thanks to the Port of Long Beach for making their facilities available for this gathering.

The Chairman then advised the audience that they would be offered the opportunity to speak before this panel, after Item IV under "New Business" was announced. He also encouraged all present to be sure to "sign-up" on the attendance sheet located on the table just outside the meeting room. **The Chairman** explained that certain members of the LA/LB HSC panel were "non-voting" and therefore would not be participating in any "show of hands" vote called to determine a decision on any particular agenda or action item.

He then invited **Mr. Mike Coyne**, OSPR, to swear in a new Committee Member representing the Port of Long Beach, **Mr. Ed Green**. With that, the meeting continued.

ITEM I -- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Strong called for approval of the minutes of the 123rd Meeting. *Ms. Camille Daniels moved, seconded by Mr. Gerry Wheaton, to accept and approve the Minutes of the 123rd Meeting. Motion carried unanimously by a show of hands from voting members present.*

ITEM II -- OLD BUSINESS:

(A) Update on Vessel Traffic Activities:

Chairman Strong called for an update on VTS activities from **Executive Secretary McKenna**. There were five incidents since the last meeting, three of which were propulsion related, one mooring equipment failure and one close quarters incident during which a motor yacht crowded a cruise ship in the precautionary area. The close quarters incident is under review by the USCG.

(B) Update on USCG Sector LA/LB Activities:

Capt. Paul Wiedenhoeft, USCG commented:

- (1) He described a small vessel outreach program in which ten thousand flyers have been printed and largely disseminated, and a navigation notice regarding small vessel safety rules was promulgated. Moreover, Sector and its Auxiliary, LA and LBPD and LA County Sheriffs conducted over 250 boardings during the Memorial Day weekend in support of "Operation Life Saver 09" to get the word out, primarily about Rules 9 and 5.
- (2) Coast Guard headquarters has been conducting a study on fuel switching. The findings were that problems encountered were largely maintenance related.
- (3) On May 18, there was a mid air collision of two small planes five miles south of the Queen's Gate and Angel's Gate entrances. The response effort on the part of many agencies and organizations was impressive and commendable, and helped bring closure to all of those affected by the collision. He expressed his appreciation to all those involved in the effort.
- (4) Fourth of July festivities will soon be here. The Navy League is hosting a Coast Guard Cutter for this event. He urged all to be safe, particularly in the area of the Cabrillo Beach fireworks display.
- (5) The next Area Maritime Security Committee meeting will be August 5, where a key topic will be the Marine Transportation System Recovery Unit, a major factor in restoring port operations after a serious incident.

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(C) Update on OSPR Activities:

Mr. Mike Coyne indicated that there was nothing new to report.

(D) Update on California State Lands Commission Activities:

Mr. Gary Gregory indicated that his follow on meeting was at Berth T121 for a ceremony to inaugurate the world's first cold ironing for tanker capability. This is a significant achievement for BP and the tanker industry:

(1) Ballast water regulatory issues continue; one of note being Senate Bill 248, dealing with reporting rules pertaining to ships with ballast water treatment systems.

(2) The joint tanker inspection program, a cooperative of both LA and LB fire departments, USCG and CSLC, is looking to build a uniform declaration of inspection pertaining to the San Pedro ports, with an eye towards possibly incorporating the declaration Statewide.

(3) State budget cuts are not currently affecting State Lands operations nor are they expected to. The Agency's employees have received a 10% pay cut and may be in line for a further 5% cut.

(E) Update on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Mr. Jim Fields gave an update on forthcoming dredging initiatives:

(1) The next phase of the LA Channel Deepening project will commence in October with the majority of the fill going to an expanded Shallow Water Habitat .

(2) Almost simultaneously, work will begin at POLB to deepen the Back Channel and the turning basin with fill going into Slip G as part of the recently approved Middle Harbor Project. ACOE will provide twenty five percent of the funds. Work on this effort is expected to take from two to two and one half years.

(F) Update on NOAA/NOS:

Cdr. Gerry Wheaton made the report:

(1) There will be no M&N funds for the Physical Ocean Real Time System (PORTS) for the next two years because of funding constraints.

(2) **Chairman Strong** noted that he understood from the National Harbor Safety Committee Conference that NOAA was looking into a restricted visibility sensor. **Cdr. Wheaton** was unaware of this but opined that there is increased interest in such devices because of the Cosco Busan.

(3) Also mentioned was a trial in Tampa to use AIS for the transmittal of PORTS information. **Chairman Strong** asked that LALB be considered for any follow on testing. **Cdr. Wheaton** said he would look into that request.

(G) Update on the Area Maritime Security Committee:

Chairman Strong reiterated that he would be participating in Port Recovery deliberations previously mentioned and that he may be reaching out to the Committee for participation as the situation dictates.

ITEM III – NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Subcommittee Reports:

S/C # 1 (Navigation Safety) – Capt. John Betz: This Sub Committee met twice since the last meeting. The major thrust of those meetings has been the refining of the Inclement Weather Bill, to be voted on today. The Sub Committee does not expect to meet again until October, with the possible exception of underwater divers, which he hopes to settle at the Port level. **Chairman Strong** commended **Captain Betz** and his Sub Committee for his efforts on this and other initiatives addressed through out the season.

S/C # 2 (Planning & Outreach) – Capt. Christiansen, Chair– Nothing to report.

S/C # 3 (Tug Utilization Group; TUG) – Capt. Doug Houghton – The Sub Committee has not met recently. They are in the process of submitting a revised tug matrix for VLCCs. They will also be developing a validation process to ensure that the matrix is realistic and responsive to the situation should any type of propulsion failure occur. The validation process will be reviewed by the Sub Committee before it is submitted to the Administrator. He thanked **Captain Strong, Captain Betz and Captain Schisler** for their efforts in the development process.

S/C # 4 (Recreational Boats & Commercial Fishing Vessels) – Ms. Camille Daniels, Chair – Nothing to report, however with the induction of the new Commercial Fishing Representative this may change.

S/C # 5 (Port & Vessel Security; including LNG Vessels Risk Assessment) – Capt. John Strong, Chair – Nothing to report.

(B) Annual Review of the LA/LB Harbor Safety Plan for 2009:

Capt. Strong asked for a vote on the new Inclement Weather Chapter of the Harbor Safety Plan. **Ms. Robin Blanchfield, moved to accept the Inclement Weather Chapter into the Harbor Safety Plan. Seconded by Captain George and carried unanimously.** **Ms. Blanchfield** stated that this is an impressive new Chapter. She commended the Sub Committee's efforts and felt that it should be considered a model for other HSCs throughout the State and beyond. **Chairman Strong** suggested that this be considered the basis for a possible nomination for the annual Harbor Safety Committee of the Year Award.

With the acceptance of this Chapter, the annual review of the Harbor Safety Plan is complete. Committee Members should expect to provide signatures for the final sign off, and tug companies should be prepared to validate Bollard Pull data for the Plan.

Other New Business:

Chairman Strong then briefly discussed the results of the National Harbor Safety Conference held in Tampa this year. He, **Lcdr. Hennigan** and **Ltjg. Capon** represented the Committee. The Conference was very good with a notable maturing process having occurred over the years, moving from a generally New York/California effort to a truly Nationwide flavor. One of the keynote speakers included Maryland Congressman **Elijah Cummings** who related how much Congress relied on Harbor Safety Committee input for their deliberations. An interesting comment he (Cummings) made is that the planet Mars has better survey data than most of the underwater portions of the United States. **Cdr. Wheaton** was quick to point out that the PORTS of LALB are a notable exception to that statement. Cummings also discussed Cosco Busan, the Deepwater project, and his strong support of the US Coast Guard.

Chairman Strong mentioned former San Diego Captain of the Port and now **RADM Watson**, who discussed the problems with Transportation Worker's Identification Cards (TWIC) and foreign sailors being denied access through terminal facilities. The plan to resolve the situation is legislation to provide free access through the terminals. The effort is to recognize sailors as "Citizens of the High Seas".

Not all Ports were represented by their Harbor Safety Committees. Some were strictly Coast Guard officers. The Conference has evolved into a Harbor Safety Conference from a Harbor Safety Committee Conference.

The Commandant closed out the Conference on a variety of topics, mostly security related, such as cargo security, piracy, armed guards, but most importantly about the National vulnerability to unregulated vessels under 300 gross tons, or the "Cole Killer". He is working on legislation to regulate recreational vessels in commercial harbors, but he has come to "learn" that "driving is a privilege, but that boating is a right".

Next year's meeting is as of yet undetermined, and the possibility exists that the Harbor Safety Conference could be combined with the National Area Maritime Security Conference.

ITEM IV – PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ITEM V – MEETING SCHEDULE:

The next regular meeting for the LA/LB HSC will be held on the seventh of October, 2009, location to be determined, commencement of proceedings at 1000.

ITEM VI -- ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, **Chairman Strong** adjourned the 124th Harbor Safety Committee meeting at 1040 a.m. with a note of appreciation for all of Captain Wiedenhoeff's efforts and support of the Committee and best wishes in his new assignment.

Respectfully submitted,

Capt. R.B McKenna
Executive Secretary,
LA/LB Harbor Safety Committee

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE

A Special Meeting of the LA-LB HSC will be held:
Thursday, August 27th
1:00 PM
Port of Los Angeles
Administration Building
425 So. Palos Verdes Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

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