



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 NINTH MEETING OF THE LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, 7 APRIL, 2010-Rev1

The One Hundred and Twenty Ninth Meeting of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee was convened in the main auditorium of the Port of Long Beach. **Vice Chairman Betz** called the Meeting to order at 10:01 am. 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
(Absent)

FOR THE TANKER OPERATORS
Capt. Laura Kovary
(BP)

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

FOR THE MOORING MASTERS
Captain Baz Al Sayed

FOR TUG & BARGE OPERATORS
(Absent)

FOR THE DRY CARGO CARRIERS
(Absent)

FOR RECREATIONAL BOATERS
Mr. Tom Welch

FOR ORGANIZED LABOR
(Absent)

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. John Caplis
(USCG)

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS
(SANTA MONICA BAY)
(Absent)

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS
(LA/LB HARBOR REGION)
Garry Brown

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

FOR PASSENGER FERRY
OPERATORS
Mr. Ray Lyman

FOR THE USACOE
Mr. Jim Fields

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

FOR NOAA/NOS
Mr. Gerry Wheaton

FOR SHIP'S AGENTS
(Absent)

FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATORS
(Absent)

FOR THE U.S. NAVY
(Absent)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Capt. Dick McKenna (MX-SOCAL)

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

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Vice Chairman Betz 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 Vice 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 Vice 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 began the meeting requesting self introductions from the Committee and their Alternates.

ITEM I -- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice Chairman Betz called for approval of the minutes of the 128th Meeting. *Mr. Ed Green moved, seconded by Capt. Laura Kovary, to accept and approve the Minutes of the 128th Meeting. Motion carried unanimously by a show of hands from voting members present.*

ITEM II -- OLD BUSINESS:

(A) Update on Vessel Traffic Activities:

Vice Chairman Betz called for an update on VTS activities from **Executive Secretary McKenna**. There were six incidents since last meeting, three propulsion/mechanical related, a rules of the road violation, and two close quarters incidents which the Coast Guard is investigating. This brings the total to eight incidents for the year to date. The Coast Guard Port Access Route Study (PARS) for the Santa Barbara Channel and current traffic routes approaching LALB has just been announced. (Federal Register art.17562) Comments are due by June 7. Also, IMO has announced an Ecological Control Area (ECA) requiring the use of low sulfur fuel within 200 miles of the coast of the United States and Canada. This will take effect in August 2011.

McKenna gave a run down on March vessel traffic data in regards to the July implementation of the State's low sulfur fuel rules. Of the 409 arrivals for LALB, 19.5% used the Santa Barbara Channel. Western usage was 37.6%. Ships arriving from the south were 40.8%. There were 401 departures, 9.6% of which went via Santa Barbara Channel, 47.6% to the west and 39.5% to the South. Cooperation with the Navy continues to go well.

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

Capt. John Caplis, USCG commented:

- (1) He encouraged interested parties to the aforementioned PARS to provide their comments by June 7.
- 2) The recent tsunami experience generally came off well. Within the Ports, preventive action was taken in time with little or no damage reported. The most significant issues occurred in the small boat harbors where the venturi effect at entrances generated a current which in some cases disturbed finger piers. Overall, the experience provided a significant learning experience.

(C) Update on OSPR Activities:

Today, OSPR is commencing with a rule making process to discuss bunkering while at anchor. As a first step, best practices will be acknowledged and set aside so as not to be caught up in the process. The next step will be to consider what else can be done to make bunkering at anchor safer, with pre-booming as a primary consideration. This discussion has come about as a result of a bunkering accident in San Francisco Bay in October of 2007.

(D) Update on California State Lands Commission Activities:

Mr. Gary Gregory spoke:

- (1) As a result of the tsunami, State Lands asked oil terminals to study the impact on moorings and terminals in general. From their perspective the terminals all made it through ok.
- (2) The Oil Transfer and Transportation Emission and Risk Reduction Act, (OTERR) which requires reports from activities transferring oil between San Francisco and LALB, has reached its sunset date as of 2010 and is no longer required. State Lands is in the process of submitting its final report. A letter will be forthcoming to remind all of the relaxation of the reporting requirement. Participation by the industry has been excellent and the cooperation, particularly from the tug groups, is appreciated.
- (3) MOTEMS compliance reviews are underway in Southern California, focusing on the moderate risk facilities. There are some severe (seismic) issues in the Port of Los Angeles that are being worked on.
- (4) Prevention First 2010, State Lands' biennial Conference, will be celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, later than normal, October 19-20. Sponsorships and participation are solicited.
- (5) The northern California Field Office will be holding its customer service meeting on Thursday, May 12.

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

- (1) **Mr. David Van Wagner** of Manson Construction gave a brief overview of dredging plans due to commence in the Long Beach main channel and turning basin areas. Daily advisories are planned. The project is scheduled for completion September 2011
- (2) **Mr. Jim Fields** of the US Army Corps of Engineers then briefed on other projects, including the Los Angeles River Estuary, where new funding has been obtained, and is expected to commence the third week in April. The Port of Los Angeles Deepening project will be starting in the June-July time frame, followed by selective berth dredging.

(F) Update on NOAA/NOS:

Cdr. Gerry Wheaton introduced the new Director of Coast Survey, **Captain John Lowell**, who provided high level handouts explaining NOAA's efforts to support the Maritime Community. He enjoined the community to not hesitate whenever there is need for NOAA assistance.

(G) Update on the Area Maritime Security Committee:

Capt. Caplis reported that the FY 2010 Port Security Grant projects have been approved by the Committee. The next Area Maritime Security Committee meeting will be conducted on May 5.

The next "Port Protector" exercise will be conducted May 18-19, followed by a table top Port Recovery exercise May 20.

ITEM III – NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Subcommittee Reports:

S/C # 1 (Navigation Safety) – Capt. John Betz:

The Sub Committee has met twice since the last full Committee meeting. Activity has been relatively light, focused on two pamphlets in production – the Safe Transit brochure (complete and awaiting printing), and a Boating Safety pamphlet under review by **Mr. Tom Welch**. **Cdr. Wheaton** is also in the process of reconciling local NOAA and British Admiralty publications. The Sub-Committee is undertaking a review of the Ports' Underkeel Clearance policy as it presently appears in the Harbor Safety Plan. There will not be earthshaking changes, but they will not be ready for this year's Plan. Next meeting is scheduled for this afternoon at 1330, at the Millennium Maritime offices

S/C # 2 (Planning & Outreach) – Capt. Christiansen, Chair– Has met twice to discuss the Cerritos Channel bridge replacement. A follow on Committee will take place this afternoon after Sub Committee One.

S/C # 3 (Tug Utilization Group; TUG) – Capt. Doug Houghton – No Report.

S/C # 4 (Recreational Boats & Commercial Fishing Vessels) -- Mr. Tom Welch, Alternate – Safe boating Pamphlet has been revised and is ready for printing. However, he has been advised that Sacramento funds will not be available until next year. He solicited the assistance of any entity present to help in any way possible

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

S/C # 6 (Avalon Anchorage Issues) – Mr. Ray Lyman, Chair – Has been looking into anchorage safety issues and the need for pilotage. Thus far, after several searches and discussions with industry representatives, there is no evidence of safety problems that would warrant a pilot requirement. He has prepared a letter to respond to the Administrator. It was pointed out that the Committee should respond to the Administrator via an endorsement to the letter. Further discussion was held in abeyance until after the public comment period to determine if there were any issues.

Tsunami Discussion: Captain Kovary Expressed some concern as to the timeliness of notification during the recent event, and felt that there needed to be a discussion of Port procedures/plans on the topic. **Vice Chair Betz** indicated that this would be a topic of discussion at this afternoon's Sub-Committee#1 meeting. **Cdr Wheaton** indicated that, while off shore modeling and predictions of tsunamis are fairly accurate, the modeling inside harbors presents a higher degree of difficulty. **Secretary McKenna** pointed out that a tsunami falls into the category of a scenario, but there are scenarios within that category depending on amount of time available and threat direction. **Mr. Gregory** reminded that oil terminals are required to have a tsunami plan developed in conjunction with local Coast Guard plans so this is a good issue to get sorted out. **Capt. Caplis** noted that this is the reason for Harbor Safety Committees. He also suggested that at some level there be participation on any NOAA conference calls that may take place as a result of an event. Further, that a conference call be set up with key port operators through the Area Maritime Security Committee. More discussion is envisioned for the afternoon.

Presentation By Pacific Harbor Line: Originally scheduled as an agenda item, this presentation will take place at the Sub-Committee#2 meeting this afternoon

(B) Annual Review of the LA/LB Harbor Safety Plan for 2010:

Harbor Safety Plan: **Vice Chairman Betz** indicated that the plan requires no substantive changes other than the Underkeel Clearance Chapter. He called attention to two chapters, Accident History and Contingency Routing, that reflect basic house keeping changes, which complete the Plan for the year. **Ms. Robin Blanchfield** moved to accept the chapters *History of Accidents and Contingency Routing into the 2010 Harbor Safety Plan*. *Seconded by Mr. Ray Lyman and carried unanimously.*

ITEM IV – PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Note: Pursuant to a possible vote on the Pilotage for Avalon letter to the Administrator, **Mr. Mike Coyne** ruled that such a vote would violate the tenets of the Brown act. The vote was therefore carried forward until the next meeting so that it could be properly addressed as an agenda item.

ITEM V – MEETING SCHEDULE:

The next regular meeting for the LA/LB HSC will be held on the second of June, 2010, at the Port of Los Angeles, commencement of proceedings at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM VI -- ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, **Vice Chairman Betz** adjourned the 129th Harbor Safety Committee meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

April 7, 2010

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April 7, 2010

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