



LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mandated by
California Oil Spill Prevention and
Response Act of 1990

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY EIGHTH MEETING OF THE LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY, 2012

The One Hundred and Thirty Eighth Meeting of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee was convened in the main auditorium of the Port of Los Angeles. **Chairman Strong** called the Meeting to order at 1:33 p.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. John Holmes

FOR THE LONG BEACH PILOT
ORGANIZATION

Captain John Strong

FOR THE TANKER OPERATORS

Capt. Laura Kovary

FOR THE LOS ANGELES PILOT
ORGANIZATION

Capt. Craig Flinn

FOR THE MOORING MASTERS

Capt. Ken Graham
(Chevron)

FOR TUG & BARGE OPERATORS

Capt. Doug Houghton
(Millennium)

FOR THE DRY CARGO CARRIERS

Capt. Sam Jebanathan
(APL)

FOR RECREATIONAL BOATERS

Mr. Tom Welch

FOR ORGANIZED LABOR

(Absent)

FOR THE CALIF. COASTAL COMM.

Ms. Robin Blanchfield

FOR THE MARINE OIL TERMINALS

Mr. Mark Nielsen

FOR THE U.S. COAST GUARD
SECTOR LA/LB

Captain Roger LaFerriere
(USCG)

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
(SANTA MONICA BAY)

Mr. Brian Meux
(Santa Monica Bay Keeper)

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS
(LA/LB HARBOR REGION)

(Absent)

FOR THE CDF&G/OSPR

Mr. Mike Coyne
(OSPR HQ)

FOR PASSENGER FERRY OPERATORS

Mr. Ray Lyman

FOR THE USACOE

(Absent)

FOR THE CALIF. STATE LANDS
COMM.

Mr. Kevin Mercier

FOR NOAA/NOS

Mr. Gerry Wheaton

FOR SHIP'S AGENTS

(Absent)

FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING

FOR U.S. NAVY

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(Absent)

Mr. Albert Rosales

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Capt. Dick McKenna
(MX-SOCAL)

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

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 Los Angeles for making their facilities available for this gathering.

Mr. Mike Coyne, OSPR, then proceeded to swear in new and returning member of the Committee. Representing **Marine Oil Terminals** were **Capt. Mark Nielsen** and alternates **Capt. Jimmy Edulgee** and **Capt. Sean Marchant**. Representing **Long Beach Pilots**, alternate **Capt. Mark Coyne**s. Representing **Los Angeles Pilots** were **Capt. Craig Flinn** and alternate **Capt. John Betz**. He then announced that **Capt. Doug Houghton** has been appointed as the Committee's new Vice Chair.

ITEM I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Strong called for approval of the minutes of the 137th Meeting. *Mr. Kevin Mercier moved, seconded by Mr. Ed Green, to accept and approve the Minutes of the 137th 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 three incidents thus far in 2012, two propulsion related, and one characterized as a "near close call" in that the ships never violated the Precautionary Area quarter mile separation rule. There were thirty incidents in CY 2011; notably 19 were propulsion related. This does NOT necessarily relate to low sulfur fuel usage, a determination made after investigation.

He mentioned that the new California Air Resources Board rule had taken effect 1 December. It now includes new territorial limits on the use of bunker fuel. Traffic percentages as of January 31:

Arrivals – Santa Barbara Channel 25.7, from West 31.8, Southern Lanes 40.2, El Segundo 1.9.

Departures – Santa Barbara Channel 19.1, to West 41.1, Southern Lanes 38.8, El Segundo 1.1.

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

Capt. Roger LaFerriere, USCG commented:

(1) The refurbishment of Los Angeles Light has been delayed somewhat due to the discovery of heavy corrosion at the base plate. Completion is now anticipated by the first week in March.. The light and the sound signal continue to remain unaffected.

(2) The Captain announced his retirement this summer. He will be relieved by his Deputy, **Captain Jim Jenkins**. Also, **Ensign Matt Sanders** is leaving for flight School and will be replaced by **Ensign Brett Dimano**.

(3) Over the Holiday Season, there were thirteen boat parades with over eight hundred fifty participants, an increase in participation of over fifteen percent. Spectators were estimated at over 100,000. Of note was a significant participation of stand up paddle boarders, a new element to the festivities

(4) Construction has commenced on the Commodore Heim Bridge with an estimated completion date of November 2015. Sector will be working very closely with the project during this period of construction to ensure safety and proper traffic management.

(C) Update on OSPR Activities:

Mr. Mike Coyne commented:

(1) As a result of ninety three Loss of Propulsion (LOP) incidents in the State of California in 2011, a meeting was held in Sacramento with Mann B&W, a predominant supplier of marine engineering plants. Significantly, they were able to determine that in at least thirty cases involving their plants, a contributing factor to the LOP was a worn fuel pump. While workable with bunker fuel, these pumps were highly susceptible to failure when used with low sulfur fuel. This suggests that increased fuel pump maintenance is in order.

(2) The state has recently passed AB1112, which requires increased monitoring and assessment of bunkering operations. A formula will be used to assess those vessels of most interest- the number of detentions divided by the number of Port State visits. Those vessels two percent above the average will be considered low performing vessels and will be of the highest interest.

(D) Update on California State Lands Commission Activities:

Mr. Kevin Mercier commented:

(1). The State Lands second edition of its bio-fouling regulation comment period closed on Monday. State Lands is processing the various comments before a determination is made as to the final content of the updated regulation. The original regulation remains in effect and is available on the State Lands website, www.slc.ca.gov.

(2) Ex-USS Iowa is likely to have some hull cleaning done at SF-3 Anchorage prior to its final arrival in Los Angeles. Special attention will be devoted to niche areas such as rudder posts and intakes.

(3) This issuance of AB1112, because of an increase of fees, has also triggered an audit of both OSPR and State Lands. The audit is expected take around 5-6 months.

(4) Passed for general interest, he related an incident that occurred up in Martinez, whereby a tank ship was pulled off its moorings five feet by a passing vessel which apparently got too close during low visibility. Several lines were parted although the ship did not come completely free. This type of incident is one of the reasons for the MOTEMS program.

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

No Comments.

(F) Update on NOAA/NOS:

Cdr. Gerry Wheaton introduced **LCDR Stephanie Koes** of the National Marine Fisheries who is replacing **LCDR Peter Fischel**, recently assigned to a sea command in the Gulf of Mexico. He also mentioned that coast Pilot 7, 44th edition is now available on the NOAA website.

(G) Update on the Area Maritime Security Committee:

Capt. La Ferriere discussed the December 12 “Occupy Long Beach” incident. He was pleased to report that the protesters were allowed to express their First Amendment rights in an orderly environment with minimal disruption to Port commerce. He was most gratified with the level of cooperation of all agencies involved. This was the first unified action plan in the region. Kudos to all participants. He expects a similar action on May Day.

He then discussed Project CREATE, an award winning, USC sponsored, system of random patrolling. Testing of the second phase which will include Port stakeholders will begin in LALB in March with a plan to expand the system to other ports throughout the Country.

The Marine Transportation System Recovery Unit (MTSRU) Sub Committee has recently completed its draft Recovery Plan. Once approved, USCG will ensure everyone will receive a copy.

The MTSRU Sub Committee is assisting the State of California Emergency Management Agency (CAL EMA) in a Great Shakeout Exercise to be held at the Ontario Convention Center on February 22. The purpose will be to address the States infrastructure challenges, including the Ports, in the event of an earthquake.

The next Area Maritime Security Committee will meet here at the Port of Los Angeles on 2 May at 0930. The Public is invited to attend.

(H) Membership :

Ms. Robin Blanchfield announced her departure from the committee and the **California Coastal Commission**. She introduced the Commission’s new representative, **Mr. Jonathan Bishop**. Ms Blanchfield expressed her pleasure with serving on the Committee and gave her best wishes for future success. **Chairman Strong** expressed the Committee’s appreciation for her long and tireless service, noting her contributions to rules and protocol and, most notably, her significant contributions in bringing about the Committee’s National Harbor Safety Committee of the Year Award in 2009.

ITEM III - New Business:

(A) Sub Committee Reports:

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

The Sub Committee met three times since the last full committee meeting. Recent topics include the posting of speed limits beyond Reservation Point in the Port of Los Angeles and an aquaculture presentation to the Sub Committee. A general review of the Harbor Safety Plan is also underway. The next meeting will be Wednesday, 7 March, at the Marine Exchange.

S/C # 2 (Planning & Outreach) – Capt Christiansen

The Sub Committee has completed its work on the back channel bridge issue.. No meeting has been held recently.

S/C # 3 (Tug Utilization Group; TUG) – Captain Doug Houghton The last meeting was January 11. The Sub Committee has been working on two specific issues, bunkering best maritime practices and the tug escort matrix, the wording of which was finalized at the last meeting. The Sub Committee has voted unanimously to bring both the bunkering best maritime practices initiative and the tug escort matrix forward for a full Committee vote. At this moment **Chairman Strong** called for a vote. Before the vote, **Captain Betz** made several editorial corrections. **Ms. Robin Blanchfield made the motion to accept both the tug escort matrix and the bunkering best maritime practices proposals. Seconded by Captain Laura Kovary. By separate votes, both measures were carried unanimously.**

S/C # 4 (Recreational Boats & Commercial Fishing Vessels) – Mr. Tom Welch – Nothing to report.

ITEM IV – NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Strong called on **Mr. Chris Hogan, USCG** to introduce **Mr. Mark Gerner** of Booz-Allen Hamilton, to give a presentation on the Economic Impacts of a Port Closure. LA-Long Beach is one of ten ports studied. The highly detailed study looked at the impacts of thirty day and sixty day closures. Notably, a thirty day closure would impact the State to the tune \$7b and 70K jobs. A sixty day closure would cost \$16B and 160K jobs. Manufacturing would be most impacted financially, followed by the retail and financial sectors. In terms of employment, the retail sector would feel the most strain. The complete presentation is attached.

ITEM V – MEETING SCHEDULE:

The next regular meeting for the LA/LB HSC will be held on Wednesday, the fourth of April 2012, at the Port of Long Beach at 0930.

ITEM VI – ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, **Chairman Strong** adjourned the 138th Harbor Safety Committee meeting at 2:37 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Capt. R.B McKenna
Executive Secretary

LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 1, 2012

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February 1, 2012

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February 1, 2012

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