

Alaska Clean Harbors Advisory Committee Meeting  
January 25, 2012 via teleconference \* Meeting Minutes DRAFT

**Present:**

Rachel Lord, Cook Inletkeeper; Erika Amman, NOAA Restoration Center; Brett Farrell, Marine Exchange of Alaska; Bryan Hawkins, AAHPA/Port of Homer; Joe McCullough, Alaska DNR Office of Boating Safety; Shane Serrano, Alaska DEC Division of Water; Terry Johnson, Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program

**Not in attendance:** *Kim Kovol, Green Star; Alan Sorum, member-at-large*

**Task Summary:**

EVERYONE –

- **ASAP** - Send Rachel your biography & a picture if you haven't done so already
- **January 30:** Review the Seward Harbor supporting documents via Dropbox and get comments to Rachel
- **Feb. 1-3:** Vote on Seward Harbor application via Survey Monkey (link to come)
- **Feb. 6:** ACH Newsletter ideas to Rachel
- **Feb. 8-12:** If you have materials you want at the Anchors Aweigh Boat Show, let Rachel know & she can include them at the ACH/Clean Boating table.
- **Ongoing** - Send Rachel any clean boating materials you know of to include in a list of all relevant materials to not duplicate, and any relevant funding opportunities.

RACHEL

- Send Erika MOU addendum for signature, then send copy of the addendum to AC.
- Send Advisory Committee copy of the current MOU.
- Rachel will work on developing surveys for harbor staff, boaters, and evaluations for participating harbors to better gauge program success. Also work on updating the website with information from AMSS, etc.
- Will re-send Dropbox information and work with committee to ensure smooth receipt of all application materials in the future.

TERRY

- Will get Rachel relevant publications for distribution at the boat show
- AND BRYAN - Will help to think on evaluative metrics that could be put in place to gauge the effectiveness of Alaska Clean Harbors participation as we move forward.

SHANE

- Work on media outreach about ACH and Homer Harbor's certification in conjunction with AFE

ERIKA

- Will sign and return MOU addendum to Rachel
- Will send around the EVOS funding one-pager to the committee

Meeting began at 11:05 am

**Please send Rachel your biographies ASAP!** I would like to post a small blurb about each committee member on the website. Please include a picture as well!

The committee raised no objections to addition Erika Amman, NOAA, to the ACH Advisory Committee. Erika will be added via an addendum to the MOU (see notes below).

### **MOU Update**

Everyone has signed and Rachel will send around an email copy. Rachel asked how to deal with adding a new member to the Committee. Brett noted that our minutes will reflect that the Committee members agreed to the addition, and should be done through an addendum. Shane agreed that an addendum would work. **Rachel will send Erika an addendum to the MOU and will email a copy to the Committee when it is signed.**

### **Anchors Aweigh Boat Show**

Rachel will have a clean boating/clean harbors exhibitor table at the recreational boat show in Anchorage from Feb 8-12. If anyone has any materials they'd like to have out that are related to clean boating/clean harbors, let Rachel know. **Terry will get Rachel some relevant publications.** Joe will be present at the boat show and giving presentations on the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Erika will be upstairs at AFE and may be able to help out at the both – she and Rachel will touch base on timing. Bryan said the Homer Harbor will be represented, sharing a booth with the Chamber. Rachel suggested he bring the Alaska Clean Harbors flag to show off!

### **ACH Newsletter**

**If anyone has any newsletter article ideas, please email them to Rachel by February 6!** Rachel may contact committee members for short contributions regardless. The newsletters will be bi-annual, aimed primarily at harbor staff/municipalities, but also interested organizations and the boating community. Should help to increase awareness of the program around the state.

### **Clean Boating Materials**

**If you have, or know of, clean boating materials from Alaska or outside – please send them to Rachel.** She will be attempting to catalog the currently available resources in an effort to not duplicate efforts. This is an ongoing effort – please expect reminders!

### **Outreach/Harbor officer involvement in a certified Clean Harbor**

Rachel asked the committee for feedback on better involving harbor staff (beyond the harbormaster and deputy or maintenance supervisor) in implementing clean harbors practices. There should be some more effort placed to ensure that customers are outreached to and made aware of the efforts at the upper level of harbor management. Bryan noted that the deputy harbormaster is a great person to have learned all of the ins and outs through certification, as this person generally disseminates knowledge through daily briefings, incident reports/debriefs, and operating policies. An online questionnaire may be helpful/good to help engage harbor staff, and it's something they could easily do. **Rachel will work on developing this**

tool to help engage staff. Rachel will also work on getting embroidered hats for participating harbor staff.

### **Program Evaluation Efforts?**

Terry asked if there are efforts underway to assess the effectiveness/utility of participating in ACH certification. Is there any real knowledge of increased marketing value, or decreased costs (insurance, etc)? Currently Rachel said no – although it would be great to develop some metrics through which we could better evaluate the program as it matures. It would be great for Terry and Bryan to think on what might be effective metrics to start implementing and what tools we might need. Bryan hadn't noticed any changes in the customer group, but the City Council and the Port & Harbor Commission definitely were proud of the effort. It would be good to have better statewide media coverage. Rachel said she would be more aggressive with media coverage in the future. The PR went out statewide but wasn't picked up as expected. Shane suggested that with the upcoming Alaska Forum on the Environment, it may be a good time to plug recent environmental efforts. **Shane will look into what he may be able to push in the media for ACH/Homer Harbor recognition coming up in February.**

**Rachel will develop an evaluation for the lead staff in harbor applications.** Good to get their feedback on the process, and positive words can help sell to others. Currently, help with getting out in front of the compliance curve is a big carrot for facilities. Bryan agreed that it's a great opportunity to work with ACH to implement BMPs versus doing it through a compliance order and time-lined to do list.

### **AMSS and other upcoming events**

**Rachel attended the Alaska Marine Science Symposium with an ACH poster and will post a copy of the poster on the website.** The goal was to begin connecting with relevant research and letting the scientific community know about the program. Some good connections were made. Erika mentioned the study done on creosote pilings and the effects on herring embryo. We will continue to compile relevant research and post on the ACH website to back up pollution prevention/reduction efforts whenever possible.

### **EVOS and other funding updates**

Erika is working (with help from Rachel and ACH) with communities in the Exxon spill-affected area on generating project ideas for the development of an RFP for funding water quality/habitat improvement projects in harbors for 2013-2015. Currently there are trips scheduled for Kodiak, Port Lyons, and Cordova. **Erika will send the one-pager out to the Committee.** Rachel mentioned the Alaska Clean Water Action grants available from ADEC for small clean harbor projects (\$5,000 each). Shane mentioned this funding source was not yet confirmed – Brock Tabor in Juneau is the contact and can update on this. **If anyone has funding opportunities they know of that are relevant to clean harbors/clean boating activities, let Rachel know to put on the website.**

### **Multi-basin certification question**

Rachel asked the Committee for feedback on certification for multi-basin vs. single-basin facilities (e.g. Seward, single-basin vs. Sitka, multi-basin). Bryan asked what the goal was – what would we be looking to achieve with separate certifications? If two basins share an oil recycling satellite that should be good – making each basin have separate satellites would be not reasonable. Shane agreed, and Brett mentioned that works for him in Juneau with the downtown harbor basins. Bryan suggested that facilities be treated as one, regardless of the number of basins, and that their application address how they work with their services and customers to ensure good coverage across all basins. Shane noted that the MSGP is similar in that it allows for multiple basins to be covered by shared services, but they provide maps and descriptions of how it works. Brett thought that most folks would want to certify an entire facility, and not piece-meal the process going basin-by-basin. The onus is on us as certifying body to ensure that we feel they are adequately serving all basins. If a facility comes to us, they likely won't be discouraged by looking at their entire facility as a whole, which is probably what they do already. The Committee agreed to treat all facilities as a whole entity, and to not pursue partial certifications for any facility. Rachel thanked the Committee for their thoughtful feedback on this issue.

### **Harbor Updates**

Rachel gave updates on Valdez Harbor (the city has signed a pledge, but she hasn't talked yet with Steve or others at the Port & Harbor), Burkesboro Marina (Rachel is continuing to work with this private marina on Big Lake; they have a lot of work ahead of them but are a good group to work with and are on a state-listed polluted waterbody), and Sitka Harbor (they have filled out a BMP Checklist and are working on taking the idea to the city for approval to work towards certification; Sitka is hosting the AAHPA conference in October and would be good for Rachel to check in with them on their goals for a certification timeline).

### **Seward Harbor Application Review**

The Committee was generally impressed with the clarity of their application. There was some confusion regarding accessing the supporting documents online via Dropbox, and following this meeting the Committee members will have another 5 days to review and provide comments, questions, and feedback.

Brett felt the application was straightforward and Matt did a good job clarifying most things. He asked if the Seward Harbor allows live-aboards – this is a big issue in Southeast, especially for sewage/graywater management. Rachel found the Seward City Code to state:

[7.10.541 - Residential use.](#) No vessel within the harbor may be used for permanent living quarters while moored unless a permit is first obtained from the Harbormaster.

Rachel will follow-up with Matt for more information on how they deal with sewage issues and communications with live-aboards, as they may exist in the harbor. They may only allow short-term living such as in Homer. They do have year-round onshore restroom and shower facilities available. Shutting down pumpouts in Alaskan harbors is problematic, since it leaves people with fewer options. Shane offered that many people also winterize their vessel heads, so hopefully this helps decrease illegal pumping out into the harbor basins. Brett asked if anyone knew of studies

or anything showing if this was a problem or not. Shane said DEC has not done sampling, but it doesn't take much to create an increase in bacteria that exceeds water quality standards. ACH will have to look at this issue more closely with harbors that have more live-aboards.

Brett keys in on two things on these applications – sewage and bilges. He thought the Seward answers on bilge & petroleum products management were great, and he commended them for acknowledging and dealing with the oily bilge water that ends up in their collection receptacles. He suggested they consider a bilge education campaign to emphasize never using soaps in bilges, as they can really screw up oil water separation systems and lead to creation of sludges that are hard to deal with.

Shane asked about the APDES permit question, and Rachel reported that Matt clarified that yes-both the SMIC (not included in the certification) and the small boat harbor have an APDES MSGP. Terry pointed out that Rachel had misplaced the total scores on the final page of the Checklist. They were corrected on the original copy.

Overall the Committee was impressed with this application, and an online vote will take place next week, following a brief continued review of materials on Dropbox by everyone.

### **Final Comments**

Rachel reminded everyone to mark their calendars for the annual in-person meeting, to be held in conjunction with the Alaska Assoc. of Harbormasters and Port Administrators annual meeting. This year it will be in Sitka from Oct. 22-26. Their website is updated with information: [www.alaskaharbors.org](http://www.alaskaharbors.org). Rachel will talk with the Sitka Harbor to arrange for awards of the previous year's certified harbors during the conference. Shane suggested in future years contacting the hosting harbor to solicit their involvement in ACH if they aren't already engaged.

Meeting concluded at 12:40 pm.