

Alaska Clean Harbors Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

February 19, 2014

10:000 – 11:30AM

Participants: Shane Serrano (ADEC), Bryan Hawkins (Port of Homer/AAHPA), Terry Johnson (AK Sea Grant/MAP), Alan Sorum (at-large), Erika Amman (NOAA), Steve Russell (ADEC)

Not Present: Kim Kovol (Green Star), Brett Farrell (Marine Exchange)

Meeting Began @ 10:05AM

Text in RED indicates an action item.

1. Harbor participation. Rachel discussed the challenges associated with moving along harbor participation and progress towards ACH Certification. The agenda included a list of facilities we are working with to some degree or another, but progress seems to have stalled out a bit. Requesting some feedback/assistance from the Committee on encouraging progress.

Terry asked about how we deal with such different facilities (i.e. those with large, year-round fleets vs. seasonal smaller facilities). Is it possible that the process isn't relevant to either and folks are just too busy? Erika seconded that the harbormasters are often very busy and not enough time to move forward additional projects. We might need to do more of the up-front work. Also it could be very useful to reach out to community/tribal organizations in these communities for assistance. Rachel noted that right now she is trying to help put a lot of the pieces together for the harbors to do as much work for them as possible. Not always known who the community/tribal groups would be to help out, but it's a great idea. **Erika will help fill in those gaps. If anyone else knows of other potential partners, let Rachel know.** Bryan noted that getting the support of the community is critical, as ACH is really a community project. Reaching out further than the harbormasters is key. Going back to Terry's original point, Alan noted that Terry brought up this concern early on and the program was designed with a lot of flexibility for just that reason. Terry suggested bringing together the harbormasters from the seasonal western facilities (Dillingham, Nome & Bethel) to discuss challenges and opportunities for working with ACH. **Rachel will move forward on that idea and hope to get some more buy-in!** Rachel also noted that URS, a consulting firm that works with harbor facilities around the state, expressed interest in engaging their clients in ACH when designing new or upgraded facilities. Rachel created a short video that provides a program overview and is on the home page of the ACH website, www.alaskacleanharbors.org.

Facilities listed include: Sitka, Bethel, Nome, Dillingham, Cordova, Kodiak, Valdez

2. Homer Recertification. ACH requires a recertification every three years after initial certification. The Homer Harbor will be the first facility undergoing a recert, as it will be 3 years this October since they were first certified. **Rachel will develop a draft framework for this process for the Committee review at the June meeting.**
3. Haines presentation update. Rachel let everyone know that Brett was still working on getting to the Haines Borough Assembly to present them with their ACH award. Three separate attempts have been thwarted by bad weather between Haines & Juneau. ACH does currently have travel funding available for Committee members to conduct site visits and present awards to certified facilities.
4. Harbor map update. Seward and Haines Harbor maps are underway, and should be completed in the next two months. Rachel continues to be excited about these products, and looks forward to them being “carrots” to encouraging participation, especially among the larger facilities.
5. ADV Task Force Update. Rachel gave the Committee an update on this Task Force, which met for the first time on Feb. 6 in Anchorage. ACH/Cook Inletkeeper (i.e. Rachel) is facilitating this process, and thankful for Bryan’s participation at the table to make sure harbors are well represented in conversations. Steve & Erika are also Task Force members. Steve said it was a good meeting and a good start to get people on the same page. Some issues with authority and political willingness to move forward, but hopeful that this process will help with some movement.
6. CVA Funds. Last week Rachel submitted a grant proposal to ADEC for Clean Vessel Act funds that would get a new sewage pump-out for the Homer Harbor, and develop statewide educational outreach materials for sewage management aimed at recreational boaters. Bryan said the Homer Harbor is appreciative of the opportunity to improve their current system which doesn’t really work well for boaters. Shane couldn’t comment because of his involvement in the grant program, but he did encourage folks to be engaged in this funding opportunity.
7. 2014 Boater Outreach
 - a. Great Alaska Sportsman Show. ACH will have a booth at the show from March 27-30. Rachel and Will from Inletkeeper will be there, and could use some help staffing the table. Two-hour slots to sign up for, during which you would be at the table talking with folks about clean boating, giving out clean boating kits and asking boaters to fill out a survey. **Please get back to Rachel with times you might be able to help.** We are going to try doing surveys on iPad tablets this year instead of paper, in an effort to reduce the time put in processing hundreds of written surveys back at the office. **Rachel will distribute a draft survey to the Committee for feedback on questions. Please get comments back to her by**

March 17. She will also endeavor to do a better job distributing survey results in 2014! If anyone has materials they would like distributed at our table, get them to Rachel either before or at the show.

- b. Summer Dockwalkers in Homer/Kenai. Rachel will be developing this volunteer program in Homer and possibly Kenai during the personal use fishery to do similar outreach as at the boat shows. Terry mentioned he is working with the Alaska Marine Conservation Council (AMCC) on recreational boater outreach concerning halibut by-catch in the sport fishery, and there may be opportunity for partnership on hiring summer folks to walk the docks talking about clean boating as well. He will bring this up with AMCC and get back to Rachel for further conversations.
 - c. November Pacific Marine Expo. ACH is splitting a booth with Puget Soundkeeper Alliance/Clean Marina Washington for Fish Expo in Seattle in November. Similar to Great AK Sportsman Show, if anyone is available to help out or wants to distribute information let Rachel know. Terry will be down there and could possibly help. Bryan is there with the Homer Marine Trades Assoc., but is pretty busy with their booth.
8. Newsletter Articles. The newsletter has received positive feedback. It is distributed to the AAHPA listserv electronically, and 43 hardcopies are sent out to harbormasters/communities directly. It's great to get Committee members to write articles. They can be flexible in length and subject matter. For the spring edition, Bryan will write an article on the positive aspects of ACH Certification, Alan will write about the UAS Marina Training Program and his Hazardous Materials course, and Erika will think of something interesting that she's currently working on. Please get articles to Rachel by March 30. Rachel reminded everyone that there are past editions of the newsletter, as well as all previous Committee meeting minutes, on the ACH website: www.alaskacleanharbors.org.
9. Meeting Schedule
- a. June – check-in teleconference.
 - b. Ketchikan AAHPA meeting October 13-17. Rachel asked the Committee to brainstorm ways to make this a better use of everyone's time. There are many Committee members who attend the AAHPA meeting anyway, and collectively the Committee is a great group of people to have in one place. We could also pull in other folks if there is interest. Ultimately we would like to have this be a really productive time for everyone, and Rachel needs feedback on this. Travel funding is available for Committee members to attend. Terry suggested outreaching to SE communities/harbors to gauge their interest and possibly engage them in the program as it will be a good opportunity while we're down there to visit and connect. Bryan asked about Ketchikan's involvement. Rachel believes that Les' position (Sr. Assistant Harbormaster under Steve) would probably be the one to spearhead this effort and Les is likely retiring this year. Bryan will reach out to Steve and see if there's interest given that they are hosting the conference this year. Rachel will reach out to Wrangell, Petersburg

and other SE harbors as well. Terry suggested a group meeting/teleconference to get them all talking. Rachel will suggest this and try to move it forward. Steve encouraged engaging more city administration to help push forward program participation where possible.

We'll discuss ideas for the October meeting during the June teleconference. Please send Rachel any ideas you might have between now and then.

10. Final Comments. Bryan noted that the ADV Task Force meeting was very productive, and that this effort may be the most important thing we do as far as long-term positive impacts. Creating a database is one of the action items. He was very pleased with a very positive meeting to start things off. Steve said he will talk with Jade (ADEC) to get an update on the database progress. Shane noted he was looking forward to helping with boater outreach at the upcoming Sportsman Show.

Ended at 11:15AM.

Great Alaska Sportsman Show

Please let me know which 2-hour block you could help out!

Thursday, March 27th (4PM – 9PM)

7-9PM _____

Friday, March 28th (Noon – 8PM)

3-5PM _____

5-7PM _____

Saturday, March 29th (10AM – 8PM)

11AM – 1PM _____

1PM – 3PM _____

3PM – 5PM _____

5PM – 7PM _____

Sunday, March 30th (10AM – 5PM)

11AM – 1PM _____

1PM – 3PM _____