

Alaska Clean Harbors Advisory Council meeting (via teleconference)
Wednesday, April 22nd from 1-3.

FINAL Meeting Summary

Participants: Brett Farrell (Marine Exchange), Meg Kohler (ADEC – Spill Response), Terry Johnson (Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program), Heather Leba (Cook Inletkeeper), Chandra McGee (ADEC – Div of Water), Erika Amman (NOAA Restoration), Joe McCullough (ADNR Div of Boating Safety), Alan Sorum (member-at-large). Bryan Hawkins (AAHPA/Homer Harbor) joined at the very end.

Missing: Steve Russell (ADEC Spill Response)

Meeting started at 1:05PM

Homer Harbor Recertification (Seward on-deck)

- See attached recertification packet for Homer

Rachel gave an overview of the recertification process and the materials submitted by the Homer Harbor. This process is about 6 months late (they were certified in November 2011), however there was some hold up in waiting for stormwater permitting to be in place for the new large vessel haul-out facility. They have submitted their SWPPP and NOI to ADEC for a Multi-sector General Permit, and Rachel recommends they are recertified.

Brett: Scrap/recycle pad question. Leasee/Port activities vs. harbor. Who would get the ticket? If it's the guy with the lease, not our problem. If it's the City, and there are polluting activities going on, it may be more of an issue for ACH.

Terry: What happened to the 15 vessels that were disposed of (referenced in the recertification documents)? Rachel answered with the few she knew of, that they were dismantled and disposed of. There was shipbreaking done up on the beach by the Pier One lot.

Meg: Alaska Scrap & Recycling. Noted that she believes the ultimate responsibility for cleanup falls to the owner of the property, not necessarily the leasee. She'll check with regulation, but think that's true.

Brett: Down the line should make a decision on the chip pad and depending on its future use, ACH may want to be more engaged in making sure the runoff is dealt with responsibly.

Vote on Recertification: Unanimously approved.

Sitka Harbor and other facilities – certification

Rachel provided an update on Sitka – she hopes to have application materials to the Advisory Committee by May, with a special meeting sometime in early-June (hopefully!) to review and vote on their clean harbors certification.

Erika – Valdez, tx for ballast water? Erika can follow up with Alan. There are quite a few regs/treatments for invasives in ballast water. New IMO regulations. Tankers have to do exchanges, and have a ballast water tx plant at the terminal. USCG and EPA oversight.

Whittier has a new harbormaster who seems to be very enthusiastic. Rachel and Heather are meeting with him and presenting on ACH to the Port & Harbor Commission in Whittier on May 7th.

Spill Response signage

Rachel reported that the statewide spill response signs are done and printed, ready for distribution.

Brett – let the AAHPA know.

Terry – predrilled holes? Rachel answered that they do have two predrilled holes.

Erika can hang on to some in her office to travel with when she does visits. Rachel will drop some in Anchorage when she comes through.

Heather – can deliver when she goes to SE in May.

Meg – can deliver to Northern & Aleutians. Rachel will drop some in Anchorage when she comes through.

Rachel gave out 6 to Valdez (at the Sportsman Show in April in Anchorage), and 6 to the Deshka Landing folks (private facility in the Mat-Su Valley).

UAS ACH course update

- For a preview, check out:
http://uashome.alaska.edu/~sitka_noncredit/akcleanharbors/test/story.html

Rachel asked committee members to send photos they have along to help populate the course with images. Especially helpful are the photos that show examples of ‘bad’ practices.

Joe: should be able to help with photos.

Alan: done ~4 classes with UAS. It’s a good venue.

ACH Guidebook – some things out of date. Published through SeaGrant. Rachel – there are some errors that should be corrected, but not sure it's worth going through the expense of editing and re-publishing. Terry will check with SeaGrant to see if they can give a number of downloads. He'll check on the number of downloads and get back to Rachel.

Rachel will see if any folks want to review specific modules within the UAS course. Brett would like to talk after the meeting.

Quick Updates

ADV Task Force. Next meeting June 16 in Anchorage. Updated materials are on the ACH website. Let Rachel know if you want more info/get involved.

Sewage management (Heather). Working with CVA funding from ADEC. Outreach, engagement for harbor masters to apply for new/improved pumpouts. Barriers to obtaining matching funds. Heather put together a list of the statewide pumpouts. Only about ½ of 24 harbors have pumpouts. Touching base with those who don't make them aware of the funding. Juneau, Wrangell and Sitka travel in May. Outreach, demos, working on a video in Juneau. Additional footage in other harbors & working with folks.

Terry – instruction for folks on how to use pumpouts? HM concerned with folks not knowing how to use pumpouts even when they're working. Terry can see how that would be useful. Include a section on what to do if your harbor doesn't have a pumpout. Exemption for non-installed systems? Make reference to non-installed systems/alternatives to heads and holding tanks and best practices there. Brett can help with observations and educating people better, including USCG and harbors. Catalina, CA great best practices for sewage. Brett and Heather will touch base after the meeting.

ACH Spring 2015 Newsletter plan

Included in the packet was our last newsletter. All previous newsletters are on the homepage of www.alaskacleanharbors.org

Rachel is drafting our summer 2015 newsletter with Heather. She noted that she wants to expand the outreach to include fishing and other user groups. UFA can send out to affiliates. Other ideas are welcomed!

Long term planning

Current long-term funding for ACH is ENDING in mid-2016! This is a big topic for conversation, and Rachel encouraged Advisory Committee members to consider options for long-term coordinating of the program. It's an inexpensive program to run, and has a huge amount of value. The UAS course should take out some of the 'grunt work' in working through the word document applications. This will be a topic of conversation at our Oct in-person meeting.

October in-person meeting

Rachel reminded everyone to check calendars for a meeting October 12-16 in Anchorage, in conjunction with the annual Harbormasters Association meeting (www.alaskaharbors.org). We'll set a date for a half-day in-person meeting soon.

Alan – suspects he'll be there.

Final Comments

Alan. Groundbreaking for the new harbor in Valdez tomorrow morning.

Joe. No comments

Chandra. No comments

Erika. No comments

Meg. No comments

Brett. No comments

Terry. No comments

Heather. No comments

Bryan. Joined at the last minute. Chip pad. The current leasee is on their last load for scrap steel (price has dropped). It's on their list to improve. Design work for a treatment system for runoff, it's on the radar and they see it as something that is their responsibility and needs to be addressed.

Call ended at 2:15PM