

Draft Minutes for October 13 ACH Advisory Committee Meeting

3:00 - 5:30pm

Homer Harbormasters Office

Homer Spit Road

Committee Members Present: Rachel Lord (Cook Inletkeeper), Brett Farrell (Marine Exchange), Terry Johnson (Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program), Shane Serrano (AK DEC Non Point Source Pollution), Matt O'Boyle (AAHPA, standing in for Bryan Hawkins), Kim Kovol (Green Star, telephonic)

Committee Members Absent: Joe McCullough (AK DNR Boating Safety), Alan Sorum (Member At Large)

Others Present: Erika Amman (NOAA)

Introductions

ACH Overview/re-cap of 2010-2011, quick look ahead to 2012

During an overview of ACH and the previous year, Terry asked for a review of why facilities would be interested in participating in the program. Feedback included: saving money/attracting money/increased compliance/outreach opportunity/increased services for customers (Rachel), peer pressure from other facilities as the program expands (Brett), doing the right thing/perception of value (Matt), marketing opportunities (Kim), staying in front of the regulatory curve/staving off increased regulations (Erika, Brett).

Looking ahead to 2012 we discussed potential funding opportunity for outreach/ed materials from AK Fish & Game Sport Fish Access program. Shane mentioned it would be good to have more buy-in from AKF&G and involve them/coordinate outreach where possible. Rachel gave a quick overview of upcoming CIAP funds for 2012-2015, other outreach activities including ComFish and recreational boat show in Anchorage. Rachel put out a request for volunteers for Anchorage events.

Other general ACH topics that were discussed: Terry asked what constitutes a "harbor" for certification purposes. Seasonal harbors (such as Dillingham) should still be applicable to apply for certification. Communities with multiple basin harbors may be able to apply for certification for either a single basin or for their entire facility at their discretion. The process shouldn't be any different in either of these cases than for a single-basin, year-round harbor such as Homer's. Currently the program is only for facilities with moorage for vessels (i.e. a "marina" or small boat harbor). ACH does not, at this time, certify cruise ship docks, freight docks, or other industrial areas including boatyards.

Rachel will develop a frequently asked questions page for the ACH website to address these and other questions that arise.

NOAA/EVOS funding discussion with Erika Amman (NOAA)

Erika gave the committee an overview of the EVOS funding that NOAA was awarded to do scoping for clean harbors-type activities in the Exxon Spill Area. More details are needed on which communities/harbor facilities are included in the official “spill area” and would be applicable for funding. Funding may be towards a variety of activities-primarily brick and mortar or other projects that can carry forward benefits beyond the end of EVOS funding. Projects cannot be addressing issues that are legally required – they must be above/beyond regulatory requirements. Ideas were floated, including working with small communities to join efforts in disposal of hazardous wastes such as antifreeze. Shane brought up the example given by the Hoonah Harbormaster that it cost them \$2,000 to dispose of 1 barrel of antifreeze. It would be good to work on projects in the spill area that could be templates for other areas in the state. Erika provided the committee with a 2-page summary of the funding opportunity, and will develop one that is specifically aimed at harbormasters in cooperation with ACH.

Erika is interested in joining the ACH committee; this should be discussed/adopted at our next meeting (January 2012).

Review Homer Harbor application for certification & discuss process for certifying harbors*

The committee proceeded to review the Homer Harbor application for certification. A few questions were raised to be brought to Matt Clarke, Deputy Harbormaster. The committee felt that the Homer Harbor staff had presented a strong application and through their efforts, deserving of Clean Harbor certification. Several clarifying questions were raised to be cleared up prior to full certification, to be done through Rachel and Matt Clarke during the following week. Kim will provide comments via email, as she had to leave the conversation at this point. Terry pointed out that as a long-time user of the Homer Harbor, it was truly a model facility for clean harbors efforts. For example, he has used them as an example to other facilities on rat control efforts. Alan had provided comments to Rachel earlier in the week (as he had to leave early for Valdez), and gave his support for certification of the Homer Harbor with the evidence presented through their application packet.

All committee members present (Brett, Terry, Shane, Matt, and Rachel) gave their approval for certification of the Homer Harbor. Brett noted that a huge amount of work had been put in to this effort, and he feels really good about their application. Shane noted that the committee should provide the harbor with a consolidated response, and suggestions where applicable. Final certification will be awarded by the end of October, pending a follow-up with Matt Clarke and a final vote by all committee members.

Wrap-Up

Issues that were brought up included some confusing language within the BMP Checklist. The committee agreed that the process won't get any easier than the Homer Harbor. It's a good facility to start with, but need to ensure clarity in language to maintain consistency throughout the program.

Brett made a point regarding grid usage in Alaska's harbors, and suggested looking at grid vs. haul-out use statistics where hauling-out is an option. Although there is a lot of resistance to moving up and off of the grid, there are a lot of benefits to providing upland boat repair/maintenance areas in harbors that currently rely on a grid system.

In Section 4 – in-water painting will likely be an issue throughout AK harbors. Need to have some more ideas on how to limit paint from entering the water when there are liberal allowances for painting activities.

Under Section 5 – the “poop rinse buckets” are a common way harbors deal with dog poop on floats. Going to be an issue that comes up repeatedly and we should think about how to address in an effective manner.

Brett can promote ACH in the harbors where he works through the Marine Exchange. When asked where, he stated that he goes “anywhere the Coast Guard goes”. Terry suggested looking into a presence at the Pacific Marine Expo to do clean boating outreach to the outside boat owners/fleet that come to AK in the summer. Still a feeling that once you cross the state line, anything goes up here.

The next Advisory Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 24 at 2pm. The in-person meeting next year will be during the week of October 22-26, 2012 in Sitka during the AAHPA annual conference. Some travel funds will be made available for committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45pm. Following our meeting, at 6:30pm Terry gave a presentation at Islands & Ocean Visitors Center on fuel efficiency tips for recreational and charter boats. More information on this topic can be found at:
<http://seagrant.uaf.edu/map/recreation/fuel-efficiency/>

Alaska Clean Harbors Advisory Committee
2012 Tentative Dates

January: teleconference

Proposed date: 1/24

April/May: teleconference

Proposed date: 5/1

August: teleconference

Proposed date: 8/28

October: In-person

AAPHA meeting, Sitka, October 22-26

Tentative Alaska Clean Harbors Coordinator Outreach Dates

March 29-April 1 Great Alaska Sportsman Show, Anchorage (tentative)

Volunteers needed to help staff a booth if we attend in 2012!

April 2012 ComFish Alaska, Kodiak

April 2012 Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team spring meeting, Washington

October 22-26 Alaska Association of Harbormaster and Port Administrators annual meeting,
Sitka

Alaska Clean Harbors Advisory Committee Biography

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Organization/Agency you represent (if applicable):

Please provide a brief biography which includes a summary of your experience with harbors, boating, pollution prevention, and/or best management practices.