

October 22 Alaska Clean Harbors Advisory Committee Meeting
Final Minutes
2:30 – 4:30 pm
Valdez, Alaska

Present: Rachel Lord (+ Sadie), Shane Serrano, Alan Sorum, Terry Johnson, Brett Farrell, Steve Russell, Joe McCullough (phone), Erika Amman (phone)

Absent: Kim Kovol, Bryan Hawkins

The ACH Advisory Council met in Valdez during the 2013 Alaska Association of Harbormasters & Port Administrators annual meeting. The meeting began at 2:30pm with introductions around the table. Rachel asked everyone to think about how these in-person meetings can be taken advantage of more in the future. Possibilities could include more of a ½ day workshop or other work session that could take advantage of the great group of people in the room. Currently the meeting is more like our quarterly teleconferences, but in person. ACH does have travel funding available for Committee members to attend. Next year the meeting will be held in Ketchikan.

Rachel gave a brief overview of 2013 activities. Not much new to report since the June meeting, as she went on maternity leave from August until now. The big task for this meeting is to review the Haines Harbor application for certification.

The Sitka Harbor map brochure was completed. Rachel passed around examples of both the Sitka and Homer brochures. These designs will be used as templates for other facilities. Distribution of the Sitka brochure will be held until they are a certified Clean Harbor.

Priorities for 2014 include clean boating outreach at the Great Alaska Sportsmans Show and possible Fish Expo in Seattle. There won't be an Anchors Aweigh Boat Show in February any longer. Rachel brought up the fuel dock outreach and engagement as a larger issue that she doesn't feel there is enough time to address right now. The committee discussed fueling issues, legal liability for spills at the fuel docks, and how operations could be improved at fuel docks to decrease spills. Right now the only focus we might provide would be on prevention (i.e. fuel vent overflow spill catchers), vs. response. Terry is still interested in keeping this item on future agendas and trying to find a way to address it better. The committee agreed it is an important source of pollution in the harbor, but to be effective it needs a more concerted campaign.

Live aboards were also discussed as a large issue that will need to be addressed, especially as we begin working with facilities in Southeast. The primary concern is with sewage management. Shane brought up a flier for a Bullfrog pumpout boat that a vendor was distributing during the AAHPA conference upstairs. The price was right, but would harbor staff be interested in operating? Juneau folks seemed interested, and could possibly be purchased with Clean Vessel Act funds. Rachel shared with the committee that she is engaging with ADEC (Shane) and ADF&G to try and transfer CVA funds such that ACH could better assist with outreach, education, and capital projects to improve sewage management at harbor facilities.

Articles for the Winter Clean Harbors Currents (ACH bi-annual newsletter) are needed by the end of November. Rachel will solicit articles from Alan and Terry once she sets a 'theme' for this edition. Current harbor participation includes Sitka, Cordova, Bethel, Valdez, and Kodiak. Thanks to Shane for connecting with Marty to go through the BMP Checklist when he was in Kodiak. All Committee members are encouraged to meet with harbor and City staff when traveling as appropriate and able. Alan mentioned that he has been working with Akutan and when they build out their harbor facility they should be well positioned to participate in the program.

Rachel provided a brief update on the Abandoned & Derelict Vessel Task Force, mostly to say that several contacts had been made with folks at DNR and EPA. Still need USCG involvement, and would like to have someone to contact at Army Corps. Steve agreed to provide a contact. Steve noted that the DEC Commissioner is strongly supportive of forward movement on the ADV issue. SPAR may have some money to help with the costs of bringing together the Task Force for discussions. The AAHPA Board will be discussing support & participation in the Task Force at their annual meeting this week in Valdez. Erika offered a possible spot at the Alaska Forum on the Environment to give a talk on ADV – get in touch with her if interested. It was suggested to ask state and/or federal legal counsel participation or review of the Task Force findings. Shane and Steve have contacts for these people. Alan asked if there was any sort of checklist on how to dismantle vessels safely. There's a lot of liability when trying to get rid of a vessel. No checklist or any set guidelines – it's more of a case by case basis since every vessel is different.

UPDATE – AAHPA passed a resolution of support for a Task Force to address ADV in Alaska during the 2013 annual membership meeting.

The Haines Harbor BMP Checklist and associated documentation was reviewed by the Committee. Rachel provided an overview of their efforts, and recommended certification. Phil was present for questions at the end. He explained the containment liner they purchased for use on the grid (#42) – they haven't used it yet, but will start next season. The Committee was impressed with the work done by Phil and others at the Haines Harbor, and approved their application for certification as the third Alaska Clean Harbor in the state. Congratulations to Haines!

UPDATE – Congratulations to Bryan for being named 2013 AAHPA Harbormaster of the Year!