

COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
December 5, 2019
Anchorage, Alaska
Approved Minutes

Members Present: John Williams, Robert Peterkin II, Gary Fandrei, Molly McCammon, Carla Stanley, Paul Shadura, Walt Sonen, Bob Flint, Kyle Crow

Members Present by Teleconference: Rob Lindsey, Deric Marcorelle

Members Absent: Grace Merkes (excused), Michael Opheim (excused)

Staff Present: Michael Munger, Susan Saupe, Jerry Rombach, Lynda Giguere, Vaito'a Heaven, Maddie Jamora, Cindy Sanguinetti

Staff Present by Teleconference: Vinnie Catalano

1. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL

President John Williams called the meeting to order at 11:04 am. Roll was called, establishing quorum.

Robert Peterkin moved to approve the agenda. Carla Stanley seconded. The agenda was approved.

Jerry Rombach provided the safety minutes.

2. STRATEGIC PLAN COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Molly McCammon moved to introduce the Strategic Plan Council Priorities. Kyle Crow seconded.

Mr. Munger explained that the full review of the Strategic Plan will be undertaken next year. At this meeting a progress report of the existing priorities will be given and new priorities will be introduced for 2020. The Strategic Plan lays out Programs, Purpose and Goals and the Committees develop projects within that structure. Council Priority Goals were developed in 2014, with two more added in 2019.

In 2014 CIRCAC's long term effort to *"Continue to seek legislative changes, including amendments to OPA 90, and establish adequate funding levels to satisfy federal mandates"* met success. The legislation now sets a minimum level at which CIRCAC is funded.

The goal to accomplish *"Comprehensive risk assessments for oil facilities and infrastructure"* has been met with the completion of the Navigational and the Cook Inlet Pipeline Infrastructure Risk Assessments. The draft final of the latter was to be presented to the Council on December 6.

The Navigational Risk Assessment recommended the formation of a Harbor Safety Committee, spawning CIRCAC's priority: *"Support formation of, participation in, and seek funding opportunities for a Cook Inlet area Harbor Safety Committee."* The goal was met in 2015. The HSC has 4 working committees and developed the Harbor Safety Plan in 2017. The member groups are providing funding and there is a potential for state funding.

The priority *"Ensure detailed habitat data for shorelines in Cook Inlet are available, and facilitate their integration and use in oil spill planning and response"* was addressed with aerial and on-the-ground surveys to fill the gaps in CIRCAC's area of concern. The data is integrated in the NOAA and AOOS websites, and is made available in Incident Command, and during oil spill planning and response via the CIRT. Training is being provided for the AOOS and NOAA portals.

The priority *"Continue to make Cook Inlet RCAC data and information widely accessible"* is met by data served online, but also through continued efforts to integrate contaminants data through the Kachemak Bay Bio Mapper program, the CIRT and the GRID. EVOS funds the Gulf Watch and Ms. Saupe hopes CIRCAC can leverage by linking contaminants data with that program.

Last year two new priorities were added, *"Continue seeking additional funding from other sources for non-OPA90 issues,"* and *"Develop a sustained program to collect and integrate biological and chemical environmental data in the Cook Inlet region, and ensure their use for appropriate governmental and private purposes."* Work continues in regards to these priorities.

Staff proposed new priorities for 2020: *"Host celebrations and activities focused on our accomplishments and lessons learned for the 30th anniversary of OPA 90 and CIRCAC,"* and *"Partner with NOAA OR&R, AOOS, NPS, and UAF to provide open access to an oil spill trajectory model incorporating complex oceanographic processes."* Both PROPS and EMC have collected funding while waiting for the now operational NOAA model, and now want to move forward with a multi-pronged approach to identify the underlying hydrographic model most likely to be used if there is a spill, and to identify components that will serve better according to the conditions. The goal will be to develop desktop capability to run scenarios with an overlying oil spill trajectory model over the underlying hydrographic model which takes into account how specific oils interact with the environment under certain wave conditions, temperatures, evaporation and other factors.

The third proposed priority is to *"Provide leadership in the oversight and review of any actions potentially impacting State oil spill regulations."*

In regard to the first proposed priority, *"Host Celebrations and activities..."* one recommendation is to create a *"Then and Now"* publication to capture the State of the Inlet, changes made by OPA 90 and the actions of CIRCAC, and the lessons learned. Ms. Saupe also appealed to the Council to invite representatives from Sullom Voe and PWS RCAC to a summit to share accomplishments and lessons learned. Ms. Saupe provided the history of how the Sullom Voe mechanism served as a model for the RCACs and showed slides from her recent visit to the Shetland Islands. Mr. Shadura felt CIRCAC should emphasize its ability to leverage funds and work effectively with government and citizens as mandated.

Some possible projects associated with the trajectory model include hindcast testing, potential integration of multiple models and seeking to understand the residence time of water in the Cook Inlet which has implications for understanding dilution in mixing zone models.

To provide leadership regarding oil spill regulations Ms. Saupe suggested CIRCAC aim to evaluate the public review process and prepare CIRCAC comments; involve citizens, coastal communities and interest groups by providing and soliciting support; review industry scoping comments; do thorough reviews of any proposed changes to regulations and statutes that come about based on the scoping process; and, as necessary, engage with regulators and legislators.

The Council opted to address the upcoming issues in Executive Session rather than wordsmithing existing Council priorities.

Robert Peterkin moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the details of the 2020 Council Priorities. Walt Sonen seconded. All Council members, staff members, and the contractor, Tim Robertson who is involved with the Strategic Plan, remained. The motion passed. The Council went into Executive Session.

The Chair requested to come out of Executive Session. The regular meeting resumed.

Robert Peterkin reported that the Council had discussed strategy for moving forward on priorities regarding changes the State has proposed.

Walt Sonen stated the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council represents the citizens.

Robert Peterkin moved to approve the 2020 Council priorities as presented. Bob Flint seconded.

Bob Flint moved an amendment to the last priority to read, "Provide leadership in the oversight and review of any actions potentially impacting State and *Federal* oil spill regulations and *laws*." Robert Peterkin accepted the amendment.

Mr. Munger assured the Council this would be the top priority. Mr. Shadura was assured that there is sufficient funding to accomplish the goals.

The motion passed, as amended.

3. CALENDARS & MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Williams reminded the Council that the PWS RCAC will hold Science Night at the Embassy Suites.

The meeting adjourned at 3:31 pm.