

**COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Anchorage Sheraton**  
**November 29, 2018**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:** John Williams, Robert Peterkin II, Gary Fandrei, Molly McCammon, Carla Stanley, Paul Shadura, Walt Sonen, Rob Lindsey, Grace Merkes, Bob Flint, Deric Marcorelle, Kyle Crow

**Members Absent:** Michael Opheim (excused)

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL**

President John Williams called the meeting to order at 10:06 am. Roll was called, establishing quorum.

**Molly McCammon moved to approve the agenda. Kyle Crow seconded.**

Ms. McCammon recommended that staff reports be considered on Thursday rather than Friday. Mr. Rombach explained that Thursday's agenda is full and the time scheduled for staff reports is for questions, since the reports are provided in writing and the projects will be discussed along with the budget.

Mr. Rombach introduced Maddie Jamora.

**The agenda was approved.**

**Kyle Crow moved to approve the minutes of September 7, 2018. Carla Stanley seconded.**

Paul Shadura requested his closing comment be expanded to reflect his appreciation for coming to Kodiak as the Commercial Fishing representative. While serving on the Kenai Special Management Area board the spill sites and superfund spill sites were well documented through DEC, KPB and citizen involvement.

Ms. McCammon asked whether issues raised during the last meeting were going to be discussed, such as her suggestion that the CG be requested to develop a document listing sites that pose a potential risk and to explore a mechanism for Ms. Saupe to receive information during incidents when her expertise is sought off record. Mr. Munger responded that those

points would be addressed in his Executive Director's report. She further asked about the letter to DEC urging the development of a database for potential spill sites. Mr. Munger said he has discussed it with DEC, but has not written the letter yet.

Mr. Fitz-enz and Lynda's names should be corrected.

**The minutes were approved with corrections noted.**

\*\*\*\*\*PRESENTATION\*\*\*\*\*

**Susan Saupe provided CIRCAC Strategic 2014-2019 Plan Updates** as recommended by the committees, identified by italics. A new 5 year plan will be considered next year. She identified the Area of Responsibility set by OPA 90 and the area of concern downstream of Cook Inlet which could be impacted if there an oil spill. Cook Inlet RCAC was set up under the voluntary option and is annually recertified, without challenge, by the Coast Guard, so there is no sense the area of concern will be challenged. Mr. Shadura requested the Coast Guard be asked to answer whether Kodiak Commercial Fishermen should have representation on the Cook Inlet RCAC. During the presentation the board or staff inserted their own recommendations, as reflected by underlining.

A minor grammatical change was proposed on page 4: Our areas of concern are geographic and programmatic.

On page 3 Overall Goals: Provide a leadership role in improving our understanding and protection of Cook Inlet RCAC's area of concern.

On page 4, Cook Inlet RCAC Area of Concern: At the program level, our area of concern includes pursuing any project that helps meet the program goals and accomplish the program's outcome.

The full board will need to discuss whether new exploration or production of leases may expand CIRCAC's area of responsibility or concern.

Ms. Saupe explained the structure of the Strategic Plan: for each Program the purpose, goals, and strategies have been identified to accomplish program outcomes mandated by OPA90. Through annual Committee workplans projects are developed to fulfill the strategies. The Strategic Plan provides stability, guiding the staff as they seek funds, write proposals, develop long-term partnerships, and leverage funds to complete multi-year projects.

#### **Biological and Chemical Environmental Monitoring Program**

Add new Strategies:

- *Identify a subset of historical sampling sites in Cook Inlet and nearby areas for potential long-term status and trends monitoring program.*
- *Support or lead efforts to incorporate lower Cook Inlet sampling sites into Gulf Watch Alaska Program or other partnership program that provides long-term monitoring support.*

Delete the Strategy regarding EMAP and AKMAP as it is no longer relevant.

#### **Coastal Habitat Mapping**

Add new Strategy:

- *Identify a subset of habitat types in Cook Inlet and nearby areas for potential long-term status and trends monitoring program.*

Delete the non-strategy Use data to improve our understanding of ecosystem processes.

### **Physical Oceanography**

Revise the Program Purpose: Understand and model Cook Inlet's complex circulation *to inform oil spill response decisions and better evaluate potential impacts of contaminants to Cook Inlet.*

Amend/add Strategies:

- Collaborate with Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) and other regional programs *to develop a comprehensive Cook Inlet area data system.*
- *Compile and integrate Cook Inlet RCAC oceanographic data into on-line data portals at Alaska Ocean Observing System.*

Delete the strategy regarding the comprehensive Cook Inlet area data system as it was wrapped into the amended strategy.

### **Oil Transport, Fate and Effects**

Clarify/expand/add Strategies:

- Identify, prioritize, *and fill data-gaps for transport and fate models*, taking into consideration parameters such as emulsification, dispersal, biodegradation, aggregation with mineral fines, deposition, photo-chemical oxidation, and food-web interactions.
- Promote development and refinement of oil transport models *to improve the ability to model Cook Inlet rip zones, freshwater buoyancy driven currents, tides, seasonality, ice movement and boundary forcing from the Gulf of Alaska.*
- *Advocate for thorough evaluation of Cook Inlet hydrodynamic models through model hindcasts and comparison to observational data.*

### **Technical Review**

No revisions recommended.

### **Geographic Response Strategies**

Revise Program Purpose: Provide a guide for oil spill responders to minimize response times. The program also serves to enhance the effectiveness of response efforts at environmentally sensitive areas and to not only protect the marine and *onshore* environments but also the cultural, historical and archeological resources of the Cook Inlet Area Plan.

Delete accomplished Program Goal: Include GRS in sub-area plans, industry contingency plans and oil spill response organization operations.

Add Program Goal: *Identify and develop shore-based GRS to address stream crossings, prioritizing anadromous streams, along highway routes supporting crude oil transport by truck.*

PROPS is requesting the Council to determine whether anadromous streams are within the purview of CIRCAC.

Revise the Program Outcome: Geographic Response Strategies incorporated as part of the *Area Plan*, industry contingency plans, and oil spill response organization operations.

Mr. Shadura requested an update of the Area Plans in the Coast Guard Authorization bill.

### **Prevention and Response**

Add Strategy: *Develop and maintain oil spill response forms and applications to follow contemporary user systems.*

### **Risk Assessment**

Delete Strategy: Support formation of ...Safety Committee. The Harbor Safety Committee has been established.

Add Strategy: *Support Harbor Safety Committee activities through our membership, participation in Harbor Safety committee projects, and development of Cook Inlet RCAC projects in support of the Harbor Safety Committee mission.*

Revise the Program Outcome: Delete Complete...infrastructure risk assessment for Cook Inlet that minimizes risk. Add: *Continue to evaluate risks associated with Cook Inlet infrastructure and maritime operations; seek out and develop avenues to minimize those risks.*

### **Contingency Planning**

Revise Program Goal: Review, evaluate, and comment on the adequacy of the *Regional, Area* and *Industry* contingency plans.

### **Public Involvement**

No recommended changes.

**Kyle Crow moved to approve the presented changes to the Strategic Plan. Molly McCammon seconded.**

Jerry Rombach presented all of the amendments recommended by the board and staff. The Chair considered these amendments as part of the main motion.

**The motion passed by roll call vote 11-1 abstention (Paul Shadura).**

Ms. Saupe provided a status report on the progress of the Council Priorities developed in 2014.

Legislative changes have been made to the language dictating the funding of CIRCAC from not more than 1 million to not less than \$1,400,000 + the CPI of Anchorage. The goal has been accomplished.

The Cook Inlet Risk Assessment has been completed and some of the recommendations are being implemented. The cross-Inlet pipeline, supported by a CIRCAC position paper, has been completed.

The Cook Inlet Pipeline Risk Assessment is underway; experts are being sought to fulfill the Phase 3 tasks.

The Harbor Safety Committee has been formed with a mission statement, 4 working committees, a finalized Harbor Safety Plan and a comprehensive website. A letter to the

Governor requests funding for Waterway Safety Committees and the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee using Alaska Commercial Passenger excise tax.

Data gaps have been closed and the ShoreZone Imaging and Mapping report has been finalized. Detailed habitat data and imagery have been incorporated into the AOOS and Alaska ShoreZone databases.

Training has been provided and responders are using the Cook Inlet Response Tool and AOOS website.

Work with contractors continues to make Cook Inlet RCAC data accessible. Different types of data require different methods of presentation.

PROPS is working with AOOS to visually serve GRS and GRID (Geographic Response Resource Information Database) on the CIRT. The new program being used will allow quick access to layers of information and will be reviewed by a workgroup comprised of industry, agency and OSRO representatives.

Two other priorities had been identified by the Council: Continue seeking additional funding from other sources for non-OPA issues. Develop a sustained program to collect and integrate biological, chemical and environmental data in the Cook Inlet region and ensure their use for public, governmental and pilot purposes. Funding is not presently available to achieve these priorities.

Ms. Saupe urged the Council to think ahead in preparation for the next 5 year plan and the new list of priorities.

Ms. McCammon expressed appreciation for the accomplishments and requested a "Then & Now" document that highlights what has changed be provided for the major Strategic Plan Review next year.

Mr. Shadura commended staff and the Council leadership for an excellent job, saying he appreciates all that has been done. He recommended directing efforts to a narrowed scope going forward, particularly focusing on aging infrastructure.

**Alexandria Trainer, Anchorage Office of Emergency Management,** serves as the Public Information Officer during emergency incidents. She urged pre-planning for disasters that could occur in our area, including signing up for NIXLE, packing a go bag, having an emergency kit for the car, creating a communication and evacuation plan. Communities need plans for shelter, food, water and escape routes. FEMA has a new program titled "You are the help until help arrives." Citizens can take a 40 hour training course to be involved on the Community Emergency Response Team to help in the community. The first response will happen at the local level. Citizens need to know and prepare for the risks.

The Directors and staff toured the Emergency Operations Center which is activated to coordinate resources during an emergency response.