



COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

"The mission of the Council is to represent the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet."



Board of Directors Meeting

*Friday, December 6, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.
Homewood Suites Hotel - Anchorage, Alaska*



COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

****Draft AGENDA****

Homewood Suites
101 W. 48th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska

Friday, December 6, 2019

8:15 am **Continental Breakfast**

9:00 am **Cook Inlet RCAC Board Meeting**
Call to Order/Roll Call
Approval of Agenda *(Action Item)*
Safety Minute
Approval of Minutes *(Action Item)*

Welcome & Introductions

Agency Ex Officio Directors Remarks

CIRCAC Member or Public Comment
(3 minute limit per speaker)

9:30 am **Welcoming Remarks**

- The Honorable Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor – Municipality of Anchorage

Presentations on Related Activities

- Tim Robertson, Nuka Research - Cook Inlet Pipeline Risk Assessment
- Sue Saupe, CIRCAC; Dr. Nancy Kinner, UNH Coastal Response Research Center/Center for Spills in the Environment; Dr. Lisa DiPinto, NOAA Office of Response and Restoration – Supporting the Science of Oil Spills and Response
- Jason Brune - Commissioner, Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation

12:00 noon **Lunch** (*Lunch will be provided*)

12:40 pm **Executive Committee Report**

- 2020 Proposed Budgets (*Action Item*) "
- 2020 Meeting Schedule (*Information Item*) "
- Revised Personnel Policies 7 and 8 (*Information Item*) "

1:15 pm **Executive Director's Report** (*Information Items*)

2:00 pm **Staff/Committee Reports** (*Information Items*)

- Environmental Monitoring
- Public Outreach
- Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety
- Protocol Control
- Administration

3:00 pm **Calendars & Miscellaneous** (*Information Item*)

- Alaska Marine Science Symposium – Jan. 27-31 (Anchorage)
- Alaska Forum on the Environment – Feb. 10-14 (Anchorage)
- Kodiak ComFish – Mar. 26-28
- CIRCAC Board/Annual Meetings – April 3 (Kenai)
- International Oil Spill Conf. - May 11-14 (New Orleans)

Closing Comments

3:15 pm (est.) **Adjourn**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 6, 2019

Action Item

AGENDA ITEM: Proposed 2020 Operating and Program Budgets

DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:

The Executive Committee has reviewed the proposed 2020 Operating and Program Budgets prepared by staff. In addition, proposed program budgets for PROPS, Protocol and EMC have been reviewed and approved by their respective committees. The Executive Committee recommends these budgets be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION:

The Executive Committee – with full support of committees and staff – recommend the Board of Directors approve and adopt the 2020 Operating and Program Budgets as presented at its December 6, 2020 meeting.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 6, 2019

Information Item

AGENDA ITEM: 2020 Council Meeting Schedule

DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:

In order to initiate planning and logistics for upcoming meetings, and in particular to launch the election and appointment process for 2020 board seats, staff sought direction from the Executive Committee for targeted meeting dates for 2020 Board of Directors meetings and the Council's Annual Meeting. The Executive Committee approved a schedule at its October 30 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION:

Mark your calendars for the following dates for Council meetings in 2020:

- April 3 – Board and Annual Meeting (Kenai)
- August 28 (Seldovia)
- December 3 & 4 (Anchorage)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING December 6, 2019

Information Item

AGENDA ITEM: Amendments to Personnel Policies 7 and 8

DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:

In order to address the ongoing costs of health insurance, and changes to market conditions in the retirement benefits marketplace, staff proposed changes to the Council's Personnel Policies #7 Insurance Benefits Package, and #8 Retirement/Benefits Options.

The Executive Committee approved amendments to these Policies at its meetings on October 30 and November 26.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION:

- None

EMC activities – End of Year 2019

Staff Report: Susan Saupe

This report includes my main focus areas for 2019 organized by EMC Program and Project – it is not a comprehensive list or description of all activities.

Chemical and Biological Monitoring Program

Kamishak Bay/Lower Cook Inlet Intertidal Habitats – Data Analyses and Report Writing

1. Completed data analyses and draft reports to BOEM for the Lower Cook Inlet Habitat Study with project partners at NPS, NOAA, and UAF. The report included data collection from 2015 through 2018. Specific tasks in 2019 were;
 - a. Work with contractors at Archipelago Marine Research for completion of photo-quadrat interpretations for the thousands of images taken during the field surveys.
 - b. Coordinate and participate in 2-day workshop with all Principal Investigators and other project participants - and in dozens of subsequent workgroups - to complete data analyses, interpretations, and reporting for all components of the 4-year study.
 - c. Work with GIS contractor to compile maps of study area and sites; and present geospatial intertidal data in the reports.
 - d. Work with NPS statistician to compile and analyze all intertidal quadrat data describing temporal and spatial trends and to conduct methods comparisons for our field data collections on the unique rocky reef habitats of Kamishak Bay.
 - e. Apply lessons learned from the 2018 PRIMER software class to conduct nonmetric multiple dimensional scaling (nMDS) analyses of intertidal community assemblage data to look at differences within sites, among sites, and across time.
 - f. With project partners, submit pre-draft outline report to BOEM in June for approval. Completed formal draft for submission in October to BOEM. We received formal review comments back on 18 November 2019 and are currently working together to address review comments and resubmit report in mid-December 2019.
2. Vaito'a and I submitted annual financial and progress reports to NPS under our Cooperative Agreement, detailing expenditures and CIRCAC activities between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019.
3. In early August 2019, CIRCAC received a signed amendment to our Cooperative Agreement with NPS to complete the project. This agreement included \$44,000 (\$40K to project, \$4K to admin) for contractual support. These funds are for CIRCAC to work with a subcontractor for GIS and database services.

Coastal Habitat Mapping Program

ShoreZone

1. At the July 17-18, 2019, annual ShoreZone Partners meeting in Portland, the first day focused on a wide range of presentations by speakers from numerous agencies and

organizations on how ShoreZone data and imagery are used in Alaska, BC, Washington, and Oregon. On the second day, a smaller more focused planning team worked through a range of subjects and issues on the second day. During the two-day meeting, I provided an *Introduction to ShoreZone Imaging, Mapping and Shore Stations* and led the work sessions subjects: *Shore Station Data Base & Fish Atlas*; *AOOS ShoreZone portal*; *ShoreZone Use, User Needs, and Available Tools*; and *Outreach and Education*.

2. The Alaska ShoreZone Program website hosted by NOAA is finalizing a transition from flash to javascript since flash is discontinuing support of their product in 2020. As that happens, the Shore Station database will also be moved to the javascript site, and we are working with contractors to update the data to include the dozens (or more) of taxonomic changes that have taken place over the years. We will also be redesigning the data and imagery interface for accessing the Shore Station data and developing a data visualization layer to be served on AOOS data portals. We are seeking additional partners to expand the effort to include all shore stations from Alaska.
3. On August 17, the Chugach Schools Superintendent and a group of their K-12 educators held a retreat at the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory and requested a workshop on the use of ShoreZone data and imagery in the classroom. We covered examples for classes in art, history, natural history, anthropology, and current events (including science).
4. Mandy Lindeberg of NOAA's Auke Bay Laboratories and taxonomist Dr. Sandra Lindstrom compiled a collection catalog of all of the seaweed specimens we collected, pressed, and digitally scanned for our Alaska Peninsula ShoreZone surveys. The catalog includes all of the high resolution scans of our pressed vouchers, as well as a taxonomic tree and a complete species list from the entire study area. This was submitted as a component of the final ShoreZone report to BOEM and subsequently published by the authors as a NOAA Tech Memo:

Lindeberg, M. R., and S. C. Lindstrom. 2019. *Assessment and catalog of benthic marine algae from the Alaska Peninsula, May 2016*. U.S. Dep. Commerce, NOAA Technical Memo. NMFS-AFSC-389, 22 p + Appendices.

It can be viewed and/or downloaded at <https://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Publications/AFSC-TM/NOAA-TM-AFSC-389.pdf>

Mandy and Sandra are working on compiling a similar NOAA Tech Memo using all of our pressed specimens from the lower Cook Inlet habitat study that will be released this winter. I will provide a link to download that document when it becomes available.

5. I worked with ShoreZone mappers at Coastal and Ocean Resources, Inc. (CORI) to help compile photographs and captions for a "Human Impressions" photo exhibit and booklets. NOAA contracted with CORI to produce a compilation of photographs and captions that use ShoreZone imagery from throughout Alaska to demonstrate how humans have used and are using the coast. As part of the planning team, I helped identify categories and potential good representative imagery for the categories. We also decided to add a component that brings in historical information for many of the subjects.

Macrocystis

1. Since our last survey of the Kodiak, Afognak, and Shuyak Island *Macrocystis* beds, additional reports of *Macrocystis* kelp in the western Gulf of Alaska have been reported. One was several years ago for several plants observed on the east side of Afognak Island and a very recent observation of extensive beds in Zachary Bay near Sand Point (<https://www.leonetwork.org/en/posts/show/49EFB342-AFF4-4812-918E-4A5E57967566>). This most recent sighting is a western range extension. I have talked with several researchers about collaborating to conduct a new survey in the Kodiak area and for parts of the Alaska Peninsula and work on genetic comparisons of the western Gulf of Alaska kelps compared to other areas. This kelp grows in thick beds very near shore and has implications for oil spill risk and oil retention, and is likely to respond to changes in sea surface temperature and circulation related to climate change.

Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT)

1. AOOS (via their database developers at Axiom Data Science) recently migrated the Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) to their Next Generation User Interface. CIRT was initially developed for EMC by Axiom, and recently the PROPS committee has been integrating a Geographic Resources Information Database (GRID) into the on-line data access and visualization tool.
 - a. Vinnie and I provided a training session on the use of ShoreZone, CIRT, and GRID on-line tools to Marathon Petroleum personnel in September.
 - b. In September, ADEC's Spill Prevention and Response Division requested a training session about ShoreZone and its use for oil spill planning and response. I provided a summary of ShoreZone habitat data, imagery, and how to access and use the on-line tools through NOAA and via CIRT.
2. By working with NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Sciences (NCCOS) National Status and Trends (NS&T), we will be expanding a data portal to integrate contaminants data from our Integrated Cook Inlet Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (ICIEMAP) into an on-line contaminants database developed by NCCOS. We are also planning to incorporate results from the southcentral Alaska coastal bays and estuaries EMAP, CIRCAC's archived study results (1993-2002), and a depositional habitat study by MMS (now BOEM). However, started by working with the Kachemak Bay Ecological Characterization to serve ICIEMAP data from sites just within Kachemak Bay. Based on that visualization tool, we'll expand out to include the most recent contaminants data, which is our ICIEMAP database. From there, we will work backwards to include older data. A portion of these database will be one of the final deliverables to BOEM for our Lower Cook Inlet Habitat study report, as well, focusing on hydrocarbons. We have also been asked to provide recommendations for monitoring contaminants associated with Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) activities in lower Cook Inlet that may impact nearshore subsistence species in lower Kachemak Bay near Nanwalek and Port Graham.

Physical Oceanography

1. NOAA's Cook Inlet Operational Forecast System (CIOFS) circulation and hydrographic model transitioned from developmental mode to operational mode in July and in the process it was moved from NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services

(CO-OPS) branch to its National Centers for Environmental Predictions (NCEP). This was a decade-long effort by NOAA that started with deployments of current meters and Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCPs) throughout the Inlet. The model will predict water levels, three-dimensional currents, temperature, and salinity based on inputs of meteorological and hydrological conditions. Its scope includes Cook Inlet and Shelikof Strait. This model can be used operationally by NOAA's Office of Restoration and Response for oil spill modeling in the event of a significant spill.

At this time, CIOFS is not available for web-access or public use. However, both PROPS and EMC have strong interests in an oil spill trajectory model (using the operational Cook Inlet water level and 3-D circulation model) that would be available to users for oil spill planning (e.g. contingency plans, drills) and response. In the mid-90s, PROPS developed a simple desk-top oil spill trajectory model that was invaluable for drills and contingency planning. It is no longer operational and was based on a very simplified interpretation of Cook Inlet's circulation (e.g. model had to be "hinged" to simulate density-driven currents). EMC will be working with PROPS, AOOS, UAF, NPS, and NOAA to work towards developing a tool that takes advantage of the new high resolution CIOFS model (and other Cook Inlet models that may model nearshore areas more effectively) but that can be made available for on-line use as an oil spill trajectory model. This will likely involve (1) model tests against observational data, (2) discussions among model developers, physical oceanographers, and oil spill responders, (3) summaries of existing Cook Inlet hydrodynamic models describing their strengths and weaknesses (e.g. ability to resolve known Cook Inlet convergence zones, ability to predict oil movement in nearshore waters), and (4) development of an on-line tool that is available to the wider oil spill planning and response community.

Oil Fate and Effects Programs

1. In January, we supported a winter-sampling component of the project *The Potential Role of Marine Oil Snow Formation and Oil-Suspended Mineral Particle Aggregation in the Fate of Spilled Oil in Cook Inlet, Alaska*. This is a Master of Science project conducted by Jesse Ross of the University of New Hampshire and supported by the Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) and CIRCAC. EMC provided planning and funding for vessel logistics and travel for Jesse. Jerry Rombach of CIRCAC assisted in the field sampling that took place on January 24th. The goal of the sampling was to sample during a period when it is expected that the biological activity would be low, and thus the production and transport of marine snow is expected to be low. This will provide comparison to the 2018 and planned 2019 sampling.
2. At the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GOMRI) Oil Spill and Ecosystem Conference in February 2019, I met with Dr. Nancy Kinner of CRRC and other scientists conducting research on Marine Oil Snow. During one of the meetings, we discussed a potential pilot project to conduct in the summer of 2019 to look at the potential deposition of marine snow in offshore areas in Cook Inlet and the Kodiak area. Specifically, we planned the continued support of work done so far by graduate student Jesse Ross in Kachemak Bay (See number 3

below). We agreed to expand the sampling to include flux measurements at deeper depths and extend sampling to include the phytoplankton production earlier in the season. In addition, we would conduct short-term sampling on Portlock or Albatross Bank offshore of Kodiak as a pilot project for “shallow water marine snow events” (see number 4 below).

We have scientists from numerous research institutions interested in working with us to conduct detailed background chemical analyses of sediments and marine snow, and potentially conduct mesocosm experiments at a facility in the Netherlands that would incorporate organisms representing a model Gulf of Alaska food-web (multiple trophic levels and feeding strategies). Since our initial meeting in February, we have had multiple teleconference planning meetings to tighten up the pilot-study methods and develop a longer-term plan for approaching additional partnering organizations. In December, we will be submitting a Study Plan Proposal under BOEM’s current call for study plan ideas for their FY21 Study Plan. We will also continue developing a full proposal for research on the potential for and consequences of shallow-water marine oil snow events in Alaska.

3. We continued to support Jesse Ross graduate research on marine snow in Kachemak Bay in 2019. This year he arrived earlier in the season to capture more of the spring bloom period. He was able to successfully sample throughout the summer (mid-May through July) and complete his M.S. thesis and defense in September 2019. He is currently working on manuscripts for publication and our proposal and study plan idea. He presented at a NOAA open house at the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory in July, will present his data at the PWSRCAC Science Night in December, and display a poster at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS) in January 2020. Our research was presented by Jesse at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in January 2019

Ross, J., S. Saupe, K. Ziervogel, and N. Kinner. 2019. *Potential Role of Marine Snow in the Fate of Spilled Oil in Cook Inlet, Alaska*. Symposium Proceedings, Alaska Marine Science Symposium, 27 January-1February, 2019, Anchorage, AK.

4. I organized a short research charter to Albatross Bank and Portlock Bank areas north of Kodiak in July 2019 so we would have some pilot data on marine snow settling rates in the area for our proposal. Remember, these extensive and very far offshore shallow banks (<60 m on top) overlap with portions of the Alaska Dispersant Use Pre-authorization Zones of the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT). Several years ago CIRCAC had submitted comments regarding our concerns of marine snow aggregates as a mechanism to bring dispersed oil to the very productive benthic habitats in these areas and recommended, at a minimum, that there be seasonal considerations for pre-authorization.

Due to scheduling conflicts, I was unable to conduct the field work but Jesse was able to conduct all of the sampling with the help of CIRCAC contractor Dr. Alex Ravelo. They had a fantastic weather window and were able to collect everything on our priority list plus collect flux measurements at additional sites. Prior to writing up the sampling plan, I had contacted Dr. Suzanne Stromm who is a Principal Investigator with the Northern Gulf of Alaska Long Term Ecological Research (NGA LTER) project that has a transect line that runs right across Albatross Bank. I wanted our sampling to overlap with a few of their stations, so we would have concomitant oceanographic data as a context in which to interpret our flux data and Jesse was able to sample at several of those LTER sampling stations.

Technical Review Program

1. On February 19th, ADEC issued a Notice of Proposed Issuance of an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) **General Permit** to Discharge to Waters of the United States - Oil and Gas Exploration, Development and Production in State Waters in Cook Inlet. We reviewed the permit and associated fact sheet, mixing zone model results, and other associated documents. The review period ended May 22nd and CIRCAC comments were presented to the Protocol Committee for review, revision, and approval.

The Permit will replace the expired 2007 general permit AKG315000 for discharges to state waters. The draft Permit also included mixing zones for discharges from a previously zero-discharge platform.

2. On April 24th, ADEC announced that they had prepared an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Draft Permit AK0053309 available for a 30-day public review. This was a proposed **Individual Permit (IP)** for Cook Inlet Energy, LLC, Osprey Platform. This platform was originally developed as a zero-discharge platform for produced water and has been operating as such since its inception. The General Permit (GP) above also included produced water discharges from the Osprey Platform in the proposed permit, so Cook Inlet Energy likely applied for an IP in case the GP was challenged in court. Comments were originally due on May 27th, just 5 days after the comments on the GP were due. They extended that deadline after receiving numerous requests from CIRCAC and others, though by only 5 days. The review period ended May 31st and CIRCAC comments were presented to the Protocol Committee for review, revision, and approval.
2. On April 1st, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a proposed rule to authorize the take of marine mammals incidental to oil and gas activities in Cook Inlet, over the course of five years (2019-2024) by Hilcorp Alaska LLC. The proposed rule was available for public comment through May 1, 2019. Covered activities included 2D seismic nearshore surveys between Anchor Point and Kasilof, 3-D seismic surveys offshore in their OCS lease blocs, geohazard surveys in the lower and middle Inlet, exploratory wells in the lower and middle Inlet, exploration and development on the Iniskin Peninsula, Trading Bay and North Cook Inlet Unit well abandonment activities, and Drift River terminal decommissioning. I compiled comments and our contingency-plan review contractor edited them for submission to Protocol. I presented to Protocol via teleconference to provide background and my concerns and recommendations and they approved them for final submission to NMFS by the deadline. They can be seen at <http://www.circac.org/wp-content/uploads/Taking-of-marine-mammals.pdf>.

The proposed rule, supporting documents, and the final rule (which was just published on 31 July 2019) can be found at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-hilcorp-alaska-llc-oil-and-gas-activities-cook-inlet-alaska>.

Additional Activities

1. I attended the Alaska Marine Science Symposium and associated side meetings in Anchorage from January 27th – February 1st, 2019. One of the side meetings was an EMC-hosted half-

day work session with NPS and UAF regarding our data analysis plans for the lower Cook Inlet Habitat study.

2. As a member of the Planning Committee for the Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE) session “*30 Years Later: Oil Spill Policy and Response Changes since Exxon Valdez*,” I participated in several teleconferences to finalize plans for the session on February 14th. Another responsibility was to provide a presentation during the session where I discussed OPA 90 and the formation of RCACs. Also attending this session was EMC member Bruce Magyar.
3. As a Board Member on the Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI) Advisory Board, I attended the winter meeting on February 15, 2019 in Anchorage and the Workplan Committee Meeting in Anchorage in July where we developed a proposed budget and workplan. I participated in the September OSRI Board meeting, held in Cordova, by teleconference.
4. As a new board member of the Alaska Research Consortium (ARC), I’ve participated in ARC Board meetings (via teleconference) on January 14th, March 5th, June 19th, and November 19th. I was asked to join this group to provide the perspective of marine research in the Kodiak region towards their mission of “Supporting sustainable fisheries and marine science in the north Pacific.”
5. EMC met in Homer on 18 March 2019, 20 August 2019, and 15 November 2019. Several committee members were also able to attend NOAA’s open house at the Kasitsna Bay laboratory to hear about research conducted out of the lab, including Jesse’s research on marine snow. At the August meeting in Homer, the committee received a number of presentations by scientists and educators conducting projects in Kachemak Bay and lower Cook Inlet.
6. I participated in planning calls and did what I could to provide sampling equipment and supplies for work conducted by Drs. Manolo Casolette and Michael Stocker to deploy acoustic monitoring devices and collect zooplankton samples in response to the 3-D seismic work conducted in lower Cook Inlet by Hilcorp in October. The acoustic sensors were removed last week and we will be receiving updates on the results soon.
7. I also work with other staff members to conduct the work of CIRCAC, such as preparing information and draft language for strategic planning and potential council priorities. I’ve also worked with Lynda Giguere on numerous public outreach activities including annual report writing and design, transferring thousands of photographic images for use in public outreach activities, and discussing future public outreach and education actions.

Public Outreach Report to the Board –December 2019

(Updates since last report are in bold.)

Exhibits

In November, we exhibited for the third year (and second year in a joint booth with PWSRCAC) at the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle. For this event, we coordinated our outreach materials and sign-up sheets to heighten public awareness of the Department of Environmental Conservation’s regulatory reform of oil spill prevention and contingency plan regulations. (See Special Projects, below.)



Special Projects

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has opened a public scoping process that the RCACs believe threatens to weaken oil spill prevention and contingency plan regulations and statutes. CIRCAC has launched a communications campaign with Prince William Sound RCAC to heighten public awareness of the threat to rollback Alaska’s protective oil spill prevention system of laws. In addition to an October 31st “Commentary,” by Mike Munger, we have announced our concerns in our e-Newsletter, produced a brochure, written letters, and are preparing a mailing list of contacts to influence the key decision makers (State of Alaska and Legislature). While at the Expo, we gathered three pages of interested contacts. We are also expanding our newsletter mailing list with the goal to influence the outcome of the State’s effort. We expect this campaign to heat up and continue well into the next two Legislative Sessions.

Public Outreach participated in ShoreZone Training at the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation led by the Director of Science and Research. (Photo at right.)



Scholarships

New applications are on our website and the public outreach campaign, including a newsletter and news release announcing the 2020 scholarships is scheduled to commence in January.

Drills

On October 23 and 24, the Director of Public Outreach participated with Marathon Petroleum in a drill exercise which was preceded with PIO Training. The Director participated as a member of the Joint Information Center as the primary person answering the phone and helping disseminate information from the Media, public and government officials. My observations are that the basic information is tightly controlled, particularly basic information, which would be problematic in a real event where people on-scene, flying over or on the water would see a fully laden tanker aground and leaking oil, as was the case in this scenario. This was an enormous oil spill scenario which would have elicited a great deal of public attention and scrutiny. I initially provided information from the briefing which I believed was facts as we knew them and was informed that this information had not been approved by the UC for dissemination. My lesson learned is that the basic information was too slow in being disseminated.

During this drill, Maddie Jamora and Vaito'a Heaven with CIRCAC, and Bob Pawlowski and Jan Hansen with the PROPS Committee did some role playing as visiting officials. This gave the JIC the opportunity to work the scenario of scheduling and arranging for an on-site tour into the day's exercise.

(Photos: In the Joint Information Center and Incident Command)



Newsletters

December's newsletter will feature an Update from the Board, risk assessment update, announcement of Board Elections and Scholarship, recap of the Marathon Drill, new ice camera installation, and potentially a new profile of staff or committee member. (Photo next page: Granite Point Platform taken with newest ice camera.)



November – No Newsletter

October – CIRCAC issues a call to action regarding a State initiative to overhaul oil spill prevention and response laws, Cook Inlet Harbor Safety News, USCG seeks comments on broadcasts system, upcoming events.

September – Update from the Board of Directors including Hilcorp operations, US Coast Guard overview and Nuka Research as well as staff reports

Elections

Public Outreach is assisting the Directors and Administrative Director with the upcoming elections for Alaska Native Organizations, Environmental Groups, Kodiak Island Borough and Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Paid Advertising

No new advertising since September; however, this year our ads were featured in places we'd never advertised before, including Alaska Business Monthly and the Kenai Airport.

We are currently placing ads for 2020 Visitors Guides, Peninsula Clarion's December papers, working on a new exhibit booth, and redesigning the Kenai Airport image which will be changing to digital in 2020.

In addition, with the State's regulations/statutes initiative, we are working on new radio ads for the coming year to complement our existing campaign.

I continue to hear positive feedback about our radio ads campaign, including most recently at Pacific Marine Expo, leading me to believe it is reaping positive benefits.

News Releases

No news releases since last Board Meeting.

In the News (Earned Media, year to date)

In September, Executive Director Mike Munger, Board President John Williams and Public Outreach Director Lynda Giguere were invited to the KDLL Radio Station for their call-in program. The interview was an hour long. Mr. Munger was present for the first half-hour. Although we received no call-in questions, the interview gave us the opportunity to talk in broad terms about CIRCAC's mission, programs, projects and history.

- 11.11.19 – State oil spill regulation review won't gut environmental protections, Anchorage Daily News
- 11.01.19 – Imaging Alaska Coast to Coast, Alaska Business Monthly
- 10.30.19 – State initiative puts Alaska coastal communities at risk, Anchorage Daily News
- 10.29.19 – CIRCAC Disagrees With ADEC Proposal To Overhaul The State Oil Spill Prevention and Response Regs, KSRM
- 09.29.19 – Hilcorp Updates CIRCAC On Seismic Testing In Cook Inlet, KSRM Radio Kenai
- 08.11.19 – Coast Guard recertifies CIRCAC for a year
- 05.26.19 – Critics say state attempts to expand drilling waste that can be released in Cook Inlet, Anchorage Daily News
- 05.22.19 – State agencies at odds over new law to address "orphan" oil wells, Alaska Public Media
- 04.08.19 – Public asked to comment on pipeline infrastructure efforts, Peninsula Clarion
- 03.20.19 – Cook Inlet oil infrastructure review moves into second phase, Alaska Journal of Commerce

2020 Annual Report

The 2020 Annual Report deadline is April 2020. Design and theme are to be determined.

2020 Planned Upcoming Exhibits

January--Alaska Marine Science Symposium

March--ComFish Alaska

May-- IOSC, New Orleans

August--Kenai Peninsula Fair and Industry Day

November—Pacific Marine Expo, Seattle

PROPS Staff Report

Ice Monitoring Cameras

Staff has ordered the materials needed to install the Hilcorp owned Tyonek platform camera. Once the materials are delivered to the contractor, the installation will begin. We anticipate that happening before the end of the year.

Additionally, we are still working to get the new operating system to work with some of the cameras that still require the old system. This is proving to be complicated and will require some site visits to ensure the hardware is functioning as required to work with the new operating system.

Geographic Resource Inventory Database (GRID)

Staff and our primary contractor exercised the GRID program at a recent Marathon drill exercise conducted in late October. Our contractor provided drill injects, to the drill planning team, that exercised the software within the drill scenario in an effort to tax the program and the users. The Logistics Section was the focus for this exercise. Unfortunately, none of the Logistics Section had attended the training we provided earlier. Our primary contractor overcame this and provided on the spot training to have some members of the Logistics Section use the program. We had limited success as we encountered difficulty with accessing the program on the Marathon employees' laptops being used at the drill. Our contractor was able to overcome that obstacle only to later experience a complete loss of internet connectivity, which was later reestablished.

Staff has arranged to test the GRID program at a future Hilcorp drill. We will also work closely with Marathon to enable access to the GRID program on employee laptops that are used at drills and live events to further test the program.

Drills/ Deployments

BlueCrest Alaska Operating

Staff participated in the Nov. 1st BlueCrest Alaska Operating (BCAO) Emergency Operations Center (EOC) drill. The EOC is activated when an incident takes place at a facility. Personnel at the facility make the initial call to the Qualified Individual (QI) or other named individual in the Oil Discharge and Prevention Contingency Plan (ODPCP) to begin the process of responding to an incident. The initial personnel and agency notifications take place and are recorded along with initial actions to characterize the spill site. On site characterization operations, air monitoring, spill location and extent are mapped. The results of air monitoring, location and extent of spilled material is provided to the initial On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) located on site, who in turn conveys it to personnel in the EOC usually a Safety Officer. Likewise, the initial spill response activities like source control, any actions to contain, and collect spilled materials is also conveyed to the EOC. Members of the EOC are usually located at the home office of the operator. It is not uncommon for initial agency representatives to arrive at the EOC sometime after notifications are made to collect information and provide direction to the EOC and on-site personnel as needed.

All the information collected about these initial activities are recorded on an ICS form 201 (Incident Briefing) to be used to brief the Incident Management Team (IMT) when those personnel assigned to manage an incident in the formal Command Center have arrived to begin support of response activities and response personnel in the field. The Incident or 201 briefing is an important cornerstone of any response, as it provides important details about the spill, on-scene, weather, tides stage (if on water), any hazards, actions being taken by personnel and

equipment already deployed, and initial objectives like personnel safety, site access and security, and control of ignition sources. These are things the IMT and incoming responders need to know in order to manage and respond safely and effectively.

For this EOC exercise, the ICS 201 was completed but incident control was not transferred to the Unified Command (UC). That function will take place next year when this incident will be the subject of a drill exercise of the full IMT to address a blowout from a well at the Cosmopolitan facility.

Marathon Petroleum

Staff and PROPS members participated at a Marathon Petroleum spill exercise held in late October. Staff participated as Truth Control to track the progress of drill injects as they were provided and acted on by the Operations Section. PROPS committee members Jan Hansen and Bob Pawlowski along with Vaito'a Heaven and Madeline (Maddie) Jamora participated by playing the role of VIP's from CIRCAC that were touring the Command Center to monitor response activities and ask questions about the spill and response actions. The CIRCAC VIP's were met by the Liaison Officer (LO) and the Public Information Officer (PIO) and given a brief summary of the incident and actions taken up to that time. The group was then taken to tour the command center where they were able to ask questions about what they were seeing.

This drill exercise was centered on a tank vessel that had lost propulsion and subsequently ran aground near Flat Island causing several tanks to leak approximate 210,000 bbls of oil. The discharged oil trajectory had oil coming to shore in several areas with the majority remaining offshore. Response activities included several GRS deployments for protection of sensitive areas and resources, along with offshore, nearshore, and shoreline tactics to collect and recover spilled oil. Another important component to the exercise was the utilization of salvage activities to limit the oil spilled and refloat the vessel and move it to a safe location for further evaluation and eventual movement to a shipyard for repair.

This was a very good exercise that sought to exercise command and control measures to meet National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP), Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) oil spill response guideline objectives and followed the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) design principles.

Administration Report Cook Inlet RCAC Board of Directors Meeting – December 6, 2019

Below you will find a brief update on the primary administrative tasks performed – or assistance provided – by your Administrative staff since the September 2019 Board of Directors meeting:

Board Elections/Appointments – The seats on the Council Board of Directors which terms are scheduled to expire in April 2020 are: Environmental Group, Alaska Native Group, Kodiak Island Borough and Kenai Peninsula Borough. The processes for launching these elections and appointments have begun.

Grants – CIRCAC renewed its System for Awards Management (SAM) registration, and has updated our ‘roles’ in the ASAP and TAG grant systems we are active in. Vaito’a has undergone extensive training, and continues to take training modules.

Budgets – Development of the 2020 Operating and program budgets for consideration and adoption has concluded.

Scholarships – The scholarship process for 2020 has begun. Staff was unable to participate directly in the Kodiak Island Scholarship Fair on November 8 due to weather, however our applications were distributed in absentia. Outreach to schools will begin when school resumes in mid-January. CIRCAC has provided its share of the new \$2,500 AVTEC maritime scholarship.

Corporate Funding – Invoices for funding will be distributed in December. All funding obligations to date for 2019 have been met.

By-Laws and Policies – As per Policy and Board direction, staff is engaged in an ongoing review of policies for necessary changes. Additionally, a review of investment instruments is underway.

Insurance – The Council’s corporate insurance policies have been renewed. These include Directors & Officers Liability, Casualty/Loss and general liability. Employee health insurance has also been renewed. Our Broker of Record relationship for employee benefits has been changed to RISQ Consulting of Anchorage.

Registrations – The Council’s Alaska Business License and Alaska Department of Law’s Charitable Organization Registration have been renewed.

Organizational Support – Administrative staff participates with the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee and Kenai Peninsula’s Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) as an Alternate Member (supporting Vinnie Catalano’s primary role on both).

Support – Administrative staff supported directors, public members, staff and guests in logistics for meetings and travel, including but not limited to the Homer board meeting (and the cancelled Seldovia meeting before that); Executive, Audit, PROPS, Protocol and EMC committee meetings; Pacific Marine Expo (Seattle), Kodiak Scholarship Fair, Clean Pacific Conference (Vancouver), Clean Gulf Conference (New Orleans) and others.