



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."*



**Kenai River Ice – Low Tide, March 17, 2017**

***Board of Directors Meeting and  
Council Annual Meeting***

*April 7, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.*

*Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association Building – Kenai, Alaska*



COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

**BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING**

**\*\*AGENDA\*\***

**Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association Building  
40610 Kalifornsky Beach Road, Kenai, Alaska**

**Friday, April 7, 2017**

**8:30 am**

**Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 am**

**Cook Inlet RCAC Board Meeting**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

**Approval of Agenda** *(Action Item)*

**Approval of Minutes** *(Action Item)*

- December 1 and 2, 2016

**1**

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Welcoming Remarks**

- Brian Gabriel, Mayor – City of Kenai

**Public Comment** *(3 minute limit per speaker)*

**9:20 am**

**Presentations on Related Activities**

- Capt. Paul Albertson, Commander Sector Anchorage – United States Coast Guard

- Larry Hartig, Commissioner – Alaska  
Department of Environmental Conservation
- Joe Kaiser & Julianna Orczewska – Hilcorp  
Alaska (MGS Natural Gas Leak)
- Graham Wood, PP&R Program Manager -  
Alaska Department of Environmental  
Conservation
- Rich Novcaski , Midstream Manager – Harvest  
Alaska (CIPL Cross-Inlet Extension)
- Captain Marc Bayer – Tesoro Maritime

**12:00 noon**      **Break for Working Lunch** (*Lunch will be provided*)

**Presentation – Resolution**

**Presentation - Volunteer of the Year Award**

Captain Glen Glenzer Memorial Volunteer of the Year

**Presentation - Volunteer Service Awards**

- 5 Years
  - Walt Sonen, Board (City of Seldovia)
  - Jan Hansen, PROPS
  - Ginny Litchfield, ExOfficio (AK-F&G)
- 10 Years
  - Bob Flint, Board (Recreation Group)
  - Ted Moore, PROPS
- 20 Years – Paul Shadura, Board (Aquaculture  
and Commercial Fishing Groups)

**12:40 pm**      **Presentations on Related Activities (cont.)**

**1:45 pm**      **Executive Committee Report** (*Informational Items*)

**2:00: pm**      **Executive Director’s Report** (*Informational Items*)

**2:20 pm**      **Status of Programs & Projects** (*Informational  
Items*)

- Protocol Control Committee
- Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety  
Committee
- Environmental Monitoring Committee
- Public Involvement Program
- Administration

**3:15 pm**      **Calendars & Miscellaneous** *(Informational Item)*

**Closing Comments**

**3:25 pm**      **Adjourn**

*The 2017 Annual Meeting will be called to order after  
a short break.*



March 24, 2017

Hon. Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senate  
709 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

SUBJECT: The Critical Need to Fully Fund the U.S. Coast Guard

Dear Senator Murkowski:

We are aware of your strong support for restoring cuts to operations of the U.S. Coast Guard in the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2018. On behalf of the member organizations of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council and the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, we would like to express the deep concerns of the respective memberships of these two Citizens' Councils over the potentially serious adverse impacts of these cuts to federal oil spill prevention, response and clean up capabilities, livelihoods, the environment and national security.

As you know, the Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound Citizens' Advisory Councils were statutorily authorized in the wake of the devastating 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. The work of both Councils is guided by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and funded by the industry the Councils are charged with monitoring and helping to ensure oil is transported safely.

One of the purposes of OPA 90 is to combat the complacency that played a role in the 1989 disaster by involving local citizens in decisions that affect the safe transportation of oil in our respective regions. Both organizations represent communities across the entire region affected by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, as well as commercial fishing, aquaculture, Alaska Native, recreation, tourism and environmental groups. The Councils also work to foster long-term partnerships with industry, government and local communities in overseeing compliance with environmental concerns in the operation of crude oil terminals in our region.

The Coast Guard is the principal Federal agency responsible for maritime safety and environmental stewardship in the nation's waterways and ports. As such, the Coast Guard plays an absolutely critical role ensuring that required oil spill prevention measures are in place to make sure that a disaster like the 1989 oil spill and its far reaching impacts never happen again. The Coast Guard also ensures that adequate response systems and capabilities are in place in the event that prevention measures fail, and serves a key command role during responses to large on-water oil spills necessary to minimize impacts to people, the economy, and the environment. Both Councils believe that a fully funded Coast Guard is essential to maintaining the improvements in oil spill prevention and response that have been put in place since the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

The American people have learned from the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, and oil spills in other areas of our nation, such as the Deepwater Horizon spill just a few years ago, that all parties can take nothing for granted and therefore must remain vigilant. We believe that the proposed 1.3 billion dollar cut to the Coast Guard budget represents a major step backward in terms of the public interest, commerce, jobs, marine life, and for the environment in general.

In closing, we respectfully request that you do all that you can on behalf of the public interest to help restore the 1.3 billion dollar cut to the Coast Guard budget in order to maintain their critical role in protecting our nation's homeland, its people, economy and environment.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director  
Cook Inlet  
Regional Citizens Advisory Council  
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Donna Schantz  
Executive Director  
Prince William Sound  
Regional Citizens' Advisory Council  
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cc: RADM Michael McAllister, U.S. Coast Guard District 17th Command

## **Protocol Control Committee**

Since the December 2016 Council meeting the Protocol Control Committee has reviewed and submitted comments regarding the following:

### **Proposed regulatory changes and updates:**

Dispersant Avoidance Areas Within the Preauthorization Area

Update and Revision of Regulations Regarding Petroleum Cleanup Levels; focused on a physical regulatory presence to investigate all spill incidents to act as a deterrent to poor prevention practices and to ensure regulatory compliance.

### **Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans:**

Hilcorp Alaska; focused on the large geographic area the plan covers and identified areas falling short of regulatory compliance

Harvest Alaska Facilities; highlighting procedure to remove oil from the Drift River Terminal during volcanic activity and Best Available Technology review

Cook Inlet Energy, Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan

# **PROPS Staff Report**

## **Harbor Safety Committee Managing Board**

The Harbor Safety Committee Managing Board of Directors met in December to discuss membership vacancies and appointments, and policies, annual budget, and annual member contributions. The Board agreed to draft a new letter to solicit member contributions. The Board also appointed CIRCAC's Executive Director as the new Secretary/ Treasurer and installed CIRCAC's Director of Operations into the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee, RCAC seat.

## **The Hilcorp Platform A**

Beginning February 2<sup>nd</sup> CIRCAC staff began monitoring a gas release incident involving a 8" subsea fuel gas pipeline that had developed a leak offshore approximately half way to the Hilcorp owned A platform. The pipeline is a converted liquid pipeline that was converted in 2005 from carrying crude oil to carry natural gas as fuel to the A and C platforms, Dillon, and Baker platforms. The line experienced a leak that was first noticed as bubbling on the surface of the water by a helicopter on routine flight operations. Further investigation revealed the fuel gas line was leaking. As the days went by and more scrutiny was placed on the incident by various agencies like the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), it was revealed that the pipeline had been leaking since December 2016. Hilcorp has not determined the exact cause of the leak to date; citing ice conditions making it unsafe for divers to inspect the pipeline and effect repairs. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) issued a letter of interest and a Notice of Violation regarding the leak of natural gas into Cook Inlet. Each letter notified Hilcorp of their responsibility to abate the leak and effect repairs but fell short of requiring the line to be shut down. PHMSA the agency having jurisdiction over the pipeline notified Hilcorp in a letter spelling out in detail what actions would be required and the dates for each to be accomplished by.

To date the objectives and goals laid out by the ADEC and PHMSA letters are summarized below :

### **ADEC letter of Interest**

- Identified Methane as a hazardous substance (>1 mg of methane /L of water)
- Release required prompt containment and cleanup
- Response actions must be approved in advance by State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC) If response actions are deemed not satisfactory the ADEC will assume the lead and Hilcorp may be held financially responsible
- Identify alternatives available to original response plan
- Identify added risks to the public and personnel safety associated with those alternatives
- What environmental monitoring will be conducted to quantify the release and impacts associated with the releases.
- What additional monitoring will be implemented to assess the potential impacts to aquatic species
- Identify what other options are available.

Notice that the responsible party (Hilcorp) would be billed for the expenditures accrued by the State.

### **ADEC Notice of Violation, dated. 24 February**

Detailed five statutory violations concluding with the Department's requirements:

Provide a comprehensive plan that details the actions Hilcorp would be taking to mitigate the methane discharge, including estimated dates of repair and how the repairs would be made. Ending in the requirement to include what actions Hilcorp will take to prevent discharges from



occurring in the future. Required response to the request and directives above was to take place no later than 1 March, 2017

### **PHMSA Proposed Safety Order (Notice)**

The letter specified the background and purpose, the preliminary findings. The letter also listed the following proposed actions to be carried out by Hilcorp:

1. The pipeline must be repaired or shut down by May 1st, 2017 and stay shut down authorized to resume operation.
2. Make notification to the PHMSA Director within one hour of discovery of any abnormal operating conditions or other issues regarding safe operation of the pipeline, 24 hours a day. 7 days a week after issuance of the Safety Order.
3. Prior to repair, reduce and maintain pressure as low as practical to ensure water does not intrude. In no event may the pressure increase above 165 Pound per square inch (psi) without written permission.
4. Develop and implement a pipeline inspections and repair plan and submit it to the Director of PHMSA two weeks from issuance of the final Safety Order.
5. Develop and submit a termination of offshore fuel gas deliveries plan for approval no later than two weeks from the issuance of the final Safety Order.
6. Immediately notify in writing the Director of PHMSA if the ADEC ordered environmental monitoring plan changes or fails to comply with the ADEC order.
7. Develop and submit for approval no later than 45 days from issuance of the Safety Order, a modification and inspection plan for the pipeline, then implement the plan which must include modification to the pipeline to allow In Line Inspection (ILI) or alternate technologies; conduct and make all necessary repairs by September 30, 2018. Document all subsequent repairs and provide documentation to the Director of PHMSA within 30 days of receipt of the report by Hilcorp and no later than 30 days following the repairs. Hilcorp must inspect by diver areas of the pipeline with 10 feet or more of unsupported spans and a gap between the seabed and pipeline of one foot or more. On pipeline surfaces without intact concrete coating inspect exposed pipeline surfaces to determine the condition of dielectric coating, and check for presence of dents, gouges, metal loss, or other anomalies. The inspections must be performed no later than 90 days after the ice freeze subsides.
8. Provide the Director of PHMSA with documentation of compliance and supporting data of the above items.

In addition to the above items Hilcorp must submit quarterly reports to the Director of PHMSA with analysis of data and test results; describe progress of repairs and other actions required by the Safety Order. The first report is due within 45 days of the issuance of the final Safety Order.

Wildlife monitoring began on March 9<sup>th</sup> by CISPRI protected species observer and International Bird Rescue personnel. An area of approximately 20 square miles or within a five mile radius of the leak location. No marine mammals, birds or fishes were observed within the area. CIRCAC continues to receive daily pipeline monitoring reports and daily activity reports.

### **Tesoro Drill Planning Meeting**

Staff has been invited to participate in the Tesoro drill planning meetings between the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Coast Guard, and Tesoro. Planning a drill exercise begins about six to nine months prior to the actual exercise. Topics such as expectations by all parties regarding objectives to be achieved through the exercise and scope of the exercise, assumptions regarding the exercise such as established parameters of capacities or volumes and other information that has been accepted and does not need to be re-introduced to conduct the exercise.

## **2017 International Oil Spill Conference**

Staff, Board members and Public members of PROPS will be attending the 2017 International Oil Spill Conference in Long Beach, CA. this year's conference will include Platform Sessions that will highlight topics such as Readiness Assessment, Laws and Policies, Integrating Science into Response, Response Technology: Dispersant Operations, Sunken Vessels, Fate and Monitoring Spilled Oil, Wildlife Issues, Cold Water Spill Research, Oil in Ice Detection, Surface Transport Modeling, Herding Agent, and unconventional Oil Issues. Along with presentations at the Platform Sessions there will be exhibits of new and established response equipment, software, and Oil Spill Removal Organizations (OSRO), a Technical Demonstration demonstrating *The Evolution of Oil Spill Response*, and a Film Festival / Photo Contest.

## **Alaska Regional Response Team**

Staff attended the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) meeting hosted in Fairbanks. This meeting was held at the Pipeline Training Center. The Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center provides training opportunities for Alaskans to enter into registered construction apprenticeship programs for careers in the oil and gas industry, offering training programs structured to meet the needs of Alaska's oil and gas industry.

Listed below are some of the topics discussed that are relevant to Cook Inlet along with presentations by various Agency representatives.

**The ADEC Director of the Division of Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR)** addressed some of the upcoming and recent changes to State rules on contingency planning; including a manual now available online, that provides guidance for complying with State planning requirements. The Director also addressed proposed regulations regarding Medium-size tank facilities (Class II facilities) that will require registration with ADEC and notification for facilities that store noncrude oil in aboveground storage tanks and have capacities of 1,000 gallons or greater but less than 420,000 gallons.

The Federal and State On-Scene Coordinators provided activity reports for their areas. Below are the FOSC and SOSC reports that incorporate Cook Inlet activities.

- **U.S. Coast Guard Western Alaska Captain of the Port Zone- USCG Sector Anchorage** reviewed the recent spill responses and lessons learned in Western Alaska. The primary spill contributor was the sinking of the M/V Exito in December 2016 near Unalaska, Alaska, which also resulted in two deaths. Another major response, which ultimately did not result in a release of any oil to the environment, was at Hilcorp's Tyonek Platform in Cook Inlet in November 2016. In this response, CISPRI was contracted by Hilcorp to remove approximately 20,000 gallons of diesel fuel that had leaked into one of the platform legs.
- **Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation-** reviewed the ADEC's recent cases and responses; Tyonek Platform; Tesoro/KPL facility; M/V Exito sinking; and truck roll overs. The ADEC is working on a survey and visioning process to improve response exercises; a report on this process will be available.

## **Agency Presentations**

Below are summaries of agency presentations on topics of interest to CIRCAC.

- **The Area Contingency Plan/Regional Contingency Plan (ACP/RCP) Task Force** update identified the proposed planning area boundaries, solicited stakeholder input on the overall proposal, proposed final location of Subarea Contingency Plan and Unified Plan components, designed proposed plan structure, drafted a table of contents for the ACP / RCP, and created a matrix to illustrate the proposed relocation of plan components

from existing plans to proposed plans. The ARRT co-chairs (EPA and the USCG) will determine whether a tribal consultation is necessary. The State will require a regulatory change regarding the 10 subarea contingency plans and would also like to conduct another public review process.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) summarized the comments submitted from DOI to the ARRT on Friday January 13, 2017. A primary concern of the DOI is the division of the planning areas and a potential increase in planning workload.

- **Dispersant Avoidance Area Identification**, USCG Sector Anchorage presented an overview of the effort to identify dispersant avoidance areas. The purpose of this effort is to identify areas within the pre-authorization zone that should be excluded from pre-authorization. Avoidance areas needed to be identified by January 27, 2018, or the pre-authorization zone for that subarea will revert to a case-by-case process to approve the use of dispersants. Avoidance areas are not areas where dispersant use will be prohibited, but that any dispersant use in those areas will need to be decided using the case-by-case decision-making process. CIRCAC has provided comments identifying Areas to be Avoided.
- **Alternative Planning Criteria Update**- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) District 17 (D17) presented on the status the USCG Alternative Planning Criteria (APC). D17 began developing an APC policy in 2015. Coast Guard headquarters had prepared a draft national policy, which was re-opened for public comment on January 10, 2017; with comments due April 10, 2017. D17 will also conduct public outreach in Western Alaska communities. Once the national policy is published, D17 will develop APC Guidance to address Alaska-specific concerns.

D17 also spoke on the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code) implementation, which went into effect January 1, 2017. Although the marine pollution rules are now in effect, other requirements will be phased in over the next three years. The USCG also issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in November 2016 that would add a new Polar Ship Certificate to the list of existing certificates required to be on board all U.S. and foreign-flagged vessels subject to the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and operating in Arctic and Antarctic waters. In Alaska, the Polar Code applies to waters north of 60 degrees north, excluding Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound.

- **Arctic Spill Response Equipment Database**- the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) provided a report on international arctic spill response equipment. The database is used to identify oil spill response equipment (government-owned and commercially owned) that may be used to respond in an arctic oil spill. The final database was approved by the Arctic Council Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response working group in December 2016. The next steps include database presentation at the Arctic Council ministerial meeting in May 2017, then it will be published.
- **Science and Technology Committee**-NOAA's Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) provided an update on the status of the Science and Technology Committee. An Endangered Species Act (ESA) Survey was sent to the On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) in November 2016 requesting feedback on the steps taken in regards to compliance. The ESA task force has also created a "ESA Consultation Initiation Form" to document the consultation process. They are currently in the process of developing a post-response

consultation close-out form to document the response actions and timeline, mitigation measures, and lessons learned from the emergency response. The SSC included an announcement that the USCG plans to conduct research and development testing projects in the Arctic on the USCGC Healy in summer 2017.

- **Food Safety Task Force Update-** The task force is looking at producing a streamlined document to assist in addressing food safety issues during an emergency response.

## **Drills Schedule**

Listed below are upcoming drills Staff will attend:

April 25-Hilcorp–Beaver Creek

April 26- Harvest-Cook Inlet Pipeline/Drift River Terminal

May 23- Cook Inlet Energy

## **EMC Staff Report: Activities since the 2-3 December 2016 Board Meeting**

*Susan Saupe*

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

#### *Kamishak Bay/Lower Cook Inlet Intertidal Habitats*

1. For our project *Evaluation of Nearshore Communities and Habitats; Ecological Processes in Lower Cook Inlet*, a partnership project with the National Park Service (NPS), the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and NOAA (and funded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, BOEM), we presented a poster at the January 2017 Alaska Marine Science Symposium titled “*Nearshore assessments of complex rocky reefs and platforms in lower Cook Inlet: A patchwork of marine assemblages.*”
2. We’ve had several in-person and teleconference meetings to discuss plans for our summer 2017 fieldwork. The NPS/CIRCAC agreement is being revised to include funding and responsibilities of 2017 field work. CIRCAC is again taking lead for field planning and logistics. We’ve decided to schedule separate subtidal and intertidal sampling teams due to scheduling conflicts. In addition, we will have a separate helicopter survey on the Douglas Reef system. I am currently receiving responses to a Request for Quotes for the two vessel surveys and will be negotiating the rates and schedules within the next week or two.
3. We’ve submitted a sampling permit request to ADF&G for invertebrates and algae collections.
4. Maritta and I submitted the annual financial and progress report for our contract with NPS. This report was due on 31 March 2017 for work conducted between the start of the contract in May 2016 and March 31, 2017.
5. I spent 3 days in Juneau in December to meet with the two algal taxonomists, Dr. Sandra Lindstrom and Mandy Lindeberg, to identify and catalogue our 2016 field collections and prepare them for digital scanning. I transferred all of the collections from our office to NOAA for scanning and final dispensation to herbariums.
6. As in 2016, I will participate in the intertidal field work onboard the vessel and during the helicopter surveys with a smaller team, in the role of Chief Scientist. Though I am only one of a number of Principal Investigators on the project and project is driven by collaboration and joint decision,, most research cruises or field projects have one designated point-of-contact (Chief Scientist) for relaying final decisions to vessel skippers and helicopter pilots. In May we will revisit 5 of our 6 intertidal stations from Nordyke Island in the south to Chinitna Bay area in the north; and in June we will sample on a series of sampling stations on the Douglas Reef system.
7. As a component of the new four-year agreement with NPS (with BOEM funding), we received some support for the development of our EMC on-line contaminants database where we are compiling our hydrocarbon, persistent organic pollutants, and heavy metals data. I continued to work with our main contractor to compile data. The next step is to work through options of how we should provide the data, how it can be downloaded, and which visualizations make sense. Our current project contractors is Bill Driskell (Seattle) and we

will be working with Kinnetic Laboratories, Inc. (Anchorage), and Axiom Data Science (Anchorage) to take the data Mr. Driskell and I have been compiling and develop our contaminants and water quality data portal at [www.aoots.org](http://www.aoots.org).

### ***Integrated Cook Inlet Environmental Monitoring and Assessment***

We have \$31,000 remaining in this budget from when we received an over-payment from NOAA for the work we conducted for the ICIEMAP study finalized in 2010. Since then, NOAA has been contacted by us and by our Financial Auditors to ask how we proceed with returning these funds and remove them from books. So far we have not received a response. Mike and I are working with Steve Silver to submit a request t proposing that we allowed to keep those funds and use them for a project related to our Integrate Cook Inlet Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (CIEMAP) work – one of the projects originally funded by the grant.

## **Coastal Habitat Mapping Program**

### ***ShoreZone***

1. We continue working with our data from the May 2016 ShoreZone surveys along the Alaska Peninsula. I will be developing two contracts for additional help to compile our data into a new database format for a revamped Shore Station Database and Visualization Tool on the NOAA ShoreZone website.
2. I purchased a high resolution large-bed scanner for archival quality digital records of our voucher specimens from the field work. This scanner was shipped to NOAA where our pressed specimens will be digitally scanned so that we have a final permanent copy and can then provide the originals to herbarium collections.
3. We presented a poster about our shore station work at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in January 2017 titled “*Long-awaited coastal habitat assessment for an area along Alaska Peninsula’s remote coast.*”
4. We will be working with PROPS to finalize the data collected during an additional component of our shore station surveys – opportunistic ground-truth surveys of Geographic Response Strategies in the area. EMC contracted with Nuka Research for one person (Mark Janes) and the National Park Service provided Dr. Tahzay Jones towards these surveys at no cost to our project. This component was added to take advantage of having a vessel in the area and because there hasn’t been the opportunity to send someone to assess those sites on-the-ground yet and it is incredibly expensive to do work in that area. Additional work will be required to take the information gathered for each site and compile it into a format that can be integrated into active GRS on-line. PROPS will take the lead on this next phase and ensure the data is provided to ADEC for integration into the state-wide database. The team had successfully assessed most GRSs between Mitrofanina Bay and Wide Bay - and were able to collect some additional detailed oceanographic measurements for some of the sensitive sites.
5. We’ve had several ShoreZone steering committee meetings where we’ve discussed funding for the coordinator position and worked on developing our Terms of Reference. I’ve met individually with partners on specific aspects of this and other issues.

6. Provided review comments for revisions to the Alaska ShoreZone Protocols to NOAA and Coastal and Ocean Resources, Inc.

### ***Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT)***

Our contractors are ready to move to the next phase of our joint PROPS/EMC project to integrate the Geographic Response Information Database (GRID) into our CIRT tool, which is an Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) data portal. They have completed Phase I of a multi-phase project sponsored by both EMC and PROPS and, with PROPS, we are in the process of finishing scopes of work for contractors at Axiom and Nuka so that they can ingest the GRID data and begin developing visualizations of the data. Nuka will begin compiling data from additional communities in our Area of Concern.

## **Physical Oceanography and Oil Fate and Effects Programs**

1. The last two draft white papers from the *Dispersants Workshop for the State of Science for Dispersants in Arctic Waters* that were scheduled to be released at the end of 2016 have been delayed. The series of five white papers were being released in a phased manner by the Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) and NOAA. This project started with a series of meetings of subject-matter experts at the request of a national planning team for an Arctic Spill of National Significance (SONS). They had identified the need for a definitive evaluation of the state of the science for dispersants and dispersed oil. I was part of the planning team that selected the topic experts with the goal that each group would provide a list of unanimously agreed upon what is known about dispersants and dispersed oil that can be supported in the scientific literature. As well, they were to identify knowledge gaps and major uncertainties. The experts focused on five topics concerning dispersants and dispersed oil:

- Topic 1: Efficacy and Effectiveness;
- Topic 2: Physical Transport and Chemical Behavior;
- Topic 3: Degradation and Fate;
- Topic 4: Eco-Toxicity and Sublethal Impacts.
- Topic 5: Public Health and Food Security; and

The experts submitted their statements to CRRC and NOAA and, so far, Topics 1, 2, and 3 have been released for public comment and the comment periods are now closed. Topics 4 and 5 were expected to be released by the end of the year but are now scheduled for later in 2017. The status of the review process and notifications of review opportunities can be found at [http://crrc.unh.edu/workshop/crrc/dispersant\\_science](http://crrc.unh.edu/workshop/crrc/dispersant_science). You can also see the documents for Topics 1, 2, and 3 that were provided for review earlier.

2. I attended the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GOMRI) Oil Spill and Ecosystem Conference from 6-10 February 2017. This meeting provides an opportunity to see the most recent research results related to oil fate and effects. Though much of the research is related to the Gulf of Mexico, and specifically the Deep Water Horizon oil spill, many of the studies also include test conditions or information that applies to Arctic and sub-Arctic conditions. It's also an opportunity to have meetings related to our National Dispersants Workgroup and for me to meet with some of our contractors and partners on other projects, which I was able to do again this year.

## Technical Review Program

1. I prepared comments on Avoidance Areas within Preauthorization Area of the Dispersant Use Plan for Alaska (attached) and presented them to the Protocol Committee for review and approval in early January. They were submitted on January 9<sup>th</sup> to Nuka Research, who was the contractor to the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) for receiving and compiling public comments.
2. I was a “Subject Matter Expert” for the State of Alaska’s review of Hilcorp’s sampling plan and water quality sampling related to the natural gas leak on the supply pipeline leading to Platform A. It was important to the state that they clarified that I participated as a Subject Matter Expert, and not as a representative of CIRCAC. I was also asked to provide advice, information, and CIRCAC data to Hilcorp contractors as they developed their water and air quality sampling plans. We’ve been contacted multiple times by the media for information about Cook Inlet’s physical and chemical environment and its biological resources, as well as helping to interpret the results of testing near the discharge. Thank-you to Lynda for helping me to navigate those situations. I was also invited to participate in a 2-hour overflight on March 23<sup>rd</sup> with personnel from Hilcorp, ADEC, and ADF&G.

## Additional Activities

1. Attended the Alaska Marine Science Symposium during the week of January 22-27, and had many side meetings with our various partners and contractors. Lynda provided our booth during the two poster session events.
2. I participate in a Habitat Focus Area Steering Committee Meeting in January where we focused discussions on clam habitat. We received updates about clam habitat, population, hatchery, and restoration studies. We also had open discussions about:
  - *Why the Habitat Focus Area clam habitat modeling project is focused on little neck clams, butter clams;*
  - *The connectivity among clam populations and related genetic work;*
  - *Clam habitat in Alaska;*
  - *Causes of bivalve declines;*
  - *Diseases that may limit clam populations;*
  - *Clam life history and ecosystem function;*
  - *Historical data from multiple sources, and;*
  - *Project leveraging opportunities*
3. I was asked by personnel at NMFS’s Protected Resources Division in Anchorage to provide background information about our Cook Inlet contaminant studies and provide recommendations for further studies based on our Beluga Winter Prey study. I met with them in late January in Anchorage.
4. NMFS is also developing a marine mammal response plan for the Cook Inlet and Kodiak areas. I was asked to meet with their contractor in late March to provide background



information about those areas and the recommendations how they can move forward with that project. They plan to meet with communities along the Kenai Peninsula and on Kodiak within the next several months to obtain local input into their plan.

5. All of us work together as staff to complete many of our projects and activities. A few recent examples are:
  - Each year, Lynda prepares draft annual report outlines that makes it much easier to write up our respective sections. This year we all worked together to provide text, imagery, design ideas, and reviews/editing.
  - In the past few months, Maritta helped organize all EMC-related project and budget paperwork to ensure it had all been transferred from the Anchorage office and was in order and available to our financial auditors for the 2016 audit.
  - Jerry recently compiled (and submitted) CIRCAC's recertification package for submission to the USCG. This was the more comprehensive package that is required every third year and Jerry compiled the EMC section from our meeting packets and staff reports so it required very little revisions by me.
  - Maritta and I worked together in late March to prepare our annual report to National Park Service on our Kamishak Bay/Lower Cook Inlet habitat study – which included detailed budget tracking and summaries of all activities we conducted based on the Scope-of-work in our contract.
  - In January, Vinnie arranged the Protocol Meeting and provided background information to me and committee members so that I could prepare and present our draft comments on Dispersant Avoidance Areas for their approval.
  - Vinnie and I are also currently working to coordinate funding between EMC and PROPS for continuing the integration of oil spill planning and response information via the GRID database into our Cook Inlet Response Tool. And, as always, Vaito'a has provided
  - I've worked with Mike and Vinnie these past few weeks to answer questions and provide information regarding the natural gas leak on the Platform A pipeline.
  - Mike is spear-heading efforts to get an additional 31K into our project budget from an overpayment by NOAA to CIRCAC. I've worked with Mike and Steve Silver to provide justification for how the funds will benefit the projects they originally funded with the appropriation.
  - Mike ensured that I was kept in the loop on science and environmental issues related to the planning and response efforts during the natural gas leak; his involvement ensured that I was able to provide review comments and advice specific to sampling in upper Cook Inlet. .
  - Cindy provides great summaries of complex discussions at our meetings. She deserves a medal for being able to capture the meat of all of our various discussions so that timely EMC minutes for approval at committee meetings.
  - And, as always (and most importantly), Vaito'a provides support for almost every aspect of our work. She helps prepare for all EMC meetings and arranges meeting locations and logistics and takes care of so many different details.

## Public Outreach Report to the Board – April 7, 2017

The first three months have been busy. We have been to three conferences/exhibits, provided public presentations—two in Kenai and one in Eklutna, with another planned in Kodiak on the 17<sup>th</sup>; work on the Annual Report, Newsletter and meetings with Tourism and Alaska Native groups.

The Public Outreach Program continues to provide support for outreach initiatives led by other directors, including the Scholarship Program, Elections, and Poster Sessions at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium.

**CIRCAC Memorial Scholarship**—Promotions began in December for the 2017 Scholarship and continued into January and February with social media, website, the e-Newsletter, College Fairs and Booth Exhibits.



### Trade shows, exhibits and conferences

—In addition to the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in January, and ComFish March 30 to April 1, we exhibited our booth at the Alaska Forum on the Environment to broaden our reach to Environmental Groups in conjunction with this year's elections. The

week-long event in February drew more than 1200 attendees and presenters from throughout Alaska and the Lower 48. (Photos: Board members Carla Stanley and Michael Opheim, as well as PROPS Committee Member Steve Lufkin at the AFE.)



**Cook Inlet Navigator e-Newsletter**—the *Cook Inlet Navigator*, is becoming an effective means for broadcasting news releases, and promoting other initiatives, such as the Harbor Safety Committee's efforts to publicize the Harbor Safety Plan and recruit new members. We also continue to profile our Board and Committee members and stakeholder groups, and publicize reports and special projects. The subscribers have been holding steady, with an above average "open" rate.

**Paid Media**—We are in the process of buying radio ad space, to run our existing ads on a rotating basis, to coincide with the public comment period for US Coast Guard recertification beginning in May.

We have bought numerous print ads, including in the Alaska Business Monthly, Kodiak ComFish Guide, Visitors Guides, Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival in the Homer News, and Member Director for the Home Builders Association.

## 2017 Earned Media (which mentions CIRCAC) to date

- 03.25.2017 – [Hilcorp to reduce gas flow to leaking gas line](#), Peninsula Clarion
- 02.16.2017 – [Hilcorp gas pipeline leaking into Inlet](#), Peninsula Clarion
- 01.23.2017 – [Citizen group hammers state for not responding to Cook Inlet oil leak](#), Alaska Dispatch News

**Annual Report**—Our 2017 Annual Report highlights our continued effectiveness in advocating for increased monitoring and regulatory oversight of Cook Inlet.



**Social Media**—Facebook continues to be utilized to increase brand recognition and promote our activities, including upcoming events, scholarships, Harbor Safety and other committee news, and our newsletter.

**Public Presentations**—We have already been invited to speak at several public events. To date, the Public Outreach Director has presented to the Kenai City Assembly, the Native Village of Eklutna, and Kenai Borough Assembly Meeting (with Prince William Sound RCAC). Later this month she will travel to Kodiak for the KANA/Koniag Native Roundtable.

**Elections and New Stakeholder Recruitment**—We continue recruiting new tourism groups. There will be a profile on our newest member group, the Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council, in our next newsletter.

**Website**—We continue to make improvements to the site and make every attempt to keep the home page fresh and up to date. In particular, we are better utilizing pages devoted to “Incidents”, and making sure our comments on contingency plans, regulations, and rulemaking as well as the calendar are always current and that our links aren’t broken.

Also, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary On-line Report can be available as a PDF. Please let us know if you’d like a copy.

**Administration Report**  
**Cook Inlet RCAC Board of Directors Meeting – April 7, 2017**

Below you will find a brief update on key administrative tasks performed or assistance provided since the December 2016 Board meeting.

- **Board of Directors Seats** – CIRCAC launched and completed the election/appointment process for those Interest Group and Municipal seats expiring in 2017 (Alaska Native, Environmental, Kodiak Island Borough and Kenai Peninsula Borough).

Triggered by the resignation of Scott Smiley, representing the Kodiak Island Borough, we initiated the process for notifying the Mayor and seeking appointment of an interim replacement. The Assembly appointed Kyle Crow to complete the term, and proceeded to appoint him to serve the full 3 year term beginning April 7, 2017.

The Credentials Committee certified the 2017 process was completed in accordance with Bylaws and Council Policies.

- **Public Member Seats** – The process for recruiting candidates to fill expiring seats on PROPS and EMC was initiated in January; advertisements were placed in local papers for interested citizens, and one individual stepped up. John Tuttle, Soldotna Postmaster, was elected to join the EMC as a new public member with a 3 year term. Incumbent Dan Urban was re-elected. EMC has one public member vacancy, due to a resignation in 2016; Steve Hunt had been a member of EMC since 1999. Jim McHale and John Bauer both sought a new 3 year term to PROPS, and were re-elected at its March meeting. The PROPS Committee has a full complement of 8 public members.
- **Recertification** – CIRCAC submitted its recertification application on March 10, 2017. This is the full public comment process which occurs every three years. Staff has met with Coast Guard personnel who will be reviewing the application, and feel the application is responsive to their direction. A public comment period from June 1 to July 15 is expected. It is not anticipated that the Coast Guard will call for a public hearing.
- **Corporate Funding** – All payments due to date for 2017 have been received.
- **Financial Audit** – Lambe, Tuter, Wagner completed its annual field audit on March 2. The exit interview revealed no concerns or major findings. Their letter detailing any findings and recommendations is expected in April.
- **Records Management** – Staff has disposed of select corporate records in accordance with the schedule established in Council Policy.
- **Scholarship Offering** – Outreach directly to schools began in mid-January. The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, March 31. New committee member Bob Pawlowski is assisting in promoting the offering to the maritime industry via their apprenticeship program. The Committee will meet in early April to interview the finalists.

- **By-Laws and Policies Review** – The Council undertook a series of important amendments to its governing documents at the end of 2016. Staff continues to review CIRCAC’s By-Laws, Council Policies and Personnel Policies for areas which may require revision or updating. Proposed amendments to select provisions will be reviewed by legal counsel if necessary, and CIRCAC’s Audit and Executive Committees for review and recommendation before advancing to the Board of Directors.
- **Conflict of Interest Policy** – as required by Council Policy 1 Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Statements were provided to all members of the Board, public committee members and staff. Virtually all have been returned; none were found to warrant review by the Executive Committee.
- **Ex Officio Directors** – Alaska DEC has appointed Graham Wood to serve as Ex Officio Director, replacing Steve Russell who resigned. Staff continues to work with the U. S. Forest Service to secure an appointment to fill that vacancy on our Board of Directors.
- **CIRCAC Meetings and Other Activities** – Administrative staff assists our colleagues and committees in producing their meetings; making registration, travel and hotel plans for conferences and expos; initiating and editing reports and correspondence; and much more.



## **COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**\*\*AGENDA\*\***

**Friday, April 7, 2017**

**Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association Building  
40610 Kalifornsky Beach Road, Kenai, AK**

**3:30 pm (est.) Cook Inlet RCAC 2016 Annual Meeting**

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

### **Seating of Members of the Board of Directors**

#### **Directors – 3 year terms** *(Action Item)*

- Re-election of Michael Opheim – Alaska Native Interest Group
- Re-appointment of Kyle Crow – Kodiak Island Borough
- Re-appointment of Grace Merkes – Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Re-election of Deric Marcorelle – Environmental Interest Group

#### **Election of Officers** *(Action Item)*

- President (1 year term)
- Vice-President (1 year term)
- Secretary/Treasurer (1 year term)

(For information purposes, the 2016 Officers were:  
President – John Williams; Vice-President – Robert

Peterkin, II; and Secretary/Treasurer – Gary Fandrei)

## **Selection/Appointment: Committee Members**

### **Executive Committee** *(Action Item)*

- President (Serves as Chair) (1 year term)
- Vice-President (1 year term)
- Treasurer (1 year term)
- 2 Board members At-Large (1 year terms)

(For informational purposes, the 2016 Members were: John Williams, Robert Peterkin, Gary Fandrei, Deric Marcorelle and Bob Flint)

### **Audit Committee** *(Action Item)*

- Treasurer (Serves as Chair) (1 year term)
- 2 Board Members At-Large (1 year terms)
- 1 Board Member Alternate (1 year term)

(For informational purposes, the 2016 Members were: Gary Fandrei, Molly McCammon, Grace Merkes and Robert Peterkin)

### **Credentials Committee** *(Action Item)*

- Vice-President (serves as Chair) (1 year term)
- 2 Board Members At-Large (1 year terms)
- 1 Board Member Alternate (1 year term)

(Committee elects Chair. For informational purposes, the 2016 Members were: Grace Merkes, Gary Fandrei, Michael Opheim and Robert Peterkin)

### **Protocol Control Committee** *(Action Item)*

- 5 Board Members (1 year terms)
- 1 Board Member Alternate (1 year term)

(Committee elects Chair. For informational purposes, the 2016 Members were: Carla Stanley (alt), Robert Peterkin, Bob Flint, Deric Marcorelle, Paul Shadura and Rob Lindsey)

## **Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety Committee** *(Action Item)*

- 3 Board Members (1 year terms)
- 3 Board Member Alternates (1 year terms)

(Committee elects Chair. For informational purposes, the 2016 Members were: Rob Lindsey, Deric Marcorelle, Bob Flint, Michael Opheim, Carla Stanley and Walt Sonen)

- 6-8 Public Members (2 public members nominated for approval)
  - John Bauer (re-appointment – 3 yrs.)
  - James McHale (re-appointment – 3 yrs.)

## **Environmental Monitoring Committee** *(Action Item)*

- 3 Board Members (1 year terms)
- 3 Board Member Alternates (1 year terms)

(Committee elects Chair. For informational purposes, the 2016 Members were: Scott Smiley (seat remains vacant), Michael Opheim, Molly McCammon, Carla Stanley, Deric Marcorelle and Bob Flint)

- 6-8 Public Members (3 public members nominated for approval):
  - Dan Urban (re-appointment – 3 yrs.)
  - Steve Hunt (re-appointment – 3 yrs.)
  - John Tuttle (new – 2 yrs., replacing Ted Rockwell)

**4:15 pm** (est.) **Adjourn**





## ANNUAL MEETING April 07, 2017

### Action Agenda

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1:**

2017 Board Seats; Public Member Seats; Committee Assignments

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#### **DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:**

Council Policies detail the annual process and timetable for filling positions on the Board of Directors and Committee Public Member seats, as these terms expire. The process for the elections and/or appointments of each seat involved in 2017 was undertaken by staff, and has been reviewed by the Council's Credentials Committee. The Committee certified that the process was performed in accordance with Council Bylaws and Policies, and that the elected and appointed representatives are qualified to be seated. An Action Agenda has been prepared for each required Board action.

Council Bylaws and Policies further outline the process for electing officers of the Board, and appointing Directors to the Council's committees for one year terms. These are the Executive Committee, Audit Committee, Credentials Committee, Protocol Control Eommittee, Environmental Monitoring Committee, and Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety Committee.

Details of each are provided below, followed by a recommendation.

#### **Board of Directors Seats**

There are four (4) seats on the Council's Board of Director seats due to expire at the conclusion of the April 07, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting. They are:

- Kenai Peninsula Borough – represented by Grace Merkes
- Kodiak Island Borough – represented by Kyle Crow
- Alaska Native Interest Group – represented by Michael Opheim
- Environmental Interest Group – represented by Deric Marcorelle

All 4 of these Incumbent Directors have been either re-elected or re-appointed by their respective Interest Group to serve a new three year term.

### **Public Member Seats on the Committees**

The Council Bylaws state that the PROPS Committee and Environmental Monitoring Committee shall consist of 6 to 8 public members. Public Members serve a 3 year staggered term, unless seated to complete a term in progress.

**PROPS Committee** - The PROPS Committee has two (2) public member seats due to expire. These seats are currently held by John Bauer and James McHale. Both incumbents are seeking re-election.

John Bauer and James McHale have been elected by the PROPS Committee to serve new three year terms.

**Environmental Monitoring Committee** - The EMC Committee has two (2) public member seats due to expire. These seats are currently held by Steve Hunt and Dan Urban. Both incumbents are seeking re-election. A returning candidate, John Tuttle of Soldotna, indicated his desire to be considered for election to the committee.

Dan Urban and Steve Hunt have been elected by the Environmental Monitoring Committee to serve new three year terms. John Tuttle was elected to serve the remaining two years of the seat vacated by Ted Rockwell.

### **Election of Officers**

Council Policies detail the process and timetable for nominating and electing members of the Board of Directors to serve as Officers. In 2016, the following Officers were elected to lead the Council:

- President – John Williams, City of Kenai
- Vice President – Robert Peterkin, II, Tourism Group
- Secretary/Treasurer – Gary Fandrei, Aquaculture Associations

### **Committee Appointments**

Council Policies detail the process and timetable for nominating and electing voting members of the Board of Directors to serve as members of the Council's Committees. In 2016, the following Officers were appointed:

- **Executive Committee** - President (serves as Chair), Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer serve by Policy, with 2 additional Directors (Deric Marcorelle and Bob Flint)
- **Audit Committee** – Treasurer (serves as Chair), with three Directors (1 is Alternate) – Grace Merkes, Molly McCammon, Robert Peterkin
- **Credentials Committee** – Vice President (serves as Chair) with three Directors (1 is Alternate) – Gary Fandrei, Grace Merkes, Michael Opheim (alt.)

- **Protocol Control Committee** – Six Directors (1 is Alternate) Robert Peterkin, Paul Shadura, Rob Lindsey (alt.), Carla Stanley, Bob Flint, Deric Marcorelle
- **PROPS Committee** – Six Directors (3 are Alternates) – Bob Flint, Carla Stanley, Deric Marcorelle, Michael Opheim, Rob Lindsey, Walt Sonen
- **Environmental Monitoring Committee** – Six Directors (3 are Alternates) – Bob Flint, Carla Stanley, Deric Marcorelle, Michael Opheim, Molly McCammon. (Note: Scott Smiley's seat is vacant due to his resignation)

## **RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION**

In volunteer organizations, continuity of service and the growth in knowledge and effectiveness that accrues to volunteers over time are invaluable. That recognition, in concert with the extreme challenges being confronted by CIRCAC at this time and going forward, it is recommended that this Action Agenda be considered and passed as a Consent Agenda:

- All elected or appointed representatives be seated to the Board of Directors
- All public members elected by the PROPS and EMC members be seated
- The current slate of Council officers be re-elected for 2017-2018
- All current committee assignments be re-appointed for 2017-2018; with one new appointee to EMC to be made as part of the motion made to approve this Action Agenda Item