

**COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Anchorage, Alaska**  
**December 2, 2016**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:** John Williams, Robert Peterkin, Molly McCammon, Carla Stanley, Paul Shadura, Walt Sonen, Rob Lindsey, Grace Merkes, Deric Marcorelle

**Members Present by Teleconference:** Kyle Crow

**Members Absent:** Gary Fandrei (excused), Bob Flint (excused), Michael Opheim (excused)

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

**Staff Present by Teleconference:** Maritta Eledge

**Others Present:** Glen Faulkner, Harvest Alaska; Stan Golis, Hilcorp Alaska; Lori Nelson, Hilcorp; Marta Mueller, DNR; Geoff Merrell, ADEC; Jon Dale, USCG District 17; Bob Pawlowski, PROPS; Brent Mellen, USCG; Heather Crowley, BOEM; Graham Wood, ADEC; Rich Novcaski, Hilcorp Alaska

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL**

President John Williams called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. Roll was called, establishing quorum.

**Robert Peterkin moved to approve the agenda. Molly McCammon seconded.**

President Williams amended the agenda to allow Paul Shadura to speak to his concern regarding the Articles of Amendment 5.1.1(a)(i) which states "Commercial fishing industry organizations, the members of which depend on the fisheries resources in the vicinity of the terminal facilities located in Cook Inlet south of the latitude at Point Possession and North of the latitude at Amatuli Island (the "Terminal Facilities"). He questions whether fishing groups outside the area of concern should be involved in electing the representative to serve that Interest Group, as he finds it difficult to represent so many groups with such diverse interests. As a member of two Cook Inlet Interest groups he understands their views. He will address the question to the fishing organizations and the Captain of the Port as he believes the present procedure is inappropriate.

Rob Lindsey responded that Kodiak houses the largest next-in-line fishing groups.

Mr. Shadura noted that he is not directing the question toward Kodiak, which holds 2 seats on CIRCAC and is represented on PWSRCAC. His question focuses on the Commercial Fishing Interest Seat and the boundaries defined in the Articles of Amendment, because he wants to protect local interests.

Mr. Munger further amended the agenda as neither Commissioner Hartig, nor Larry Burgess would be attending. Mr. Graham Wood will represent ADEC.

**The agenda was approved as amended.**

Guests introduced themselves. Ms. Fleek-Green was not available to welcome the RCAC in behalf of the Mayor of Anchorage. There were no public or agency member comments.

\*\*\*\*\*PRESENTATIONS ON RELATED ACTIVITIES\*\*\*\*\*

**Graham Wood, ADEC**, introduced Geoff Merrell, the new Central Region Manager. He reported that the agency has built a Master Training Plan to properly train both planners and responders. He affirmed that prevention is the key and that ADEC is still ready to respond to a discharge though there has been a drain of qualified individuals due to retirement and disagreements.

CIRCAC's comments were received on the Area Planning issue. A public comment period will be opened soon for a proposed regulation change to require commercial operators storing more than 1000 gallons of refined product to register with the state. A future issue to be addressed is home heating oil tanks. Further, ADEC is seeking to require covenants on contaminated sites. Shannon Miller will be the new acting Ex-Officio replacing Steve Russell.

Mr. Shadura raised concern about the agency's ability to monitor increased tanker traffic with a decreasing budget. Mr. Wood assured the Council the SPAR budget is secure as the Prevention Account is boosted by the .95% fuel tax. Mr. Munger pointed out CIRCAC advocated for that legislation. Mr. Williams expressed deep concerns, given the financial status of the state, about ADEC's ability to back-up the RCAC's mandate to oversee transportation. Mr. Graham admitted the reorganization has been "a bit bumpy" but he believes the agency is ready to respond to any discharge within the state.

Mr. Munger expressed his concern about the direction of the ADEC SPAR Division over the last year. While the reorganization has perhaps brought cost benefit, it has put personnel in unfamiliar positions and resulted in the loss of people with extensive experience. CIRCAC had a long standing relationship and agreements with key players who are now gone. Therefore, he cannot assume status quo. It will take time to establish a strong working relationship and for ADEC personnel to become familiar with their job responsibilities. He is worried whether ADEC could effectively respond to a spill, which makes CIRCAC's role even more important.

Hilcorp purchased the Tyonek, a gas production only Platform, from Conoco Phillips. Hilcorp reported a large diesel spill on November 26 into a leg that is tidally dependent, providing a clear pathway to Cook Inlet. CIRCAC was not notified by the Coast Guard or DEC, as has been customary for years. When the Coast Guard was provided the 65,000 barrel figure CIRCAC had, they jumped on it. The initial notification to the CG referenced an undetermined amount of diesel. Mr. Munger also emailed Mr. Wood, Ms. Ryan and Commissioner Hartig to ask why the RCAC wasn't notified and what the response would be. Mr. Merrell called Mr. Catalano on Sunday explaining that while ADEC has jurisdictional authority over a spill external to the platform and potential environmental harm to the inlet, AOGCC has jurisdiction over the operation of the platform, as specified in regulation. DEC had no plans to visit to ascertain what was going on as they saw no value added in sending a person to the platform, but would monitor from the office as Hilcorp's response was very good. ADEC does not typically leave the office to

respond to a potential spill around the state. Mr. Williams emphasized that Cook Inlet needs closer monitoring than the open ocean.

Since there seemed to be communication issues with Mr. Wood and Ms. Ryan, and Commissioner Hartig was not in a position to talk about it, Mr. Munger called the Office of the Governor, leading to numerous exchanges over the last week and finally a productive meeting with Mr. Graham and Ms. Ryan. All agreed to improve communication. Mr. Munger said the culmination of the events over the last year had resulted in his loss of confidence in ADEC. He is passionate about CIRCAC's responsibilities. His concerns have regulatory justification. But this is the first time he has ever taken his concern above the department.

Mr. Graham stated he has trepidation about putting personnel in harms' way by sending them to the platform under the weather conditions. He felt he had not communicated well that he didn't mean DEC would not investigate after the threat was past. ADEC and CIRCAC do have common ground.

Mr. Merrell said he is also concerned there has been a net talent drain in the department. "It is what it is." He fully supports the RCAC. Nothing has changed. He values the Council's input. He disclosed that the initial report was received from Hilcorp on November 19 and the department discussed whether to report to the RCAC, but opted to give Hilcorp time to investigate the extent of the issue. Initially, Hilcorp did not know details. They knew there was hydrocarbon product where it ought not to be, but not how it got there, the source, or the amount. He assured the Council that notification of the RCAC will always be one of the first considerations. After lab analysis, Hilcorp notified ADEC that it was probably diesel and potentially a lot of it. He and Mr. Wood again discussed notification of the RCAC and again opted to allow Hilcorp time to further investigate under difficult conditions to allow the department to provide better information when notifying the Commissioner, the Council and others on Monday.

When Mr. Catalano spoke with Mr. Merrell on Sunday he recommended ADEC send an inspector to the platform. Since the Coast Guard was sending an inspector, the platform is small, there are risks associated with access to the leg, Hilcorp was providing high quality information, and considering the risk, ADEC felt there was no value added sending a second inspector. This does not mean the Department will not send someone out in the future; the Department will conduct an investigation. They are not taking a "hands off" approach, Mr. Merrell said. He didn't know whether the leg is tidal. He didn't know where the intake was. If it's tidal, that's good news, because there is a water bottom and the diesel will float on top. The risk is if the seawater intake is exposed to the oil level allowing escape to the inlet. There has been no release of hydrocarbon external to the platform. It is contained in the leg. If there is a release, DEC has full authority and the relationship between DEC and CIRCAC has not changed. He said he is happy to consider the Council's input.

Mr. Williams noted that several on the Council have vivid memories of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill where they learned that time is of the essence. Sensitivity is increased, having "been there, done that." It is uppermost on the Council's mind.

Mr. Munger sought understanding that the RCAC be notified in a timely manner. As it was, ADEC never did inform the RCAC, Hilcorp did. Mr. Graham stated there will not be discussions in the future whether to notify CIRCAC. Mr. Merrell said DEC was led to believe that Hilcorp was notifying the RCAC.

Mr. Peterkin said staff informs Council members when he knows, and it is better to receive partial information as it becomes available. Members then advise the constituents. Ms. Stanley pointed out

that constituents wonder if the RCAC is on top of things. Immediate notification is important. She respects transparent communication.

Mr. Munger expressed the incident provides a prime training opportunity for personnel to become familiar with the platform. He is disturbed that the as-builts show a direct pathway to Cook Inlet, but ADEC did not have that knowledge. Communication between agencies needs to improve. Oil sits on top of Cook Inlet with a leg wrapped around it. The state should be all over this. He mentioned the Op-Ed he wrote in August inspired by the Drift River spill. Active oversight on the platform seems imperative. As an inspector when he worked for ADEC he learned the benefit of regulatory presence.

Mr. Williams added that the Tyonek is only one of the aging platforms in the inlet. They were installed expecting 20 years of service, but are now approaching 50. There are a lot of things that could happen. ADEC better be on top of it. He recognized this incident is not Hilcorp's fault.

Ms. McCammon suggested the Executive Director draft targeted recommendations for the Council to endorse addressing 1) the incident response; 2) communication between CIRCAC and ADEC; and 3) the concern regarding ADEC's ability to respond due to budget and reorganization issues. As the fields decline and the facilities age increased environmental oversight becomes more imperative.

Mr. Munger said he feels positive about the meeting yesterday. Mr. Merrell apologized for thinking it was best to communicate when the picture was complete.

Mr. Shadura asked when the last DEC representative visited the Tyonek. Mr. Graham said since it is a gas platform, probably never. Mr. Munger noted that he visited it in the 90's. The Ex-Officio will report back to the Council. Mr. Shadura said it alerts the RCAC to scrutinize when other facilities have been inspected. He urged ADEC to develop a future plan for routine inspections.

Mr. Williams said there have been major incidents on platforms in the inlet.

**Stan Golis, Operations Manager for Cook Inlet Offshore Operations, Hilcorp AK**, assured the Council that the primary focus is to recover the material out of leg #1 as safely as possible. Hilcorp took over operating the Tyonek on November 1<sup>st</sup> and on November 19<sup>th</sup> identified a leak contained within the leg, but not actively leaking. Based on the camera view there was 61' of hydrocarbon material, which has been more recalculated to be 55-57,000 gallons of diesel. A CISPRI submersible pump has been rigged up 10' below the surface pumping 75 gallons/minute into ISO tanks: 12,000/day. The product is being transported via a marine vessel to the Monopod to be injected into the produced well stream flowing to the Trading Bay Production Facility to be processed. A camera will be used to verify the level has been reduced. It will take until the end of the weekend to complete the removal. Mr. Golis said the pumping and transfer operation is basic, but the situation is unique since it is in such a confined space. There is no evidence any material has gotten outside the leg. The window is situated 98' above the mudline, so Hilcorp estimates 30-40' of water below the diesel. The thickness of the leg wall is robust. An AOGCC inspector visits every 180 days, at a minimum.

The diesel was stored in a girder tank. The line used to transfer it corroded and leaked sometime prior to Hilcorp's acquisition of the platform. Personnel discovered an odor coming from the leg. The tank was not in service, and is being pumped out. Hilcorp is monitoring the diesel level in the other tanks and the Inspections Department will regularly inspect the piping and tanks.

**Lori Nelson, Manager of External Affairs, Hilcorp**, introduced **Rich Novcaski, Midstream Group, Hilcorp** who presented the pipeline concept Hilcorp is considering. With the acquisition of the Tyonek came 2 pipelines which would only need to be extended to bring oil from the west side of the inlet. Presently, the Cook Inlet Pipeline ships from Granite Point to Trading Bay, down to the Drift River Terminal and out to the Christy Lee. Hilcorp is investigating the permitting required to build a pipeline down the existing right-of-way from Granite Point to the Tyonek, connecting to an existing 10" to bring the oil back to Moose Point and down to the Tesoro Refinery. More engineering will be done during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2017. Some permits may be submitted. At this point the timeline targets to sanction the project during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and construct the pipeline during the summer of 2018. If the pipeline is built, it will allow Hilcorp to discontinue using Drift River and the pipeline associated with it. The 2 10" lines are in service moving gas to the LNG plant. There are oil prospects in the area. One line will be used for oil. Mr. Novcaski reminded the Council the project is conceptual.

Hilcorp is considering assembling the 5/8" pipe onshore, applying polyurethane coating and dragging it out to install. The lines will be assessed, but Mr. Novcaski believes there are no corrosion issues. The lines are regulated by DOT and sonar surveys are conducted every year. Spans are pinned as a matter of routine maintenance.

Mr. Munger said the pipeline concept is exciting news, and the RCAC will be behind it 100%. CIRCAC approved reopening Drift River with the caveat that a pipeline would be built in 5 years. Mr. Novcaski said it is looking doable. Drift River may be kept available for future use, as there are lease sales to be offered in the vicinity.

**Glenn Faulkner, Pipeline Superintendent, Harvest**, provided an update on the clean-up efforts at Drift River. There was no release from the 4" line. The company is conducting pneumatic testing using nitrogen. Dig Site #1 has been dug down 2' below the lowest flange, the contaminated soil stored in a waste cell. The sampling done falls below ADEC clean-up levels so that site is completed. At Dig Site #2 the excavation is below the flanges. The fuel header system runs parallel with the suction header, which is currently active, more work will have to be done next year. Dig Site #3 is located near the meter building. The check valve has been removed and the gaskets replaced. Excavation was stopped where it was undermining that building. Excavation is continuing at Dig Site #4, with about a foot to go. A new vault has been fabricated and will replace the old one. The branch connections to the tanks have been successfully pressure tested. Presently there are no intentions to put the header system back in service.

Lightly contaminated material is being stored at Cells 1, 2 & 4. The most heavily contaminated soil is from Dig Site #3. As soon as the excavation of Dig Site #4 is completed the testing will commence on waste cell 3 & 4. The Granular Activated Carbon System is being used to dewater while excavating. Thus far 99 gallons of product and 1,132 cubic yards of soil have been recovered by processing 713,000 gallons of water. Once the other waste cells are tested, Mr. Novcaski anticipates the final spill amount will be 100-200 gallons. It is hard to say how many flanges actually leaked.

The Environmental Team is researching options to clean the contaminated soils. The Dig Sites will remain open, but covered. Hilcorp is focusing on the clean-up and continuing daily operations. Any future measures (i.e. bringing the flanges above ground) will be contingent on the decisions made regarding the pipeline project.

Mr. Novcaski said that ADEC has been helpful and has been on site on a weekly basis. Mr. Munger commented that clean-up is very expensive. Prevention is the key.

## **2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

- **2016 Budget & Statement of Financial Position**

Ms. Eledge explained that there are 2 months to go, but the audit will likely identify some carry over. The Council is frugal, but the staff also budgets ahead and collects funding by encumbering over multiple years to accomplish more expensive projects.

Chairman John Williams provided the Executive Committee report. The committee met on September 28th, November 10th and December 1st to review all budgets and financial documents; recommend action regarding the Tourism seat; and review the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Policies. Fixed assets reflected in the Statement of Financial Position include desks, computers, field equipment, ice cameras, the boat and motor.

- **Proposed 2017 Operating & Program Budgets**

**Robert Peterkin moved to approve the 2017 Operating & Program Budgets. Molly McCammon seconded.**

Mr. Munger noted the budget was presented in September, but has been revised to raise Wages by .72%, Insurance by 8.5% and Legislative travel by \$2,600. The Anchorage office has been closed and a deal is being worked out to rent a storage shed and to compensate Ms. Saupe to use space in her rental in Homer for an office. Legal Counsel will be put on a retainer.

The Consumer Price Index has decreased, affecting the revenue from Charter Funding Companies.

**The budget was approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

## **3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Munger characterized the year as one of the more dynamic in CIRCAC's history. He expressed frustration in dealing with the DEC after losing 40 years of working relationships and comradery with key individuals. It leaves him extremely concerned about the agency's ability to respond to a spill. It makes the RCAC more important than ever as "it becomes a cauldron of complacency" with state budgets slashed and regulators unwilling to respond. The Tyonek incident is an indicator. He wondered what changes in a bigger scenario. It is the RCAC's job to point out complacency.

Mr. Munger thanked each staff member for their dedication.

He continues to work well with PWSRCAC, saying he wants collaborate while remaining autonomous. Mr. Shadura recommended scheduling at least a joint reception in conjunction with the next Kodiak meeting as both RCAC's have Kodiak representatives.

With the OPA90 amendment setting base funding for CIRCAC, the organization is fiscally secure. Ms. Stanley noted that the public members on the Committees are talented and well-trained and that increases the strength of the organization.

- **2017 Meeting Schedule**

Cook Inlet RCAC will meet in Kenai on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, in Homer on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> & Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> in Anchorage.

#### **4. STATUS OF PROGRAMS & PROJECTS**

- **Environmental Monitoring Committee**

Ms. Saupe directed attention to the staff and end-of-year reports and provided highlights since the last board meeting. A poster featuring the Intertidal Habitat work in Kamishak Bay was accepted. CIRCAC has been involved in planning meetings regarding next year's BOEM funded project through the Park Service. Ms. Saupe will likely continue as the lead scientist. Ms. Crowley assured Mr. Shadura that the funding was previously approved and the project is fully funded, but allocated incrementally. OCS requires environmental studies for the lease sales on the schedule.

The CIRT is constantly being updated as a mechanism for disseminating information in a useful way. CIRCAC is working with multiple contractors to serve up the contaminants data.

A poster will be featured at the Alaska Marine Sciences Symposium featuring the Coastal Habitat work on the Alaska Peninsula. Working with NOAA contractors the Shore Station database will be revisualized. Nuka collected GRS information during the study, demonstrating that some of the GRSs cannot be protected as developed, but new sites were identified.

Ms. Saupe presented Ground Station work at a 2 day Alaska ShoreZone Partnership meeting where work was done on the 5 year plan. Ms. Saupe demonstrated the NOAA Website, AOOS data portals and CIRT to the Alaska Chapter of the American Planning Association. The Coastal Impressions exhibit has been extended through the winter at the Alaska SeaLife Center.

White papers have been developed to capture what is known regarding dispersant use in arctic waters. CIRCAC submitted comments on the BOEM draft EIS, but was frustrated when requests for extension were denied.

Besides moving the office, Ms. Saupe is busy with data entry, analysis and compiling samples collected this summer. CIRCAC wrote a letter in support of Gulf Watch Alaska and the Exxon Valdez Trustees Council reinstated project funding for a year.

- **Public Involvement**

Ms. Giguere reported that she attended the Scholarship Fair in Kodiak and also visited Alaska Native groups. She is creating a calendar of events for 2017 and requested emails for any ideas. Mr. Shadura recommended she give a presentation at the United Fishermen of Alaska event in September.

The 25 year report, a living archive capturing CIRCAC's work to date, is up on the website under the Public Outreach tab. It will be regularly updated.

- **Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety Committee**

Mr. Catalano reported that CIRCAC participated in the workgroups developing the Subarea draft plan and also commented during the public review stressing the importance of the RCAC's role and responsibilities. The state and EPA have proposed realigning boundaries reducing the 10 subareas to 4; both RCAC's submitted comments conveying disagreement with the idea.

Mr. Catalano holds a seat on the Harbor Safety Committee Management Board, while Mr. Munger and Mr. Rombach sit on the committee. A FAQs information sheet has been developed. Mr. Rombach attended the National Conference.

The Director will continue to provide weekly updates on the DROT spill. He worked in the PIO section at the Glacier Oil/CIE drill and recommended that CIRCAC's Public Outreach Director could help develop press releases in the event of a spill.

PROPS will purchase new cameras and is exploring relocating the equipment now at ASRC and installing a camera or two on the Tyonek Platform; Ice Cameras cannot feasibly be installed on Fire Island. There are plans to publish a hardbound collection of the Coastal Impressions photos for distribution to libraries. A computer has been purchased to be used at spills and drills to serve as a control station for the Ice Forecasting Network. The Harbor Safety Committee has recommended the pilots be given access. The Coast Guard has implemented Phase I rules for ice in the Upper Inlet. The year-end activity report is in the packet.

- **Protocol Control Committee**

Protocol provided comments to PHMSA on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines. Comments were also submitted on ADEC's Proposal for Response Exercise Program Improvements; the Unified Plan, Annex B, Process for Community Outreach; the Cook Inlet Subarea Contingency plan update; the Proposed Regulation Revisions that pertained to Nontank vessel regulations and the Notice of Public Scoping for Possible Updates to the State of Alaska Regional Master Prevention and Contingency Plan Boundary Regulations.

Protocol reviewed and commented on the Furie c-plan and amendments to the Hilcorp and Cook Inlet Energy plans.

- **Administration**

The election process will begin as the Environmental, Alaska Native, Kodiak Island Borough and Kenai Peninsula Borough seats are set to expire. In early February Public Members whose seats are set to expire will be notified and new applications will be solicited. Mr. Rombach will begin work on the Triennial Recertification application in January.

The scholarship process will begin early in January. Bob Pawlowski and Rick Frederick will serve with Carla Stanley on that committee. She thanked Mr. Rombach and Ms. Giguere for their effort. Mr. Rombach, in turn, expressed appreciation for Ms. Eledge and Ms. Heaven's assistance.

## **5. CALENDARS & MISCELLANEOUS**

CIRCAC will meet next on April 7<sup>th</sup> in Kenai.

\*\*\*\*\*Closing Comments\*\*\*\*\*

**Lynda Giguere** commented it was a good meeting and she thanked members for their input and feedback.

**Grace Merkes** agreed the meeting was interesting; it was good that DEC was open. She hopes things work better.



**Paul Shadura** expressed gratitude for getting to go to the Marine Expo. He welcomed Mr. Crow to the board, encouraging him that it takes time to understand the working of the RCAC. It's best when you can attend in person.

**Carla Stanley** said her vest has worn out, she hopes to get another one.

**Walt Sonen** thanked Mr. Munger for keeping their feet to the fire. "This is where we need to shine." He asked if the Blue Crest Energy tour is still on.

**Kyle Crow** said he hopes to attend the next meeting. It was interesting. He urged the use of a cursor when making presentations to allow those watching remotely to follow.

**Susan Saupe** said a Protocol meeting will be scheduled to review comments to the Dispersant Guidelines.

**Vinnie Catalano** noted that the last week has been stressful due to the Tyonek platform issue. He appreciates how Mr. Munger's measured approach with DEC represents the board. He urged members to call anytime.

**Jerry Rombach** reminded the board to return the binders and dispose of the confidential memo.

**Rob Lindsey** added that the meeting was thought provoking regarding what was going on with the DEC. CIRCAC has served as a bridge builder time and again. News of the pipeline is exciting. He thanked Mr. Munger for being a strong, effective Executive Director.

**Deric Marcorelle** said he served on DEC as a 1<sup>st</sup> responder and it is unimaginable to hear the agency say, "It's not a spill." It's been 2 weeks and still no investigation. The Department has changed. He will campaign for re-election and will inform his constituents about what's going on.

**John Williams** commented that the state is at a breaking point financially.

**Molly McCammon** said the Council should take a proactive stance, perhaps scheduling a Special Meeting to pass a resolution.

**Mike Munger** noted he intends to write a letter of concern or a resolution to be passed by the Executive and Protocol Committees.

**Molly McCammon** thanked Ms. Saupe and Mr. Munger for the effective letter in behalf of Gulf Watch Alaska. The Great Land Trust is working with the Eklutna Corporation who is removing a dam at the mouth of the Eklutna River and providing tours. Alaska Sea Grant has a Fellowship program and is offering to match 50%. The Sea Life Center is offering an Industry Sustainability Award and CIRCAC may want to make a nomination. AOOS is testing a GPS reflectrometry site in Seward to validate data against tide gauges.

**Susan Saupe** recommended a side by side test with a tide gauge at Snug Harbor.

**Robert Peterkin** commended Mr. Munger on a good job. It is huge to lose skilled people from DEC. He was shocked at the concept of monitoring rather than cleaning up sites. The RCAC needs to hold them accountable.

**Mike Munger** thanked Lt. Mellen for his rapid response to the Tyonek.

**Lt. Mellen** responded that CIRCAC is a great resource. He enjoys the environment and is all for protecting it. He asked to be kept informed and said he is here to insure regulations are followed, and he will do anything he can.

**Lt. Dale, USCG**, appreciated the opportunity to attend the meeting to better understand Cook Inlet RCAC.

**Mike Munger** stated it has been trying times. ADEC's stance is shocking. The Program Manager and Division Director have never been involved in a spill. Talented people have decided to work somewhere else because of decisions made. It will continue to be a challenge. A component has been worked into the budget to provide a part-time position to work with Sue.

**Paul Shadura** said that the Fish & Game Area Manager and his assistant were lost due to budget cuts. He's concerned with the direction that Department is going employing post season management. It will only cause problems. He was sorry to see Mr. Russell leave ADEC.

**Marta Mueller**, ADNR, said she works with the Division of Oil & Gas, leasing, and the meeting provided an education regarding the importance of mitigation measures. She also does cartography work and was interested in how GRSs are developed and proved. She added that her generation is entering leadership positions and is not entirely without experience.

**John Williams** warned that with the state's budget decreasing there will be fewer state employees.

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.