**COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**April 17, 2015**

**Cook Inlet Aquaculture, Kenai**

**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:** John Williams, Scott Smiley, Carla Stanley, Paul Shadura, Molly McCammon, Gary Fandrei

**Members Present by Teleconference:** Bob Flint, Deric Marcorelle, Rob Lindsey

**Members Absent:** Grace Merkes (excused), Michael Opheim (excused), Robert Peterkin (excused)

**Staff Present:**  Michael Munger, Susan Saupe, Vinnie Catalano, Jerry Rombach, Lynda Giguere, Dinelle Penrod, Cindy Sanguinetti

**Staff Present by Teleconference:** Maritta Eledge

**Others Present:**  Chris Burns, Alaska Chadux; John Schneider, Tesoro; Gary Folley, ADEC; Will Albright, USCG; Todd Paxton, CISPRI; Kate Blair, AOGA; Scott Griffith, XTO Energy; Patti Berkhahn, ADFG; Bryan Gabriel, Vice Mayor, City of Kenai; Lori Nelson, Hilcorp

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL**

President John Williams called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Roll was called, establishing quorum.

Guests were introduced.

**Molly McCammon moved to approve the agenda. Carla Stanley seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.**

**Molly McCammon moved to approve the minutes of December 4 & 5, 2014. Walt Sonen seconded. The minutes were approved.**

* **Welcoming Remarks**

**Brian Gabriel, Vice Mayor, City of Kenai,** extended the city’s welcome saying there have been no major spills in the Inlet in the 25 years since the RCAC was developed to prevent the complacency that led to the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The increased activity in the Inlet will bring more challenges. He appreciates the work CIRCAC is doing.

* **Ex-Officio Appointments**

Mr. Rombach announced that Colin Blair has been appointed as Ex-Officio representing the State of Alaska, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management.

* **Presentation of Volunteer of the Year Award**

The “Captain Glen Glenzer Volunteer of the Year” Award was presented to Molly McCammon.

For longevity of service and continued work on the board or committees a 5 Year Volunteer Service Award will go to Michael Opheim, Bob Favretto, Scott Hamann, and Kashif Ahmed Naser. A 10 Year award went to Carla Stanley, a 15 Year award will be sent to Rob Lindsey and a 25 Year award will go to John Whitney, Ex-Officio, NOAA.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Presentations of Related Activities\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Mr. Munger** reportedthatthe Executive Committee approved sending letters of support for SB 86 and HB 158 adding a tariff of $.01 or less/barrel on refined product to boost the 470 fund which is facing a deficit.

**Gary Folley, Program Manager PERP – AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation,** said the goal of achieving a sustainable funding scheme will support SPAR which protects public safety, health and the environment through the prevention, preparedness, and cleanup of oil spills and hazardous waste. The Department’s duties are wide ranged throughout the state. With the robust preparedness and prevention efforts in place the spill data base shows a decrease in responses to spills at regulated facilities statewide. The responsible party is required to clean up the spill, but the state or federal government can take over the cleanup if the work is inadequate, using the response fund, which it then seeks to recover. DEC has oversight also of spills at unregulated facilities, which were responsible for over half the gallons spilled in 2014. The Department’s budget is funded through a $.05 surcharge/barrel of oil, but with declining oil production there will be a significant shortfall in FY2016.

HB158 proposes a refined fuel surcharge of $.0095/gal charged at the wholesale point, with some exemptions. If implemented, this surcharge will add $7 million to balance ADEC’s budget. The Council discussed the tax, which will be passed on to the consumer.

ADEC has reviewed 470 fund spending practices and intent language acknowledges the need to streamline so as to not be wasteful, to be more effective at cost recovery and to improve the drill exercise program. The DEC reorganization combining preparedness and response is moving along and should be completed in 6 months.

**Susan Saupe, CIRCAC Director of Science & Research,** spoke about the Cook Inlet Response Tool, an ongoing project merging data portals and incorporating new technologies to provide support for responders. CIRCAC has collected massive amounts of habitat data in accordance with the tasks assigned by OPA 90. The ShoreZone project was designed to obtain both geo-referenced high resolution imagery and online access. This project has now grown statewide and CIRCAC will participate in a team proposal to complete a gap in the western Gulf. The physical and biological characteristics of each shoreline unit allows for researchers to query the database. All of the ShoreZone data is served by NOAA and they are working on methods to access the data offline, but there are limitations. Therefore, the Cook Inlet Response Tool has been developed to provide quick and easy access to integrated data from a wide range of providers, linked to ShoreZone high resolution imagery, to aid responders and decision makers to improve spill planning and response. The tool can be accessed via the AOOS website and staff has trained oil spill responders and resource managers to use it; it allows the Incident Commander to populate data layers pertinent to the spill. More data will be integrated in the future, including the GRIN. Ms. Saupe demonstrated how the CIRT works. The tool has been used in real events. The goal is to make the data available offline for use during a remote response.

AOOS is the major host of the CIRT portal, and the data management team will be responsive to comments. Ms. Stanley recommended adding a data layer to capture all of the pipelines and cables, and Ms. Saupe assured her that is high on the priority list. Ms. McCammon stated the entire state has benefitted from this project.

**Todd Paxton, CISPRI,** provided an update about the response organization’s activities. The vessel crewing is being brought in-house, which will raise the employee base to 50 by January, 2016. CISPRI is seeking bridge and engineering mariners to serve on a 28 day rotation, and deck crews to work a 3 week rotational schedule. The spill response capabilities will be upgraded, with trained responders on the boats 24/7. CISPRI will participate in upcoming drills for Tesoro and XTO and will be busy training. The Sea Otter Recovery Center will be deployed in the fall and a tour will be arranged for the Council while in Seldovia in September. This fall CISPRI will host the ARRT meeting for the review of the Cook Inlet SubArea plan revisions. Mr. Paxton expressed appreciation for CIRCAC’s work, and the Executive Director applauded CISPRI’s board for being forward thinking and proactive.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Public Comment\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Scott Griffith, XTO,** reported that his company will smart pig the subsea pipelines with new technology capable of navigating the short radius 90 degree angles. He vowed to be transparent as the process continues. The pipeline will be shut in and cleaned with filtered inlet water.

**2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Executive Committee met on March 26 and April 10 to receive an update on elections and appointments, on legislative and regulatory matters, the field audit, the Buccaneer bankruptcy, and DEC’s reorganization, and to review all of CIRCAC’s financial information. The Committee held Executive Sessions to discuss funding, corporate strategy, legal and personnel matters.

**3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

The Coast Guard Authorization Act, passed in December, modified CIRCAC’s funding language in OPA 90 to raise the base to $1.4 million. Mr. Munger participated on the LNG waterways suitability assessment introductory meeting and will represent CIRCAC on the stakeholder technical group. Being an unsecured creditor, CIRCAC may recoup 7-10% of the $37,500 owed due to Buccaneer’s bankruptcy. The Executive Director is working with industry to revise contracts according to the new funding regime. He met with AKLNG representatives to initiate discussions regarding areas of commonality and is encouraged that there may be a mutual sharing of data. Work continues on the formation of the Harbor Safety Committee. CIRCAC’s 25th Anniversary is approaching. The RCAC nominated Tesoro Maritime for the Legacy Award for the *Bob Franco*.

**4. STATUS OF PROGRAMS/PROJECTS**

* **Environmental Monitoring Committee**

EMC transferred funds to integrate and present visually historical data on the data portal. Ms. Saupe will participate in a BOEM funded project to better describe Kamishak unique habitats. CIRCAC is partnering with AOOS to develop a data portal specific to beluga whales. CIRCAC and partners will submit a proposal to conduct ShoreZone work on the Alaska Peninsula, filling a gap. CIRT training is available upon request. The Coastal Impressions exhibit will be hosted at the Kenai Visitors Center from May to September. The consensus points developed by experts tasked with identifying what is known about the use of dispersants in the Arctic will be released soon. Staff is developing comments on the proposed rulemaking for the National Contingency Plan to be presented to the Protocol Committee. More information and stronger testing and monitoring requirements are proposed before chemicals can be approved to be listed on the EPA product schedule.

* **Public Involvement Program**

A 25th Anniversary reception is scheduled to open the Coastal Impressions exhibit. The Annual Report mostly focuses on the Risk Assessment; extra copies are available after an extensive mailing. The 25 year report will be compiled next. Three radio ads have been created to heighten public awareness about CIRCAC’s activities, and Ms. Saupe has provided interviews. Ms. Giguere participated in ComFish and distributed scholarship forms, and has plans for future visits to various organizations.

* **Protocol Control Committee**

The Protocol Committee reviewed the Kenai Pipeline Company C-plan and submitted comments. Only the Aurora and Armstrong c-plans are in the queue for review this year.

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

AOOS, the City of Kenai and Homer Electric funded the installation of an Ice Forecasting Network camera at the mouth of the Kenai River; it can be publicly accessed on the City and AOOS websites. At UAA’s request scientific equipment has been linked to the cameras at the Port of Anchorage and Granite Point. Mr. Catalano attended the ARRT where agencies provided updates. The review of the SubArea plan is scheduled in conjunction with the next meeting. He also attended the GRS Summit where it was discussed how to update and standardize the document. CIRCAC will hold two seats on the Harbor Safety Committee; the Charter has been finalized and 21 members will be solicited next. Staff attended the Alaska Oil Spill Technology Symposium where academia, industry and the agencies showcase their projects to identify needs and to network. Mr. Catalano will be on the observation vessel for the upcoming Tesoro Vessel drill.

* **Administration**

The financial audit went well. The election/appointment process will come to fruition at the Annual Meeting. CIRCAC is funding two $2500 scholarships to be awarded in early May. A Volunteer Orientation program has been developed for the benefit of new public members and directors.

Maritta Newgren presented the 2015 operating budget, which is looking good.

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

**Gary Fandrei** apologized for being late; he was teaching a first grade class.

**Molly McCammon** recommended a self-evaluation of the board this next year. NOAA will deploy survey ships in June out of Kodiak and meetings will be held to talk about issues of concern.

**Paul Shadura** raised concerns about the loss of state funding for scientific research, such as the Anadromous Streams catalogue.

**John Williams** anticipated further deep cuts.

**Carla Stanley** thanked the Directors for serving.

**Vinnie Catalano** said he appreciates everyone.

**John Williams** said most people come on boards, committees and commissions for the glory and do not realize the fiduciary and other responsibilities.

**Paul Shadura moved to adjourn. Scott Smiley seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.**

**COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Cook Inlet Aquaculture**

**April 17, 2015**

**Members Present:** John Williams, Gary Fandrei, Scott Smiley, Carla Stanley, Paul Shadura,Walt Sonen, Molly McCammon

**Members Present by Teleconference:** Bob Flint, Robert Peterkin, Rob Lindsey, Deric Marcorelle

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

**Staff Present:** Michael Munger, Susan Saupe, Vinnie Catalano, Jerry Rombach, Lynda Giguere, Dinelle Penrod, Cindy Sanguinetti

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President John Williams called the Annual Meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Roll was called, establishing quorum.

**2. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Alaska Salmon Alliance was certified to participate in the election of a Commercial Fishing Director.

Jerry Rombach reported that the following elections/appointments were made to fill the terms expiring:

Commercial Fishing Paul Shadura Arni Thomson, Alternate

Aquaculture Gary Fandrei Brent Johnson, Alternate

City of Homer Carla Stanley James Hornaday, Alternate

City of Kenai John Williams no alternate

City of Kodiak Rob Lindsey Kyle Crow

The PROPS Committee voted to recommend reinstating Steve Lufkin and Jan Hansen to their expiring public seats.

EMC voted to recommend the Council seat Robert Reges and Eric Klein in the expiring public seats.

**Molly McCammon moved to receive the Credentials report as presented, and to recognize outgoing EMC public member Craig Valentine. Gary Fandrei seconded. The motion passed.**

**3. SEATING OF MEMBERS and ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

* **Board Members – 3 Year Terms**

**Molly McCammon moved to seat Paul Shadura to represent Commercial Fishing, Gary Fandrei to represent Aquaculture, Carla Stanley to represent the City of Homer, John Williams to represent the City of Kenai, and Rob Lindsey to represent the City of Kodiak. Gary Fandrei seconded. The motion passed.**

* **Board Member Alternates – 3 Year Terms**

**Molly McCammon moved to approve as alternates Arni Thomson, Commercial Fishing alternate; Brent Johnson, Aquaculture alternate; James Hornaday, City of Homer alternate; and Kyle Crow, City of Kodiak alternate. Gary Fandrei seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

* **Election of Officers – 1 Year Terms**

**Molly McCammon moved to extend the term of the existing officers for another year: John Williams, President; Robert Peterkin, Vice President; Gary Fandrei, Secretary/ Treasurer. Gary Fandrei seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

* **Selection/Appointment: Committee Members**

Ms. McCammon asked if any board members were interested in serving on the Executive Committee. No one responded.

**Executive Committee**

**Carla Stanley moved to reinstate Deric Marcorelle and Bob Flint as Executive Committee at-large members. Gary Fandrei seconded. The motion passed.**

**Audit Committee – 1 Year Term**

**Gary Fandrei moved to reinstate Gary Fandrei, Molly McCammon, Grace Merkes and Paul Shadura to the Audit Committee. Carla Stanley seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**Credentials Committee – 1 Year Term**

**Carla Stanley moved to reinstate Grace Merkes, Gary Fandrei, Michael Opheim and Robert Peterkin to serve on the Credentials Committee. Gary Fandrei seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**Protocol Control Committee- 1 Year Term**

Carla Stanley, Rob Lindsey, Robert Peterkin, Bob Flint Deric Marcorelle and Paul Shadura volunteered to serve on the Protocol Committee, while John Williams resigned.

**Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety Committee – 1 Year Term**

The Props Commmittee was overstocked. John Williams and Carla Stanley agreed to step off, and Mr. Munger said that it wouldn’t hurt Grace Merkes’ feelings to step off.

**Gary Fandrei moved to approve Rob Lindsey, Deric Marcorelle, Bob Flint, Michael Opheim, Paul Shadura and Walt Sonen as members of the PROPS Committee. Robert Peterkin seconded. The motion passed.**

**Paul Shadura move to approve Steve Lufkin and Jan Hansen as public members to serve on PROPS for 3 years. Molly McCammon seconded. The motion passed.**

**Environmental Monitoring Committee – 1 Year Term**

**Scott Smiley moved to reinstate Scott Smiley, Michael Opheim, Molly McCammon, Carla Stanley, Deric Marcorelle and Bob Flint to serve on the EMC. Robert Peterkin seconded. The motion passed.**

**Paul Shadura moved to approve Eric Klein and Robert Reges as public members to serve on EMC for 3 years. Carla Stanley seconded. The motion passed.**

John Williams thanked the board members and the staff.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 P.M.