

COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

December 4, 2014

Approved Minutes

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

Member Absent: Michael Opheim (excused)

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

Staff Present by Teleconference:

Others Present: Heather Crowley, BOEM; Kate Blair, Division of Oil & Gas; Dick Prentki, EMC; Scott Griffith, XTO Energy; Cathe Heroy, State Pipeline Coordinator's Office (SPCO); Johathan Schick, Division of Oil & Gas

1. CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL

President John Williams called the meeting to order at 9:06 A.M. Roll was called, establishing quorum.

Molly McCammon moved to approve the agenda. Robert Peterkin seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

Gary Fandrei moved to approve the minutes of September 12, 2014. Carla Stanley seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Guests introduced themselves.

2. STRATEGIC/ LONG RANGE PLAN UPDATE

Both EMC and PROPS have reviewed the plan and forwarded recommendations. Cook Inlet RCAC's Strategic Plan is organized so that each of ten Programs has a purpose, goals, strategies and a program outcome, based on the guiding language of OPA 90. Ms. Saupe traced the history of the Council's long-range plan, which has proved valuable by allowing staff to seek outside funding, establish partnerships and submit proposals as opportunities arose.

OPA 90 defines CIRCAC's "area of responsibility", but areas potentially impacted by activities in Cook Inlet comprise the larger geographic "area of concern", and the programmatic area of concern encompasses issues strongly tied to CIRCAC's work.

Ms. Saupe presented each Program, reviewing accomplishments over the last 5 years to answer whether any adjustments need to be made to the Strategic Plan.

Some of the projects accomplished under the Biological & Chemical Environmental Monitoring Program include Integrated Cook Inlet Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (ICIEMAP), Discharge Plume Study, Background Contaminants, Beluga Tissue & Prey, and Sediment Contaminants Studies. Data is made available to stakeholders by means of final reports posted online, presentations, poster presentations, and the Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT).

Under the Coastal Habitat Mapping program, Cook Inlet RCAC piloted the ShoreZone project which has now become a statewide initiative/database hosted by National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Unique habitats studied include the Kamishak Bay Reefs, Macrocystis Kelp, and Benthic Habitat Assessments in Cook Inlet, and the Katmai Coast. There is a possibility of a future project with Bureau of Ocean Emergency Management (BOEM). Data has been made accessible via the NOAA ShoreZone website, the CIRT, the Seaweeds of Alaska website and field guide, the Coastal Impressions exhibit and the Alaska Ocean Observing Systems (AOOS) website.

Projects accomplished to meet the goals of the Physical Oceanography Program in the last 5 years includes the CTD casts conducted during ICIEMAPS, the final "Seasonal Boundary Conditions" report, the Ice Forecasting Network, radar deployments and establishment of a SNOTEL station in Kamishak Bay. All of this data will be useful for modeling Cook Inlet's circulation. The RCAC worked in partnership with Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council (PWSRCAC), Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI), AOOS, Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR). Data is being made accessible via training both industry and agencies to use the Cook Inlet Response tool. Ms. Saupe has given presentations and a Cook Inlet Oceanography video has been prepared.

Goals of the Oil Fates & Effects Program have been supported by the Physical Oceanography projects and a Cook Inlet Modeling Workshop. Sediment and oil samples have been collected for inclusion in other studies and the RCAC is working to identify data gaps and research priorities. To gather understanding about the potential impact of dispersants Ms. Saupe is a scientific advisor for the National Research Council, participates on the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) Science and Technology Dispersant Workgroup, the National Dispersants Workgroup, and a workgroup on the State of Science in Arctic Waters. Data has been linked to the shoreline and ecosystem data through the AOOS portal to improve planning and response decision making. Additionally, Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC) and Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety Committee (PROPS) are working together to write a white paper on modeling with a goal to identify or modify an existing desk top model to be used for planning drills, spills, and contingency plans.

The RCAC is a named reviewer of c-plans in state regulation and the Protocol Committee fulfills this task assigned by OPA 90 under the Contingency Planning program. State approval of the c-plans is contingent on the funding of the RCAC by the industry. The Protocol Committee has also submitted comments on changes to Federal and State regulations, and reviewed the Unified and Subarea contingency plans. Non-tank vessel plans have been reviewed using outside funding. Ms. McCammon recommended a table be provided to identify CIRCAC oversight over vessels and facilities. The Council discussed the potential of seeking CIRCAC authority to review non-crude c plans. Mr. Munger pointed out that the Harbor Safety Committee provides opportunity to provide input on navigational safety.

Under the Technical Review Program CIRCAC has developed a Ballast Water Catalogue, evaluated United States Coast Guard (USCG) regulations regarding ballast treatment, and summarized Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data to be made available online. Through the Protocol Committee CIRCAC reviews National Pollution Discharge Elimination System/Alaska Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES/APDES) permits. In the future the platforms/pipelines database will be updated and made available online.

CIRCAC developed 160 Geographic Response Strategies over a decade ago which are incorporated into the State Sub Area Plan to address the goals of the Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) Program. Since 2008 the RCAC developed a Clean Harbor Pilot Program Guidebook for Alaska and initiated a workgroup to develop site specific GRSs for Cook Inlet and Kodiak harbors.

To address the goals of the Prevention and Response Program staff attends ARRT, GRS, and Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR) workgroup meetings. The Geographic Response Inventory Network (GRIN) was developed as a planning and response tool; it will be integrated into the CIRT. The RCAC organized workgroups for the development of PPOR and the CI/Kodiak Marine Firefighting Manuals, and observes new technology tests and demonstrations. CIRCAC participated in the development of the Incident Command System (ICS) Electronic Forms tool and developed a Permits tool. These may be incorporated into the CIRT. Staff participated in the ICS for 46 drills since 2008, and also participates during actual events. CIRCAC hosted public meetings during the Drift River incident. Staff observes on-water deployments, testing of GRSs and reviews new and best available technology.

Under the Public Involvement Program E-Newsletters, Annual Reports, special publications, presentations, exhibits, special symposia, event booths, social media and the website help to increase public awareness about Cook Inlet RCAC activities.

- **Council Priorities**

Ms. Saupe noted that the Council might choose to identify as a priority the writing of a simplified “State of the Inlet” report. Mr. Lindsey highlighted a concern about DR&R; Mr. Munger said he would provide a report at the Council meeting. Later in the meeting it was recommended that development of a Cook Inlet oil transport model be added.

- **Recommended Changes to the Strategic/ Long Range Plan**

Biological and Chemical Environmental Monitoring

A new program strategy was added: *“Conduct field sampling and laboratory, statistical, and data analyses for Cook Inlet biological, oceanographic, habitat and contaminant studies.”*

Program goal 3 was edited to read: *“Make data accessible to stakeholders to improve the understanding of biological and chemical environments in the Cook Inlet RCAC area of concern”*.

Grace Merkes moved to approve the changes to the Biological and Chemical Monitoring program. Robert Peterkin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Coastal Habitat Mapping

No changes were proposed for the program. Ms. Saupe commented that as written the language is broad enough to allow for partnering with the Focus for the Habitat Blueprint Initiative.

Physical Oceanography

The first program goal was edited to read: “*Support the collection of high resolution observational oceanic and atmospheric data, including sea ice and bathymetry, to develop accurate models and tools that can be integrated into oil spill prevention and response planning.*” The third program goal was edited to read: “*Encourage and support development of a comprehensive Cook Inlet physical oceanography observing system.*” And the fourth goal was edited to read: “*Make data accessible to resource agencies, industry, the public, and other organizations.*”

The last program strategy of “*studying the influence of structures on ocean currents*” was struck.

Molly McCammon moved to approve the changes to the Physical Oceanography program. Gary Fandrei seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Oil Transport, Fate and Effects

The title of this program was revised.

The program purpose was revised to read: “*Understand and predict the potential transport, fate and effects, including environmental, of oil discharged into Cook Inlet to guide oil spill planning and response activity.*”

The second program goal was edited to read: “*Develop an understanding of transport, fate, and effects of oil treated by various response methods likely to be used on oil spills in the Cook Inlet RCAC area of concern.*”

Throughout the page the word fates was revised to fate.

Molly McCammon moved to approve the changes to the Oil Transport, Fate and Effects program. Carla Stanley seconded. The motion passed.

Contingency Planning

The program purpose was revised to read: “*Review, evaluate, and comment on new and existing Oil Discharge, Prevention and Contingency Plans for Cook Inlet exploration, production, crude oil facilities and tankers.*”

The third program goal was revised to read: “*Include non-tank vessel and refined product facility operations as a routine part of contingency plan review, when possible.*” A fourth program goal was added: “*Evaluate industry contingency plans for use of the best available technology.*”

The first program strategy was edited to read: “*Review all portions of the contingency plans and provide comments that ensure regulatory compliance and improve industry readiness.*” A third program strategy was added: “*Review and provide comments for all proposed changes to existing or new regulations affecting the Cook Inlet RCAC area of concern.*”

Rob Lindsey moved to approve the changes to the Contingency Planning program. Grace Merkes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Technical Review

No changes were proposed.

Geographic Response Strategies

A third program goal was added: *"Include GRS in Subarea plans, industry contingency plans and oil spill response organization operations."*

A fourth program strategy was added: *"Work to 'ground truth' GRS sites periodically to ensure changes in topography, bathymetry, or other factors considered in the GRS development have not affected the GRS."*

Paul Shadura moved to approve the changes to the Geographic Response Strategies program. Deric Marcorelle seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Prevention and Response

The program purpose was revised to read: "Develop oil spill and response projects and studies to minimize the risk of oil discharge into Cook Inlet. Provide a basis for recommendations to enhance prevention and response activities and facilitate communication *among* citizens, regulatory groups, special interest groups, and industry."

The second program strategy was struck (and moved to the Contingency Planning program). In its place a new strategy was added to read: *"Advocate for increased fire-fighting capabilities, including training, for on-water response to vessels, facilities and platforms."*

The strategy "Develop electronic Incident Command System forms" was struck as it is already fulfilled.

Paul Shadura moved to approve the changes to the Prevention and Response program. Bob Flint seconded. The motion passed.

Public Involvement

Mr. Shadura recommended staff creatively rename the "State of the Inlet" reports to be provided.

The Strategic Plan will be reviewed on a periodic basis. The Council will consider the Risk Assessment program following the Cook Inlet Maritime Risk Assessment presentation on December 5, and will then define the Council priorities. Additionally, the Council will provide guidance as to the future review schedule. The format will be revised to allow for easier revision.

President Williams suggested the Strategic Plan work session be recessed and picked up again during Day 2 of the Board meeting. All agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:14 P.M.