

**COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Video Conference  
August 28, 2020  
Approved Minutes**

**Members Present by Video Conference:** John Williams, Robert Peterkin, Gary Fandrei, Molly McCammon, Carla Stanley, Paul Shadura, Walt Sonen, Grace Merkes, Bob Flint, Deric Marcorelle, Michael Opheim

**Members Absent:** Rob Lindsey, Scott Arndt

**Staff Present by Video Conference:** Michael Munger, Jerry Rombach, Sue Saupe, Vinnie Catalano, Vaito'a Heaven, Shaylon Cochran, Maddie Jamora, Cindy Sanguinetti

**Others Present by Video Conference:** Jonathan Schick, DNR; Graham Wood, ADEC; Kevin Reeve, DHS&EM; Steve Russell, 152 Degrees West; David Fitz-Enz, Clare Pavia, Vanessa Hughes, Hilcorp Alaska; Jennifer Starck, Cook Inlet Onshore; Jeff Lisonbee, Harvest Alaska; Tim Robertson, Nuka Research; Heather Crowley, BOEM

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL**

President John Williams called the meeting to order at 9 am. Roll was called, establishing quorum.

**Bob Flint moved to approve the agenda. Carla Stanley seconded.**

Mr. Rombach noted the new agenda lists other speakers for Hilcorp.

**The agenda was approved.**

**Carla Stanley moved to approve the Board meeting and Annual meeting minutes of April 3, 2020. Bob Flint seconded. The minutes were approved.**

Guests introduced themselves.

- **Agency Ex-Officio Directors Remarks**

**Jonathan Schick, DNR,** had no update but said he could answer questions.

**Kevin Reeve, DHS&EM,** reported the all planning is on hold due to COVID 19.

**Heather Crowley, BOEM,** stated the next Cook Inlet lease sale is scheduled for 2021, though the notice of intent has not been filed. Hilcorp has been meeting with EPA to discuss air permitting requirements for potential exploration drilling on Cook Inlet leases.

There were no public comments.

- **Special Board Recognition Resolution**

Mr. Munger drew attention to Resolution 2020-01 Recognizing Captain Sean Mackenzie, Commander of Sector Anchorage, for his outstanding service as an Ex-Officio Council Member and commitment to the mission of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council. He highlighted the meat of the resolution: Captain Mackenzie partnered with CIRCAC and others in the creation of the Area Contingency Plan and the new Arctic & Western Alaska Area Committee, setting a new national standard for effective USCG Area Committees; and for his utilization of the Area Committee construct to bring 210 tribes together in a format that encourages the public and Alaska Natives to share their expertise on how to protect their subsistence way of life.

He also gave support to the Harbor Safety Committee and participated in other projects. Mr. Catalano added that the Captain's support in the formation of working committees to develop the Area and Regional c-plans was invaluable. It was a weighty and ambitious project.

**Walt Sonen moved to adopt Resolution 2020-01. Carla Stanley seconded. The motion passed.**

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

**Graham Wood, PP&R Program Manager, ADEC** announced Jade Gamble has been rehired. He addressed the Associated Press article that claimed ADEC is waiving piping and tank inspection requirements. The department is issuing deferments based on corrosion rates, and is deferring some drills and exercises throughout the state based on COVID mandates.

The Article 4 Public Scoping was conducted through the winter. Comments have been collated and the department is briefing the Commissioner's office bi-weekly, methodically working through the comments received on each regulation, adding the department's perspective and history. The work is behind schedule. CIRCAC will be alerted when draft regulations are ready to be released for public comment. No statute changes have been discussed. Mr. Wood said there will be some modernization of 425. He will work with the Commissioner to try to allow CIRCAC to see the draft before it is released to the public.

**Tim Robertson, Principal, Nuka Research**, provided a project report on the GRID tool, which identifies geographic resource contacts that will be valuable during an emergency response. The tool is compatible with the ICS system. Resources have been categorized for Cook Inlet and Anchorage, with the intent to expand to Kodiak and statewide. Funded by the Council, and the new version resides in the Cook Inlet Emergency Response Tool, so it can be used alongside the other data layers. The database can be utilized by the ERMA software. Over 1000 resources are collected into 3 main categories: safety, logistics and public information and then further broken down into sub categories in a hierarchical system accessible by multiple search options.

The database resides in a data portal at AOOS and training can be provided so emergency management centers can access it. The database can be downloaded on an excel spread sheet and Ms. McCammon said the AOOS system is in the Amazon cloud, so it won't go down during an Alaskan emergency.

Mr. Robertson provided a demonstration of the tool and its flexibility. Tutorials are being developed. A system to annually validate the information is in the testing phase. Users will be able to submit new data for addition by an administrator. The tool has been used in workshops and one drill. Mr. Robertson anticipates administration of the system will require a 1/4-1/2 time position with some additional subcontracting for addressing technical details. Mr. Catalano believes it will be affordable and said CIRCAC may look for partners.

**Jeff Lisonbee, Harvest Alaska**, reported on a project completed to replace mainline legacy valves and eliminate 100' of pipeline including stopple Ts and low grade valves. Communications and the power generators were upgraded. The project demonstrates Harvest's commitment to doing the right thing as it eliminated a lot of potential risk. Local contractors were used.

**Vanessa Hughes, Asset Team Leader CI Offshore, Hilcorp**, provided an operational update. CIO has focused on maintaining oil rates, but is not aggressively pursuing oil projects with the price drop. Hilcorp supplies gas for Southcentral and now has a rate of 30 mcf/day. The company continues robust integrity and maintenance programs with no cut backs. A few projects at MacArthur River and Tyonek will yet be completed this year. Ms. Hughes added that connections are being made to bring Seaview 8 online at Anchor Point.

## **2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Williams reported that the Executive Committee met twice to approve alternate procedures for processing payments, receive updates on the audit and funding contracts, review 2020 budgets and banking reports, approve the resolution and discuss financial matters in Executive Session.

- **2020 Budget & Statement of Financial Position**

The Council reviewed the budget and statement of financial position with no questions.

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

Mr. Munger reported the staff is working remotely and the organization is running well without disruption. Meetings will continue by video conference until further notice. If live meetings are held, precautions will be taken.

CIRCAC is financially stable. The major contracts have been finalized except Glacier Oil and Hex LLC. CIRCAC will be fully funded. The audit is being finalized and will be presented in December. There are no surprises in the draft 2021 budgets.

Captain Leanne Lusk has assumed command of the Sector Anchorage. Commander Matt Hobby will serve as the Deputy Commander. He has worked with CIRCAC.

Admiral Bell approved CIRCAC's recertification without exception.

Mr. Rombach, Director of Administration, will be working part-time on recertification, elections and the scholarship in his retirement. Ms. Jamora will become the Director of Administration and additional staff will be hired.

Eric Haugstad, Marathon, has retired. He introduced GRSs to Alaska along with the crucial disc skimmer, current buster and ocean buster. Mr. Munger said he will be missed.

The Executive Director thanked the staff for their work.

## **4. STAFF REPORTS – STATUS OF PROGRAMS & PROJECTS**

- **Administration**

**Jerry Rombach** highlighted the triennial recertification, acknowledging the staff's assistance in the submittal of the application. The second scholarship check was issued in behalf of the recipients.

- **Environmental Monitoring**

Ms. Saupe updated the Council since the staff report was written. The Hilcorp sampling plan has been put on hold since the company's lower Cook Inlet plans have changed. Since CIRCAC data was requested the plan will be supplied for Ms. Saupe to review.

CIRCAC will partner with UAF on a project funded through the CMI to use radium isotopes to better determine water residence time in Cook Inlet. Sampling is planned for 2022.

The RCAC will work with UAF to expand a project to study oxygenated by-products of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons in Cook Inlet.

The National Park Service got funding and will partner with CIRCAC to conduct Coastal Habitat Mapping surveys next spring through a contract with Coastal Ocean Resources, Inc.

The *Macrocystis* kelp is spreading further west. While conducting the surveys this summer samples will be collected for an international effort to do genetic analyses.

Ms. Saupe is working under deadline on comments to the AOOS five-year plan. She is recommending additional sensors to better understand freshwater forcing in Cook Inlet for input into trajectory models. She will be discussing with Mr. Catalano the use of the ice cameras for developing the ability to incorporate sea ice into a modeling tool as NOAA is interested in doing. CIRCAC will have a main role in identifying the needs for a desk-top model operated through the AOOS data portal.

To keep the MOSSFA project moving forward, the UNH graduate student will be completing non-field tasks since the laboratories are closed.

CIRCAC is waiting for ADEC's decisions on the Cook Inlet general oil and gas discharge permit and the Cook Inlet Energy Individual Permit, both reviewed in 2019.

Mr. Shadura asked for information on the policy paper mentioned in the staff report. Ms. Saupe developed and submitted for publication a decision tree to help responders to evaluate the potential for MOS/MOSSFA to reach the benthic environment.

**Heather Crowley, BOEM**, reported that both the radium and the oxy-PAH studies are moving forward to be awarded in the next month. Additionally, approval for pre-award spending for equipment purchases has been given while the paperwork is being completed.

Ms. Saupe is pleased with the increased focus on research for Cook Inlet, as it provides many leveraging opportunities for CIRCAC. She answered questions about marine snow. Ms. Crowley said that BOEM is seeking funding for more studies on the topic. Ms. Saupe spoke in favor of integrated projects.

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

PROPS reviewed and commented on the Alaska Inland Area Plan for Protocol's approval and submittal.

The ice monitoring camera at the Port of Alaska will be replaced, but there have been COVID related issues.

It was decided to cancel the Alaska Oil Spill Technology Symposium due to COVID-19. The planning committee will establish an alternate date.

The Vessel Traffic Study will be updated to add most recent data.

Mr. Catalano is working with contractors, the state and CISPRI to develop GRSs for stream crossings. BlueCrest Oil has been invited to participate.

- **Protocol**

Protocol reviewed the Blue Crest Alaska Operations plan and provided comments on the PHMSA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the draft Alaska Inland Area plan, and two Coast Guard Information Collection Requests. Three more EPA requests will be reviewed.

- **Public Outreach**

Mr. Cochran said he has not been able to attend meetings, conventions, etc. He has taken ICS training and increased paid advertising campaigns to inform the public about the RCAC and the coming 30 year anniversary. The radio advertising and editorials campaign has been expanded. Mr. Cochran hopes to focus on social media in the future.

## **5. CALENDARS & MISCELLANEOUS**

- **Meetings**

Committee meetings will continue to be held remotely. No decision has been made regarding the December meeting.

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

**Carla Stanley** felt the money saved without traveling could be used for committee projects.

**John Williams** recommended a Webex training program.

**Paul Shadura** noted that the Pacific Marine Expo is presently planning to meet during the first week of December. He raised a concern having heard CISPRI is potentially negotiating alternative planning criteria with the salvage company which he fears may divert Cook Inlet assets to Western Alaska.

**Walt Sonen** said it was beautiful day in Seldovia. He hopes the Council will meet there next year.

**John Williams** agreed the RCAC owes Seldovia a visit.

**Vinnie Catalano** reported that Glacier Oil conducted a virtual drill earlier in the month and it went well though not without hurdles.

**Paul Shadura moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.