

COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Cook Inlet Aquaculture
Kenai, Alaska
September 11, 2015
Approved Minutes

Members Present: John Williams, Gary Fandrei, Scott Smiley, Carla Stanley, Paul Shadura, Bob Flint, Deric Marcorelle, Robert Peterkin, Grace Merkes

Members Present by Teleconference: Molly McCammon, Walt Sonen

Members Absent: Rob Lindsey (excused), Michael Opheim (excused)

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

Staff Present by Teleconference: Maritta Eledge

Others Present: Will Albright, USCG; Todd Paxton, CISPRI; Jack Jensen, Tesoro; Ginny Litchfield, ADF&G; Carrie Goertz, Alaska Sea Life Center; Chip Arnold, Alaska Sea Life Center; Brett Long, Alaska Sea Life Center; Katharine Martorelli, USCG; Steve Russell, ADEC; Paul Mehler, Tesoro; Jade Gamble, ADEC

1. CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL

President John Williams called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M. Roll was called, establishing quorum.

Gary Fandrei moved to approve the agenda. Robert Peterkin seconded.

The President added a presentation by Steve Russell, ADEC. He stated that while Mr. Burgess and Mr. Webb were not attending reports would be given. Chip Arnold would speak in behalf of the Alaska Sea Life Center and, due to the change of venue, the City Manager of Seldovia would not be extending a welcome.

The agenda was approved as amended.

Robert Peterkin moved to approve the minutes of April 17, 2015. Gary Fandrei seconded the motion.

Walt Sonen noted that he had not attended the meeting, and therefore could not have made the comment assigned to him on page 7. The letter of appreciation to Craig Valentine was sent.

The minutes were passed as amended.

Guests introduced themselves.

Mr. Munger introduced Steve Russell, new ex-officio representing ADEC.

There was no public comment.

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

Steve Russell, ADEC, spoke about his new position as Inter-Agency Coordinator tasked at coordinating State/Federal/Non-Government/Stakeholders input into ADEC response. He provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the reorganization of the Spill Prevention and Response Division which combines C-Plan/ Inspection and the Prevention/Response programs to increase efficiency and consistency. Management has been divided into three units: the Northern section, which manages the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, an Outer Continental Shelf/ North Slope unit and the Southeast Region. A new Training and Program Coordination unit has been created, as has a new Technical/Scientific Support.

The Inter-Agency Coordination section will deal with disasters, the ARRT, the Unified Plan, the RCACs, the Pacific States/ BC Task Force, public outreach and stakeholder involvement. The reorganization is in place as of July 1 and addresses the charge to be more cost effective. Additionally, the department will receive a new tariff of .001/barrel refined fuel.

The reorganization is naturally causing some temporary confusion for staff, industry and stakeholders. It is a priority to review and update regulations in accordance with the current status of threats to the environment and public health and the technology and practices being used.

Mr. Russell provided a report on spill responses and exercises in the region since the last RCAC meeting. There was a reduction of spills from last year; of those 50% were from marine traffic. Although non-crude spills are not within the purview of CIRCAC the Council is kept informed.

DEC will participate on the Harbor Safety Committee.

Michael Munger provided an update in behalf of **Blue Crest Alaska Operating, LLC** owners of the Cosmopolitan project. The project is in the construction phase with no diminishment of activity. The foundation for the man camp has been started and the modules are on location, with the camp to be operational in the next few weeks. The drilling rig will be transported in late October and begin drilling in late February.

Michael Munger reported that **Furie Alaska** is setting their monopod platform.

Chip Arnold, Alaska Sea Life Center, gave a presentation about the Center's oiled wildlife response capability. The center is equipped with animal holding areas and 14 staff available for cleaning the mammals. ASLC is contracted with CISPRI to man the Sea Otter Rescue Center in Seldovia. Volunteers will be trained for a number of support roles, but only experienced professionals will handle the oiled animals. Todd Paxton stated that workgroups are being defined this winter, and SOS will play a key role. Walt Sonen confirmed that SOS is standing by and community members are interested in volunteering. A lot of work was done on the SORC this summer.

ASLC is open to involvement in oil spill drills, and has actively pursued Incident Command and HAZWOPER training. Besides CISPRI, ASLC has a contract with Alaska Clean Seas and Carrie Goetz has worked to develop protocols, including for oiled Arctic marine mammals. The ASLC team provides

training of professionals on a national level. Brett Long conceived a palletized mobile rehabilitation enclosure which was used in a mutual aid drill in Prudhoe Bay. More enclosures will be built. ASLC partners with NOAA, FWS, the Federal Species Recovery team, rural communities and native groups.

The Sea Life Center has released 200 harbor seals, but usually sea otters and walrus are not releasable, although protocols are developed to minimize human influence.

Todd Paxton, CISPRI, confirmed the pumps are now functional at the SORC. SOS volunteers will be trained to deploy the recovery center, so there is a lot of work yet to be done. The CISPRI membership has been very supportive. Mr. Munger offered CIRCAC support and expressed interest in training opportunities. Although volunteer animal cleaners are well-intentioned, Ms. Saupe said, the EVOS damage assessment proved only professionals should handle the animals.

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Williams reported that the Executive Committee met on March 26, April 10 and September 3 to review the proposed 2016 Operating budget, the audit, and all financial reports; and to receive updates on legislative matters, agreements with the Funding Companies, the Buccaneer bankruptcy and the DEC reorganization. The Committee discussed funding, corporate strategy, legal and personnel matters in Executive Session.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Munger announced that CIRCAC was recertified by Rear Admiral Abel for the 24th year. XTO Platform A, C and the Nikiski Onshore facility were acquired by Hilcorp on September 1. Scott Griffith will be missed. Funding negotiations are underway to reflect the OPA 90 amendment; the 5 year agreement will be signed in a few weeks. Staff attended the Change of Command with Captain Albertson relieving Captain Mehler.

Captain Mehler thanked CIRCAC for supporting the Coast Guard, saying the partnerships are a benchmark of success. He will be working for Tesoro.

Cook Inlet Energy is not in a good financial position. The company is not in arrears to CISPRI or CIRCAC. Mr. Munger will monitor the situation.

To commemorate CIRCAC's 25th Anniversary a reception was held to open the Coastal Impressions Exhibit at the Kenai Visitors Center. Additionally, all committee members and stakeholders will be invited on December 3rd for a presentation highlighting key projects over the last 25 years, followed by a social get together at the Anchorage Museum and the December 4th Council meeting at the Captain Cook.

The draft 2016 Proposed Operating Budget was reviewed by the Executive Committee; it basically mirrors last year's budget. The budget will be finalized in December. The majority of the \$140,000 carryover was allocated to the committees.

4. STATUS OF PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

- **Environmental Monitoring Committee**

Ms. Saupe noted her report in the packet but spoke to the project funded by BOEM in Kamishak Bay conducted by CIRCAC, the University of Alaska, NOAA, and the Park Service. Notice was just received that an additional 4 year project to evaluate nearshore habitats will be funded. BOEM will also fund \$450,000 for ShoreZone on the Alaska Peninsula to close a data gap; CIRCAC will match with \$100,000 for a shore station component.

Ms. Saupe is working with AOOS to develop a Cook Inlet Ecological Beluga data portal to include the prey study and the contaminants data. The portals are based on the CIRCAC's pilot project, the Cook Inlet Response Tool. The Science Director is compiling contaminants data for inclusion in a contaminants portal. Work on the CIRT continues; it will be valuable during a response.

A second copy of the Coastal Impressions Exhibit will be made to fulfill exhibit requests. CIRCAC's comments to the proposed Sub Part J language are available on request.

- **Public Involvement Program**

Ms. Giguere reported that 28,876 people visited the Coastal Impressions exhibit; it has been extended on request. The radio ads have increased public familiarity with CIRCAC's work. Ms. Stanley recommended CIRCAC sponsor Science Friday on KBBI and KDLL. The Public Involvement Director is working with Sundog to develop the 25 year online report. A full program report appears in the packet.

- **Protocol Control Committee**

Mr. Catalano noted the committee reviewed and submitted comments on the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan Proposed Rule Subpart J; the Aurora Gas, LLC c-plan; the Coast Guard's proposed plan for Decommissioning Oil Spill Response Equipment Caches; and the Cook Inlet Energy, LLC c-plan.

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

Mr. Catalano is participating in the Cook Inlet Sub Area workgroup meetings to review and update the plan. He also sits on the managing board of the Harbor Safety Committee. The first full committee meeting is scheduled for September 22. PROPS members attended the Clean Pacific Conference and found it very valuable. Staff worked on a Hilcorp drill featuring tank and line ruptures due to a 6.8 magnitude earthquake, with Ms. Giguere monitoring social media.

- **Administration**

Mr. Rombach expressed appreciation for the staff efforts on the Recertification. The field audit was successful. CIRCAC has received two proposals for independent financial audit and tax preparation for the years 2015-2017. The Audit committee will review the proposals and make a recommendation. All taxes and renewals are up to date. There are two Ex-Officio seats vacant, for NOAA and the US Forestry Service. Two \$2,500 scholarships have been awarded.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Paul Shadura moved to go into Executive Session to discuss corporate strategy. Carla Stanley seconded. Staff was invited to attend.

The meeting resumed at 1:42 PM.

Mr. Williams commented that through the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee involvement the RCAC will be in a position to pose questions regarding non crude traffic in Cook Inlet proper. The President directed that HSC reports be provided at each Council meeting. Mr. Munger noted that the HSC Project Manager will give a presentation at the December meeting.

6. CALENDARS & MISCELLANEOUS

Cook Inlet RCAC will meet on December 3, 4 at the Captain Cook Hotel.

*****Closing Comments*****

Robert Peterkin said it was a good meeting.

Gary Fandrei stated he is looking forward to future discussions on issues raised.

Walt Sonen expressed disappointment that the meeting wasn't held in Seldovia to tour the Seldovia Otter Recovery Center.

Molly McCammon commented that she looks forward to the December meeting.

Michael Munger said he erred on the side of caution by canceling the trip to Seldovia; he confirmed the Council will meet in Seldovia next fall, and noted that the food purchased for the meeting was donated.

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 P.M.