

Summary Notes¹
Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force
Summer 2004 Coordinating Committee Meeting
Portland, Oregon
July 21, 2004

ATTENDING:

Curtis Martin, Hawaii Dept. of Health; Stan Norman, Washington Dept. of Ecology; Bud Leland, California Office of Spill Prevention & Response; Stafford Reid, BC Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection; Larry Dietrick, Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation; Mike Zollitsch, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality; and Jean Cameron, Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force

ANNUAL MEETING DEBRIEF

- Everyone was pleased with the annual meeting.
- Remember to remind participants to mute their cell phones.
- Jean is to send copies of the Annual Meeting PowerPoint Presentations to the Coordinating Committee.
- Look at ways to reduce the time of the briefing session, since 1.5 days is a lot of time for the Task Force Members to spend on one meeting. Explain the purpose of the meeting better. Tailor the briefing to the current members' level of experience.
- Larry explained that ADEC had spent time with the presenters at their BAP workshop to clearly identify their expectations, had requested copies of papers and presentations in advance, and had invited experts to preview this material and then direct questions to the presenters. He recommended that we consider a similar approach for both our Roundtables and Annual Meeting panels. The Committee thought that they could serve as questioners if they receive presentations/papers a couple weeks prior to any event.
- The theme for the next Annual Meeting will be organizational leadership for the purpose of changing behaviors or attitudes.

ADDITIONAL JURISDICTIONAL UPDATES/DISCUSSION

- Larry reported that a Greenpeace vessel had entered Alaska waters without the required contingency plan and COFR, and had been advised to stay in Ketchikan until it came into compliance. In violation of the state's order to remain there, the vessel had sailed to more remote, sensitive locations. Larry expected that the state would file charges.
- Stan noted that a \$3.5 million waste oil dumping case was just completed. The settlement included natural resources restoration projects in California, Oregon, and Washington.
- Ecology is getting bids on a 4-year contract for the Neah Bay rescue tug. Stan explained that the US Coast Guard has a \$300,000/year contract with Crowley to provide rescue tug coverage in Puget Sound east of Port Angeles. The contract will also provide coverage west of Port Angeles when the state's Neah Bay tug is in use.
- Ecology is contracting with Glosten Associates for a study to determine whether tug escorts should be required for the super-redundant tankers. ADEC and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) companies are participating as observers, since the same question has come up for Prince William Sound. A draft report is due by November 1 and the final by December 15th. Bud noted that the San Francisco Bay Harbor Safety Committee has already agreed to exempt the super-redundant tankers from their tug escort requirement. The Coordinating Committee noted that this would be a good topic for the 2006 winter Roundtable.

¹ NOTE: This is a meeting summary and is not intended as a verbatim record of all presentations or comments made during the meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT FORMAT

- Christy Sutton, who has done the layout for the Task Force's annual report since 1993, met with the Coordinating Committee to discuss possible improvements.
- She recommended a standardized format for the agency reports, and brought examples of a 2-column layout with a smaller text font that would allow for insertion of photos. This new format would also allow for more white space and the use of sidebar text boxes.
- Christy recommended that each agency submit up to five photos as original PDF or JPG files at a 300 dpi resolution, each as a separate file. The Coordinating Committee members should rank them so she'd know which ones to leave out if necessary.
- Christy will check with the Oregon Printing Division to see if the printing is digital; if so, we may be able to add more color without a significant cost increase.
- Re: a standardized format, the Coordinating Committee brainstormed topics such as legislation, rulemaking, prevention, preparedness, or response initiatives, and summaries of their "top 10" spill incidents. Jean will draft an outline for their review/discussion at the Fall 2004 meeting.

FIRST QUARTER TASKS UNDER 2004-2005 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

In addition to the ongoing tasks in the workplan, several projects will need specific attention during the first quarter, as follows:

- Database Workgroup: Jean will work with Jack Barfield to schedule the next Workgroup conference call and plan for a meeting focused on building an Access database. The Coordinating Committee will discuss the 2005 investigator training event at their fall meeting, i.e., who will host and necessary arrangements.
- Compile & analyze data on transfer spills:
 - Stan will work with Jack Barfield to design a data template for collection of information regarding transfer spills over the last five years. The data will focus on spills from vessels, facilities, or vehicles and include such information as product, volume (one bbl or more), source, and cause. Emphasis should be put on reducing "other" and "unknown" by reading investigation reports. These reports will be returned by a deadline to be set by Jack Barfield so he can then compile them and present a report to the Coordinating Committee when they meet in Lacey in October.
 - Jean will work with the Coordinating Committee to outline a matrix comparing each agency's regulatory program covering oil spills.
 - Ecology's new staff person focused on developing oil spill transfer rules will be able to attend this portion of the October meeting.
- Request BIPs as PACAREA SOCs: Jean will work with Stan to draft a letter to the US Coast Guard on this matter.
- Arrange POSPET meeting: Jean will work with Eric Olsson and Mary-Ellen Voss to arrange for a POSPET meeting in Lacey in conjunction with the Coordinating Committee meeting.
- Post Places of Refuge Annex for public comment: Comments on the draft Places of Refuge annex are due by 9/1. Jean will work with the Area Plan Annex Subcommittee to make necessary revisions and then post the draft annex on the Task Force website for public comment. Jean also noted that she'll be giving a presentation on the project at the Prevention First Conference September 13-14.
- Coordinating Committee reviews D/E protocols: Each Coordinating Committee member will review this issue within his agency and be prepared to discuss concerns in October. NOTE: The Drill/Exercise credit report and credit recommendations are available at http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org/docs/project_reports/DrillExercise95.pdf. Jean noted that several Annual Meeting participants had expressed an interest in participating in the stakeholder phase of this project.
- Coordinating Committee plans Trucking Roundtable: The Coordinating Committee will identify key issues and speakers, plus agree on a location and date at their fall meeting.

- Contingency Planning for non-tank vessels: Since the USCG now has legislative authorization to require contingency plans from non-tank vessels, Jean will work with the Coordinating Committee at their fall meeting to identify issues of concern in preparation for a meeting with CAPT Saboe in DC the following week.

TOPICS OF CONCERN

- Stan noted that the Cruise Ship MOU seems to be working well in Washington.

OTHER

- Prevention First Conference:
 - Bud reported that plans for the Prevention First conference are going well, and many exhibitors have signed up. The program will focus on marine terminal issues, environmental issues, human and organizational factors, maritime security, ballast water management, OSPR Emerging Issues, global shipping perspectives, and the California maritime transportation system. The early registration deadline is August 24th.
 - Since staffing might be a problem if we were to have our own booth, the Coordinating Committee agreed that the Task Force would share OSPR's booth.
- Administrative issues from Briefing Session
 - The Members approved the 2004-2005 budget as proposed.
 - A discussion regarding a policy on external funding for the Annual Meeting luncheon will be put on the agenda for the fall meeting.
 - Stan Norman will begin the process of evaluating the Executive Coordinator's contract performance and deciding whether to re-open it for bids or extending the existing contract for an additional two year period.
- The Coordinating Committee confirmed the following meeting dates/locations for the coming work year:
 - Fall 2004: October 20-21 in Lacey, WA (meet with EPA officials)
 - Winter 2005: January 13-14 in Honolulu, HI (meet with USCG Pacific Area)
 - Spring 2005: April 20-21 in Victoria, BC (meet with Canadian federal officials)
 - Summer 2005: Day after Annual Meeting in Juneau; date to be determined
- Involving Mexico in the Task Force: Jean reported that CAPT Saboe had noted at the Annual Meeting that he'd just come from meetings with Mexican Navy spill officials, and that the officials currently involved would be retiring in a couple of years. Carl and Bud have committed to discuss the Task Force with these officials in order to determine how best to involve them in our activities. It was noted that the state of Baja would be the appropriate jurisdiction for official Task Force membership, assuming they have an oil spill program. OSPR will pursue this issue and bring recommendations to the other member agencies.