

Summary Notes
Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force
Coordinating Committee Meeting
August 25, 2011
Anchorage, Alaska

PARTICIPANTS

Gary Folley, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation; Graham Knox, British Columbia Ministry of Environment; Mike Zollitsch, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality; Jon Neel and Dale Jensen, Washington Department of Ecology; Scott Schaefer, California Office of Spill Prevention and Response; Curtis Martin of the Hawaii Department of Health; and Jean Cameron, Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force

JURISDICTIONAL UPDATES (building on the Annual Meeting updates as needed)

To view all Annual Meeting updates, see: <http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org/2011annualmeeting/index.htm>.

Curtis Martin, the Hawaii Department of Health

- Curtis had no additional updates beyond those provided at the Annual Meeting the previous day.

Scott Schaefer, California Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR)

- Scott noted that the OceanGate Foundation was supporting research on the status of the SS Montebello, the U.S. tanker sunk off the California Coast during WWII. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) will fund the salvage contract.
- He reported that a press conference will be held in September regarding the *M/V Cosco Busan* settlement. He expects \$2 million to reimburse the State's Response Trust Fund.
- Scott noted that funding for inland response is an ongoing problem; OSPR has authority to respond to inland spills, but the only funding is from past settlements.

Gary Folley, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)

- Gary explained that future offshore drilling in Alaska will take place in Cook Inlet and in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas of the Arctic. Spill preparedness is good in Cook Inlet, but response planning and infrastructure are needed for the Arctic areas. If Shell goes ahead with exploratory drilling in the Chukchi in the spring of 2012, response vessels will have to accompany the mobile drilling units. Alaska Clean Seas is the primary OSRO for the Arctic areas.
- ADEC is focusing on nearshore planning in the Statewide Contingency Plan, since Shell's contingency plan is focused on offshore areas. For nearshore planning, Geographic Response Plans will be integrated with tactics.

Mike Zollitsch, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)

- Mike explained that the LST 1166 was a derelict vessel near Rainer, OR that ODEQ and the USCG were working on; hazardous materials on board include oils, PCBs and asbestos. The USCG and EPA are evaluating the risks and possible solutions. Cleanup has cost approximately \$9 million so far.

Graham Knox, British Columbia Ministry of Environment

- Graham reported that the Canadian Coast Guard was facing a 23% budget cut. In addition, 1,000 FTE will be cut nationwide in Environment Canada. The Ministry of Environment has a meeting scheduled with the federal agencies in October, when he hopes to learn more about the impacts of these cuts on spill preparedness and response in British Columbia.
- His program is seeking a funding mechanism to support their inland response activities.
- No new legislation is likely this year, due to fall elections.

- China is investing in a coal export facility in Prince Rupert; this could increase bulk carrier traffic to/from that port, which also increases vessel traffic through Unimak Pass and along the Aleutian Chain.

Jon Neel and Dale Jensen, Washington Department of Ecology

- Jon and Dale noted that Ecology would begin the rulemaking process to implement new authorities in HB 1186. The most challenging requirements include establishment of:
 - A Vessel of Opportunity program;
 - Best Achievable Protection standards for spill response equipment and methods;
 - An ability to respond 24/7; and
 - Emergency notification procedures for vessels in state waters.
- Jon asked that the Coordinating Committee discuss these in more detail at the next meeting.

EVALUATION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

- Curtis noted that Gary Gil was positive about the meeting; he felt that there was a good flow of important information.
- The Coordinating Committee felt that both the agenda and speakers were good; this meeting was an appropriate follow-on to the 2010 meeting, which also focused on the Deepwater Horizon response.
- The jurisdictional updates are always appreciated, they said.
- They recommended planning an interactive activity in order to get folks out of their chairs during this day-long meeting.
- They also recommended having fewer speakers and giving each of them more time for their presentations.
- It was a good outreach opportunity for ADEC.
- The Coordinating Committee recommended adding a roundtable on ISPR topics to the Strategic Plan extension.

REVIEW TASKS IN THE 2010-2011 WORK PLAN

Prevention

- **Database Project:**
 - Jean explained that the data for the first half 2011 is due 10/1.
- **Harbor Safety Committee Summit 10/26:**
 - Jean shared a copy of the Final Draft Agenda for the California Harbor Safety Committee Chairs' meeting in Monterey on 10/25 and the West Coast Harbor Safety Committee Chair Summit on 10/26, which the Task Force is co-hosting with OSPR.
- **AWO/BIPs:**
 - Diane Butorac of Ecology had attended the August 17 American Waterways Operators (AWO)/USCG Regional Quality Steering Committee (RQSC) meeting with Jean; they presented the Task Force's recommendations for AWO action on the towing Vessel BIPs. AWO will respond to the Task Force regarding how each recommendation may – or may not - be addressed in their Responsible Carrier Program (RCP) guidelines or by other AWO initiatives. AWO is not interested in having a West Coast addendum to the RCP program. Jean also reported that Ecology had volunteered to work on an incident data Quality Action Team (QAT) that the RQSC is considering.
 - Jean will work with Scott Schaefer to draft text describing a "Step" for the Annual Work Plan (AWP) regarding the Bunkering Video Project. Ecology will provide copies of the current Bunkering video.
- **POSPET:**
 - POSPET's fall meeting will be hosted by ODEQ 10/13 in Portland.

Preparedness/Response

- **Status of Transboundary Report Recommendations:**
 - ADEC, the Ministry of Environment and Ecology reviewed their outreach efforts and steps to implement the Transboundary Report's recommendations.
- **Petition to increase LOLs:**
 - Jean plans to begin this project in November or December.
- **ICS:**
 - Jean will draft AWP language regarding sharing Professional Qualification Standards for ICS positions, as added to the AWP by the Task Force Members.
- **OILS 911:**
 - The Coordinating Committee members reviewed the OILS 911 data for 1999 – 2010 as compiled by Mary Ellen Voss at Ecology. Jean will post two key graphs on the *Spills Aren't Slick* webpage.
- **Mutual Aid:**
 - The Coordinating Committee reviewed their assignments as outlined in the Mutual Aid Task in the Annual Work Plan.
 - Jean will post the newly-adopted 2011 Mutual Aid plan on the Task Force website as soon as possible.
- **R&D Workgroup:**
 - Jean will contact Judd Muskat of OSPR to set up a conference call in December for the R&D Workgroup.
 - Jean reported that Ellen Faurot Daniels of OSPR will attend the Dispersant Workshop in September.

Communications

- **2012 Clean Pacific Conference (with Kayla Appelt of the Trade Fair Group)**
 - Ms. Appelt provided the Coordinating Committee members with a packet of information regarding the 2012 Clean Pacific Conference and reviewed the process and timeline.
 - The Coordinating Committee agreed to the following tracks: prevention, response/restoration, planning/preparedness, and new technologies. They also brainstormed a list of possible session topics.
 - Co-host invitations will go to U.S. EPA, BOEMRE, USCG, the Canadian Coast Guard, Transport Canada, Environment Canada, and the National Energy Board of Canada.
 - The Coordinating Committee will meet 11/2 in Long Beach in conjunction with the Clean Pacific Program Committee meeting on 11/3.
- **Legacy Awards**
 - Jean will post the request for nominations on the Task Force website in November.
- **Stakeholder Outreach**
 - Jean reviewed her upcoming outreach plans as follows:
 - The API Spills Advisory Group 9/21, Washington, DC
 - The West Coast JAT meeting 10/11 in Portland, OR
 - The Fall POSPET meeting 10/13 in Portland
 - The SEAPRO Annual Meeting presentation 10/20 in Ketchikan
 - The Harbor Safety Committee Summit 10/25-10/26 in Monterey
- **Task Force Website**
 - Jean explained the following upgrades made by Chris Coffin, our webmaster, to the Task Force website this summer:
 - the manner in which documents are presented has been made consistent throughout the site;
 - a navigational "breadcrumb" feature has been added to each page of the document;
 - the file structure of the site has been reorganized to reflect the content structure;

- a functioning search engine has been added to the site, accessible from the footer of every page. This search engine crawls through and locates content from html pages as well as file types .doc, .ppt, excel and others;
- the entire codebase of the site has been redone:
- **Federal Comments**
 - Comments are due on the USCG's towing vessel inspection NPRM by December 9. Jean will get a draft to the Coordinating Committee for discussion at their November 2nd meeting.
- **Annual Work Plan**
 - Jean asked for the final Points of Contact from Hawaii, British Columbia, California, and Washington. These – plus the new text for the Bunkering Video project and the PQS sharing – are needed to complete the AWP so it can be sent to the Premier and Governors and posted on the website.
- **Strategic Plan**
 - Jean will draft amendments and updates for the Coordinating Committee to review in February 2012.

Administrative topics

- Jean reviewed the YTD Budget report, which had also been provided at the Executive Session 8/23.
- Ecology agreed to print the 2012 Annual Report in order to free up travel funds for the new Executive Coordinator to attend the Clean Pacific Conference.
- Jean noted that she will be on vacation in Alaska through the Labor Day weekend and will also take an extra three days off to visit family and friends in Virginia following the API meeting.