

# PORT OF BELLINGHAM

## MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010 SQUALICUM HARBOR OFFICE BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

### Minutes

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#### **Committee Members Present:**

Peter Border  
Jeff Hegedus  
Ryan Kapp  
Ron Kleinknecht  
Paul Lavelle  
Tim Mumford  
Joe Orem  
Jim Splaine  
Jerry Writer  
Jim Young

#### **Committee Members Absent**

Cliff Cultee  
Gene Knutson

#### **Port Representatives Present:**

Dan Stahl  
Mike Endsley  
Pam Taft  
Andy Peterson

#### **Committee Members Excused**

Brian Pemberton  
Doug Sterrett

#### **Visitors/ Guests:**

Milan Slipcivic  
Tom Faulkner  
Peter Bjazevich  
Vicko Fiamengo  
Pete Fiamengo

### **Roll Call**

Jeff Hegedus, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

### **April 13, 2010 Minutes**

Peter Border asked for a grammatical correction on page 2 of the April 13, 2010 minutes under "Dockside Feedback". A motion was made by Paul Lavelle to adopt the minutes as amended. It was seconded by Peter Border and passed unanimously.

## **Public Comment**

Mr. Milan Slipcivic, a gillnetter who works out of Squalicum Harbor, gave public comment regarding his desire to see additional commercial fishermen added to the membership of the MAC. Milan indicated that having more fishermen on the committee might give them favorable results. A lengthy discussion ensued about past policies regarding commercial fishermen. Milan was reminded that the MAC is an advisory committee only, and that the authority for policy changes continues to rest with the Port Commission. It was widely acknowledged that having a higher head count on the MAC (ie of commercial fishermen) would not have yielded different outcomes on past issues. Ryan Kapp is currently on the MAC and represents a number of interests including the commercial fishermen. Ryan's attendance has been very good and he has been a ceaseless advocate for the commercial fleet. It was noted that even when his job takes him away from an occasional meeting, he is almost always available via either email or cell phone. There was broad support from the MAC for Ryan's leadership. Staff was also supportive of Ryan's availability and for his accurate understanding of the needs of all segments of the commercial fleet that calls Whatcom County home. Jeff Hegedus finished the discussion with Milan by saying that Ryan was doing an excellent job representing commercial fishermen, that a major recruiting process had just recently been concluded, that the MAC was not currently in favor of initiating another recruiting process, and lastly, that the MAC always entertains public comment, as evidenced by the lengthy discussion this evening.

Pete Bjazevich, another commercial fisherman, had a dispute regarding his moorage bill. After some discussion about the particulars of his situation, Mike Endsley agreed to meet with Pete after the meeting to see what could be done to address his issues.

## **Dockside Feedback**

Jeff Hegedus, Chair, reviewed with the MAC why he asked that this item be a reoccurring agenda item. He feels that it is important for the MAC to keep a pulse on what's going on "down on the docks," and that after brief discussion, any significant issues raised would be earmarked as an agenda item for subsequent meetings. Having said that, a new item was brought forward for discussion. Peter Border, also a member of HAT, requested the possibility of getting an order of dock box lids to be installed in the harbor as well as a request for some increased maintenance on the dock carts. Mike Endsley responded that late spring / Opening Day is often a workload peak for the maintenance department, and that some turnover this winter in the maintenance department had made this worse. Mike assured the MAC that the dock carts would be up and running as soon as possible. Tim Mumford and Jim Splaine also suggested the possibility of either having this work done by volunteers or perhaps a sheltered workshop opportunity. Mike mentioned that he would investigate any labor issues associated with volunteers from some boating group assembling dock carts.

## **Harbor Rules/Enforcement Practices**

This item was put on the agenda by Jeff after being raised in April under “Dockside Feedback”. Under the general title of “Harbor Rules/Enforcement Practices” a number of items had been brought up at prior meetings including vessel inspections, licensing for vessel operations, vessel registrations and policies regarding pump-outs and live-aboards. The MAC then engaged in a lively discussion about the purpose of the Rules and Regs, how they are drafted, how they change over time and the challenges of keeping the document relevant to how the harbor is run on a day to day basis. As the discussion continued, the MAC seemed to boil this down to two different options: they could either take the 50+ pages of the Rules and Regs and go through them line by line from start to finish and address any issues during that process or, alternatively, they could take a more outcome based approach and deal with issues as they come up by the various users of the facilities. For instance, if the MAC wanted to focus on a particular safety issue, they could ask the staff to look through the Rules and Regs and see the different areas within the document that the particular issue touched on, and then try to resolve that particular issue rather than going through the document from beginning to end. After continued discussion it was agreed to follow the second path in taking a more outcome oriented approach.

With that agreed to, the MAC then prioritized the type of issues that they would like the staff to investigate. The first priority should be given to safety issues, followed by environmental issues. Specifically, they wanted the live-aboard practices looked at and also the seaworthiness issue. Staff agreed that after a review period, they will bring back their research and recommendations on what revisions, if any, are needed to either the document or harbor practices. It was acknowledged that this work might need to follow the moorage model review, which is up for its 4 year review this year.

## **Garbage Expenses**

Mike Endsley gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached to these minutes) that reviewed the location of all of the garbage enclosures at Squaticum Harbor, the different users that contribute garbage at those specific locations and what the expenses currently are each particular gate. Mike then reviewed his action plan to both reduce the total charges for garbage and also to renegotiate how those charges are split between marina users, tenants and the public purpose (park) users at each specific gate. The MAC was appreciative of Mike’s attention to both level of service and funding issues and encouraged him to continue to pursue this.

One of the potential solutions suggested by the MAC was to put locks on the garbage enclosures, and that perhaps the same code could be used as the adjacent gates. Part of Mike’s plan is to look at other public marinas in Puget Sound and see what best practices he can find at other facilities that could be transplanted here.

## **Update on Dock Box Replacements**

Mike reviewed the installation schedule for the dock boxes that were recently purchased. Both harbor and maintenance staff will be installing them later this week. The MAC expressed appreciation for the progress. Mike reviewed the current fee structure (i.e., the

expenses for the dock boxes are built into the overall model so that everybody pays for these whether they have one or not). Mike reviewed his recent experience in touring the Port of Anacortes facilities where the Port has now begun charging \$12.00 per month per dock box. Apparently 100 of the 1,000 slips at Cap Sante Boat Haven now have dock boxes under this pricing scenario. Mike also shared that he is pursuing the purchase of an order of lids for current dock boxes that are otherwise salvageable. Jim Splaine suggested that as a corollary to the Anacortes scheme perhaps in Bellingham customers who don't use them could be given a credit back.

### **2010 Marine Industries Summit**

Dan reviewed the schedule for the 2010 Marine Industries Summit to be held on Wednesday, June 2, 2010 at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This is an event that is a joint presentation of the Washington State Department of Commerce and the Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing and Technology located in Skagit County. Dan offered up that if there were any MAC members who are interested in attending, he may be able to attend some complimentary passes for MAC members and asked MAC members to let him know if they were interested.

### **Moorage Model Review – Subcommittee Membership**

Dan talked through the rough schedule for the moorage model review, which would have the subcommittee making a significant presentation to the MAC at their August meeting, with further discussion in September and a recommendation in October. In turn, this would then be forwarded on to the Port Commission for their consideration in November.

With that broad outline Dan then asked for volunteers. Brian Pemberton who was not able to make this meeting due to a schedule conflict had earlier volunteered to join the subcommittee. Jim Young also volunteered as well as Jim Splaine. Dan and Pam will work with the three volunteers to schedule future meetings and look forward to a presentation to the full MAC at their regular August meeting.

### **Staff Updates**

Dan reviewed some of the results from the bid openings for capital maintenance work in the marinas. As the MAC appreciates, there are a number of deferred maintenance items at the marinas that we are trying to catch up with. Based on the bids coming in below budget, staff will expand the scope of those repairs to be fixed this year so that we will be able to do more catch up work than we had originally planned. This is good news for the harbors to be able to whittle down the backlog of deferred maintenance.

Dan then gave an update of the recent announcement from the regulatory agencies regarding dioxin and how that will likely impact dredging in the harbors. Dan also gave a final update on the Port's NOAA process whereby the Port will be paid back by NOAA for the appeal costs of approximately \$130,000 thereby ending the appeal process.

With no further items on the agenda the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.