

# PORT OF BELLINGHAM

**MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009  
SQUALICUM HARBOR OFFICE  
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

## Minutes

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### **Committee Members Present:**

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

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Mark Gumley

### **Port Representatives Present:**

Dan Stahl  
Mike Endsley  
Pam Taft  
Andy Peterson

### **Committee Members Excused:**

Ryan Kapp  
Gene Knutson  
Doug Sterrett  
Roger Van Dyken

### **Visitors/ Guests:**

Commissioner Jim Jorgensen  
Jonathan Knowles

### **Roll Call**

Jim Splaine, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. (Jeff Hegedus, Chair, having been detained at an earlier meeting resumed chairing the meeting at approximately 6:20 pm.).

### **September 8 Minutes**

A motion to approve the September 8 minutes was made by Jerry Writer, seconded by Jim Splaine. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

Jonathan Knowles spoke at the public comment portion of the meeting. Jonathan represents the one design keel boats (etchells). Jonathan came to give the MAC a recap of the 2009 sailing season. He passed out a 2-page handout. Jonathan then engaged in Q

& A with the MAC about other dry storage facilities that have been considered by Jonathan but were not workable for one reason or another.

### **Dockside Feedback**

This item is on the agenda to pick up items that the MAC members may hear from their fellow boaters.

- Peter Border brought up that the HAT has talked about security issues ensuring a smooth connection between Port staff and our contracted security company (SecurTrans) and the Bellingham Police Department.
- Ron Kleinknecht talked about some concerns he had about electrolysis on his vessel located on Gate 8. A general discussion about electrolysis ensued.
- Paul Lavelle asked a question about the Port security response to an earlier incident. Mike Endsley had been contacted about this and was aware of the particulars.

### **NOAA Update**

Dan gave an update to the MAC on the Port's appeal process of NOAA's decision to relocate the Marine Operations Center (MOC-P) to Newport, Oregon. The Port's appeal was lodged with the GAO (Government Accountability Office). There has been back and forth discussion between the Port's attorneys and the GAO. A final decision is expected by the GAO on or about December 6, 2009. Dan also reviewed with the MAC a final rule being published by the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) designating critical habitat for the green sturgeon under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The designation included Yaquina Bay which will be the future homeport for NOAA. The MAC discussed how that listing might impact schedule and cost for Newport.

### **Gate 12 – Building B**

Mike Endsley gave an update on Ebenal's building program in the gate 12 vicinity. Building A is progressing and the planning efforts for Building B are picking up speed. An email letter was sent to Gate 12 moorage tenants and copied to the MAC on September 18, 2009. The contractor and the Port are working to ensure safety and to return the pick up and drop off parking stalls in front of Gate 12 as soon as possible. Mike went on to talk about an upcoming power shutdown that is needed in order for the development to proceed. This was originally discussed as an extensive shutdown. Due to concern voiced by Port staff, these shutdowns will now be reduced to two(2) - four (4) hour separate shutdowns. One will occur during the evening to accommodate the restaurants, the other most likely during the day. Mike will send letters to the boaters ahead of time so that proper contingency plans can be put in place. Mike will copy the MAC on this correspondence.

### **Harbor Rules and Regs**

Pam Taft presented this item – a call to the MAC for their input at next month's meeting looking for MAC approval in December of any suggestions and/or improvements to the Port's Rules and Regulations. This is a document that the Port Commission annually considers at the first meeting in January. Absent any additional input from the MAC, staff will take the list that they have been generating throughout the year, share that with the MAC in November and look for their endorsement in December.

### **Weblocker Update**

Mike and Pam took turns updating the MAC on weblocker issues for Blaine and Squalicum. Most of the noncommercial fishing issues have already been resolved. Mike and Pam are working now on the remainder of the weblockers to ensure a smooth implementation of actions previously adopted by the Port Commission. Fish tickets are due to be returned to Port staff by November 1. Follow-up letters will then be sent after the November 1 deadline to either confirm active commercial fishing status or to notify of a new rate based on a new categorization of the weblockers' contents. All of the new rates will go into effect January 1, 2010. All of the weblockers will be reinspected by both of the harbor masters to ensure consistency in implementing this policy in two different harbors. The MAC thanked Mike and Pam for their diligent work and emphasized that the original intent of the weblockers (i.e., providing reasonably priced storage of commercial fishing gear in close proximity to the moorage) is still a valid line of business for the Port and encouraged Port staff to do some kind of a write-up in the newsletter to get the word out on how well the program has been revised/updated.

### **Stormwater Issues**

Dan reviewed some of the current stormwater issues that Port staff is dealing with port-wide and shared a specific example of where Port staff discovered some painting supplies and materials next to a catch basin in Blaine. Port staff was able to remove the material from the catch basin before it entered the waters of the state and was able to track the boater down and have a dialogue with the boater as to proper procedures for handling such occurrences. Stormwater regulations will only get tighter and we need to continue our efforts to educate all tenants including the Port's moorage tenants about how to be a good neighbor and make sure that we are good stewards of the shoreline. There was also a discussion with the MAC relating to taking painting materials to the county facility adjacent to the airport. Jeff Hegedus was able to speak about the value of this program and how it can be a real asset for people in our community.

### **Staff Updates**

Dan reviewed an email that Peter Border had sent to him which included a picture of a PFD loaner station for life jackets for kids. This is a program called "Kids Don't Float" that is very active in Canada and has some activity in the United States as well. Peter had sent the email asking if this was something that we could perhaps put some more energy behind and enlarge and improve. A lively discussion ensued with the MAC with significant support that this is a worthwhile cause for us to investigate and to pay more attention to.

With no further agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.