

# **PORT OF BELLINGHAM**

**MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011  
SQUALICUM HARBOR OFFICE  
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

## **Minutes**

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### **Committee Members Present:**

Peter Border  
Gene Knutson  
Paul Lavelle  
Tim Mumford  
Brian Pemberton  
Doug Sterrett  
Jerry Writer  
Jim Young

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Lummi Representative

### **Port Representatives Present:**

Mike Endsley  
Pam Taft

### **Committee Members Excused:**

Jeff Hegedus  
Ron Kleinknecht

### **Visitors/ Guests:**

Elizabeth Kilanowski  
Jim Jorgensen

### **Roll Call**

Brian Pemberton, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

### **March 8, 2011 Minutes**

The March 8, 2011 minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Gene Knutson to approve the minutes as written. This was seconded by Jim Young and passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment initially. Later in the meeting Elizabeth Kilanowski arrived and was granted the opportunity to provide public comment. She asked the membership if they had received an email from Boat US on the phasing out of copper paint. Some of the group had received a similar email and some were already aware of copper paint being phased out due to its environmental impact. Ms. Kilanowski expressed concern since her boat is maintained with copper paint.

## **Dockside Feedback**

None

## **General Harbor Issues**

### **Opening Day-Squalicum Harbor**

Mike provided an update on the upcoming Opening Day festivities at Squalicum Harbor on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Mike also cautioned those who may be participating in the annual Opening Day Parade, that May 7<sup>th</sup> is also the first Saturday sailing for the Alaska Ferry. Mike suggests possibly changing the location of the rendezvous point, typically next to the Bellingham Cruise Terminal, to a location a little further north. Mike will make sure to notify the Bellingham Yacht Club of this potential conflict.

### **Sea Grant-Commercial Fishing Training Seminar**

Mike Endsley provided an update on the commercial fishing training seminar that was recently held earlier in March. This event was sponsored by the Port of Bellingham, and developed by Washington Sea Grant to provide training for commercial fishermen on responding to emergencies at sea. There were about 19 fishermen who attended the training and expressed an interest in seeing another training event like this held in the near future. Mike is working with Sea Grant to set another training session up during the week of Opening Day of Boating.

### **Loading Zone Changes**

Mike Endsley updated the committee on the changes to the commercial loading zone areas as part of the Port's initiative to further support the commercial fishing industry. The time limit will be extended from 48 hours to 72 hours to allow the fishermen more time to work on their vessel. Making the time limit change requires changes to existing signage which is currently being done.

### **Implementing New Moorage Rates**

Mike Endsley reported that as of April 1, 2011 the new rates took effect and the transition went well. Staff went through all the statements before being sent to ensure that the billings had gone through correctly.

The new Active Commercial Fishing Vessel (ACF) rate requires that fishermen submit proof of being actively engaged in the commercial fishing industry. At the end of March, approximately 50% had turned in their documentation, and as of the first week of April, that number has increased to approximately 70%. This two-year program will be monitored to gauge any resulting impacts of this marketing initiative.

### **ComFish**

Dan Stahl and Andy Peterson headed north to Kodiak, AK to kick-off the Port's marketing initiative for the commercial fishing industry at the fish expo, ComFish. This annual event runs April 14-16 and is the longest running fisheries trade show in Alaska. The Port's Executive Director, Charlie Sheldon, did a radio advertisement in Kodiak as a way to advertise the Port of Bellingham's participation in the event.

## **Squalicum**

### **Quickie Lift Update**

Mike Endsley provided an update on the future of the Quickie Lifts at Gate 8. The Port acquired these abandoned assets when the former tenant vacated their leased premises. In order for the Port to move ahead in removing these from port property, the Port Commission needed to declare these assets 'surplus.' Once surplus, the Port is free to take the necessary actions to remove the asset, either by selling at auction or soliciting bids to have them removed.

### **Charterfest Re-Cap**

Mike reported that he has heard positive feedback from Charterfest, which was held on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. This annual event is a joint marketing effort between the Port and the Merchant Leaseholders as a way to attract new boat buyers or future charter customers. Brian Pemberton added that the turnout was ok and good prospects for the charters and brokers resulted. Tim Mumford mentioned that the Bellingham Yacht Club (BYC) piggy-backed this event and held an Open House as a way to attract new membership. The BYC Board will evaluate whether their membership increased as a result of this event.

### **Squalicum Boat Launch Grant Application**

Pam Taft reported that the Port is again applying for grant money from the Recreation and Conservation Office for the replacement of the Squalicum Harbor Boat Launch. The project review meeting will be held the middle of April and will give the Port the chance to present the project to the RCO Funding Board. With the success of the Blaine Harbor grant, staff has asked for a 75% grant so the Port would contribute only 25% of the cost.

## **Blaine**

### **Boatyard Update**

Mike Endsley reported that the Port solicited an RFP to operate the former Westman Marine Boat Yard. With the complications of the environmental aspect of the site, the Port decided to postpone any further efforts until some of these issues are worked out. For the time being, Norm Walsh, a former Westman Marine employee, is continuing to operate the boat yard on a month-to-month lease.

### **Boat Fire Report**

Mike Endsley gave a quick update on the recent boat fire in Blaine Harbor. The fire, which reportedly started in the vessel's electrical system, was a total loss. Although harbor staff is not trained to fight fires, they were able to use fire extinguishers to knock down the flames. This effort helped diminish the potential of the fire from spreading to neighboring vessels until the Blaine Fire Department could respond.

### **Fishermen's Memorial –May 1<sup>st</sup>**

Mike Endsley mentioned the upcoming Fishermen's Memorial that is held in Blaine every year to honor the commercial fishermen and their families. This memorial pays tribute to those fishermen who have lost their lives at sea.

There being no further business the MAC meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.