

Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee

Managing Board Meeting

Summary

May 13, 2024
10:00 – 11:00 am (AKDT)

Board Attendees:

Captain Buddy Custard (USCG, Ret.), President
Shari Coleman, Secretary/Treasurer
Mayor Joe Bereskin, Board Member

Others:

Elizabeth Burges, US Coast Guard
Bernie Nowicki, ADEC
Jeff Williams, USFWS
Caroline Wilkinson, NOAA
Karen Pletnikoff, APIA
Haley Griffin, Nuka Research

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The May meeting of the AIWSC Managing Board was called to order at 10:06 am (AKDT) by Captain Buddy Custard.

Motion Ms. Shari Coleman, Mayor Joe Bereskin to approve the amended agenda as presented. Motion approved by non-objection.

Approval of Meeting Summary January 31, 2024

Motion Mayor Bereskin, Ms. Coleman to approve the January 31, 2024, meeting summary minutes. Motion approved by non-objection.

Old Business

Financial Report

Captain Custard reported that the WSC's bank account is up and running, stating that a big near-term focus was to disseminate letters to the Committee members to solicit donations. He stated that with service fees, a certain amount of money must remain in the bank account. There are currently a few outstanding invoices from Nuka Research as the WSC's contractor. Captain Custard went on to report that the 990-tax form was filed this year to keep the WSC in good standing with the IRS, the biennial report was filed for 2022, and the 2024 biennial report will need to be filed in July. He stated that he will complete the 2024 Biennial Report.

Captain Custard informed the group that he spoke with state lobbyists/legislatures regarding funding and reported that while the state could not support funding to the AIWSC in 2024, they are in support of providing funding and will include it in the discussion during the next session. He will also be looking into the cruise ship head tax fund. Captain Custard added that the Managing Board provided a letter of support to the City of Unalaska for the Port Intermodal Development Program (PIDP) grant application to build up the Port of Dutch Harbor infrastructure. Finally, he stated that the Managing Board is waiting to pursue insurance for directors and officers until more funds are obtained.

Changes to Bylaws

Captain Custard recommended this discussion be tabled until the next Board Meeting.

Managing Board Vacancy

Captain Custard stated the Managing Board is required to have a minimum of three (3) officers and there are currently four (4). He plans to address this to increase Board membership and obtain quorum at meetings more consistently by working with the other Managing Board members and Nuka Research to solicit for interested applicants. He recommended this discussion be tabled until the next Board Meeting. Captain Custard also mentioned that currently, the Emergency Response Work group is the only active work group within the WSC.

New Business

SWIFR Grant Discussion

Ms. Karen Pletnikoff began by speaking to the large grant opportunity that the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) submitted for under the EPA Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant (SWIFR) Program. APIA was awarded the grant after submitting an application for project looking to develop a region-wide recycling effort on the Aleutian Islands. She stated that specific meeting support was budgeted at \$45,000 a year to engage industry, regulators, NGO's and other partners, and that since the AIWSC contains all of these stakeholders, it would be great to use the opportunity to work through the AIWSC to build a regional network by engaging with the partners on the WSC. She stated that the AIWSC would have to submit materials to the Request for Proposal (RFP) released by APIA to partner on this project, and work to improving public health and aid in sustainable materials management in the region.

Captain Custard asked Ms. Pletnikoff about the expectations the AIWSC might come across if the Committee was to submit a proposal, and she replied that the hope is not to hold extra meetings, but to consult the expertise on the committee and maintain open communications of the project during regularly scheduled meetings or through a work group or subcommittee. Ms. Pletnikoff stated that the first stage of the project will be to gather information to understand the state of waste materials in the region and who is transporting those materials. There are a limited amount of construction funds, but APIA's goal is to develop a sustainable materials management plan. Another goal is to explore the pathways of cargo transportation that exist that have the potential to lead to waste streams.

Captain Custard confirmed that the SWIFR grant will have a place on the standing agenda at committee meetings. Ms. Pletnikoff expressed looking forward to feedback on how APIA might engage the WSC and seek opportunities to improve the safety of waste management in the region. She will send out the RFP through APIA and provide a one-pager on the goals of the SWIFR program. Ms. Griffin will disseminate the one-pager to the WSC.

Expanding WSC Visibility

Ms. Griffin spoke to the Managing Board about creating a LinkedIn page for the AIWSC. Captain Custard stated that it is good to get the work of the WSC out there to the public. Ms. Coleman asked if there would be any contractual changes necessary to the current agreement with Nuka Research, and Ms. Griffin said that this wouldn't incur any extra costs. Ms. Griffin will create a LinkedIn page for the AIWSC.

Motion Ms. Coleman, Mayor Bereskin to set up a LinkedIn account for the AIWSC. Motion approved by non-objection.

Final Comments

Mr. Bernie Nowicki stated his interest in the recycling program but doesn't have any comments at this time. Mr. Jeff Williams stated his support for the AIWSC and reported that he has switched ex-officio positions with Bridget Crokus to make her the primary ex-officio representative for the U.S.

Fish & Wildlife Service since her specialty is oil spill response and she can provide more specific guidance to the update of the WSP. LT Caroline Wilkinson reported that she has been working with the Board of Geographic names to update the name of a creek on Little Kiska Island, from Nazi Creek to Kangchim Chiġanaa, after the name change was proposed by APIA. She asked the Managing Board to provide comments, either in support or against this request. LT Wilkinson will send Ms. Griffin the information on the creek name change proposal to be forwarded to the Managing Board.

Ms. Coleman and Captain Custard both agreed that the contribution letters should be sent out as soon as possible. Captain Custard suggested to hold a working meeting to discuss the content of the letters.

Set Next Committee Meeting Date

Ms. Griffin will send out a doodle poll for the week of August 12th to obtain availability for the next Managing Board meeting.

Review Action Items & Next Steps

- Captain Custard to file the biennial report form for the AIWSC with the State of Alaska.
- The Managing Board/Nuka will work to solicit individuals to apply for a Board position.
- Ms. Pletnikoff/APIA will release an RFP for the SWIFR grant.
- Ms. Pletnikoff will provide a one-pager on the goals of the SWIFR program, and Ms. Griffin will send it out to the Board and Ex-officio members.
- Ms. Griffin will create a LinkedIn page for the AIWSC.
- LT Wilkinson will provide information on the Little Kiska Island creek name-change proposal, and Ms. Griffin will send it out to the Board and Ex-officio members.
- The Managing Board will draft a letter of support to change the name of the Little Kiska Island creek.
- Ms. Griffin will draft a committee member contribution letter to solicit donations to the AIWSC.
- Ms. Griffin will send out a Doodle Poll to the Board and Ex-officio the week of August 12th to hold the next Managing Board meeting.
- Ms. Griffin will send a draft meeting summary to Board and Ex-officio members.

Set Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Managing Board will take place in August 2024 on Zoom.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43am. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Materials:

1. Meeting Summary – January 31, 2024