Spring Newsletter

On April 24, 2013 the AAHPA Board of Directors met via teleconference with board members President Steve Corcoran (Ketchikan); Vice President Carl Uchytil (Juneau); Treasurer Marty Owen (Kodiak); Director Bryan Hawkins (Homer); Director Stan Eliason (Sitka); Director Joy Baker (Nome); Director Arlen Skaflestad (Hoonah); and Executive Secretary Kim Elliot (Sitka) were all present. Additional persons present included Diane Kinney of Valdez, Phil Benner of Haines, Kate Mickelson of PND and ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers); and Mike Lukshin of Alaska ADOT & PF. A summary of the meeting follows.

Resolution 2012-1: Matching Harbor Grant Program Update – Mike Lukshin of ADOT joined the meeting reporting that Homer and Ketchikan had made the Governor’s list and that Sitka and Akutan should reapply with deadline for new applications for the next go round as August 1st of each year. Applications are available on ADOT website or contact him for assistance. His contact information can be found on our website under Associate members. He reminded everyone that to keep this program going applications will need to continue to be submitted.

Resolution 2012-2: Abandoned & Derelict Vessels (ADV) – Steve Corcoran reported he and Carl both testified a couple of times as did Bryan and Rachel Lord and the bill made it through. Those that testified did a good job. Mike Lukshin also spoke to this issue and said that the support of AAHPA was critical to getting HB 131 passed and everyone that testified was fantastic. There were a few minor additions dealing with hazardous materials, etc. The Governor has 90 days from when it was approved to sign it and Mike believes he will. Mike said it will help communities that have no regulations to be able to deal with derelict vessels. News report released from Senator Seaton’s office is attached. Beyond the current legislative session, there are ongoing discussions about convening an ad-hoc task force at the annual AAHPA Conference that can look at the legal, practical and financial realities of our current ADV situation and make thorough and well researched recommendations to the legislature with the intent of creating a future statewide ADV program.

Seattle Boat Show Report – Bryan reported that he was there 4 days and it seemed well attended. Steve received a report that attendance was slightly down but sales were up. Marty didn’t attend and although it is difficult to see benefits he believes they are there and he supports participation. Phil suggested that the Anacortes Trawler show he attended a couple years ago on behalf of the AAHPA was probably reaching more folks likely to bring their boats to Alaska. Carl feels that he is having difficulty justifying the cost to send people to the show and may be losing support for Juneau to participate. Bryan split his costs with the Homer Visitors Bureau and it made sense for them to participate. This does get folks to visit further north but not necessarily by boat.
except for Southeast harbors. There was also discussion that the booth needs to be updated and Steve saw one he wants to look into and Marty will contact Robert Wilkes that built our current one to look into an update as well. Marty suggested approving a couple thousand to spend on it.

Conference Grant/Scholarship – A reminder members to make some calls to small outlying villages with harbors that are not members.

Clean Harbors Certification – Bryan Hawkins reported that Haines, Sitka, Valdez, Dutch Harbor and Cordova have joined the program. Rachel Lord sent out a newsletter “Clean Harbors Currents” to everyone. Phil reported that Haines has a pumpout to install then Rachel will be coming to evaluate his checklist so he hopes to receive his clean harbor certification at conference. Bryan wanted to comment that HB 131 testimony was great. Carl said Juneau wasn’t on board yet the Clean Harbors certification yet. He suggested that time be allocated or perhaps an additional day for the ADV Task Force to meet in Valdez would be a good idea. Bryan was not certain how much time would be needed. Arlen spoke up that getting the ball rolling at conference would probably be good but expects it would take some teleconferences as well – preferably during slow time of year. Bryan commented that Oregon and Washington have been dealing with this for a couple of years so Rachel has been able to look there for useful background material. Holly Wells from Birch-Horton has volunteered free legal advice on this. Kim suggested they get with 2013 Conference host Diane Kinney to set aside some time for this issue and get it on the agenda. The consensus was that this should be put on the conference agenda.

Sitka 2012 Conference Report – Stan Eliason was quite impressed with the revenues generated for the Association. He said he would entertain the idea of doing it again sometime. He had great assistance from his staff and the Sitka visitor’s bureau. Great work Sitka!

IRS issues affecting AAHPA – Kim reported she had sent in additional necessary paperwork on Monday and that it looks like our application to reinstate our nonprofit status will go through but it will take a little while longer. She hopes to have it all resolved by the end of the year.

2013 Conference – Diane Kinney of Valdez reported they haven’t done much yet as they have been waiting for the conference notebook. Conference site is selected and they are talking about presenters. Diane reconfirmed Valdez Conference dates as October 21 – 25, 2013 with the 21st and 25th primarily as travel days. There will be an evening check-in/reception on the 21st.

2014 Conference – Steve Corporon of Ketchikan reported he has the Civic center reserved for October 13 – 16, 2014 with the 13th and 17th as travel days. He still has employees on board that helped with the last conference they hosted in 2006 so he thinks it will go well. If Governor signs the harbor funding items he will have a new drive down float to show off by the 2014 Conference.

2013 Elections at Annual Meeting – Committee Chair, Phil Benner of Haines asked those present to let him know their intentions regarding their seats on the Board and if they know of anyone wishing to serve to have them contact him. Any Corporate members interested please contact Phil at pbenner@haines.ak.us.

Kate Mickelson of ASCE (and also PND) - asked AAHPA to consider supporting ASCE (AK Section) efforts for a type of Alaska “harbor report card.” This is to evaluate Alaska Ports infrastructure so each port would be given a grade with “A” for one in great shape and “F” for one that is failing/falling apart. About a 2 paragraph summary of findings will go with the report
She is putting together a committee to work on this. So far Carl is on board and she wants to know if there are others that are willing to assist. Go to www.infrastructurereportcard.com to see what America’s infrastructure looks like. This will be modeled the same way. This should help with funding requests. Anyone interested in this should email Kate at KMickelson@pndengineers.com or call her at 586-2093.

Stan Eliason, Sitka Harbormaster - AS 12.55.135. Sentences of Imprisonment For Misdemeanors. Stan wants AAHPA to support adding harbor officers to the list. Phil reported he has been physically assaulted 3 times in Haines and once in Juneau. He supports this concept. Bryan asked their attorneys about this and it was suggested that perhaps other city employees should be included to get more support for this. Kim reported close calls in the harbor office and that perhaps they should be included. Arlen suggested that the AAHPA should stick to harbor employees and he has had incidents 2 or 3 times in Hoonah. Steve suggested he will work with Stan to draft a resolution and then we will need to find a representative that will sponsor the bill. Kim will make sure it is on the Board and Annual meeting agenda. Steve asked if everyone that has records of employees being assaulted please send them to him for the resolution. It will be brought before the membership for any additional work. Everyone concurred.

Kim’s Resignation – Kim announced her intent to retire from her position by the end of 2013. Kim’s advice to the group was to look to their membership and also retired members to find someone to replace her that has some idea of the world of harbors and harbor administration. Steve and Kim will work up a time line and job description for review of the Board then it will be emailed out to the membership. A letter of interest and applications will be reviewed by the Board. They hope to have someone on board to attend the annual conference with Kim this fall.

BOARD AND MEMBER COMMENTS - Carl commented that the certified Port Executive class he is attending in Anchorage right now is definitely worth the time and recommends it. Joy agreed with Carl about the training as she is also in attendance. Bryan asked who else was in attendance at the Port Executive class and found that included Phil Benner, Pete Williams of Bethel and Anchorage Port personnel. Bryan expressed regret that he hadn’t been able to attend himself as did Steve. Phil commented that we need to keep working together as a group to keep our infrastructure healthy. Mike Lukshin reported that AAHPA needs to keep an eye on what happens with dredging issues as this has been transferred to the State from the COE under SB27 which passed this year. He believes the COE could deal better with other federal agencies than State agencies will be able to. Arlen apologized for not making it to conference last year but he got stuck testifying on the trial for the Hoonah police murders. The suspect did get convicted with two 99 year sentences without parole. Stan reported the conference “bible” was delivered to Valdez 2 days ago. It was found in Valdez. Joy noted that Nome’s new harbormaster is Nicole Long and she has been working with Joy for a few years. Joy will be working with Port development. Steve reported they are about finished with their Berth I rehab. Hope to have it done by the May 1st. Also been working on their double lane launch ramp next to his office and working on the grid.

2013 Award & Grant Announcements

Employee of the Year

The City of Valdez Port and Harbor Department is hosting the 2013 Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators (AAHPA) annual conference during the week of October 21-25, 2013. All Corporate members are encouraged to choose an Employee of the Year for your Port and Harbor and submit a letter or email identifying noteworthy achievements of that employee. At the conference, the Association will then recognize all these employees.
Please submit your letter or email no later than September 15th, 2013 to Kim Elliot, AAHPA Executive Secretary at 7 Maksoutoff Street, Sitka, AK 99835 or to aahpa@gci.net.

**AAHPA Grant Program**

The Association’s annual conference, held in one of our member’s communities, is a great educational and networking opportunity. We recognize that smaller communities with harbors have financial limitations that make it difficult to send someone to a state conference. In an effort to help these communities, we are offering grants to help defray the costs of attending the conference to help build their harbor operations. This year we have $1,000 available. The conference registration fee will also be waived.

If this interests your community, we invite you to send us a letter of interest by August 15, 2013. Since we have limited funds and may receive multiple requests, please let us know why your community would be the best candidate for a grant. Your letter should be sent to Kim Elliot, AAHPA Executive Secretary at 7 Maksoutoff Street, Sitka, AK 99835 or email to aahpa@gci.net. If you have any questions, email or call Kim at 907-747-7677.

On a final note, be sure to visit our website at www.alaskaharbors.org. All member info is listed under the MEMBER tab on the home page. All members are encouraged to explore the site and please support our sustaining members whenever possible.

I look forward to seeing you all for my last conference in Valdez in October!

Kim

**ATTACHMENT:**

**GHOST BOATS BILL PASSES THE LEGISLATURE**

*HB 131 expands state authority to deal with abandoned & derelict vessels*

**Friday, April 12, 2013, Juneau, Alaska** – The 28th Alaska Legislature today voted to send a bill to the Governor expanding the State’s legal authority to deal with the problem of derelict and abandoned vessels in Alaska waters.

House Bill 131, sponsored by Representative Paul Seaton, would provide state agencies and municipalities with authority in statute to address the “ghost boats.” Current state law puts the primary duty to handle derelict vessels on the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

“Ghost boats are a growing problem,” Seaton, R-Homer, said. “Municipalities have the bulk of the responsibility to deal with them since the State instituted its program to hand ports and harbors back to local governments. The municipalities, unfortunately, don’t have the express authority to deal with the vessels under the current law. House Bill 131 fixes that.”

HB 131 primarily broadens state law to allow a multi-agency approach. The bill also makes changes to law relating to timelines for removal of hazardous materials. Other sections deal with storage, abandonment and auction.

HB 131 passed the House April 5 and now heads to the Governor for signature. It takes effect 90 days from signature.