

Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee Managing Board Meeting Summary

March 27, 2025, 10am-11am AKDT

Board Attendees:

Mayor Peter Micciche – President
Captain Ron Ward – Vice President
Mike Munger – Secretary/Treasurer
Captain Paul Mehler – HSC Chair
Captain Jeff Brue – Member-At-Large

Other Attendees:

Steve White, AK Marine Exchange
Jade Gamble, ADEC
David Blossom, ADEC
Anna Carey, ADEC
Haley Griffin, Nuka Research

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The CIHSC Managing Board Meeting was called to order at 10:01 am (AKST) by Mayor Peter Micciche for this meeting.

Motion Captain Ron Ward, Mike Munger to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passes with no objection.

Review of Action Items from December 17, 2024

Mr. Munger was tasked with reaching out to CIRCAC's corporate attorney to address state requirements surrounding alternate seats on the Committee, but the attorney has been out sick. He will follow up with the attorney once they are available. Mayor Micciche reviewed the Committee vacancies, and the Board discussed roles for outreach to fill these seats:

- Mayor Micciche: Cruise Ships (Kristina Freinik, Ralph), Small Passenger Vessels (Mako's Water Taxi), and Offshore Oil Production.
- Captain Paul Mehler: Marine Oil Terminal Operators, and Salvage Operators (Resolve).
- Mr. Munger: Recreational Boaters (local tour guides), and Response Organization.
- Captain Ward: Tug and Barge Operators (Lev).
- Captain Brue: Tanker Operators (Captain Mark Maxim's assistant, Nate)

David Blossom will also reach out to Matt Odum to garner interest from Alaska Chadux Network in filling a seat. There are not many small passenger vessel operators, but Captain Ward mentioned the Seldovia Bay Ferry as an example. He stated that alternates members can be from the same organization as the primary member and the other Board members concurred. Captain Ward suggested reaching out to the primary seats that are filled to see if they have another individual to fill the alternate seat. The Board stated a goal to fill some vacant positions with this outreach.

Approval of Meeting Summary December 17, 2024

Motion Mr. Munger, Captain Ward to approve the meeting summary of December 17, 2024, as presented. Motion passes with no objection.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Mr. Munger reported an update on the current standings of the Committee's bank account, noting no activity in March except for payment to the contractor. The payments from Centerline Logistics, Cook Inlet Tug & Barge, and Resolve Marine remain outstanding. Captain Ward will follow up with

Todd Duke (Resolve) and Jeff Johnson (CI Tug & Barge) about these payments, and Mayor Micciche suggested sending follow-up letters in a month if contributions have not been made.

Committee Chair Report

Captain Mehler reported that he worked with Haley Griffin to provide information on the Committee to be included on the HSC National Steering Team website. This allows for increased collaboration and has already opened up conversations across committee's who are interested in learning more about Alaska maritime operations. Updates to the Committee website have been made to make it more user friendly, and information continues to be posted as it comes out, like the Ice Guidelines or Marine Safety Information Bulletins. Captain Mehler highlighted the shared resource section, encouraging the Board to visit the website and send anything they would like to be added to Ms. Griffin.

Outreach is also taking place to the committee members for short reports about their positions and organizations to continue increasing public visibility. While there hasn't been much success, efforts to encourage member participation will continue. Ms. Griffin will also look into the availability of ad space in local papers and on Facebook to see if other committees use this platform to engage with the public.

Captain Mehler also spoke to the idea of having the Navigation Work Group take a more active role in the Pre-Winter Meeting and asked for the Board's support in pursuing this. Historically, the Pre-Winter meeting has been run by Marathon and while they would stay involved, the Committee's increased involvement would also increase interest and engage a wider array of stakeholders. The Navigation Work Group would take on outreach to interested parties and also be providing input on the Ice Guidelines, which are typically drafted by Captain Mehler.

The Navigation Work Group hasn't met in a while, but they could work with Captain Mehler this year to send invites, plan for, and run the meeting. This will provide the work group with something to undertake, and a hotwash could be done after the meeting to discuss how the process went and if it can be built upon. Captain Brue is currently working through planning for Ice Week in Seward. He suggested that after the simulations took place, participants can travel to Anchorage for the Pre-Winter meeting and also the HSC Meeting.

Marathon is targeting mid-October (week of October 19) for Ice Week because the simulators and Fairwater are both available at this time. More people from the Lower 48 will also be able to attend the HSC meeting that is normally in the area. Mayor Micciche suggested that Captain Brue work with Ms. Griffin to plan the two events in conjunction with one another. Captain Brue will send dates for Ice Week to Ms. Griffin once determined. Captain Mehler will work with the Navigation Chair as a representative of Marathon to discuss how the group will be involved in the Pre-Winter meeting.

Facilitator's Report

Ms. Griffin reported that she changed the language "donate here" on the Committee's website to clarify information for 2025 contribution requests, as there was some confusion from a paying member regarding contributions. She also reported that all presenters have been confirmed for the spring Committee meeting, and while she extended an invitation for Tim Robertson to attend the meeting, she hasn't received a response.

Ms. Griffin proposed reaching out to Vinnie Catalano to begin the process of reviewing and updating the Harbor Safety Plan, asking the Board for their support. Captain Mehler showed his support, stating that it would be good to review the Plan for routine updates including contacts and other information that may be outdated.

New Business

Ms. Griffin reminded the Board that discussion took place in December around reaching out to Kenai Public Radio to speak about the HSC and offered to reach out to gauge the Radio's availability. Mayor Micciche stated that Ashlynn O'Hara does the Kenai Conversation segment on the station.

Captain Brue asked about having representatives in alternate seats on the Committee that are from the same organization as a primary member, and if contributions are needed from both individuals. Mayor Micciche stated that the Board does not ask for double contributions from organizations that have multiple representatives on the Committee.

Review Action Items

- ◇ Mr. Munger will follow up with CIRCAC's corporate attorney once they are available.
- ◇ The Managing Board will engage in outreach efforts to fill alternate seats on the Committee.
- ◇ Captain Ward will follow up with Todd Duke and Jeff Johnson regarding outstanding contributions.
- ◇ Ms. Griffin will look into the availability of ad space in local papers and on Facebook for committee engagement methods.
- ◇ Captain Mehler will work with the Navigation Chair as a representative of Marathon to discuss how the group will be involved in the Pre-Winter meeting.
- ◇ Captain Brue will send dates for Ice Week to Ms. Griffin once determined.
- ◇ Ms. Griffin will reach out to Vinnie Catalano to begin the process for updating the Harbor Safety Plan.
- ◇ Ms. Griffin will reach out to Ashlynn O'Hara at Kenai Public Radio.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place after the Spring Committee meeting on 17 April. Ms. Griffin will work with the Board after this meeting to gauge availability. Meeting adjourned at 11:02am.

Meeting Materials:

1. December 17, 2024, Meeting Summary
2. 250313 Roster Packet Version
3. February Receivables Report