

PORTLAND AREA WORK GROUP

Meeting Notes, March 21, 2012

Attending: Joe McCarthy (NRC), Bruce Yates (Global), Stephen Wing (Buckeye), Russell Klase (Buckeye), Elizabeth Hernberg (Sprague), Rolf Westphal (Sprague), Nick Payeur (Portland Pipe Line), John St. Clair (MSRC), Roger Vooght (MSRC), Sheridan McClellan (USCG), Maya Connell (USCG), Greg O'Brien (ME DEP), Ben Gilmore (USCG), Joshua Baeten (USCG), Wyman Briggs (USCG), Ginger McMullin (ME DEP)

After introductions, we looked at the PAWG's new web site, which contains all of the materials in the group's notebooks to date. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you may want to check the web site for new information. The intent is to end up with a notebook containing common strategies and guidance for the Portland Area.

Wyman gave an update on the Maine & NH Area Committee's annual seminar, which had the theme "Why Do We Protect What We Protect?" The seminar was very well attended and received. Presentation materials from the seminar can be found on the Area Committee's web page: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/emergspillresp/oilspillseminar.html>.

Ginger talked about the project underway with the Department of Marine Resources and Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to prioritize protection strategies. This project involves a computer model that ranks response strategies in the vicinity of the spill utilizing a combination of habitat size and value. The model is meant to aid responders in the early hours of a spill before expertise may be available on site, and to help in contingency planning by pointing out which strategies may need to be tested first. It is also helpful to look for areas that may not yet be protected by a strategy that should be. The model is still under development, but the group working on it will be discussing it with additional natural resource trustees and testing it where possible during exercises.

The USCG will be holding an AMSTEP (Area Maritime Security Training and Exercise Program) exercise in May at the base in South Portland.

Sheridan McClellan announced that the USCG will be testing a strategy (GRS B-34-1) on the Sheepscot & Cross Rivers on June 21. Plans for the deployment were reviewed.

Maya Connell gave a presentation on a USCG / DEP joint effort to deal with a sunken vessel in Spruce Head.

Ginger mentioned upcoming deployments in Damariscotta for May 22 and 23 as part of DEP's contract with Moran Environmental Recovery, as well as for Scarborough in the fall. [Note:

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since this meeting, Wells Harbor has also been scheduled for the fall and it is probable that Castine will be dropped from the contract, with more effort concentrated on a successful Scarborough strategy – gm]

The group discussed possible and upcoming exercises in the Portland Area.

Bruce Yates from Global Companies mentioned that they would like to revisit protection in the vicinity of the two culverts that are the outflow of Barberry Creek. There is some inflow upstream in this area, but the culverts could be blocked off as a strategy, and this should be looked at. The flats just seaward of the outlet have marine worm habitat and alewives [(?). The flat is also shown as moderately vulnerable shorebird habitat – gm]. The group would like to look further into the resources in the mudflats adjacent to Citgo and Global, and Ginger will try to get more information from the Depts. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Marine Resources.

It was asked whether facilities have areas that they have plans to use as command posts or initial response areas for their facilities. Nice Payeur from Portland Pipe Line Corp. mentioned that they have a place where they can set up to deal with a medium spill at their facility, or could also use the South Portland Fire Department. They are also looking for possible places along the pipeline route to stage.

Wyman Briggs of USCG mentioned that the wiring and broadband infrastructure from the SONS exercise was left in place so that it could be activated for a large spill if necessary.

It was agreed that a good topic for the next meeting would be discussion of where each facility is planning to set up command in a spill event and/or potential command post locations.