

# Greater New Orleans Port Safety Council

*Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday, July 10, 2019*

*The following representatives were in attendance.*

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Roberto Villalobos	ABS Americas	Carol Orr	L&O Marine
Kurt Kienitz	ACBL	Randy Boudreaux	LA Scrap Metal
Mark Wright	American Waterways Operators	Alex Barker	Louisiana Cat
Tony Vogt	Bar Pilots	Christine Titus	Louisiana Maritime Assoc.
Roy Hauck	Belle Chasse Marine	Jake Stahl	Marine Expertise
Troy Carollo	Blue Water Shipping	Jonathan McConnel	Meridian
Harrison Lang	Bunge	John Nee	Moran Towing
Brittany Schaefer	Bunge	Grace Gray	NOAA
Cherrie Felder	Channel Shipyard	Chris DiVeglio	NOAA
George Janssen	Channel Shipyard	Tim Osborn	NOAA
Stan Smyk	ClassNK	Steve Hathorn	NOBRA Pilots
Jim Boucher	ClassNK	Scott Golden	ParaTech
Lee Campo	Cooper/T. Smith	Keith Savoie	Plimsoll Marine
Benjamin Morvant	Crescent Towing	Ralph Diaz	Ret.
Sarah Hattier Palmer	Dupre Marine	Everett Smith	Shell Trading
Jeff Lehman	Dupuy Storage	Eric Acosta	St. Bernard Port
Robert Chambers	Global Risk Solutions	Luis Labrador	Stolt Tankers & Terminals
Michael Nation	Harbor Towing	Frank Morton	Turn Services
Todd Clower	Harbor Towing	Joaquin Mujica	US Army Corps of Engineers
Jerry Clower	Harbor Towing	Vic Landry	USACE
Jimmy Baer	Harbor Towing	M. Ali Cochran	USCG
Matt Lagarde	Ingram Barge	Corinne Plummer	USCG
Mark Melancon	Intelligent Transportation Services	Paulina Alvarez	USCG
Marc Hebert	Jones Walker	Matt Hahne	USI Insurance
Jim Orr	L&O Marine	Frank McCormack	Waterways Journal

\*Some attendees did not check in today. Since we are no longer using paper sign-in, please make sure you check in at the door for all meetings. Thanks!

*The following reports were given:*

## **Port Safety Council Chairman, Marc Hebert**

Chairman Marc Hebert called the meeting to order. The next meeting date is TBD, watch for an email and/or check the website for the new date, which will be in either September or October. We will hold elections at the next meeting, and when the nominating committee has met they will reach out for nominations. Marine Industry Day was a great success, with 220 attendees. If you have any feedback please feel free to share it with a member of the board.

## **USCG Sector New Orleans, Commander M. Ali Cochran**

Thanks to everyone for their efforts and professionalism during this ongoing high water. There will be a 2pm Port Coordination Team call today, and Sector New Orleans is likely going to set Port Condition Whiskey today, move to Port Condition X-Ray tomorrow, and then into Zulu by Friday.

### **Bar Pilots, Captain Tony Vogt**

The Bar Pilots are taking their last outbound today at about 12:30pm, so that ship should be out of the river by about 8pm. They are currently working through the last inbounds and then will shut down operations. The surge at Venice is higher than normal for a storm of this magnitude due to the already high river stage.

### **NOBRA Pilots – Captain Steve Hathorn**

This has been one of the strangest years on the Mississippi River. Conditions have been challenging throughout, with high water and fog closures simultaneously earlier this year, and now high water and hurricane season. Since there will be no more outbound transits until the storm has passed, NOBRA will be shifting only until they suspend operations for the duration of the storm. No additional mooring regulations are anticipated, but vessels are likely going to have to stay at docks due to very limited anchorage space.

### **USACE – Vic Landry, Operations Manager**

The Corps is watching the weather closely and collaborating with the Coast Guard, industry, and the Weather Service. The main concern right now is storm surge coming up the river, and with possible surge of 3-5 feet there is a chance that it may overtop the gates at some locks. The Corps has suspended all repair/work operations for now.

### **NOAA**

Tim Osborn introduced Grace Gray and Chris Diveglio from the NOAA PORTS initiative. For more information about that, see <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ports.html>, or reach out to them at [grace.gray@noaa.gov](mailto:grace.gray@noaa.gov) and [christopher.diveglio@noaa.gov](mailto:christopher.diveglio@noaa.gov).

### **St. Bernard Port – Eric Acosta**

They are in the process of closing all floodgates in St. Bernard. By 4pm today all river gates will be closed, and the St. Bernard-Plaquemine highway gate will close Friday by 4pm. Operations in the Port area will shut down, including truck and rail, and the flood gates will all remain closed until Monday at the earliest, maybe longer.

### **Presentation & Discussion**

Joaquin Mujica of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Tim Osborn of NOAA, and Matt Hahne of USI and also the Port Safety Council Programming Chair gave a presentation on risks and issues related to hurricane activity during high water. Powerpoints from that discussion will be forwarded on receipt. Also, see here <https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=lix&gage=norl1> for current river data.

*Port Safety Council Chairman Marc Hebert adjourned the meeting. The next regular meeting of the Port Safety Council is TBD.*