

ORRT Meeting Minutes
July 23rd, 2008
PJKK Federal Building
Honolulu HI

Attendees:

Dan Meer - EPA Region 9
CAPT Chris Conklin - USCG
Lance Richman - EPA Region 9
Curtis Martin - State of Hawaii HEER Office
Pat Port - DOI
Jan Heple - UC Davis extension
Mike Underhill – Department of Justice
Karen Marlow - USF&WS
Ruth Yender – NOAA
Janet Yocum – EPA Region 9, Hawaii FOSC
Cynthia Pang - USN
CAPT Barry Compagnoni - USCG Sector Honolulu
LCDR Joe Zwack - USCG D14
Carl Goldstein – EPA Pacific Islands Office
CDR Brad Rae - USPHS
Chief Widman - USCG SecHono
Greg Bouie - USCG NPFC
CDR Amy Cocanour - USCG Sector Honolulu
DC Carter - American Marine/PENCO
Rusty Nall - American Marine/PENCO
Chris Weden - EPA Region 9, San Francisco (VTC)
Bob Brown - EPA Region 9, San Francisco (VTC)
LT Troy Luna - USCG MSD American Samoa (VTC)
Frank Thompson-USCG MSD American Samoa (VTC)
Paul Kemp-Guam (VTC)
LCDR John Winters – Sector Guam (VTC)
Hassan Rossell – Sector Guam (VTC)
Anthony Talouli – SPREP (telephone call in)
Chris Curatilo-ERRG, Inc.,

Meeting Started: 1200 Hawaii Standard Time:

CAPT Conklin opened the meeting by introducing ADM Manson Brown USCG D14 Commander who provided the opening comments.

Following a round-robin of introductions, Dan Meer, EPA, provided a recap of the recent National Response Team Meeting in Arizona. Major highlights from the meeting included the development of a desk guide for ESF-10 and how to start up a Joint Field Office as well as job aids on how to effectively use an SSC and a JIC manual. In addition, the following items were brought up at the NRT meeting.

- A Regional Response Team (RRT) round table to discuss common issues amongst RRTs including a fall off of participation of agencies and that to maintain or increase participation, RRT meetings should include an exercise or training. On that note he reminded everyone that the next day a G-191 EOC/ICP interface course will be held from 12:00 to 4:00 PM.
- The NRT is working on guidelines for volunteer use since this was a major issue that arose out of the M/V COSCO BUSAN response in San Francisco, California and generated a lot of issues and concerns.

DC Carter, American Marine, then asked who was responsible for the volunteers during the COSCO BUSAN response.

Dan Meer explained that the State of California had established a process to enroll volunteers temporarily into the state system which provided them with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and temporary benefits. He stressed that these volunteers were not knee deep in oil and had very limited exposure to the product. They were searching beaches that had minimal to no impact. Their role was limited to simply identifying that a tar bar or very small amount of oil was there, or not, and reporting the level of impact. In some cases they recovered the tar ball. All materials from the NRT meeting are available on the NRT website.

Lance Richman and LCDR Joe Zwack provided coordinator updates.

LCDR Zwack gave a brief about the last ORRT meeting in American Samoa in April.

Dan Meer stressed the importance of face-to-face contact with members and how having the meetings in different locations facilitates this for the more remote members.

Lance Richman briefed that there was a meeting regarding the USS Chehalis yesterday and that more information would be provided later in today's meeting. He also briefed that the next standing meeting is scheduled for November 7th in Guam in conjunction with NRDA training by NOAA. Additionally, there will be equipment refresher training in Guam and Saipan as a result of Lessons Learned from TOPOFF 4.

LCDR Zwack also briefed that he and Lance met with the SPREP director in Western Samoa and the next SPREP conference is scheduled for 4-12 September in Micronesia (Pohnpei) and that LCDR Zwack will be representing the ORRT. He also briefed that the ORRT website is back up and running.

Chris Curatilo, ERRC Inc, provided an update on the status of the Oceania Regional Contingency Plan. He thanked members of the ORRT that have reviewed sections so far and acknowledged that there is more to do. His targeted date for completion for Co-Chairs review remains November 1st. Pat Port requested a copy for review and also offered any assistance she could provide to review DOI relevant sections.

Lance provided an update on the Training sub-committee and that participation has been very low and more local participation is needed. Emails have been sent out regarding the next meeting and that this is an excellent forum to express agency training needs.

Curtis Martin provided site updates for the HEER office that included lead contamination at a Kauai residence, abandoned transformers on Maui, the Chevron pipeline spill on Oahu and syringe and needle removal from Ewa beach.

Will Sili from American Samoa not present.
TEMCO from American Samoa not present.
Mike Gawel from Guam EPA not present.

Anthony Talouli, SPREP, noted that Joe Zwack's brief had covered all the relevant facts so he won't restate the information but added he is looking forward to the upcoming SPREP meeting and hearing the presentation on the USS Chehalis.

Ruth Yender provided NOAA's update. The sailing vessel GRENDEL is still aground on Kure Atoll and they are still trying to figure out how to salvage the vessel. Looks like the US Navy MDSU may be able to assist. CGC KUKUI tried to salvage it last year but it was too difficult to extract all the pieces. NOAA will be sponsoring the NRDA training in Guam at the next ORRT meeting in November.

Pat Port represented DOI and was excited that she was able to attend the meeting in person. Three out of eight DOI bureaus are represented in Oceania; USGS, Parks Service and F&WS. She briefed that for the USGS and Parks Service was at the forefront of the recent volcano issues and that she looks forward to reviewing the ORCP. Additionally she emphasized the benefit to establishing a meeting schedule for FY 2009 from a budget perspective. Knowing in advance the meeting schedule, she and assumed others, would have a much better opportunity to attend. She then turned it over to Karen Marlow for the F&WS update.

Karen Marlow from USF&WS provided an update to two major NRDA assessments, the CAPE FLATTERY and the CASSITAS. The CAPE FLATTERY is at the end of the assessment phase and is in the restoration-planning phase and the public notification has been made, NOAA is the federal lead agency. CASSITAS is very close to a settlement.

CAPT Conklin asked where the damage from the CAPE FLATTERY occurred.

Karen explained that it was primarily the movement of the vessel during its salvage that caused most of the damage to the reef. The CASSITAS hit the reef causing damage and damage was also caused during salvage. Though she recognized that the salvage component, even though it attributed to reef damage still remains the long-term lesser of the two evils. Karen also brought up two other issues related to sanctuaries. The first issue was a vessel grounded on Kingman Reef. F&WS has engaged the Coast Guard but since there is no threat of pollution there is little they can do. F&WS really wants the vessel removed because there are still batteries on board and also because of an invasive

species issue. The second issue is a vessel on Palmyra that grounded in 1991 but is continually leaking and they are looking to have the vessel removed.

Bob Brown briefed that there is available office space in Hilo for use.

Scott Mitchem, DHS, not present.

Mike Underhill, DOJ, briefed that today the operator of the COSCO BUSAN was indicted on failure to train their officers, Clean Water Act negligence, 5 counts of falsifying statements and 2 counts of obstruction to justice. The pilot had been indicted on 2 separate counts. The NTSB investigation is on going and total clean-up costs are about \$90-100 million plus resource damages and third party claims.

DOJ also briefed that the President just signed the Maritime Pollution and Prevention Act of 2008 and MARPOL annex 6 and felt that cruise ship emissions and types of fuels used in port would be affected but wasn't sure how the regulation and enforcement would be handled. DOJ also briefed that there was a \$3.8 million payout for the CASITAS.

Ruth Yender and Karen Marlow provided a presentation on the CHEHALIS that was a result of the work they had completed the day before (their PPT can found on the ORRT website). It highlighted the types of oil on-board, release trajectories, evaporation, dilution and dispersion rates to show what impacts might occur if the oil were released into the environment. It looked at a worst case discharge and a variety of weather patterns. At the end of the presentation Dan Meer asked Ruth if she recommended any type of action based on the relative risk/benefit. Ruth discussed that while it is always better for the threat to be totally gone she felt that based on the NOAA findings there would be very little clean up involved due to the evaporation rates of the products. CAPT Conklin asked that all trustees review the analysis, and stated that the COTP has the ultimate say but there needs to be a response from the Navy to the American Samoan Government's letter to the Secretary of the Navy regarding this issue.

LCDR Winter and Hassan Rosell, Sector Guam, provided a brief on exercises they conducted and their on-going work with the Navy. Generally speaking the Navy does appear to understand the COTP authority much better then in the past and working relationships with the Navy have improved and are expected to continue.

LT Luna, MSD American Samoa, introduced himself as the on-coming MSD supervisor and looks forward to working with the ORRT and will be available to assist.

LT Denham provided the brief for Sector Honolulu on a few noteworthy responses that they conducted but there were no open action items for the ORRT.

Janet Yocum provided the brief on the 3 EPA responses conducted in Hawaii this past year. The first response was in May, Aola Pono, a multi-agency criminal response to illegal dumping in Waianae (ppt found on ORRT website). The second response was also in Waianae near the first site and contained leaking containers from what appeared to

be drums of contaminated waste oil from a PERC clean up. The case ended with the collection and disposal of the waste. The third response was the emissions from Kilauea Volcano on the Big Island. Janet stated that the EPA was contacted by the state to respond and provide technical assistance from increased emissions from the Halemaumau Crater and Pu'u O'o vents which was impacting nearby residents. She also made recommendations for more coordination and better data management since there were so many different agencies collecting data in the area. Janet also mentioned that many of the areas being impacted were very remote and there needs to be a better system to provide these residents information on plume movement.

Pat Port then asked if the USGS was monitoring air quality, Janet said yes but it was difficult getting everyone's information. Pat then asked if the situation has improved. Janet stated that the state has gotten better at asking for assistance but there needs to be better communications and coordination because this issue is not going away.

Dan Meer agreed saying that the Parks Service, for example, seems to have a very good handle on their own area but outside of their fence line it is far less defined as to who is doing monitoring and where the information is being communicated. Regardless of the issues, there was a good effort on everyone's part and tomorrow there will be a more detailed, in-depth discussion focusing on the air monitoring efforts and coordination.

CAPT Conklin provided some closing comments stating that this was the best attendance he has seen in his time with the ORRT and thanked everyone for their participation.

Dan Meer echoed that sentiment and reminded everyone of the 0930 Volcano discussion scheduled for the next day and thanked CAPT Conklin for being a great Co-Chair since this would likely be his last meeting in Hawaii.

Meeting adjourned: 1525

END