

Government and Partner Relations Committee

1314 Thursday, 4 September 2008

Call to order by R/C William E. Husted, SN

Introduction of Committee Members in Attendance

P/V/C Robert P. David, SN	P/C Dawn Flynn, AP	Stf/C Richard Gercak, AP
P/R/C Robert D. Holub, SN	R/C William E. Husted, SN	D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, AP
P/C/C G. Leslie Johnson, SN	P/C Terrence M. Jordan, S	Stf/C Gregory E. Korstad, AP
D/Lt. Howard Manly, AP	D/Lt/C Artemas M. Pickard, SN	P/D/C Michael J. Rachuk, SN
P/Stf/C Fred Sellenraad, SN	P/D/C Bruce R. Theriault, AP	D/Lt/C Danny Tompkins, JN

Guests: Lt/C John Malatak, AP
Tom Kemp, Headquarters, Marketing
Zdenka Sellenraad

Name of meeting has been changed to "Business Meeting" rather than "Closed Meeting"

Lobbying Policy

There was discussion of the need for an expanded lobbying policy. Until one is in place, if there is a lobbying issue, let P/C/C Johnson know and he will take it to the Operating Committee and advise Government and Partner Relations Committee on the results. He will need to know what the issue is and the recommended position.

Stf/C Greg Korstad is drafting a recommended policy. This will include a process for people with questions. These should go to the Government and Partner Relations Committee first. He noted that the policy should include:

- A way to use the fact that the person is a member of USPS while not stating that s/he is representing USPS
- Input (ideas) from Government and Partner Relations Committee around which the Operating Committee could develop policy/position statements. Then, people would be able to 'lobby'.
- There must be knowledgeable people presenting at meetings. Most of the time people do not know the facts behind the issue.
- Lobbying is an extension of the State Legislative responsibilities. There must be more clarification.
- There is lobbying policy in the Operations Manual – Appendix G
- Lobbying is not just State legislatures. It could include the Army Corp of Engineers, others.

Approval of Dallas Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Dallas meeting were approved as presented.

Government and Partner Relations Committee Update: R/C Bill Husted

R/C Husted noted the success in the promotion of Recreational Boating Act of 2008. He noted that there are three MOUs coming up for signing at the Governing Board. These are with the American Boat and Yacht Council, OceanGrafix, and National Youth Marine Alliance. R/C Husted wrote an article on Partnerships for the Ensign. He reminded members about working on the assigned tasks.

A second staff commander position has been added for the Government and Partner Relations Committee. P/D/C Sandy Pierog will assume this position starting in Anaheim in February 2009.

R/C Husted will be continuing as Chairman for one more year. He will have served a total of 5 years. One year when this was an Ad Hoc Committee.

Comments on Government and Partner Relations Committee Direction: V/C Frank Dvorak
MOUs must go through the Board of Directors. The three mentioned earlier were all approved. V/C Dvorak thanked the Committee for efforts leading to the passage of the Recreational Boating Act of 2008.

Team Activity Reports

Liaison Report: P/Stf/C Fred Sellenraad

There are 23 Homeland Security and 25 Liaison Officers. The task is now to get these people to do something. He cannot point to many accomplishments except in D13 Marian Seaman, District Liaison Officer, presented a seminar on clean and green boating to 45 people and in D26 P/R/C Louis Hohenstein, District Liaison Officer, was able to get most squadrons to appoint Homeland Security and Liaison Officers.

P/Stf/C Sellenraad and P/R/C Parrish are working on the Liaison Manual. They will send changes to R/C Husted and Stf/C Gercak for review before posting on the Website.

USPS liaisons with the 9 CG districts are needed as part of Homeland Security. There was discussion of Homeland Security activities including Harbor Safety Committees. USPS needs to be involved and needs to know who else is involved. The Captain of the Port sets up these committees. Lt/C Malatak will get list of participants on Harbor Safety.

P/Stf/C Sellenraad also submitted a written report. Please see the end of these minutes for that report.

Website: P/D/C Mike Rachuk

The website is up to date except for the Liaison manual. The updating procedure needs to be made more uniform. These are cosmetic touches. P/D/C Rachuk requested that the complete Liaison Manual be sent not just the changes. He needs the complete finalized document in .doc file not .pdf. The process is that P/Stf/C Sellenraad and P/R/C Parrish develop the Manual, send to R/C Husted and Stf/C Gercak who will approve and forward to P/D/C Rachuk for posting.

Safe Boating Partners: P/D/C Bruce Theriault

All partners are on the website. This includes a list of websites of organizations with whom USPS is partnered. There must be an existing or pending MOU. Anyone who wants to be listed must be approved by Government and Partner Relations Committee with final approval by R/C Husted.

Individual Team Breakout Sessions: – Strategic goals.

Individual team breakouts to work on team goals, deadlines, assignments, responsibilities and progress reports. R/C Husted complimented the Administrative Team for having completed this assignment.

State Legislative Team Happenings: Stf/C Dick Gercak

The following website, Congress.org, will tell you about every bill that is proposed in the State. It will give you all the political figures from national to state to local. It can be accessed through the committee website. You can specify areas of interest.

There are three Area managers on board. Not all state positions will be filled. Stf/C Gercak is concerned about not getting feedback. P/R/C Van Rhee has developed a feed back form that will be tried.

Citizen Corps Alliance: D/Lt Howard Manly

D/Lt Manly has had close contact for at least a year. R/C Husted and D/Lt Manly attended meeting in Oklahoma about a week and ½ ago. No one there were 'water' people. This is a land based group. An affiliation agreement hopefully will be signed in Anaheim. Citizen Corps is all about civic service. Their mission is to bring community and government leaders together to involve all areas of the community in emergency situations. Councils (over 2314) are local organizations and include first responders, volunteer organizations etc. Citizen Corps is a very important and large government agency and supports the mission of a public service project. It is also a possible source of grant funding if the organization is an affiliate; however this is a long shot.

Lobbying Policy Update: Stf/C Gregory Korstad

Stf/C Korstad is working on developing a written policy that will provide lobbying counsel in what USPS members can do, cannot do and why. This policy will be

- Published as an article in the Ensign,
- Useful in working with districts

It will discuss

- Establishing legislative relationships
- Educate people on how the legislative process works
- How bills become law
- Proper lobbying
- Providing information and helping people understand what the limitations are and registration and compliance

A framework is needed for policy development. There should be a listing of policy statements on the website. The Government and Partner Relations Committee should be drafting policy statements for the Operating Committee to consider; e.g., navigation rights in flooded areas as there will be legislation on this at some point in time.

How does the Government and Partner Relations Committee figure out what the 'hot button' issues are so the members can be educated. Detailed policy statements should be listed on the website. Key policy point is that the Government and Partner Relations Committee must provide sufficient detail for policy statements so that the Operating Committee can approve.

The thought is that this policy will replace Appendix G.

POSTPONEMENT 1613

0848 Friday, 5 September 2008

Call to order by R/C William E. Husted, SN

Introduction of Committee Members in Attendance

R/C Robert Brandenstein, SN	P/V/C Robert P. David, SN	Stf/C Richard Gercak, AP
R/C William E. Husted, SN	P/N/Fl/Lt Dick Jarmon, SN	D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, AP
P/C Terrence M. Jordan, S	D/Lt. Howard Manly, AP	P/D/C Michael J. Rachuk, SN
P/Stf/C Fred Sellenraad, SN	P/D/C Bruce R. Theriault, AP	

Guests: Cmdr. William L. Hay, Sanibel Captiva Sail & Power Squadron

John Malatak, United States Coast Guard

Steve Budar, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Kristen Austin, Maritech Industries

R/C Dave Rickard, USPS/D-7

Scott Gudes, National Marine Manufacturers Association (Washington DC Office)

Van Snider, Michigan Boating Industries Association

Dave Knight, Great Lakes Commission

Tom Griffin, National Youth Marine Alliance
Sam Insalaco, USPS Environment Committee
Erika Jensen, Great Lakes Commission & USPS Environmental Committee

USPS Representative Reports

National Boating Federation: P/V/C Robert David

The NBF annual meeting was held in April. Marlene Barrington is the president. NBF activities include working on the Safe Boating Act, advocating for the continuation of Ioran as a backup to GPS, and support for mandatory boating education issues.

European Boating Association: P/V/C Robert David

Operators Certification is large issue. There was a UN resolution to change the requirement for residence or citizenship. US citizens now can go to Europe and get the certificate. (Editor update with information from October 2008: The proposed resolution change to permit issuance of certificates of competency to non-citizens/residents what went through several levels of approval earlier in the year was not approved at the final stage due to some wording changes that were not agreed to. Hopefully, this will be reconsidered.)

UN resolution 40 is in effect in Europe. USA has not adopted. This relates to operator certification. There are efforts to exclude traffic through wind farms. The EBA against this.

National Safe Boating Council: P/V/C Joyce Shaw

See report at the end of these minutes.

Scheduled Remarks/Presentations by Special Guests

“Reviving the Recreational Boating Industry” Van Snider – Michigan Boating Industries Association

The Michigan Boating Industries Association is a statewide non-profit marine trade association. It provides college scholarships, the Michigan Clean Marina program and produces the Detroit Boat Show and Novi Boat Expo.

Since 1997, the number of adults in boating has shown no growth. There has been minimal growth in number of boats in use. Approximately 53.8% of boaters are male, and boat owners are aging with 42.5% being between 50-64 years of age.

There are additional challenges to the boating industry: the economy, price of products, water access, service quality, and competition with other discretionary expenditures.

The first ad, Discover Boating, ran in 2006. www.discoverboating.com is the home page for discover boating. A CD/DVD can be orders. The program is based on consumer research. Collaboration and partnerships are important. Diversity in the boating population is needed. Exposing young people is critical.

MBIA supports dealership certification. 414 dealers are certified nation wide. Another 620 are enrolled in some portion of program. Certified dealers are highlighted at Boat Shows. This is a voluntary program with recertification every 2-3 years. Of importance is water access. There is an Economic Impact Study Template, developed by MSU, for marinas to plan for expansion or a new marina. Also, MSU has developed a Boating Access Surveillance Indexing System (B.A.S.I.S) which is a nationwide geographic data base. Information may be obtained at www.wateraccess.org and www.growboating.org.

BREAK 0949

Reconvene 1015

Tom Griffin, National Youth Marine Alliance. The NYMA brings together national organizations that have a youth component in an attempt to create national initiatives under a single brand. The Alliance is concerned with any activity that is related to water; boating, swimming, diving, etc. NYMA will be signing a MOU with USPS. The most significant barrier is 'getting their feet in the water'. The organization is concentrating on developing swimming programs and trying to get more kids involved in swimming. The website is www.goblue4kids.org.

Impact of the Great Lakes Commission: Dave Knight, Great Lakes Commission Program Manager

The Great Lakes Commission was established in 1955 and is largely involved in environmental issues. The Great Lakes are the 4th sea coast of the country. The Commission includes 8 states and 2 Canadian provinces as associate members. The Great Lakes Commission conducted the Great Lakes Recreational Boating Economic Benefits Study. This study found that there should be greater federal investment in the shallow draft harbors, primarily for dredging. MSU, using a National Boater Panel, developed a spending profile. This is new research. Approximately \$3,600/year is spent on boat expenses. Of this, \$1,400 is craft related and \$2,200 is trip related.

In FY 2005, the Corp of Engineers estimated that 750,000 cubic yards of dredging cost \$7.6M. Such funding is not available. The Corp must focus on deep draft facilities. The Commission worked with Michigan Sea Grant on this issue. A meeting in November 2007 resulted in development of Michigan Small Harbors Coalition. The issues identified by the Coalition included:

- Silting Channels
- Deteriorating infrastructure
- Inadequate funding

Most of the piers and breakwaters were built in early 1900's; some go back to the Civil War. These structures were originally built for navigation, but are not used that way any more. The Commission trying to educate congress on the needs of the Great Lakes.

The Incidental Discharge Issue on Ice: Scott Gudes, Vice President of Government Relations, National Marine Manufacturers Association

The economic significance of boating by Congressional District is on NMMA website. NMMA has 1700 members, 3 divisions; boat builders, engine manufacturers and accessory manufacturers. They run about 20 boat shows annually including the Miami and Toronto shows.

The boating industry is a uniquely American industry. It has not been 'out sourced'. A brief history of the Clean Boating Act of 2008:

- Issue of accurate impact;
- EPA established a process in 4-5 states
- The other states could establish their own permitting processes.
- S2766 provides a permanent exemption for recreational boats.
- It is a compromise
 - 1) EPA would look at incidental discharges
 - 2) What standards should be imposed
 - 3) Remedies for deficiencies
- A road block caused a separate bill for commercial boats for 2 years.
- The key was the grass roots effort.

Other issues being reviewed by NMMA:

- Mid-level ethanol (E20) can impact marine engines and equipment and pose serious safety risks for boaters.
- water access, pervasive long term issues

- taxes, law changes
- succession planning on the Hill
- future of industry in terms of recruitment of younger persons
- marine protected areas, denying access to fishing

Personal Watercraft Industry Association (PWIA) is a NMMA affiliate that promotes safe and responsible operation of PWC and works with federal, state and local agencies. It is proactive on working on image issues.

ADJOURN 1142

Liaison Report – P/Stf/C Fred Sellenraad

AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION: Contact was finally established with **Jeremy Oyen**, Director of Safety, Education and Instruction on July 1, 2008. Due to a move to Fredericksburg, VA, email and telephone contact was temporarily suspended.

I offered assistance in devising a method to get our respective messages out to more people. No reply to date.

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE MANUFACTURER'S ASSOCIATION – **Bernice McArdle**, Executive Director, was most gracious during our telephone conversation on 5/23/08. I explained the role of Government and Partner Relations Committee in USPS and offered assistance in furthering mutual goals. Offer of assistance was reciprocated. No further contact.

Bernice stated their PR and Marketing Team might be more interested in working with us. PFDMA is affiliated with NMMA.

We need to find a specific cause or project where mutual assistance could be beneficial.

End of report submitted by
Fred Sellenraad
September 4, 2008

National Safe Boating Council (20 Feb – 6 Sept 2008 activities)
Report to USPS GB Meeting ~ Detroit, MI ~ 6 Sept 2008
P/R/C Joyce F. Shaw, AP ~ USPS Rep to NSBC

Greetings from the National Safe Boating Council Board of Directors, Chair Ruth Wood, Executive Director Virgil Chambers, and approximately 350 member organizations that comprise NSBC. Membership in NSBC is open to **non-profit** and **commercial** organizations, **state** and **local marine enforcement** and **boating safety agencies**, and **individuals** that express interest in recreational boating safety.

MEETINGS

It has been a pleasure to represent USPS at four meetings of NSBC since the February USPS Annual Meeting in Dallas: the **Spring Board of Directors** and **General Membership Meetings** were held in April at the **International Boating and Water Safety Summit** in San Diego, CA; the annual **Congressional Reception** and presentation of the **Confluence Awards** took place on Capitol Hill in May; the **Summer Board of Directors Meeting** was held via web-conference in June. The **Fall Board of Directors** and **General Membership Meetings** are currently underway in Clearwater, FL in conjunction with the NASBLA Annual Meeting (6 – 9 Sept 2008).

AWARDS / GRANT

The *National Safe Boating Council* continues to celebrate its 50th anniversary, serving as an advocate for boating safety and education, as well as a unifying means for organizations to seek the goal of *Safer Boating through Education*. In celebration of its mission to provide forums for the advancement and support of safe and enjoyable recreational boating, the Council joins with Patron Level partner organizations to offer two annual contests and one grant. These award opportunities recognize individual and organizational partners in the boating community that create innovative programs designed to improve boating education and raise awareness of recreational boating related issues. All Squadrons are eligible to apply for NSBC opportunities.

BoatU.S. Boating Safety Youth Program Award: Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatU.S.), patron level member of NSBC, sponsors the *Boating Safety Youth Program Award*. The program provides a vehicle to recognize individuals and organizations that have developed and successfully implemented innovative youth boating education programs that target safety issues and concerns of national interest. The goal of the *BSYP Award* is to encourage the development of innovative boating safety education programs directed at youth. To qualify, a program must integrate safety practices into the program and be targeted toward students 18 years of age or younger. Selection priority is given to unique or creative programs that promote a primary goal of increasing boat safety and safety awareness. **Miles River Sail and Power Squadron** was the proud recipient of this prestigious award at this year's **IBWSS** in San Diego.

MillerCoors Alcohol Awareness Impact Award: MillerCoors, patron level member of NSBC, sponsors the *Alcohol Awareness Impact Award*. The purpose of the *AAI Award* is to provide an opportunity to recognize one program each year that demonstrates an effective prevention and awareness strategy to address the misuse of alcohol, and promotes activities that educate the community about dangers of consuming alcohol while boating. Unique programs and those that emphasize boating safety will be most favorably considered. Other factors that will be considered include evaluation of the sponsoring organization's related services and programs. To qualify a program must provide a preventative strategy to eliminate consumption of alcohol while boating.

Both the *BoatU.S. Boating Safety Youth Program Award* and the *MillerCoors Alcohol Awareness Impact Award* are awarded annually. Each carries a cash prize of \$2,500 and a beautiful trophy. The award packages also include an expense-paid trip for a representative of the winning program to attend the *International Boating and Water Safety Summit*. Time is allowed in the *Summit* agenda for each award recipient to present a 45-minute workshop about his award-winning program. Applicants agree to send a representative to the *Summit* to receive the award.

Award applications and full contest descriptions may be found online at the NSBC website (www.safeboatingcouncil.org/awards) and are due no later than December 31 of each calendar year. Applications will be evaluated by a NSBC Award Committee based on criteria that includes a program description, budget proposal, and availability of the program to be duplicated by others. The NSBC may require an interview with the program administrator before final selection of each award is made.

Award grants may be used to purchase necessary equipment, audio visual aids, printing, teaching aids, program promotion and advertisement, rental time of pool or waterfront facilities, transportation to on-the-water sites or other costs associated with the advancement of the program. Funds may not be used as wages or salaries for instructors.

OMC Foundation Take 'em Boating Grant Program: The National Safe Boating Council *Take Em' Boating Grant* was developed to promote and develop interest in boating for future generations. Funded by OMC Foundation on behalf of former employees of the Outboard Marine Corporation, the grant seeks to continue their legacy and interest in boating safety, environmental awareness, and the marine industry. The *Take Em' Boating Grant* is an excellent program that encourages organizations to develop creative and innovative programs to get kids into boats and on the water. It helps demonstrate to youth the benefits of getting out on the water in boats.

This \$5000 grant is awarded annually to the selected youth program that gets kids aged 6-18 safely into boating while promoting the future of the marine industry through environmental education, safety awareness and boating enjoyment. Applications from organizations, companies and agencies will be accepted each calendar year between October 1 and December 31. The winning applicant will be announced in early spring.

With a mission to enhance the safety of recreational boating through education and outreach, the **National Safe Boating Council** welcomes the opportunity to assist Squadrons and Districts in developing, encouraging, and recognizing projects that demonstrate our mutual commitment to *Safer Boating Through Education*.

Useful websites and contact information:

National Safe Boating Council (Main site): www.safeboatingcouncil.org

Sidekicks: www.boatingsidekicks.com

North American Safe Boating Campaign (including “I’m a Safe Boater: Are U?” contest and “I’m a Survivor” contest): campaign@safeboatingcouncil.org

Phone (703) 361-4294 or e-mail office@safeboatingcouncil.org

Respectfully submitted,
P/R/C/ Joyce F. Shaw, AP ~ USPS Representative to NSBC

ⁱ For copies of approved minutes from any of these NSBC Meetings, please contact NSBC Secretary P/R/C Joyce Shaw, AP at odetojoyce@aol.com.