

## Government and Partner Relations Committee

1305 Thursday, 21 February 2008

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

### **Introduction of Committee Members in Attendance**

R/C Robert E. Brandenstein, SN	D/Lt Verna L. Clayton, P	P/V/C Robert P. David, SN
P/C Dawn Flynn, P	Stf/C Richard Gercak, AP	P/C William S. Haddock, AP
Lt/C Dale R. Hamilton, AP	R/C William E. Husted, SN	D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, AP
P/C/C G. Leslie Johnson, SN	Stf/C Gregory E. Korstad, AP	D/Lt/C Artemas M. Pickard, SN
P/V/C James E. Roeber, SN	P/R/C Joyce Shaw, AP	P/D/C H. Thomas Simmons, SN
P/D/C Bruce R. Theriault, AP	D/Lt/C Daniel Tompkins, JN	P/R/C Gene R. Van Rhee, SN
P/R/C John P. Wilson, AP		

**Guests:** Jean Roeber

### **Approval of Norfolk Committee Minutes**

The minutes of the Norfolk meeting were approved as presented.

There was discussion that the Governing Board Meetings in the fall conflict with the NASBLA Meetings.

### **Update on Maine Legislation:**

D/Lt/C Art Pickard provided an update on Maine Legislation. Finally, Maine legislators decided they should be working on it. They worked on a draft bill and included representatives from the US Coast Guard, boat owners, paddling association, among others. D/Lt/C Pickard noted Maine has two different boating law administrators, one for inland fisheries and wildlife and one for marine resources. The Marine Resources chief was in favor of the legislation; however, the bill went to the inland fisheries committee. 7 committee members voted and 6 voted yes. If it doesn't pass this year, it will go to the Marine Resources Committee next year. The Governor is in favor of the legislation which is a phased-in activity including a NASBLA approved Boating Course. There have been lots of articles in the newspapers, mostly positive.

D/Lt/C Pickard and P/V/C Roeber noted New Hampshire law requires proctored exams. NASBLA has been unable to face the issue as they don't believe there are enough people to proctor exams. It was mentioned that Headquarters has a list of persons who can proctor exams.

### **GPRCom Update – R/C Bill Husted**

R/C Husted provided highlights of the 2007 GPRCom Annual Report. He noted the USPS position statements that had been developed regarding the Ballast Water issue and the Marcos Island situation. He emphasized that it was important to take a stand on issues. Separate listings in the National Directory for Homeland Security and Liaison have been requested.

Although P/Stf/C Sellenraad was not in attendance, he provided a written report. That report is included at the end of these minutes.

R/C Husted noted that the Committee's first Expo in Norfolk was well received. The Committee's booth got the most 'play' of all booths.

**Assigned Task List:** R/C Husted requested that Committee members follow through with assignments between meetings. P/C Flynn has been working on the identification of information regarding USPS

partners. Attached to these minutes is a draft of her initial efforts. Committee members are asked to review this draft and send comments to P/C Flynn.

R/C Husted asked the Homeland Security Team to think about activities that would benefit from grants and make recommendations regarding applying for same.

### **TEAM ACTIVITY REPORTS**

Homeland Security: No report.

Liaison: P/R/C Shaw presented highlights from P/Stf/C Sellenraad's report. The full report is at the end of these minutes.

Website: P/D/C Theriault reported that P/D/C Rachuk is maintaining the website in accordance with USPS rules. Upgrades are ongoing under R/C Husted's guidance. The roster is not available on the website as it compromised personal privacy. (Search engines were able to find personal information.) P/D/C Theriault encouraged members to check it out; it's worth looking at.

MOUs: P/V/C Roeber advised that 3 MOUs will be signed Saturday: one with Weems and Plath, another with MariTech Industries, and the third with the State of Texas. There are a couple of draft MOUs. One proposed MOU is with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Federation (RBFF). C/C Maynard has raised the issue of "How are these MOUs going to help the members?" The entire MOU policy is under review. The MOUs that are developed by other committees, not involving GPRCom, need to be reviewed. P/V/C Roeber is trying to structure this review process.

### **LOBBYING POLICY UPDATE – P/C/C Johnson**

The process of obtaining Chief Commander approval and re-approval annually of person to lobby for a specific issue has not worked. P/R/C Foch (Law Committee) had determined the USPS could lobby under certain conditions. In response, the Operating Committee set up system that could never work. USPS does not have many policies while other organizations do have many policies. P/C/C Johnson noted that GPRCom is working very well and should generate requests for policies. USPS needs input and approved policies, and this task should be handled by GPRCom. He provided an example regarding requirements for new barge lighting. P/C/C Johnson has asked the Law Committee to look at lobbying again and determine what is really required of a non-profit organization. Further, the Law Committee should determine those areas that are within USPS members' interests and ask for policies in those areas. He advised that the Operating Committee and the Bridge are in favor of this approach.

P/R/C Wilson led a discussion of what can and cannot be done with regard to lobbying. There must be record keeping and the lobbying effort cannot support candidates.

P/C/C Johnson stated that the Operating Committee must review proposed policies and approve or deny these.

D/Lt Clayton stated that this is what the Lobbying Team should be doing and want to do. She sees the purpose of this team as being responsible for developing steps in the lobbying process, providing lobbying counsel to the members who will be lobbying, publishing articles in The Ensign, and working with District Legislative Officers. This would educate all in the differences between lobbying and inappropriate political action. The team could also draft the policy statements for the Operating Committee to consider.

D/Lt/C Tompkins brought up the issue of proposed legislation in Georgia. He raised the question of can he lobby on this legislation? He should be able to since USPS has a policy on Mandatory Boating Education; however, today he would need approval from the Chief Commander.

P/C/C Johnson believes that the 'wheels are greased' for change. He stated again that the Operating Committee would review the ideas and approve the policies.

D/Lt. Clayton noted that the Lobbying Team must work closely with members of the State Legislative Team.

This topic will be on the agenda at the Detroit Governing Board Meeting.

### **USPS RAFTS UP TO CLEAN BOATER/CLEAN MARINA PROGRAMS**

23 states have clean marina programs. Stf/C Gercak presented a Power Point Program developed by Tom Reynolds and Stf/C Gercak. The thought is, if we clean up the Marinas, the government cannot go after the boaters. The program is in its infancy stage. There was a suggestion that it may be a matter of adding additional requirements to existing MOUs. R/C Husted stated this was brought to the committee for discussion. Tom is looking for suggestions on where to go from here.

### **INDIVIDUAL TEAM BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

BREAK 1500-1524

R/C Husted commented on the Breakout Sessions and requested the each team's goals and strategies be provided to him.

### **PARTNERS/LIAISON "ACCOUNTABILITY MATRIX" – P/R/C Joyce Shaw**

P/R/C Shaw has been putting together a method of evaluating partner organizations to determine with whom USPS can/should partner. She reviewed the current MOUs, MOAs and other liaisons. It was suggested that the evaluation be based on the value of the organization to USPS using the following criteria: 1) major ally to the overall mission of USPS, 2) national in scope, broad boating application, should be a key ally, 3) important ally in one specific area of recreational boating and 4) important friend, but limited areas of common mission or effort. The suggested criteria could be rated on a 1-10 scale (Power Point presentation). This is an effort to better quantify the quality of MOUs and MOAs and determine when to review these. Questions were raised regarding who is coordinating this effort. There was discussion by Committee members concerning who is our most important partnership. There was consensus that evaluation may not improve our relationships with other partners. Each partner is important in their own way. P/V/C David spoke of the importance of a few of our partners such as the National Boating Federation.

### **STATE LEGISLATIVE TEAM HAPPENINGS – Stf/C Gercak**

Stf/C Gercak provided a legislative update. There was discussion of adding Congressional organizations to the Website. Members were in agreement that this should occur. News Notes will be added to the Newsletter.

### **AFTERNOON REVIEW/COMMITTEE REMARKS**

R/C Husted commented that Team Leaders should stay in contact with their Team members. There is a lack of communication both up and down.

P/V/C David discussed the Small Boat Summits for Homeland Security. USPS needs better exposure at (invitations to) these meetings.

POSTPONEMENT 1630

0835 Friday, 22 February 2008

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

**Introduction of Committee Members in Attendance**

D/Lt Verna L. Clayton, P	P/V/C Robert David, SN	P/C Dawn Flynn, AP
Stf/C Richard Gercak, AP	P/C William S. Haddock, AP	R/C William E. Husted, SN
D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, AP	P/D/C Michael Rachuk, SN	P/V/C James Roeber, SN
P/R/C Joyce Shaw, AP	P/D/C Thomas Simmons, SN	P/D/C Bruce R. Theriault, AP
P/R/C Gene Van Rhee, SN	P/R/C Jack Wilson, AP	

**Guests:** Kristen Austin, Maritech Industries  
Malcolm Blann, Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons  
Ruth Wood, Boat U.S. Foundation and NSBC  
Steve Budar, US Coast Guard Auxiliary  
Peter Trogdon, Weems & Plath  
Brandi Bradford, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Jean Roeber  
John Fetterman, NASBLA  
Tony Gardiner, Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons  
Chris Neal, Personal Watercraft Industry Association  
Steve Hall, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Tom Hayward, NASBLA  
Selverio Pacleb, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Warren Steffen, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Bill Gossard, NTSB  
Jeff Hoedt, Chief of the Office of Boating Safety, US Coast Guard

Bill Gossard from the National Transportation Safety Board stated that the Board considers recreational boating safety a priority. There are still 3 states without laws regarding life jackets for children: Virginia, Wisconsin, and Iowa. The Board has been very successful in keeping focus on boating safety. Mr. Gossard talked about pending state activities and legislation. There are 14 states that still need mandatory education laws.

**USPS REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

National Boating Federation – P/V/C David reported on the Small Vessel Security Summit.

European Boating Association – P/V/C David

The EBA supports the adoption of UN Resolution 40. USA has not adopted this resolution. This will be a major topic for the EBA conference in April. Italy has proposed a new definition for pleasure craft that would give commercial boats of any size priority over pleasure craft. EBA is against the new definition. The International Lighthouse Association wants to change the system of buoying. The Hull Identification Number, HIN, is now a CIN, Craft Identification Number.

National Boating Safety Advisory Council – P/C/C Johnson

The Strategic Plan is under Review of Requirements by BLAs for consistency. It was noted that Squadron/District boundaries do not conform to State boundaries. A change in the boundaries would help with teaching boating safety.

NASBLA – P/V/C Roeber

The main interface with NASBLA is in the educational area. All course providers have entered into an agreement (terms and conditions) with NASBLA on how courses would be provided and exams handled. USPS continues to push for proctored exams; however, it is in the minority. A couple of states have changed to requiring proctored exams. The courses offered must be approved by both the National organization and the States in which the courses will be taught. The MOUs cover state acceptance of USPS courses.

USPS has MOUs with about ¾ of the states.

National Safe Boating Council – P/R/C Shaw

The headquarters has relocated from Columbus, Ohio to Bristow, Virginia. Joyce provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the NSBC. This presentation included NSBC staff, NSBC Board of Directors, Representatives to NSBC Board, an explanation that NSBC was a coalition to advance and promote safe boating through education, and an explanation of contests/awards and grants.

R/C Husted provided the following information:

United Safe Boating Institute will be meeting at the Boating & Water Safety Summit. P/C/C Tony Gardiner added remarks stating the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons are looking for new projects that relate to safe boating. There is the intent to award Silver Schooner award this year.

USACE – Lynda Nutt has started a series of workshops in D.C. on life jacket wear. R/C Husted also mentioned that P/C Gale Alls is available in D.C. and can be contacted for concerns/questions.

The NASBLA representative stated that they were really tackling some tough education issues; specifically, the course approval process and reciprocity across the country. What does NASBLA approval mean? The answer is excellence in the product and delivery standards.

Peter Trogdon from Weems and Plath noted that they have a division in the company for Awards. There is a 25% discount for awards to USPS members.

NASBLA has developed a DVD on cold water survival. There is an USPS education grant to give copy of this DVD to every Squadron and Flotilla.

BREAK 0943 – 1010

Nobody's Waterproof Campaign (NobodysWaterproof.com) - Brandi Bradford, State Boater Education Coordinator

In Texas, there is mandatory Boating Safety Education for 13-17 year olds. 18-34 year olds are the hardest population to reach. This is an award-winning program and received the NB Education Merit Award and 2008 National Drowning Prevention award.

It is a Partner Team effort. Since it is hard to get this age group to come to you, you have to go to them (on the water). The 18-34 year olds respond better to peer-to-peer interaction.

There are also shoreline activities; e.g., Vessel Safety Checks by the USPS and Coast Guard Auxiliary, and other family based activities. The effort didn't sell anything, only provided information such as:

- Wear a life jacket
- Designate a driver
- Take a boating safety course
- Pay attention to your party

NSBC and Boat/U.S. Perspectives – Ruth Wood

Both organizations provide education opportunities to boaters and boating educators. The challenge is evolving, still talking about life jackets and alcohol. There are campaign materials on the web at

[www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com). These materials include online press kits, etc. The website is the best communication with members. There is a message board. They are working on a program in California similar to one in Texas. The State of Tennessee will be involved this year.

The IBWSS (International Boating & Water Safety Summit) will be in San Diego 4/16 -19/08. Several training courses will be held before Summit. They are looking at small ladders for smaller boats (e.g., jon boats).

NSBC is celebrating 50 years. There will be a party at San Diego CG Station as part of the Summit.

They are editing a Project on the “History of Modern Recreational Boating Safety.”

There are new training programs on Close Quarter Boat Handling and Instructor Certification.

There are Safety Programs using videos. These include: the Boaters Toolbox, EPIRB Rental Programs (EPIRB name changing to GPIRB), and other focused projects. More squadrons need to participate in these programs.

Also there are Clean Water Programs. Examples include keeping fuel spills out of water, monofilament bins for recycling, invasive species (\$50,000 for clean water grants – applications due 2/1/08).

What Safe Boating is really about is partnerships.

The Boaters Toolbox is a web-based program that includes all backup material for safe boating courses. It is for people who want to “brush up”.

Implications of Recreational Boating Act of 2007 - Chris Neal, Personal Watercraft Industry Association (also representing NMMA) covered several topics:

### **Ballast Water Issue**

For 34 years there has been a ballast water exemption in place for recreational boaters. In 2006, a Federal District Court said EPA did not have authority to grant this exemption. The overarching issue is the transportation of invasive species. If legislation is not passed, state and local permits for every boat you own will be required, including multiple permits if the boat is in different waters.

HR 2550/S 2067 is pending to codify EPA exemption. HR 2550 has 70 co-sponsors. The website [www.boatblue.com](http://www.boatblue.com) is a great resource for updates on this.

If the exemption legislation does not pass, enforcement is a whole other issue. The EPA does not have resources and will push the enforcement to states. Judge’s order takes effect in September 2008.

### **State Affairs**

NMMA is working hard in State of Maine for mandatory boater education (HB2400). They are hoping for a floor debate on the bill and are trying to spark additional interest.

Regarding PWCs, there is a bill in Michigan (HB 4830) that enacts a sunset –to-sunrise curfew on PWCs. There is also a bill to raise the age requirement to 16 in order to operate a PWC. Florida is trying to codify a minimum age of 16 to operate PWCs.

John Fetterman from NASBLA noted, in regard to Maine, that the hunter or fisherman is first and the boater second. However, the “Mom factor” is trumping the sports factor. That is, if Mom doesn’t think it is safe, the kids won’t go.

### Coast Guard Update – Jeff Hoedt

The Coast Guard Strategic Plan was signed last March and is on the website. The Coast Guard is moving away from only listing the number of casualties. They are also including the number of ‘exposure hours’

and are conducting national boating surveys. There are 60 topics of issues and include 1-2 months of activity and a large sample size. The preliminary numbers are not encouraging, showing an increase in deaths. There was a 12/3/07 meeting on mandatory boater education legislation. The CG authorization bill goes forward in March. It includes reciprocity, time lines for education of new purchasers, minimum standards for education, etc. They are recommending a quicker phase-in than birth date; i.e., a 5 to 7 year phase in.

Reauthorization (Wallop-Breaux) Trust Fund. On the fishing side, it includes the Clean Vessel Act. 15% of the fund must be used for boating. The Trust Fund would expire every 5 years. There are discussions at reauthorization time. The Coast Guard wants to see it reauthorized, but wants to see some changes. NASBLA, NBSAC and other user groups are providing advice; however, they need to come together on the use of this fund. John Fetterman noted that NASBLA voted on the reauthorization proposal last fall. That information is available on their website.

Propeller strikes are increasing. These strikes include loss of limbs and life changing injuries. The Coast Guard is seeking legislation requiring engine cut off device on new boats (typically boats under 26 feet). There is a need for performance standards. Those standards have been drafted.

The Coast Guard is also studying life jacket wear. The percentage of persons not wearing life jackets is 22-23%. The PWC % is higher. The percentage is less than 10% if PWCs wearers are removed from the equation. The question is should mandatory wear be required on boats under 21 feet?

Small Vessel Security Efforts: There are concerns about threats caused by small vessels. The Coast Guard has been directed to come up with procedures for small vessels (under 300 gross tons). Information is available on the Coast Guard website regarding what the public says. The Coast Guard is holding 4 regional meetings on small vessel security. They want to know what to look for. There will be a small vessel security strategy document that will be published. The Coast Guard needs continued USPS involvement.

ADJOURN 1205

### **P/Stf/C Sellenraad's Report:**

During our last GPRCom meeting in Norfolk, I reported 20 districts had appointed a District Liaison Officer. Vacancies remained in districts:

2-6-11-12-15-16-18-20-28-30-31-32-33

Due to increasing importance of Homeland Security, Bill Husted polled all D/Cs with the question of combining or separating HS and Liaison functions at the District level.

A less than 50% response rate indicated a request for separate listings slightly outnumbered those who wanted a combined function. V/C Baldrige approved separate listings in the 2009 Directory for District Liaison & HS officers.

In addition to corresponding with D/L/Os about subjects of interest, I have e-mailed D/Cs and XOs several times, urging D/L/O and H/S/O appointments before the Feb 28 deadline. Lena Padro has been very helpful providing current D/C and XO lists in January and February. With COW ceremonies ongoing, current information is vital.

Yesterday, incoming D/28 D/C Katie Law reported appointment of a combined D/L/O & H/S/O. At the end February, I'll contact Lena regarding additional or replacement HS & D/L/Os reported to her. D/26 is ahead of the pack with more than half its squadrons having a S/L/O & H/S/O to date. P/R/C Louis Hohenstein deserves a lot of credit for actively pursuing squadron appointments.

Adding HS information to "Liaison Guidelines" has been a work in progress. I'm awaiting more detailed information. I have answered individual requests for more HS info. Within the next month, a general

update will be sent to Norma, including references. Initially, D/L/Os will develop contacts with agencies and organizations involved in HS. Any resulting USPS member involvement with monitoring and reporting activities will probably require HS organization, making separation of the two functions desirable.

Eventually, we may want to add HS "Policy" and HS function description to the Operations Manual.

#### PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

Much thought has been devoted to designing a workable, ongoing record of MOUs and MOAs . Discussions centered around a matrix designed by Bill Husted and a tier system by Jim Roeber. Problems occurring dealt with comparative analysis (grading) and confidentiality. Mary Catherine Berube maintains a list of these partners with effective, renewal, expiration/cancellation dates and contact persons where available. Noel McKeown told me partnership documents are reviewed and approved by his staff, but no permanent record is maintained.

After considerable correspondence, V/C Creighton Maynard e-mailed Bill, Jim, Fred and Joyce with excellent questions:

1. Why MOUs and MOAs? Are they helping the general membership?
2. Are they of benefit to USPS, its members and the respective partner organizations?
3. Who identifies future partners? On what basis?
3. Who in USPS keeps contact with partners and monitors agreements?
4. How many partners can we effectively deal with?
5. What format should be used to record all pertinent information?
6. Where are these records kept and do they remain confidential?
7. Can we avoid duplication of records between headquarters, committees, etc?

More questions may come up. Bill Husted, Creighton Maynard and Frank Dvorak plan to meet in Dallas. GPRCom discussion of the above questions would help focus our future direction.

Discussion regarding suppliers and other non-partner organizations eager to advertise on our USPS website is a separate topic and guidelines need to be developed for determining whether or not to allow this and, if so, what criteria can we apply?

The PL group welcomes input from all GPRCom members.

Partnership issues should be our first priority.

I regret being unable to deliver this report in person. My thanks to Joyce or Bill for taking over.

Respectfully submitted,

P/Stf/C Fred C. Sellenraad, SN  
Partner Liaison Group, GPRCom