



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
HARBOR TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
September 6, 2023

HTAC Voting Members Present			
Representative	Organization	Representative	Organization
Ed Anderson	City of Superior/Citizen Rep	Joel Johnson	Lakehead Boat Basin, Inc.
Beldon, Dan	WLSSD	Jason Laumann	NWRPC
Cameron Bertsch	Douglas County	LTJG Joe McGinnis	USCG/Marine Safety Unit (<i>alternate</i>)
Steven Brossart	US Army Corps of Engineers	Patrick Phenow	Mn DOT
Natalie Chin	Wi Sea Grant	Amanda Rosebrock	FDL Band of LS Chippewa
Marshall Elder	Midwest Energy Resources	Dena Ryan	WisDOT
Ken Gerasimos	Great Lakes Fleet/Key Lakes	Ted Smith	Marine Tech
Gary Glass	Izaak Walton League	Bri Speldrich	Mn DNR
Barb Huberty	MPCA	Matt Steiger	WI DNR (<i>alt for C Hagen</i>)
Dewey Johnson	St Louis Co Emergency Mgmt		
HTAC Voting Members Absent * Excused			
Representative	Organization	Representative	Organization
Brian Boder	St Louis Cnty Public Works	Sam Lobby	St Louis River Alliance
CMDR Jarrod Dewitz	USCG/Marine Safety Unit Duluth	Robb McGhie	Perkins Specialized Transp Contract
John Downing	MN Sea Grant	Ed Montgomery	Sea Service LLC
Matti Erpestad	Recreation-Non-Motorized	Nick Patterson	JF Brennan Co Inc
James Gittemeier	City of Duluth	Jason Reeves	Compass Minerals
Cherie Hagen	<i>Wisconsin DNR</i>	Jason Serck	City of Superior
Dan Hartman	DECC	Jeff Stollenwerk*	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
Shawn Krizaj	Emergency Management	Lou Weichseldorfer	CN
Others Present			
Representative	Organization	Representative	Organization
Tari Aanonsen	MIC	Jim Miller	Tom Tiffany
Kevin Beardslay	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Robert E. Morehouse	Deputy Chief-Training City of Duluth F.D.
Brian Belmore	Barr Engineering	LT Sean V. Murphy	USCG MSU Duluth
Dan Breneman	MPCA	Stacy Oltmanns	Northland Constructors
LTC Brett Boyle	USACE	Guy Partch	Barr Engineering
Patrick Chamberlin	USCG MSU Duluth	Danial Rust	UWS
Ron Chicka	MIC Director	Ricky Sarran	MIC
Ben Gates	USCG MSU Duluth	Melissa Sjolund	MnDOT
Duane Hill	MnDOT Dist. 1	Lisa Stern	WisDOT
Michael Goettel	Wisconsin DNR	John Stockert	Great Lakes Fleet/Key Lakes
Jayson Hron	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Mike Sullivan	MARAD
Cindy Jarema	USACE	Maren Webb	MnDOT Dist 1
Dewey Johnson	Emergency Maintenance	CPO Kyle W. Weitzell	USCG MSU Duluth
Seth Johnson	AMI Engineering	Natalie White	SEH
Jim Jones	Jeff Foster Trucking	Hans Wronka	Burns MCD
Pat Lammersen	USCG MSU Duluth		



Introduction/Agenda Review/Committee Business

The meeting was opened and attendance was taken by way of individual introductions in person as well as via the TEAMS virtual chat. Attendance is reflected on the first page of this summary.

Approval of June 6, 2023 Meeting Summary

Motion Discussion and Vote	Joel Johnson/Marshall Elder moved to approve the meeting summary from June 6, 2023. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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State Hazmat and Urban Search & Rescue Procedures, Robert E. Morehouse, Deputy Chief-Training, City of Duluth Fire Department

Deputy Chief, Morehouse gave a presentation on the capabilities of the Duluth Fire Department’s ERT MNTF2. Some of these include air monitoring and plume projection, sample collection and identification, hazard mitigation, decontamination, evacuation or sheltering recommendations, as well as advisory and outreach training.

The team is equipped with air monitoring and WMD meters, radiation identifiers and monitoring equipment, along with chemical and bomb identifiers. The use of drones allows a team to work away from immediate danger while monitoring areas that would be otherwise inaccessible. Marine 19 is the department’s watercraft that has important roles in water rescue missions, fire suppression, and boom deployment, among others.

A team can deploy within 60 minutes and be fully self-sustaining for a 12-hour period. The team can be dispatched through the State Duty Officer by calling (800) 422-0789.

Marine Safety Needs for the Duluth Ship Canal, Gary E. Glass, Ph.D., Izaak Walton League

Dr. Glass presented the need for safety measures to protect our visiting tourists and area residents who use the Duluth shipping canal and the surrounding waterway of Lake Superior for recreational purposes. The massive lake is often underestimated and can be a dangerous place to use small watercrafts. Gary spoke of the need for education and awareness of a safety measure that was put in place on the lift bridge, a light that alerts Maritimers of the flow direction and speed of the water within the canal. Another safety suggestion mentioned was to add a crossing at the corner of 8th street and S Lake Avenue on Park Point. This would create a portage between the bayside and lakeside of the lake as an alternative for recreationalists to traverse between the two more safely.

Ballast Water Management, Kyle W. Weitzell, CPO USCG MSU Duluth

CPO Kyle Weitzell discussed the current Code of Federal Regulations 33 CFR 151.1502 specifically relating to the Salties that travel the great lakes. Ocean vessels have four options to meet the ballast water discharge standards of the Regulation: use a USCG approved Ballast Water Management System, use an Alternative Management System, use only water from a US Public Water System, or they must retain all water on board. Incoming vessels must report at least 24 hours prior to their arrival in Montreal to the National Ballast Information Clearing House as to which system they are utilizing. Reports are monitored by the US Coast Guard.



A recent issue that has been encountered by the USCG is turbidity in the Great Lakes. They work closely with vessel management and Canadian authorities on a case-by case-basis to help ensure that vessels meet US regulations. The goal is to minimize the environmental impact whenever ballast water is discharged into the Great Lakes.

Sexual Harassment in Industry, Sean V. Murphy, LT USCG MSU Duluth

LT Sean Murphy presented on Marine Safety Information Bulletin No. 1-23, Reporting Sexual Misconduct on U.S. Vessels. As the HTAC is interested in understanding the risks that can affect the port, the USCG felt that this bulletin was applicable to this audience. The bulletin outlines the requirement of any US documented vessel to report any complaint or incident of harassment, sexual harassment, or sexual assault to the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard is equipped to investigate and hold offenders accountable.

Reports can be filed by way of the CGIS Tips App, and/or the email address: CGISTIPS@uscg.mil and will be reviewed by the Coast Guard Investigative Service.

Regulated Navigation Area for six Minnesota Remediation Sites in the St. Louis River Area of Concern, Barb Huberty, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and LTJG Joseph McGinnis, USCG

Barb Huberty presented on the preservation of remediation efforts for six Minnesota sites in the St. Louis River Area of Concern. The cost of all remediation and restoration projects for the Minnesota side alone is around \$488M and so it is important that a plan is in place to protect these investments and archive the findings and remedies for future generations to access.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency partnered with USCG to utilize the Regulated Navigation Area process, so that there could be regulatory authority to manage malicious damage. To make the plan feasible, the scope was narrowed to four slips and two sites listed on the Superfund sites listing. The goal is not to impede future uses, but to have controls in place to protect the remedies being implemented from possible impacts.

A public comment period is open now until 9/22/23. To register your comments on the proposed rule, go to the federal register and input docket# USCG-2023-0368.

Roundtable

- Dena Ryan of the Wisconsin DOT reported for Mike Halsted, that the Wisconsin DOT Harbor Assistance Fund (HAP) has received \$20M in the state budget. Half of the funds will be utilized by the HAP for the 2024 financial cycle. Eleven applications have been received, totaling over \$53M in requests. Awards will be announced between December 15th 2023 and January 31st 2024.
- Patrick Phenow of the Minnesota DOT reported that the Minnesota Port Development Assistance Program received just over \$18M from the state legislature in June. The window for applications will be opening soon and awards are expected to be announced in January of 2024.



- Matt Steiger of the Wisconsin DNR gave project updates on the Pickle Pond remediation project in Superior. 85% of the water work is complete. The causeway will have two additional breaches which will increase public water access. This will also increase the water quality and temperature regulation in relation to the bay. Upland work along the shoreline will increase habitat, as well as help to control invasive species. Matt also gave an update on the restoration of wild rice acreage in the St. Louis River area, from Hwy 23 Chambers Grove area to Kingsbury Bay, as well as in Allouez Bay. Wild rice is being purchased from traditional harvesters in Minnesota and Wisconsin. There is a good amount available to be planted this year.
- Barb Huberty of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency gave updates on several remediation and restoration projects. Site remediation is in progress at the Scanlon Reservoir and scheduled to wrap up by the end of September. The Ponds behind Erie Peer project has had similar progress made, along with the reopening of the Cross City Trail. Munger Landing is in the second year of construction. The dredging was completed last year and this year the cover replacement of sand should be completed before winter. Spirit Lake is in the final stages of planting as well as the installation of recreational features. A culvert is being installed at Perch Lake under Hwy 23 to restore circulation of waterflow between the river and lake. The design phase is complete for the Thompson Reservoir and the project agreement is in the negotiation phase. Mud Lake is 30% complete in the design phase.

Adjourn – 11:10 a.m.