

MEETING SUMMARY

Harbour Authority Advisory Committee (HAAC) - Maritimes/Gulf

Date: February 1st – 2nd, 2018

Location: Moncton, NB

Present (HAAC): Edwin McKie (Prince Edward Island), Osborn Burke (Eastern Nova Scotia), Jamie Craig (Gulf Nova Scotia), Tim Wentzell (Halifax West & South Eastern Shore Nova Scotia), Marco Lanteigne (Gulf New Brunswick)

Present (SCH): Stephanie Hopper (Regional Director and chair), Léo Vienneau (Regional manager, Client Services), Marcel Cormier (Operations Advisor), Yves Melanson (A/Operations Advisor), Pauline Richard (Special Projects and Training Coordinator), Rachèle LeBlanc (Director, Integrated Program Planning & Analysis, SCH - National), Denise Frenette (Director General, SCH - National), Luc Boucher (Director, Harbour Development, Policy and Planning, SCH - National), Mylène Roy (Environmental Advisor)

DISCUSSION TOPICS
DAY 1 – FEBRUARY 1 ST 2018
<p>Welcome</p> <p>The group was welcomed to the meeting and Stephanie Hopper, was presented to the group. Stephanie is currently Regional Director for Small Craft Harbours (SCH), replacing Alain Hebert. Members of the HAAC, National headquarters and Client Services team presented themselves to the committee.</p>
<p>Agenda</p> <p>Agenda was reviewed and accepted with the addition of the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NHAAC summary ➤ Dredging ➤ Enforcement
<p>Minutes</p> <p>Meeting summary/minutes from the October 2017 Truro, NS meeting were reviewed and approved by the group.</p> <p>Observation was made that format of meeting minutes/summary is well structured.</p>
<p>Abandoned and wrecked vessels</p> <p>Operations advisor Marcel Cormier gave an update to the group and progress regarding Abandoned and wrecked vessels</p> <p>While program was launched in October 2017, Transport Canada (TC) has a sister program that can provide similar funding. The target groups for SCH are vessels on SCH property, while with TC it is in other circumstances such as when it is on municipal property or done by other organizations.</p> <p>5 year program totalling 1.35 million in funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$100, 000 – 1st year (approximate) - \$100,00 0 – 2nd year (approximate) <p>Considering that each case is different, HA capacity, defining clear vessel ownership and obtaining legal possession have been identified as challenges: Enabling legislation - Navigable Waters Act. This raises the issue surrounding the registration of vessels and the transference from one person to the next.</p> <p>Transport Canada is in the process of establishing a national inventory/registry – to be launched in 2021.</p>

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SCH harbour program provides either:

Vessel possession and assessment costs/expenses:

- Recipients who are eligible for funding to conduct this type of activity may be reimbursed for up to 100% of eligible expenditures, up to \$5K per vessel

OR

Vessel removal and disposal costs/expenses:

- Recipients who are eligible for funding to conduct this type of activity may be reimbursed for up to 75% of eligible expenditures, up to \$50K per vessel.

HAAC mentions that prevention may be the key to avoid future issues with abandoned vessels. SCH will be establishing tools and guidelines to assist HAs to better manage these types of situations.

2018 HA conference

Previous meeting's summary was reviewed to identify the subject matter discussed for the 2018 HA conference

HAAC made suggestions regarding facilitators, icebreakers and bilingual format of the conference.

Pierre Battah suggested as a facilitator

Concern- Facilitator should be conscious of the nature of the audience.

Should there be any invitations to Director General, Minister, Regional Director General, etc...do not want speeches to take too much time.

Booths – Partnering Forum

Significant discussion regarding booth for the partnering forum. HAAC indicated that they want to be the main contact/organizer in order to have more control, avoid confusion and duplicated efforts by DFO staff. They want to have more flexibility and input in regards to the type of activities they want incorporated. While SCH would not particularly be opposed, they would like to have a say in what departments and/or organizations participate. Varying industries would be favoured.

There was a question regarding which HAAC member would be involved with the partnering forum.

Topics

Conference agenda items were discussed, including new manuals (I.e. Environment Canada), Abandoned/derelict vessels program, Clean Foundation. Suggestion was made to have Health and Safety companies present at the conference; which could include Bill Carr, a motivational speaker with a Health and Safety background.

Other topics/formats discussed:

- Breakout rooms: Would involve different more narrowed topics (3-4 rooms)
- Lease: 3 components
- Clean NS: Waste Oil Management
 - Could include federal inspector
- Operations: Safety/Fire prevention/Life jackets/Hoist/Forklifts
 - Risk for HAs – no user agreements
- Governance: Skits - how to hold an effective meeting
 - Include narrator for description and encompassing scenarios.
 - Due diligence
 - User signs

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30 year program recognition

Committee fielded suggestions as to how the SCH 30 year program recognition could be celebrated. The following are some of those suggestions:

- Evening with music, cake, skits, comedian
 - Duration from 8-11 pm
 - Opportunity for Area managers and Business managers to network
- Split screen with HAs and Harbours. Rolling pictures
- Finding « lifers » that have been involved for 30 years
- Video testimonials
 - Question members of the community
 - How the HA or harbour in their community has affected them

Potential themes:

- 30 years/30 ans
- 30 years of partnership / 30 ans de collaboration

Electronic Survey:

HAAC unanimously agree that survey should be part of HA conference.

Questions should be relative to the material presented at the conference.

Prizes/Giveaways/Participant materials

Tuques provided to every participant by the HAAC

Draws would be done during the conference to encourage participation

USB sticks/thumb drives or binders would be given to each HA, containing all the documentation from the conference.

Next steps:

Invitations for the 2018 HA conference planning committee will be sent no later than the end of March.

A sub-committee will be established to plan/organize the survey

Day 2 – February 2nd 2018

National SCH team were presented to HAAC member: Denise Frenette, Rachèle LeBlanc, Luc Boucher

Summary of NHAAC

Over all meeting went well

HAAC advised that there was concern from other regions centered on the transition SCH headquarters from Ottawa to Moncton. Because of transition, certain subject matters are on hold.

Discussion was held with Kevin Stringer (Associate Deputy Minister) regarding the long term strategy (Winburg report). Presentations were also delivered by regions covering the following topics

- Overcrowding
- Vessel sizes – Infrastructure hasn't kept up and there are currently shortfalls
- Marine protected areas
- Fiscal discussion/debrief
- Duty to consult
- Oceans Protection Act

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Abandoned and derelict vessels was also discussed where much progress seems to have been made, however it is stills a growing issue. While there are less fishing vessels, British Columbia seems to have an increased frequency of abandoned vessels. Prevention moving forward will be key.

HAAC member discussed financial shortfalls with MP Wayne Easter. Would require 50 million in A Base. Any B Base funding could be on Dredging and Climate change.

The Harbour Authority Corporation (HAC) sponsored Directors and Officers Insurance Policy was also discussed where HAAC members indicated that most HAs have opted into the program.

HA Communications

HAAC members were given a summary of where the HA communication initiative currently stand, as a continuity of what was discussed at the previous HAAC meeting with Alain Hebert (Former SCH, Regional Director) in October 2017.

The idea of having a website dedicated to providing information to HAs seems to be favoured to other options.

It was identified that there needs to be someone dedicated at maintaining the website in order for it to be updated and successful and to define who's responsibility it will be.

Information to what is relevant to fishermen will be key.

Official launch of the website could be done or suggestions taken during October's HA conference

Next step would be to file the related Industry Canada forms to register the corporation

Lease Review

Leo gave a summary of the progress, including timelines, being made on the lease review stemming from the HAs (19) exercising their right to seek independent legal advice and hiring lawyer Sarah Sheils

Emphasis was put on some of the wording in certain sections of the lease, language could be softened, i.e. always. As confirmed by members of HAAC, changes to national lease could be positive.

There were 2 main concerns for both parties

- 1) Public access; and
- 2) Environment

Elections

Leo made a brief mention of how the present group of seven HAAC members came about, i.e. number of members, areas represented, frequency, and nomination process.

This year's election process will be beginning shortly. Three areas are due for elections; all three current HAAC members have advised that they will be re-offering to serve: Edwin, Bonnie and Vesta.

Other topics

Dredging

- Jamie mentions that dredging remains a problem at his harbour (Toney River) and they have not heard from the government. Temporary reprieve for this year.
- Osborne states that lands and dumping sites seem to be at the centre of many of the issues. Transporting

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can double the cost and ice issues is causing additional sand in the harbours.

- Moving forward, the options chosen need to be financially feasible. Will need to abide and adapt to provincial jurisdiction regulations
- On an environmental standpoint, Mylène mentions that they are looking at various options. Studies (coastal) are costly and ocean dumping has many criteria and is not suitable for all. For beach nourishment, salt and the configuration of the wharf makes a difference. Current approach is to evaluate site by site.

Enforcement

- Leo summarized the discussion held in October 2017 with Colin Ferrar.

Pilot project may be in the works to have an enforcement officer, in the event all avenues have been exhausted. Need to define responsibilities and parameters.

- Question was asked as to what level of authority is held by the HAs. It may depend on the amount of pressure being applied and the complexity of each situation.
- Denise Frenette, SCH Director General stipulates that she would like to have a national discussion regarding enforcement and possibly build a business case in a multilayered approach.
- Next Step: Presentation to be made at the next SCH National Management Committee

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place in July 2018. Agenda items would be mainly comprised of HA conference subject matter.