

## MEETING SUMMARY

### Harbour Authority Advisory Committee (HAAC) - Maritimes/Gulf

**Date:** February 15, 2017

**Location:** Conference Call

**Present (HAAC):** Marco Lanteigne (Gulf New Brunswick), Vesta Adams (South West Shore & Bay of Fundy Shore, Nova Scotia), Osborne Burke (Eastern Nova Scotia), Edwin McKie (Prince Edward Island), Jamie Craig (Gulf Nova Scotia), Bonnie Morse (Southern New Brunswick)

**Present (SCH):** Alain Hébert (Regional Director and Chair), Léo-M. Vienneau (Regional Manager, Client Services), Marcel Cormier (Operations Advisor), Nicolas Maltais (Special Projects and Training Coordinator)

#### DISCUSSION TOPICS

##### Welcome and opening remarks

- Chair welcomed everyone and began by highlighting some of the effects of the February 13, 2017 storm on our infrastructure.
- Strong winter storm hit the Maritimes on February 13, 2017. Because of little ice cover in many areas, the storm surge caused damage on some of the infrastructure. Larger vessels in Nova Scotia are also putting additional strain on the infrastructure during weather events.
- Chair presented the agenda which was accepted with the addition of the 2018 HA Conference.
- A number of HAAC members were able to attend the Eastern Fisheries Exposition in Yarmouth, NS and had positive comments regarding the DFO/SCH booth.

##### Feedback from National Harbour Authority Advisory committee (NHAAC) participants

- Care should be taken when having conversation on zonal planning pilot projects. The need to have buy-in at a local level from Harbour Authorities (HA) was repeated. Zonal planning is a tool, and should not be used as an excuse to divest harbours. We need to move forward at a pace that HAs, SCH and industry are all comfortable with.
- Harbour Authority Corporation (HAC) introduced a \$5M policy to the Directors and Officers program.
- Ron Duplessis will be picking up some of the work since Bonnie Morse has stepped down from the Harbour Authority Corporation.
- Funds may be made available by Heritage Canada for Canada 150 Anniversary events.
- \$1.5 million in funding was announced by Prime Minister Trudeau. Some of those funds would be allocated towards Abandoned & Derelict (A&D) vessels.
- Transport Canada offered a presentation of A&D vessels. This provided an opportunity to NHAAC to provide feedback on this topic.

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- Adam Winberg's report was presented to NHAAC delegates. It included a summary of all HAAC and NHAAC meetings over the past 5 years as well as a way forward by the SCH program and industry.
- When discussing Long Term Strategy (LTS), the Director General wanted to be transparent with NHAAC. Copies of Adam Winberg's report were shared with delegates. Winberg reviewed summaries of all LTS discussions over the past 5 years and introduced his opinion in the report. He discusses a 10 year approach with gradual changes. The message from the Director General is that LTS is not a hidden agenda, everyone needs to be involved. The Chair indicates that further discussions on the report will be held at National Management Committee (NMC) the following week. The Chair advised that the report will be shared with HAAC prior to the next meeting in July.
- The report highlights the fact that the Small Craft Harbours program is underfunded and that the regular budget is not sufficient to maintain all harbours at their ideal level. Priorities must be established on a continuous basis.
- Chair proposes to share the PowerPoint presentation with HAAC now and schedule a conference call to discuss the presentation before sharing the full report.

#### Report from HAABC

- Marcel Cormier, from SCH, and Edwin McKie both attended Harbour Authority Association of British Columbia (HAABC) Conference.
- HAABC Conference is held and organized by the HAABC and not SCH. Conference is well organized and has paid-staff to run and organize the conference. All but 2 HAs in BC are members of the HAABC (52 out of 54). There is 100% participation in the conference by its members.
- HAABC provides USB sticks to attendees with all presentations from current and past conferences. (Copies of the USB sticks were provided to HAAC)
- Workshops attended included:
  - Environmental Management Plans – Session on developing successful Environmental Management Plans (EMP).
  - Managing Vessels of Concern – Remedies to minimize court proceedings and lawyer fees, and moorage agreements.
  - Harbour Authority Corporation (HAC) – Changes at HAC: New \$5M policy added to Directors and Officers program.
  - Transport Canada Vessels of Concern – Problem more widespread in BC than in other areas. Transport Canada is seeking input from HAs.
  - Ken Smith, Regional Director General, Regional Update – Program priorities, way

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forward, benefit of HAABC Association, history of the SCH program and HAABC. He describes LTS as “Long Term Sustainability” vs. “Long Term Strategy”. First Nations in BC and the Duty to Consult encompasses a large part of SCH’s work.

- Maintenance Planning – Presentation by Regional Engineer and Regional Customer Service Manager; new lease has already been rolled out in BC. HAs are familiar with the maintenance schedules.
- HA Database – Private Sector presentation on using technology via tablet or smartphone app to conduct day to day harbour operations. Questionnaires were sent under the form of workbooks to HAs to gather information on operations and tombstone data in order to help develop the app. HAABC would pay for the final product and licence it to HAs.
- HA of Campbell River – Presentation on governance and HA Health.
- Environmental Workshop – Overview of what is happening on the west coast. Due to the infrastructure that is in place such as pipelines and commercial shipping lanes; how to respond to oil spills. Western Canada Marine Response Corporation is in place to deal with emergencies.
- A Google Messenger group has been created to enable HAs to communicate together.
- It was mentioned that 2 representatives from Central & Arctic mentioned that they had a Contribution Agreement for travelling on HAAC business (per diem). Chair advised that he would seek clarification.
- Concern expressed by HAAC that SCH paid for SCH employee to go to HAABC but was unable to pay for HAAC representative to attend. Chair advised that due to time limitations it was easier to obtain approval for SCH employee to attend than to get approval for SCH and HAAC representative.

#### **2018 HA Conference**

- Question was put forth: “Should the HA conference be held in March or October”?
- Survey from the previous HA Conference leaned slightly towards a March conference. However, it was pointed out that those that would favor an October conference were not at the conference in March as they were fishing and/or unable to make it due to weather.
- The majority of HAAC favored a fall / October conference.

#### **Regional Update**

- In 2016, there was less resistance from Communications and SCH was able to print and distribute the 2017 HA Calendar as a promotional item. The calendar must be a working tool for the Harbour Authorities. 5,500 copies of the calendar were printed. These were distributed to all HAs, shareholders, and at the Eastern Fisheries Expo in Yarmouth, NS.
- Chair indicates there have been positive updates regarding dredge disposal in Nova Scotia.

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There has been communication with Environment Nova Scotia and Deputy Minister Martin. The Deputy Minister (DM) as well as the 2 Regional Director Generals (RDG) have asked for another senior level meeting on the topic of dredging. SCH continues as it has done in the past, with the permission of Environment Nova Scotia, until the matter is resolved.

- Notice of Considerations have been sent out to Nova Scotians regarding coastal land.
- Clean NS has been approved for 2 years of funding. Funds will come from the HA Health budget. Clean NS will also be expanding efforts to PEI in 2017. They will be conducting new surveys to see if the work they have been doing over the past 5-6 years has had a positive effect.
- SCH has started using the new lease document that was previously presented to HAAC. SCH has been advising Harbour Authorities (HA) to have the document reviewed by a legal representative.
- Léo indicated that there is already talk of making changes to the document. Some wording may be amended, but the document should remain fairly similar.
- As of yet, SCH has not received much feedback from industry concerning the new lease. It was pointed out that a number of HAs grouped together in order to obtain legal counsel regarding the document.

#### Round Table

Marco: Asked that as soon as we can put a date on July's meeting, to make it official.

Bonnie: Advised that she found it useful to have a conference call between face-to-face meetings. Also echoed Marco's comment that we make the date of the next meeting official as soon as possible.

Edwin: July or anytime around then is good for him to have our next meeting. As for the conference, he mentioned maybe the PEI community could put something together.

Jamie: July is wide open for him and an October Conference would be better in his opinion.

Vesta: All set for July, conference is OK either of those times for her. Additional issues will be brought up at the next meeting.

Osborne: Highlights the need for regular conferences. Either March or October, there will always be a conflict with one season or another.

**Next Meeting:** July 5-6, 2017 (Cape-Breton)