

**M.C.P.A. DOCK REPRESENTATIVE MEETING
SUMMARY**

September 12, 2009

ATTENDANCE

Harbormaster Tim Frame, Assistant Harbormaster of Administration Mary Ann Pawlicke and Assistant Harbormaster of Operations Dan Hoepf were in attendance. Attending board member was Jonita Davis.

Dock Representatives included:

❖	John Dickey	100 Dock West
❖	Kathy Budzik	200 Dock
❖	Leo Barney	400 Dock
❖	Keith Logan	600 Dock
❖	Denise Watt	600 Dock
❖	Dick Morland	700 Dock
❖	Kathy Sass	800 Dock

Guest in attendance was slip holder Tim Hill from the 700 dock.

DISCUSSION FROM HARBORMASTER & REPRESENTATIVES

Harbormaster Tim Frame discussed the following topic with the group:

- Approximately two (2) years ago, Harbormaster Frame had met with Joe Exl from the DNR regarding the **Clean Marine Program** which at the time was in its infancy stages. Since then the program has been implemented and the Michigan City Port Authority has signed a pledge to commit to following their guidelines, based on a point system, which would allow us to fly the "*Clean Marine*" flag. The program touches on the following environmental practices:

- Fuel & Oil Spills
 - Take Caution at the Fuel Pump
 - Handling Spills
 - Absorbent Material
- Sewage
 - Handling Vessel Sewage
 - Pumping Holding Tanks
- Boat Cleaning
 - Environmentally Friendly Cleaning
- Bilges
 - Control Spills & Drips
 - Appropriate Handling
- Solid Waste
 - Controlling Solid Waste
- Boat Maintenance & Operation
 - Managing & Preventing Hazardous Waste
 - Maintaining Vessel
 - Operating Vessel
- Aquatic Invasive Species
 - Prior to Leaving Boat Launch
 - Departing Boat Launch

Tip sheets are available which will be distributed to slip holders at the start of the 2010 boating season.

- Dick Morland inquired if current fueling practices would need to be revised at the dock, however Harbormaster Frame felt our practices would hold up with some slight tweaking and informed him he had looked into an absorbent 'donut' that could be placed around the fuel dispenser to catch any dripage.
- Denise Watt questioned pumping out bilge at your dock and the Harbormaster informed her this was an illegal practice which should be reported for inspection if observed. It is stated in the Rules & Regulations booklet that boaters are required to have sanitation systems incapable of overboard discharge and as part of the contract with the Port Authority, it is assumed that boaters observe this federal regulation.
- Keith Logan suggested that rules pertaining to the marina basin be published in the newsletter or on website, along with right of way in and out of entrance through the channel. Assistant Harbormaster Hoepf informed him, per U.S.C.G. navigational rules; any vessel entering berth has the right of way until past and clear (120 meters). Mr. Logan also requested a mirror be placed near entrance as it is difficult to see small fishing boats over the wall.
- As the marina has had numerous transient boaters travelling the great loop, Dick Morland suggested the Port Authority advertise through the 'loopers network'; he stated Terry Moser, 200 dock representative, was a part of this network and would inquire about additional information.
- Kathy Sass informed Harbormaster Frame that Joe Estep on the 800 dock has been inquiring about having the firebox relocated from his dock area and had spoken with a representative from the fire department who apparently stated they did not have an issue in doing so. However, Harbormaster Frame explained the problem is that no matter where it is relocated to, it will always be in someone's way and needs to stay in the general vicinity of where it currently resides. He does not wish to shuffle the firebox around. He went on to inform Mrs. Sass that Mr. Estep was given the option of transferring to a neighboring slip. It is also problematic when drilling holes as the 700 and 800 docks were designed with all electrical lines imbedded directly into the concrete; which is why there is an issue with boaters constructing and or placing items which require some drilling to be done along these docks.
- Per Ms. Watts inquiry, Assistant Harbormaster Hoepf explained that although many of the pvc covers had been replaced on the center posts throughout the marina, hers was a unique situation due to where it had broken off, needing both vessels, along with the lines and antenna to be removed from slip prior to replacing. He assured her this would be completed before the marina closed up for the winter months.
- The dock reps commented on the Port Authority booth during the boat show stating it was a great idea. Although no official report has been submitted, Harbormaster Frame informed the group Ken Alvey and Norm Schultz had predicted attendance during the show would be down approximately 30%. They did report opening day was down by 50%, Friday approximately 20% and Saturday and Sunday attendance was only slightly down from last year. As expected, boat sales did well on the brokerage docks as opposed to new boat sales. Harbormaster Frame stated it was too early to know if they will be back next year until numbers are reported for both the Michigan City and Sandusky Boat Shows.
- Keith Logan mentioned that although many of the events over the summer are a great draw for the City, the Triathlon was a setback for boaters trying to enter the marina. Harbormaster Frame stated he would try to coordinate arrivals and departures with the Park Department next season.
- Per inquiry, Harbormaster Frame informed the group summer rates have not been set for the 2010 season and although it would be his recommendation to waive an increase due to the economy, he does not believe the board of directors will increase rates more than a couple percent above current fees. Transient rental fees were also discussed indicating Washington Park Marina rates were lower than other marinas across the lake.
- Current slip availability was discussed stating roughly forty (40) slips were open at Washington Park Marina this season with approximately twenty five (25) reserved for next year. Many boaters that have contacted the office were either applicants on our waiting list or previous transient customers from Hammond Marina and looking to relocate in 2010.

- An ongoing concern for many boaters has been the issue of pets and owners disregarding marina policy. Harbormaster Frame explained although the majority of pet owners comply with the rules, there are still many that continue to allow their dogs to be unleashed and numerous 'accidents' have been reported along the docks, specifically the 800 dock. He went on to state, banning pets from the marina would be a last resort as he feels the environment should be pleasurable and accessible for all types of boaters, including those with pets.

Assistant Harbormaster Pawlicke has ordered sign posts, which will be installed by each gate, clearly stating that dogs must be leashed and picked up after, at all times. These posts are equipped with disposable bags that, in case of an accident, can be quickly cleaned up then disposed of at the dog-walk areas where the receptacles are located.

Harbormaster Frame also informed the group that the Port Authority is looking into instituting a system in which a fine can be issued to any boater that does not comply with Port Authority rules.

- Denise Watt suggested that notification be placed in the newsletter which states all dock representatives are responsible in overseeing that slip holders are complying with the Port Authority Rules & Regulations; the intention being that boaters are being monitored at all times.
- In reference to the proposed Trail Creek dredge project, Harbormaster Frame reiterated the project was still in the works, permits have been submitted, soil sampling completed, but the problem lies with the various governmental departments and their lack of communication with each other. He informed the group a letter was sent (per Board President James Jaksa) on August 6th to *IDEM*, which detailed the M.C.P.A. plight in retaining permits and the economic impact that has resulted due to lost revenues. Harbormaster Frame went on to suggest that boaters correspond their concerns to Congressman Joe Donnelly in an attempt to gain some leverage.
- Although water levels are up along trail creek channel and in the hoist well, deep draft boats still need to be wary when considering to haul out at Trail Creek Marina this season. Per inquiry from Keith Logan, Harbormaster Frame suggested some sail boaters could put in and out but explained even with the use of the hydraulic trailer, Steven Marine had some problems at the Washington Park ramp
- As the seawall along Millennium Plaza has been fenced off for some time, Keith Logan inquired what plans were being made. Harbormaster Frame informed *Abonmarche Group*, who is completing the engineering stage of project, has applied to the *Army COE* for an emergency repair permit with plans to sheet pile the area outside the existing wall.
- Tim Hill informed the Harbormaster the public shower located at the 800 dock, bleeds out across the parking lot into a concrete drain, which has been plugged for some time, and requested it be cleared.
- Harbormaster Frame informed the group there were long range plans to tear down and rebuild the 500 dock bath house. At the least, some remodeling and repairs will be done before next season.
- Due to the proposed NIPSCO Ramp Project, other various projects have been placed on the back burner, such as the new parking area and DNR and ACE buildings, until future plans can be made.
- Denise Watt informed the Harbormaster that a gentleman from the 500 dock had begun a petition regarding the lack of maintenance in the bath houses; she stated although signatures were collected, many boaters were put off by the petition as they felt it was without merit.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 11:20 a.m.

