**COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association – Kenai, Alaska**

**Friday, April 14, 2023**

**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:** Gary Fandrei, Walt Sonen, Carla Stanley, Deric Marcorelle, Robert Peterkin, Grace Merkes, Scott Arndt, Bob Flint, Michael Opheim, Paul Shadura, Hans Rodvik

**Members Absent:** Rob Lindsey (excused), John Williams (excused)

**Staff Present:** Michael Munger, Madeline Jamora, Steve “Vinnie” Catalano, Susan Saupe, Shaylon Cochran, Candice Elias, Cassandra Johnson

**Others Present:** Todd Paxton, CISPRI; Captain Leanne Lusk, U.S. Coast Guard; Angelina Fuschetto, Crowley Alaska Tankers; Mary Goolie, EPA; Anna Carey, ADEC; Allison Natcher, ADEC; Mayor Peter Micciche, Kenai Peninsula Borough; Jade Gamble, ADEC; James McHale, Carey Case, U.S. Forest Service

***FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023***

***1. CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL***

President Gary Fandrei called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Roll was called, establishing quorum.

* **Approval of Agenda**

**Robert Peterkin moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Carla Stanley. Hearing no objection, the motion passed.**

* **Safety Minute**

Vinnie Catalano provided a safety briefing for attendees, and Robert Peterkin noted the importance of the safety briefings.

* **Approval of Minutes – December 1 – 2, 2022**

**Robert Peterkin moved to approve the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Scott Arndt.** Pres. Fandrei noted some typographical errors to the minutes and asked that he forward those to staff to correct. **Carla Stanley moved to amend the motion to approve the minutes as amended by staff, seconded by Deric Marcorelle. Hearing no objection, the motion passed.**

**Hearing no objection nor further discussion on the original motion, the motion passed.**

* **Welcome and Introductions**

Guests introduced themselves. Carey Case introduced herself as CIRCAC’s new ex-officio representing the U.S. Forest Service replacing David Fitz-Enz. Mr. Munger asked for a letter from the department officially appointing her to that seat.

* **Agency Ex-Officio Directors’ Remarks**

*EPA – Mary Goolie*

Mary Goolie thanked Vinnie Catalano for his participation on the Regional Stakeholder Committee Taskforce (RSC) and creating a liaison officer position for specifically working with the RSC, and thanked Anna Carey for coordinating that as well. The group has decided to have that job vetted at the upcoming shippers drill in May.

* **CIRCAC Member or Public Comment**

No members of the public came forward to provide public comment.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*PRESENTATIONS ON RELATED ACTIVITIES\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

Mr. Munger stated that Peter Micciche was recently elected Kenai Peninsula Borough mayor. He has a very long career of public service starting as a Soldotna city councilman and then went on to become Soldotna’s mayor. Mayor Micciche served in the state Senate from 2013 to 2022, which included serving as Senate president. He was also one of the founding members of the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee and currently serves as the managing board president.

* **Welcome and Borough Update – Mayor Peter Micciche**

Mayor Micciche thanked CIRCAC directors for their service and noted that OPA 90 is 33 years old. He stated that complacency to OPA 90 is a very dangerous thing for the environment and the industry.

Mayor Micciche remarked that the passage of OPA 90 was 33 years ago and was a call to not allow complacency to happen again, and that is also what they have been trying to do in bringing together the Harbor Safety Committee. He appreciated the hard work of CIRCAC staff on that committee and wants to ensure the committee’s work receives more exposure.

Mayor Micciche stated that there is a lot excitement in the coastal communities. There is a new passenger terminal in Seward, and they are planning a harbor expansion that could add significant commerce and traffic in Homer. He stated that there are other potential projects on the horizon in terms of LNG production that would require the Borough to partner with another 25 percent investor. That would mean significant traffic increases in Cook Inlet if they were to move in that direction.

Mayor Micciche stated that the Borough received a presentation from Prince William Sound RCAC, and he would welcome Cook Inlet RCAC to also present to the Borough in the next couple months.

Mayor Micciche stated that he inherited a 9 percent increased budget from the interim mayor, and he has been able to reduce that to 2.2 percent. He stated that the tax documents they prepare today set the tone for the trajectory that our kids and grandkids will be paying some day. His administration wants good, quality services in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and they are not going to do without, but they need to operate as tightly as possible with the sacred pool of tax dollars they have.

He stated that he has an amazing team of directors at the Borough, and he will be making minimal staffing changes. He believes one of his strengths is to get different populations of people to work together.

Carla Stanley noticed in the Homer Electric Association bulletin that Hilcorp is not going to be selling natural gas to HEA, and she wondered why. Mayor Micciche stated that the Kenai Peninsula Borough has some impending supply issues, and sometimes that is when the market responds most effectively. He is not able to go into too much more detail at this time, but there are some other players that they will be working with to see how production can be increased.

Paul Shadura stated that there is an upcoming HEA election, and there has been a lot of discussion about alternative energy sources. CIRCAC passed a resolution supporting possible uses for platforms in the Inlet, which is always a concern for commercial fishermen, how those platforms are being dealt with. He has read that the Borough is involved in some of the efforts by HEA and others to find ways to supply land in areas and permitting for alternative energy sources. He wondered if the Borough is actively pursuing alternatives. Mayor Micciche stated that he is asking directors and assembly members to re-evaluate government's role in peripheral issues as opposed to the core services that the Kenai Peninsula Borough should be doing. The Borough’s role is to bring the right people together to make sure they can respond to a variety of problems that affect the residents in the Borough. The Borough is encouraging and will make land available for viable renewable energy potential, but they will determine the economic viability before rushing into anything.

* ***U.S. Coast Guard Operations Update – Captain Leanne Lusk, Commander Sector Anchorage***

Mr. Munger announced that this will be Captain Lusk’s last meeting as sector commander and ex-officio to CIRCAC.

Capt. Lusk offered Mayor Micciche congratulations on winning the election and wished him the best of luck in that endeavor.

Capt. Lusk stated that they have had a great winter in terms of few cases. They have had a couple of small cases, but there were no spills. Most of their winter work has been up in the villages and in the Arctic with typical spills they see this time of year due to pipes freezing and human error.

*Alternative Planning Criteria (APC)*

Capt. Lusk extended her appreciation to Cook Inlet RCAC for the support on the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act, which did go through and was signed on December 28th. The Act gives the Coast Guard two years to implement the changes indicated in the Act. Sector Anchorage is working with the headquarters office for pollution response on what that will look like.

At this time, Capt. Lusk is focusing her efforts on prebreak for the State On-Scene Coordinators (SOSCs). They have talked about setting up a time to talk with the State about what that looks like, and she would like to transition it long term into the area committees so entities related to pollution response, prevention, and planning efforts have an opportunity to voice their concerns as they continue the planning and approval process of those that would be operating under Alternative Planning Criteria (APCs) throughout the region. She believes it’s important that everyone who participates in the area committee have an opportunity to participate in a subcommittee that focuses on APCs. Her staff will continue to move in that direction over the next couple of years.

*Cybersecurity*

Capt. Lusk reported that the Coast Guard is recognizing that cyber is a part of everything, and they have had some cyber incidents in Alaska that have the potential to impact maritime transportation and other elements of industry. There is a conference on cybersecurity coming up on May 19th in Anchorage at the BP Energy Center. She will send a flyer to anyone who might be interested in that, and she will also mention it again to the Harbor Safety Committee at the end of the month.

*Replacement*

Capt. Lusk stated that her relief will be Capt. Chris Culpepper. They have worked together twice in her career, and he is an incredible officer and Captain of the Port. The change in command is July 14th, and she will be retiring. Paul Shadura asked Captain Lusk to expand on Capt. Culpepper’s experience with the U.S. Coast Guard. Capt. Lusk explained his background and highlighted that he was the federal on-scene coordinator representative and pollution responder and oversaw incident management in Jacksonville. He has extensive experience in Hurricane Alley.

Mr. Munger shared that he sincerely appreciates the relationship Capt. Lusk has had with the organization and her close working relationship with himself and staff. Capt. Lusk stated that she plans to stay in Alaska.

* **Special Recognition Presentations**

*CIRCAC Resolution 2023-01*

**Scott Arndt moved to approve Resolution 2023-01, seconded by Robert Peterkin.**

The resolution recognizing Capt. Leanne Lusk was contained in the board packet, and Pres. Fandrei read the resolution aloud for directors and guests.

**Hearing no objection nor discussion regarding the resolution, the motion passed.**

Captain Lusk shared that it has been an honor to work with this board, and she appreciates everything they do to support the U.S. Coast Guard. Carla Stanley welcomed Captain Lusk to continue her involvement with CIRCAC, and Captain Lusk said she would love to as a member of the public.

*CIRCAC Years of Service*

Pres. Fandrei presented the following service awards:

* Five years of service – Bruce Magyar
* Twenty-five years of service – Grace Merkes

*2022 Volunteer of the Year*

James McHale thanked committee members for voting for him for the award, and he thanked the Council for what they do. He also wished Mayor Micciche good luck, and also wished Capt. Lusk good luck in her retirement.

James McHale stated that he started his RCAC experience with Prince William Sound (PWS) RCAC, and he appreciates the amiable and family-like atmosphere of CIRCAC. He stated that this year starts his 10th year on the PROPS Committee, and he offered his appreciation to Pres. Fandrei and staff.

***2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT***

Pres Fandrei reported as follows:

* Met once since the last board of directors meeting in December.
* Discussed the 2023 elections and appointment process pertaining to the nomination procedures.
* Reviewed the Strategic Plan Council Priorities in preparation for today’s discussion.
* Reviewed the current Council statement of financial position and operating budget through March 1st.
* Received updates from staff on matters pertaining to industry and funding, CIRCAC election, annual financial audit, scholarship program, relevant legislative proposals, appointments, projects, regulations, and more.

Pres. Fandrei thanked fellow committee members John Williams, Deric Marcorelle, Robert Peterkin, and Grace Merkes for their diligent work this year.

* **Strategic Plan Updates: Council Priorities**

Pres. Fandrei reminded directors that this item was tabled at the December meeting. He asked for a report from Susan Saupe on work she has done with the Executive Committee and the proposed changes.

Sue Saupe reminded directors that they did a full review of all programs and projects contained in the strategic plan. Revisions to the strategic plan were submitted by the PROPS, EMC, and Protocol Control Committees, and those changes were approved by the board at the December meeting. After the decision to postpone approval of the Council priorities, a full review was done, and revisions and additions have been recommended. No priorities have been added, but some were revised and others merged.

Sue Saupe directed Council members to page 32 of their packets and reviewed the existing priorities and any potential revisions as follows:

1. Evaluate oil spill risks and potential risk reduction strategies for oil facilities and infrastructure in Cook Inlet, including new risks and potential ecological impacts posed by the expansion of offshore oil industry operations into federal waters of the Lower Inlet.

***Revision:* Evaluate oil spill risks and potential risk reduction strategies for oil facilities and infrastructure in Cook Inlet including (1), new risks and potential ecological impacts posed by the expansion of offshore oil industry operations into federal waters of the Lower Inlet; and (2), changes to risks due to production declines and the potential changes in infrastructure, processes, and practices of Cook Inlet marine and offshore facilities.**

1. **Continue seeking additional funding from other sources for non-OPA 90 issues.**

***Revision:*** None.

1. **Develop a sustained program to collect and integrate biological and chemical environmental data in the Cook Inlet region and ensure their use for appropriate governmental and private purposes.**

***Revision:*** None.

1. Host CIRCAC “Now and Then” celebration to highlight CIRCAC accomplishments and lessons learned.

***Revision:* Through various outreach efforts, highlight CIRCAC accomplishments and lessons learned. Develop supporting information that includes (1), a comprehensive online catalog and timeline of CIRCAC’s contributions towards a better understanding of Cook Inlet’s environment and improvements in oil spill prevention and response, and (2), compile a comprehensive library of Cook Inlet oil industry infrastructure and activities.**

1. **Partner with NOAA, AOOS, NPS, UAF, and others to provide an open-access oil spill trajectory model for Cook Inlet oil spill planning and response, ensuring complex oceanographic processes are captured in order to effectively model oil spill trajectories.**

***Revision:*** None.

1. **Provide leadership in the oversight and review of any actions potentially impacting state and federal oil spill regulations and laws.**

***Revision:*** None.

1. **Develop an understanding of current and planned activities associated with Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) areas in Lower Cook Inlet.**

***Revision:*** None.

1. Compile a comprehensive library of Cook Inlet oil industry infrastructure and activities.

***Revision:*** Retain but merge with Priority No. 4 above, which is already reflected in the proposed revised language for Priority 4.

**Scott Arndt moved to approve the strategic plan updates to the Council priorities for CIRCAC as presented to the board, seconded by Carla Stanley.**

Grace Merkes clarified that there will only be seven priorities and they are eliminating No. 8.

A roll call vote was taken:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Pres. Fandrei, yes  Mr. Marcorelle, yes  Mr. Peterkin, yes  Ms. Merkes, yes | Mr. Rodvik, yes  Ms. Stanley, yes  Mr. Shadura, yes  Mr. Sonen, yes | Mr. Flint, yes  Mr. Opheim, yes  Mr. Arndt, yes |

**The motion passed unanimously.**

* **2023 Statement of Financial Position and Operating Budget through March 1, 2023**

Cassandra Johnson updated directors as follows:

* Statement of financial position is moving along as it has historically.
* Operating budget: Received half of their funding for the year. The next round of invoices will be going out next month for the remainder of the funding.
* As of March 1st, they are 17 percent into the year.
* Retirement expense is always an upfront annual expense.
* Office equipment is a little high with the purchase of a new AED first response machine and the new Owl system. They have also had some computer issues, and can move more funds if needed.
* All the encumbered funds are included in the ‘23 budget amounts.
* A preliminary meeting with the new auditors is scheduled for next week.

Mr. Munger noted that the organization is going through the initial stages of the annual audit. He anticipates having additional unencumbered funds to allocate on their regular September schedule.

***3. Executive DIRECTOR’S REPORT***

Mr. Munger thanked the presenters for taking the time to present to the Council today. He expressed his appreciation for Mayor Micciche’s support of CIRCAC’s issues, and noted that Mayor Micciche has helped to stand up the Harbor Safety Committee.

Mr. Munger noted that they had scheduled Commissioner Brune to present, and unfortunately, he was unable to make it but has been invited to the fall meeting.

Mr. Munger stated that it has been a busy first quarter. He has been working on the Coast Guard Authorization Act. He has also been researching some state legislative issues:

* HB 128 – deals with AS 46.04.900, the definition of oil terminal facilities for planning purposes. The legislation relates to the refined product transportation industry’s concerns about some recent changes in definitions in transferring product from ship to barge. Refined product is not under CIRCAC’s purview.
* SJR 11 – Centered around the Coast Guard Authorization Act. Senator Kiehl sponsored the legislation, and Mr. Munger read the sponsor’s statement. Mr. Munger suspects this resolution will pass the Senate. He noted, however, that past the “whereas’s,” in the “further resolved” portion of the resolution it states: *The Alaska State Legislature urges United States Coast Guard to adhere to the underlying purpose of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 by avoiding the commingling of oil spill response compliance requirements with other compliance requirements, maintaining uniform standards across the entire Western Alaska and the Prince William Sound Captain of the Port Zones and not dividing those areas into subzones*.

Mr. Munger interprets this to mean the elimination of the sub areas, and there is the potential to amend the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 to eliminate the exemptions that are in place currently. He believes that will open Cook Inlet up to more APC. He noted that Mr. Custard and PWS RCAC have the same concern. Mr. Custard will work with Senator Kiehl to clarify that.

Capt. Lusk noted that there are vessels moving through Cook Inlet on APC. When the Coast Guard does vessel response plans, part of the checklist for vessels calling to the United States is ensuring they meet National Planning Criteria (NPC) for oil spill response. APC are available for vessels that don’t have the opportunity to meet NPC, such as in Western Alaska. She noted that currently there is no provision in the Coast Guard Authorization Act or in the Senate resolution that requires NPC to be utilized if available. This is something she will be working with the Office of Environmental Response, Maritime Environmental Response (MER) before she retires this summer to ensure they pay particular attention to that.

Mr. Munger stated that he recently spoke with Hilcorp about their 2023 field season plans. They plan to continue to plug and abandon production wells on the Dillon platform, and they will move the equipment over to the Baker platform. There is currently no crude oil production drilling planned for Cook Inlet this season, but there may be some natural gas drilling planned on the South Peninsula. He stated that it looks like Cook Inlet oil production is slowly going away and is under 10,000 barrels a day now with no real planned activity. There was talk that Hilcorp might do some sidetrack wells off King Salmon, but not to the Middle Ground Shoal platforms. In the near future, Platform C will be completely shut in as well and plugged and abandoned. CIRCAC will continue to concentrate on the aging infrastructure of the existing production pipelines and wells to ensure everything is being conducted safely and then will shift the focus towards Hilcorp’s plans to dismantle, remove, and restore (DR&R).

Carla Stanley asked what happens to CIRCAC when oil production stops in Cook Inlet. Mr. Munger noted that as long as oil is being transported in Cook Inlet, the organization will exist. Marathon has been CIRCAC’s biggest funder because of the tanker traffic and the Kenai refinery. Mr. Munger remarked that he is also exploring other opportunities.

Paul Shadura believes that DR&R should be No. 1 on their strategy list to continue monitoring the infrastructure change.

Mr. Munger announced the resignation of Lori Nelson from Hilcorp. Lori’s interaction with CIRCAC staff has been the key to a good working relationship that had been contentious at times prior to Lori. She was a wonderful liaison and point of contact. He is working with Hilcorp staff to ascertain the best communication path forward. Her replacement has recently arrived from Texas, and the bulk of that person’s concern is with the North Slope, which is where Hilcorp’s major assets are now. Vinnie Catalano added that he has contacts in place at Hilcorp for answers they have typically gotten from Lori.

Mr. Munger acknowledged the work of Sue Saupe on the strategic plan; Vinnie Catalano for his work on the Area Committee, PROPS, and Protocol Control; Shaylon Cochran for arranging the presentation to the Borough; and Maddie Jamora, Cassandra Johnson, and Candice Elias for their work in administration. The current team is the best they have ever had, and everyone works very well together.

***4. sTAFF REPORTS – STATUS OF PROGRAMS & pROJECTS***

* **Environmental Monitoring Committee – Susan Saupe**

Sue Saupe directed Council members to her written report in the packet. She highlighted that all of the work on modeling efforts in Cook Inlet is coming to fruition. She hopes to continue to report on good progress over the next several years.

Sue stated that they will be completing some field work this summer. One of their contractors is in a major transition, which has created some complications, but they are working through that and hope to get some survey work done on some of the new beds they saw during their ShoreZone aerial surveys last summer. It is definitely expanding along the coast and is a new habitat to keep track of.

Sue Saupe reported that they have been busy trying to meet their deadlines with the BOEM contaminants project. She will be working extensively with contractors over the next several months. A lot of her work so far has been compiling research and historical datasets and getting ready to try to transfer some of that to the contractors to help with some of the database development. Then they will be working with database designers and developing some of the online visualization tools.

Sue appreciated the opportunity to get the Council priorities updated so staff can move forward.

Paul Shadura asked whether or not they were still in the process of trying to contract a vessel. Sue stated that she has it narrowed down to two vessels. The prices have gone up since before the pandemic. She will likely move forward with buying the skiff first and then trying to come up with the money to get the outboard. She had talked with PROPS committee, and at the time they were interested in working with EMC to do that because it would be a great tool for use on water drills and spills and observing deployments from their own vessels. She is looking at a 16- to 17-foot rigid hull inflatable with a small console. A contract should be in place within the next six months hopefully, but she is still deciding between the two options.

* **Prevention, Response, Operations, and Safety Committee – Vinnie Catalano**

Vinnie Catalano highlighted the following from his written report:

*Arctic and Western Alaska (AWA) Area Plan Subcommittees*

As always, the committee will continue to participate and monitor all of the AWA Area Plan Subcommittee activities.

*Regional Stakeholder Committee Taskforce (RSC)*

Vinnie Catalano has been working with PWS RCAC, the Coast Guard, the State, and Alaska Native tribes on a workgroup to develop a job for a liaison officer to do a Regional Stakeholder Committee. He noted that currently they enjoy a place in the Command Center, but that may not always be the case moving forward, so they want to be prepared for that. A Regional Stakeholder Committee would give them a voice and access to the information.

*Kenai Peninsula Trucking Accident and Spill Response Workshop*

This is a gap that has been identified in the transport of hazardous materials, particularly related to tanker truck rollovers. This has been an issue in the state for some time, and Jade Gamble from ADEC is heading this up. They have had several meetings so far, and it will culminate in a drill with participation by local operators and State agencies. The biggest part has been getting through the identification of everyone’s roles and responsibilities and bringing that together in a cohesive way. The group has great participation, and Vinnie is excited about the final outcome on that.

*Alaska Regional Response Team*

This is an assemblage of state and federal agencies, and meetings are a review of what each of those agencies has done since the last meeting. They also bring up new items of interest or things the team needs to be aware of. Tri-Chair Mark Everett is retiring, and Graham Wood from ADEC is moving to another governmental agency. He also noted that a couple of members of the Coast Guard will be leaving the group, including Capt. Lusk.

One topic of interest is the halt in the production of COREXIT, which is the dispersant product of choice. The national chemical company that manufactures it will not be making any more of it, so stockpiles are all that is left. Vinnie has not heard about any replacements for it yet, but will keep abreast of any information he receives.

*Geographic Resource Inventory Database (GRID)*

Work continues with Nuka Research. This past week they did a training demonstration with the local Office of Emergency Management at the Borough. The Borough is very excited about using it, and they are sharing some of their data that will enrich the GRID. They are working with the Borough to do a test run of the GRID at one of their drills.

*Marathon Petroleum Annual Drill*

Vinnie Catalano and Shaylon Cochran have been working on the planning team to plan the drill, and they provided about 18 to 20 injects to enhance the drill operations to test the various sections. The one they focused heavily on was the Joint Information Center Public Information Officer (JIC/PIO) portion of the incident command. Marathon is going to bring up their JIC/PIO team from Texas, and they are going to do a mock press conference and really exercise that team. Shaylon will be more of the lead on that aspect, and Vinnie typically focuses on the operational aspects.

*Transfer Operation Incident*

Vinnie stated that it was recently brought to his attention that in January during a diesel transfer from the Marathon refinery to the Kenai Pipe Line (KPL), one of the tanks sustained significant wall damage. The atmospheric conditions were such that a tank vent screen frosted over and caused a vacuum in the tank and ultimately damaged it. Operations were immediately shut down, and there was no fuel lost nor injuries. The problem was investigated, and the remaining fuel was transferred to an empty standby tank. The damaged tank was taken out of service, and they are evaluating it for repair or removal. They have also mitigated future damage to other tanks and removed screens with small mesh from their remaining tanks. They are in the process of replacing those screens with larger sized mesh screens.

Carla Stanley noted that there is another dispersant called Disparit, which is less toxic that COREXIT, and she wondered if it can be used to replace COREXIT. Vinnie stated that the industry preference is 9500 A. He suggested she check to see if it’s on the EPA’s approved product list.

Robert Peterkin remarked on how important it is to get the word out to people about CIRCAC’s work because of public misperceptions. Vinnie Catalano stated that there will always be people who say negative things, but it’s all of their responsibilities to set people straight and inform them of the work of the organization.

* **Protocol Control Committee – Vinnie Catalano**

Vinnie Catalano highlighted that the committee reviewed the BlueCrest plan and heard from Geoff Merrell regarding their amendment to put drilling operations into the Contingency Plan in the event they decide to do more drilling.

* **Public Outreach Committee – Shaylon Cochran**

Shaylon Cochran stated that he has taken over the administration of the elections process and scholarships. Elections came to a conclusion, and congratulations to Michael Opheim and Deric Marcorelle. Thanks to Scott Arndt and Grace Merkes for volunteering. Scholarship interviews are scheduled for next week, and he thanked those volunteers who stepped up to form the ad hoc committee.

Shaylon has been working on the website redesign. There is still a lot of work to do, and he appreciates Sue Saupe’s time and efforts. He will be looking for opportunities to get out and participate in community events this summer. He has also been in touch with PWS RCAC’s new outreach director about looking for opportunities to do outreach efforts together.

Shaylon Cochran stated that he has been working on CIRCAC doing a presentation to the Borough, and he noted that it might be a good opportunity to reach out to some other municipalities as well.

* **Administration – Maddie Jamora**

Maddie Jamora stated that this is the organization’s triennial review year, so she has been working on recertification. The Coast Guard has asked that their application be submitted in May. The draft will first go out to staff, and then in mid-June they will start the process for the notice of public comment and calls for letters of support.

Maddie shared additional highlights as follows:

* She and Cassandra Johnson have a meeting next week with Porter & Allison, the new auditing firm.
* Field audits work is scheduled for June.
* IT recently helped to upgrade some of the office computer systems.
* She will be working with Candice Elias on utilizing different meeting facilities as they are back to meeting in person.

***5. CALENDAR AND MISCELLANEOUS***

* CIRCAC Board Meeting – August 25, 2023, Homer. Lodging will be at Land’s End, and the meeting will be at Aspen Suites Hotel.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*CLOSING COMMENTS\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

Bob Flint felt it was a good meeting. He was sorry he couldn’t be there in person, but he appreciates all the information.

Hans Rodvik apologized for being unable to be in person. It’s been a productive meeting. Thanks to everyone, and he looks forward to the annual meeting.

Walt Sonen finds it interesting how this council toes at the edge of their mandate of crude oil, and yet they coordinate with many other activities and organizations. They probably receive as much as they give or more. Happy to be here.

Carla Stanley thanked Candice Elias for getting her a room at the Aspen Hotel. Thank you to everyone who has been so thoughtful.

Robert Peterkin congratulated Grace Merkes on her 25 years with the organization. They have been through a lot over the years. Good to see what’s going on and get updated and approve the financials. They have come a long way, and things are good.

Grace Merkes remembered when she first came to the board and was appointed by the Borough. She has learned a lot over the years. Staff has been amazing over the years. The past and present executive directors have been very helpful, and she learns a lot from the staff. She thinks she’ll do three more years on the Council. She appreciates the positive attitudes of the current directors on the Council now.

Deric Marcorelle thought it was a good meeting, and he enjoys meeting in person. He is thankful for being re-elected.

Scott Arndt thought it was good to see everyone again, and he learns something new every time they get together. He appreciates the efforts everyone puts in. He looks forward to the next three years.

Michael Opheim is glad to have been able to attend. Always great information, and staff does a wonderful job. He is also happy to be re-elected.

Candice Elias noted that she will be in contact with everyone about the next quarterly meeting. She hopes everyone enjoyed the food. She appreciates this vendor and wishes they could travel with them for all their in-person meetings.

Maddie Jamora thanked all the Council members for their time and dedication to CIRCAC and for attending committee meetings. Thank you to the industry and agency partners who attend and always keep them informed.

Shaylon Cochran echoed those comments. Staff work hard to give directors information, and staff depend on directors to guide their work. He has been with CIRCAC for about three years now, and it's been a learning curve, but a great organization. He thanked directors for their time and dedication.

Vinnie Catalano thanked directors for all they do for the organization and he appreciates how they interact with him. It was a great meeting today and always good to see everyone.

Sue Saupe appreciated the opportunity to be able to attend by Zoom and apologized for not being there in person. She thinks that over 20 to 25 years or so she has missed being in person at a board meeting three times.

Cassandra Johnson felt it was a good meeting. Thanks to everyone.

Mr. Munger congratulated the board members who were reappointed. He reflected on interviewing for this position and noted that it’s been a real opportunity to be the executive director of this group. He has a wonderful staff and can’t thank them enough. He feels that one of the positive aspects about having a board with members who have been there a while is that it takes quite a number of years to get up to speed on the many issues they deal with. He feels that it takes probably six years or a couple of terms until a person starts understanding the acronyms.

Pres. Fandrei agreed with everybody's comments. The staff and the board members are very important to the organization, and he seriously appreciates the honor the group has bestowed upon him as their president.

**Scott Arndt moved to adjourn, seconded by Robert Peterkin. Hearing no objection, the motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.**