**COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Videoconference**

**Friday, September 10, 2021**

**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:** Gary Fandrei, John Williams, Robert Peterkin, Molly McCammon, Carla Stanley, Paul Shadura, Walt Sonen, Rob Lindsey, Grace Merkes, Michael Opheim, Scott Arndt

**Members Absent:** Bob Flint (excused), Deric Marcorelle

**Staff Present:** Mike Munger, Sue Saupe, Steve “Vinnie” Catalano, Madeline Jamora, Shaylon Cochran, Cassandra Johnson

**Others Present:** Angelina Fuschetto, Crowley AK Tankers; Cmdr. John Downing, USCG; Dan Marlowe, Hilcorp; Dan Polito, Hilcorp; Daniel Jarrett, USGC; David Fitz-Enz, Chugach National Forest; Graham Wood, ADEC; Heather Crowley, BOEM; Jade Gambell, ADEC; Jonathan Schick, DNR; Kevin Reeve, DHS&EM; Kristen Nelson, Petroleum News; Linda Swiss, PWSRCAC; Liz Mering, Cook Inletkeeper; Lt. Luke Milyard, USCG; Luke Miller, Hilcorp; Luke Saugier, Hilcorp; Paul Mazzolini, Hilcorp; Robert Tindall, Glacier Oil & Gas; Tasha Bacher, Hilcorp; Tiffany Larson, ADEC; Todd Paxton, CISPRI; Vaito’a Heaven; Walton Crowell, Hilcorp.

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

President Gary Fandrei called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Roll was called, establishing quorum. Zoom meeting etiquette was reviewed.

* **Approval of Agenda and Minutes:**

**Robert Peterkin moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Michael Opheim.** President Fandrei noted that the resolution on page 2 of the agenda will require board action. **Hearing no objection, the agenda was approved as presented.**

**Scott Arndt moved to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2021 board meeting and annual meeting, seconded by Paul Shadura. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as presented.**

Paul Shadura asked where it would be appropriate in the meeting to ask questions relating to the progress of action items from the previous meeting. Mr. Munger stated that previous action items will be addressed during ex officio reports, and any relevant questions he has can be addressed at that time.

* **Welcome & Introductions**

Guests introduced themselves during roll call. President Fandrei welcomed members and guests to the meeting acknowledging the challenge of holding virtual meetings.

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

*Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) – SPAR Director Tiffany Larson*

A scoping project was done in 2019 - 2020 for Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans (ODPCP) regulations in 18 AAC 75, Article 4. From that, they received 130 commentators and 350 comments. The comments have been reviewed, and changes have been made to the proposed regulation package. They anticipate going live for public review November 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022. ADEC has committed themselves to this 90-day public comment period, and the timeline will not be extended. Once public notice has posted, it could take up to a year to have an implemented regulation package. If a supplemental is required due to the nature of public comment, it could add several months to that one-year timeline.

The revisions are still in process, and the proposal could be modified between now and the public notice period in November. The purpose of the rewrite of Article 4 is to align this regulation with the statutory authorities, improve transparency, improve clarification throughout, reduce administrative burden on agency and industry, simplify language, consolidate requirements where possible, improve application and review procedures, modernization, and doing so without compromising on the existing environmental protections.

Tiffany Larson provided highlights to the changes proposed based on the following categories of public comments received:

* Definitions
* Agency responsibility
* Best business practices and reducing the footprint
* Industry support by the department and avoiding “surprise” determinations
* Subjectivity of plan reviewers depends on the reviewer
* Contingency plan content
* Inflexibility of response oversight based on plan contents
* Review timelines
* Scenarios and exercises
* Inspection section updates
* Repealing the New Technology Conference to be held every five years. The Alaska Oil Spill Technology Symposium (AOSTS) provides a forum for highlighting research developments and agency initiatives.

President Fandrei expressed that this is a very important issue to CIRCAC, and he acknowledged that CIRCAC will be providing public comments. He thanked Tiffany Larson for her presentation as it was helpful for everyone. He opened the floor to questions.

Vinnie Catalano asked for clarification on the AOST Symposium and the future of that symposium from the State’s perspective. Tiffany Larson stated that the symposium is not mandated for the Department to conduct; whereas the New Technology Conference was, but they found the benefit wasn’t there over time to host that conference. ADEC is planning to continue to be participatory in the AOST Symposium.

Mr. Munger stated that Commissioner Brune attended a number of CIRCAC meetings. Throughout this process, the commissioner assured the Council that there would be no diminishment in environmental protection. He asked Tiffany Larson if she feels that the changes articulated today will diminish any environmental protection. Ms. Larson stated that it will not diminish environmental protections in any way and in some way bolsters it. The changes made add clarity and specificity and streamline the ODPCP process.

Mr. Munger asked if Ms. Larson anticipates any changes to statutes. Tiffany Larson stated that there will be no statute changes as a result of this effort. Statutory changes are through the legislature, and this effort is only changing Article 4 of 18 AAC 75. Mr. Munger further asked if she anticipates any changes to the Response Planning Standard. Ms. Larson stated they did not have any substantive changes to the Response Planning Standard. They did clarify language and updated information to be current with industry standards. Mr. Munger appreciated Tiffany Larson’s presentation, and he looks forward to working with her.

Paul Shadura appreciated the informative presentation. He referenced the minutes from the past meeting where John Williams asked ADEC to submit a package of proposed regulatory changes so the Council could see the final draft before the public release. Mr. Shadura asked if CIRCAC would be seeing these changes prior to the November 1st public notice. Ms. Larson stated that she does not know what her options are for providing the draft to CIRCAC in advance of public notice. She was also not aware that she was to provide a packet to CIRCAC.

Mr. Shadura noted reduced timelines in the presentation, and he wondered how these timelines could be accomplished with the reduction in ADEC personnel as well as State budget issues. Tiffany Larson stated that ADEC engaged in targeted recruitment this summer, and they plan on training staff through this winter into next spring. They are almost fully staffed. They will also be working on rebalancing workloads within the department. She believes these timelines are achievable.

Paul Shadura also referenced the minutes wherein Commissioner Brune noted there would be a graph available that would reflect the staffing and what people are charged with, and he asked if Ms. Larson had such a graph to be made available to CIRCAC in the future. Tiffany Larson acknowledged that they are working towards creating an organizational structure with duties to that organizational structure. She noted that at SFY’22 staffing levels, they are able to maintain their C-Plan review timeliness, their inspection commitments, work plan review, et cetera. She doesn’t believe this information is best shared in a graph, but at the end of this effort, they will have something depicting what workload is carried by what group of staff.

*USCG Update – Pollution Efforts in Kodiak - Commander John Downing / Lt. Luke Milyard*

Lt. Milyard reviewed a PowerPoint presentation relating to the timeline and response to the sunken F/V ST. PATRICK oil spill in Womens Bay. A joint effort survey identified the source after the sheen had been reported, and response efforts escalated quickly. Global Diving and Salvage were selected as the lead contractor along with Alaska Chadux and Paradigm Marine, and it became a complex salvage and oil spill recovery effort. Through exploratory drilling, they were able to pump out a total of 14,000 gallons of oily water mixture. They are continuing to find more holds with oil in them. The estimated project total is $2.7M, and the funding ceiling amount was increased to $3M with no firm conclusion date.

Sue Saupe noted that the vessel sank in 1989 but had been towed into Womens Bay eight years prior with a list, and it sat tied to a buoy and subsequently sank with all this fuel on board. She wondered if that incident were to happen today, what would the agencies require for fuel removal for a vessel that has been abandoned to prevent incidents like this from happening in the future. Cmdr. Downing responded that the unfortunate answer is that it’s very difficult for them to expect resources on something unless there is a known threat that is likely to occur. He stated that in a situation like this, they are going to attempt to recognize that it is a threat and that there is nobody caretaking the vessel. If they can get in and pump the oil out to reduce or eliminate that risk ahead of time with an extreme cost savings, they would like to do that. Right now their regulatory authority doesn’t lend itself to that, and he doesn’t know the probability of his team being able to make that change; however, he believes it’s time to do so. Throughout the entire United States, these abandoned derelict vessels pose the same risk; the issue with Alaska is the ability to get resources to reduce and eliminate the risk.

Paul Shadura asked if there was a responsible party identified in this spill. Lt. Milyard stated that there has not been a responsible party identified. The Oil Spill Trust Reliability (OSTR) fund is covering the cost. Hopefully modern registries will help in the identification of responsible parties going forward.

Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management – Kevin Reeve

The State Emergency Response Commission will be meeting virtually October 15, 2021 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

One of the planning efforts DHS&EM is going through right now that directly impacts Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound is Last Mile Planning. They have assessed the impact of another 1964-style earthquake, and they anticipate that the state will be broken up into five distinct islands of response that can’t be accessed from Anchorage because of the disaster. FEMA will flow goods and services into those five islands of response: KPB, PWS, Anchorage, Kodiak, and Mat-Su. They are just finishing the KPB Last Mile Plan, and goods will be flown into Kenai airport, and they have worked with KPB on how those goods will be fragmented within the borough. In 2022 they will do some validation exercises of this plan. Given CIRCAC’s leadership role within the borough, the Council may be asked to sit in on that.

Vinnie Catalano requested the link for the State Emergency Response Commission meeting, and it was posted in the chat. Vinnie would also like to discuss with Kevin Reeve the project CIRCAC has been engaged in with KPB OEM.

John Williams suggested that the Kenai Airport and City of Kenai managers should be included in these discussions. Keven Reeve stated that FEMA and DHS&EM have worked directly with the airport as has KPB. They have also worked with the Soldotna airport. John Williams remarked on the new conference room available at the Kenai airport for further discussions about this project.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) – Heather Crowley

The leasing process has started back up, which includes the planned lease sale for Cook Inlet in the middle of 2022. BOEM is planning some virtual public hearings in the middle of October on the environmental impact statement process under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In terms of existing leases in Cook Inlet with Hilcorp, BOEM approved a permit for a marine geohazard survey that was issued mid August and extends through the end of October.

BOEM hopes to release their annual call for input on their Environmental Studies Program in the next month to six weeks.

Department of Natural Resources – Jonathan Schick

DNR is calling for new information this month to support the spring lease sale in the Cook Inlet. DNR has recently issued a couple of geothermal prospecting permits at Mt. Spurr, and a written finding will be forthcoming regarding a potential for a geothermal prospecting permit on Augustine Island.

Paul Shadura noted that many of the oil wells will be capped and plugged off. He asked if that changed DNR’s perspective on future decommissioning of these facilities. Jonathan Schick stated that he will get more information and send a response back to CIRCAC.

John Williams felt this was an ongoing conversation that CIRCAC should be keeping their eye on. He would like to have a presentation from the industry members involved with these older platforms.

* **CIRCAC Member or Public Comments**

Vaito’a Heaven requested a meeting with CIRCAC’s Executive Committee regarding a personnel matter. President Fandrei noted that this was not the appropriate forum to discuss personnel matters, and the request should be made through the office.

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

* **Cook Inlet Operations Update**

Introduction – Luke Saugier, Hilcorp

Mr. Munger congratulated Mr. Saugier on his recent promotion to senior vice president of Alaska and noted that he looks forward to working with him.

Luke Saugier reported that going forward, Cook Inlet will continue to be a very important part of Hilcorp’s business in Alaska. They have approximately 150 employees, and the majority of them live in the local area. Hilcorp’s efforts will be delivering gas to the local market through the Steelhead and Tyonek platforms, which are tremendous gas resources they will continue to develop.

There are a lot of wells in Cook Inlet that eventually need to be plugged and abandoned. Hilcorp will methodically begin working through that list every year while they are still active in the Cook Inlet. Cook Inlet is not at the point where they need to be plugging out entire fields, but it is appropriate to begin plugging wells. They will be applying rigless abandonment techniques to achieve this.

Hilcorp intends to extend the life of these platform assets as long as possible. The platforms are historically and technically remarkable platforms that would be very difficult to replace. They intend to prolong the life of the assets, continue to provide jobs, and continue to provide access to those resources for the state of Alaska, particularly Southcentral Alaska’s natural gas needs.

Hilcorp will be fairly selective in their drilling projects as they go forward, particularly oil; and gas projects are top tier. They will continue to try to progress their lower Cook Inlet work through exploratory drills.

John Williams reiterated that they are all interested in what the future holds for those Cook Inlet platforms. Hilcorp is the operator and owner of virtually all of the platforms, and some of them have reached their life expectancy. He asked for an overview of the future intent. Mr. Saugier explained that in the short term, the wells need to be plugged out and the vessels emptied. The general intention though is to leave the platforms in place in lighthouse mode. The platforms are very stable and should pose no meaningful risk to the environment. In the meantime, Hilcorp is working on some interesting concepts. The Cook Inlet is ranked in the top five places in the United States for tidal power. They are looking at possibly repurposing some of these platforms to generate tidal power. They are in the process of working through longer term forecasts for all of their assets. It is not the intention to sell assets. Hilcorp will be the final owner of the assets they now have.

Paul Shadura inquired about the Drift River Terminal and the continuing efforts to decommission that facility. Mr. Saugier noted that the Drift River Terminal is not a Hilcorp asset but rather a Harvest Alaska asset.

Spartan 151 Review – Paul Mazzolini

Rig 151 was mobilized from Rig Tenders Dock in early June and moved over to the well for the P&A. It’s a 1960’s vintage subsea wellhead. The lower zones were abandoned before they got off the well, but there was no surface cement plug put in place, which the AOGCC requires for a permanent abandonment. Because of the age of the wellhead, there was no information on it, so they mobilized at the location with a team of specialists and also had Wild Well Control in attendance. The wellhead equipment in place did not have pressure integrity, which they tried to fix locally with no success. The system was sent to Texas to have a wellhead specialist reverse engineer the equipment and retrofit it. In the meantime, they moved the jackup over onto the Tyonek platform. Since then they have successfully drilled one gas producing well and are presently drilling a second well. The equipment in Texas won’t be ready until mid October, so they will be drilling a third well on the Tyonek platform. Once that is completed, they will skid the rig back onto the jackup haul and move it over to the P&A in mid October as long as they can get the equipment to function. They will demobilize from the P&A location mid to late November and take it back to the Rig Tenders Dock where it will stack out for the winter.

Monopod Pipeline Replacement Review – Tasha Bacher

Hilcorp obtained several permits and required notifications for the project. One of the mitigations put in place under the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was to place protected species observers on the vessels when they were conducting activities determined to be high noise level for specific marine mammals. No marine mammals were encountered during the time the work was happening.

Hilcorp outsourced the cultural resource survey, which was conducted by a third party, that included Trading Bay and Monopod infrastructure. These facilities meet the requirement for properties being 50 years or older and are eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

They built 4,100 feet of pipe strings at Trading Bay on the beach in May 2021. Their chosen method of install was to pull each pipe spool from the beach to the Monopod platform subsea. They used a supply vessel style boat to pull 8.5 miles from Trading Bay to the Monopod. They were able to share vessel resources with the Spartan 151 team. Once those sections were pulled into place on the sea floor, divers installed pipe spools between the large sections and then also tied into the existing pipeline, which required them to cut into the existing line. Before that cut happened, the facility conducted a pre-cut flushing program to clean out the pipelines. They worked in conjunction with CISPRI and had their vessel onsite as a precaution. There were no sheens. The project took about 45 days and 136 dives in total. They performed a hydrotest of the pipeline to verify that all underwater connections were secure at the end of August, and they were able to restart.

President Fandrei asked what was done with the old pipeline. Tasha Bacher stated that the old pipeline section is plugged subsea and is mostly buried.

Middle Ground Shoal Pipeline Replacement – Dan Polito

The Middle Ground Shoal Pipeline experienced a fuel line leak in April 2021. Both platforms A and C have been shut in since then. They explored all their options and determined that the plan forward is to do a full replacement of the gas line and its sister oil line. It will be a replacement in-kind of two eight-inch lines via a lay barge as opposed to pulling the pipelines due to the sheer length of the seven-mile pipelines. They are currently working on the planning, engineering, and permitting and are planning to mobilize to Cook Inlet next season. They anticipate the pipe lay will last three to four weeks, and then there will be two months of pipeline stabilization activities, tie-ins, and commissioning to get the platforms back online. They hope to have them back online in about one year.

Paul Shadura asked whether or not platforms A and C are still producing, and Dan Polito reiterated they are currently shut in, but this is a great example of the efforts Hilcorp is taking to extend the lives of these platforms as long as they can safely do so.

John Williams wondered if Hilcorp entered into any agreements with the previous owners when they purchased these assets whereby the previous owners would help finance some of these abandonment projects. Dan Marlowe stated that it’s a varied answer depending on the facility. For the prior Chevron-owned assets, Chevron did retain a 50 percent abandonment liability on the Tyonek platform and the subsea well plugging that was discussed earlier. ConocoPhillips worked with Hilcorp to determine a sale price, and that was all figured in. In addition, Hilcorp also has set-aside funds for P&A activities.

President Fandrei thanked the team from Hilcorp for today’s presentation.

* **Cook Inlet Spill Prevention & Response Inc. (CISPRI) – Todd Paxton**

Mr. Munger introduced Todd Paxton, who offered a PowerPoint presentation on the activities of CISPRI. He highlighted the following:

* COVID-19 mitigation strategies CISPRI has engaged in for vessel crew, spill responders, and staff.
* Members include: Delta Western, LLC; Hilcorp Alaska, LLC; Petro Star, Inc.; BlueCrest Alaska Operating, LLC; American Petroleum Tankers, LLC; Glacier Oil & Gas Corp.; Furie Operating Alaska, LLC (associate); North American Fuel Corp (associate).
* Membership types: Full members: Tank ship operators, large oil storage facilities, oil producers, oil refiners, and full members can opt to be inactive, which allows them to suspend their membership based on their current business plan. Associate members: Non-tank vessels and small oil storage facilities, less than 20,000 barrels.
* Personnel changes: Jon Watkins, business manager as of March 2020; Jamie Auletta, senior technical writer November 2020; reduction in force positions – two spill technicians/deckhands, expeditor, planning coordinator; total headcount is 37 employees.
* Port of Alaska deployment in July 2020.
* Barge 141 grounding – Nikiski.
* New barge purchase – SASANOA renamed REDOUBT – purchased primarily as a contingency.
* Contract fishing vessel training in Kodiak May 2020.
* Alternative Planning Criteria (APC) supported vessel response plans within the Code of Federal Regulations does not allow for supported vessel response plan permits when there is an Oil Spill Removal Organization (OSRO) that meets National Planning Criteria in the zone. Despite the federal exclusion, there is currently an APC organization being allowed to operate within Cook Inlet in direct violation of this federal regulation. The current APC lacks the capacity and capabilities to effectively respond to an event within the Cook Inlet and will likely need to request the assistance of CISPRI, at great expense to CISPRI members.
* Possible expansion of CISPRI’s response zone to include Kodiak Island and Resurrection Bay.

Paul Shadura inquired about Resolve Marine Salvage, which mentions the capabilities and equipment of CISPRI. Under their APC, they include a large portion of Western Alaska. Referencing the potential response zone increase, is that because of the merger with Resolve? Todd Paxton explained that CISPRI’s partnership is with 1-Call Alaska/Resolve Marine. CISPRI has an excess of gear required to keep the Cook Inlet members in compliance. The excess gear is what they can make available, and CISPRI is named as a potential resource for 1-Call Alaska for equipment above and beyond what is needed for the Cook Inlet plan holders.

Based on a question from Paul Shadura inquiring about personnel reductions, Mr. Paxton noted that they did reduce some positions, but they do maintain relationships and train regularly with short-notice response team contractors. There are certain requirements within CISPRI’s member contingency plans that CISPRI has to adhere to, and that’s what drives the organization. They are obligated to keep their members in compliance.

Carla Stanley referenced the response zone map and asked who responds to the unserved areas now. Todd Paxton stated that if a CISPRI member requests help outside of the existing response zone, CISPRI will go wherever members request them to so long as they can remain compliant and it makes sense to do so. Ms. Stanley further noted that the map indicates the response zone will almost double if approved, and she wondered if it would double the amount of personnel. Mr. Paxton stated that it would not require additional personnel with their existing membership.

Mr. Munger appreciated Todd Paxton taking the time to present to the Council today and for highlighting the issue with the APCs and the potential for diluting the NPC OSROs like CISPRI. He noted for the Council that he and Mr. Paxton have had numerous interactions over the summer briefing the staff of Senator Sullivan and Senator Murkowski on response capabilities in Cook Inlet and the recent allowance of the USCG of APCs in Cook Inlet.

***2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT***

President Fandrei shared that the Executive Committee has met three times since the last Council meeting in April. They reviewed the 2021 administrative and program operating budgets through June 30th with no findings. They reviewed the financial report for June 30th as well. They discussed the virtual board meeting format, which will most likely also be virtual in December. They received updates from staff on a number of matters pertaining to the industry funding, personnel, staff training, the annual audit, scholarship program, appointment projects, regulations, and Resolution 2021-01. The committee went into executive session on a number of occasions to discuss personnel matters, which are ongoing and will require another meeting. He appreciated the help and mentorship from the Executive Committee in his new role as Council president.

John Williams expressed that President Fandrei was doing an excellent job.

* **Special Board Recognition Resolution**

President Fandrei read aloud Resolution 2021-01 for members of the Council congratulating staff member Susan Saupe for her well-deserved Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force award.

**Scott Arndt moved to approve Resolution 2021-01, seconded by Carla Stanley and Paul Shadura. With unanimous consent, the motion passed and the resolution was adopted.**

Susan Saupe thanked the Council for the resolution and also thanked the board, committee members, and staff for all of the trust and support she has received over the years.

***3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT***

* **Hex, LLC/Furie Operating Alaska**

Mr. Munger stated that CIRCAC received their annual recertification recently from Rear Admiral Nathan Moore, Commander of USCG Alaska District 17. CIRCAC has again been certified without exception. The Admiral noted language inserted into the most recent contract between CIRCAC and the funding companies. Mr. Munger read aloud the recertification letter and explained why the contractual language was brought up by the USCG.

Mr. Munger stated that the language change in the contract was minor but was brought to the attention of the USCG via a letter from John Hendrix, the CEO of Furie Operating Alaska to RADM Moore. CIRCAC was not copied on that letter to the USCG, but Mr. Munger received it from one of the funding companies. He read aloud the letter. In summation, Hex, LLC/Furie Operating Alaska contends it only produces natural gas and therefore is not required to fund CIRCAC. They also accused CIRCAC of expanding their reach by modifying the funding agreement.

Mr. Munger then explained the reply he provided the USCG. In summary, he detailed the process on how the funding agreements were created and ultimately approved by CIRCAC and the respective funding companies. Furie is the only company operating in the Cook Inlet area that has a State of Alaska approved Oil Discharge and Prevention Contingency Plan (C-Plan) that currently is not funding CIRCAC.

Furie has refused to sign a funding contract and have ceased any communication with this organization. CIRCAC has diligently adhered to fulfilling their mission of representing the citizens of Cook Inlet and will continue to fulfill the federal mandates detailed in OPA 90. CIRCAC previously has never had an issue since the inception of the organization regarding their annual funding with the Cook Inlet oil operators. If a company is operating in Cook Inlet and has a State-approved C-Plan, they are required to fund CIRCAC whether they are transporting, producing, or exploring for crude oil. OPA 90 makes no distinction as to what specific oil-related activity is being conducted for the funding requirement.

All companies that currently operate or previously operated in Cook Inlet with the exception of Furie, have reviewed the OPA 90 funding provision and have come to the same conclusion of the federal requirement to fund CIRCAC if they obtain a State approved C-Plan. Even facilities that have suspended operations and have no activity whatsoever but still hold an active C-Plan have funded CIRCAC.

Mr. Munger stated that he has had extensive discussions over the summer with the USCG. It appears that the potential exists that the enforcement of this OPA 90 violation may not be completely under the Coast Guard’s purview. Since it may involve other agencies within the federal government, his plan is to take this matter to the Congressional delegation for their assistance.

* **Visit with USCG – Admiral Moore**

Mr. Munger stated that he and Susan Saupe were recently honored to spend an afternoon with Admiral Moore and several of his staff. One of the admiral’s notable observations was that he was amazed what CIRCAC is able to accomplish given the size of the staff and their budget. Mr. Munger explained that the key is extremely competent staff as well as partnership and collaboration. The meeting was very successful.

* **Staffing**

Mr. Munger stated that this year has been a very challenging year with staff shortages. He appreciates the recent hire of Cassandra Johnson and announced that they recently made a job offer for the administrative assistant position, which will be a part-time position. He individually recognized each staff member for their efforts and dedication to the organization.

Paul Shadura commented on the Hex/Furie situation. He felt that it’s vital and sets precedence. He believes Mr. Munger’s course is appropriate.

***4. STAFF REPORTS***

* **Administration**

Maddie Jamora welcomed Cassandra Johnson as the accounting and grants manager and informed the Council of Cassandra’s background. She referenced the written report and highlighted that the election and appointment process for 2022 will begin this November. The recertification was signed, delivered, and approved August 27th. They currently have an independent forensic audit being conducted by an outside organization. They are preparing for the annual audit that will be conducted by Lambe, Tuter & Associates. She and Cassandra Johnson will be focused on that in the next few weeks.

Cassandra Johnson provided a review of the statement of financial position and operating and projects budget. She stated that she is working with Sue Saupe on getting her EMC expenses in. Monies have been spent, but of a significantly less amount due to COVID. The PROPS committee will be reallocating some funds, and public outreach is down because of the inability for Shaylon Cochran to travel and attend conventions. Print and radio advertising have increased.

John Williams asked about unspent funds related to grants and whether or not there are timelines attached to them. Sue Saupe explained that no funds are tied to any specific timelines. They are in the process of trying to develop a grant with BOEM that will have some tight timelines, but it’s not a field-driven project. She is hopeful they will be out in the field for their projects in 2022. She is also unaware if any of the granting agencies are reluctant to sign agreements for grants because of COVID.

Paul Shadura referenced page 13, line 5140. He stated it would appear they would be over budget on employee insurance. Maddie Jamora stated that line item is prepaid, and the numbers are comparable to last year’s budget for this time of year.

Mr. Shadura also asked about page 18, D.R&R 411391 noting that nothing has been expended for six months. Vinnie Catalano stated that at one time they were pursuing a D.R&R project, and then the possibility of D.R&R went away and exploration picked up, so that project was put on hold. That money is being kept there to pursue something if and when something happens.

* **Environmental Monitoring Committee**

Susan Saupe has included the detail of where they are on various projects in the packet. If anyone has questions, they can contact her at any time. In addition to the written report, she highlighted that since the last board meeting, they have submitted a proposal to BOEM in response to their intent to sole source a project to CIRCAC. In the past, they are typically funded through interagency agreements with other federal agencies, and CIRCAC is a research partner. They have never done a direct contract with BOEM. The title of the project is “Synthesis of Contaminants Data for Cook Inlet – Evaluation of Existing Data as Baseline Conditions.” The application went through technical review and received good ratings. Reviewers were impressed with what CIRCAC was able to pull together within the 30-day timeline. Currently BOEM is doing a financial risk evaluation of CIRCAC.

Susan Saupe shared that their biggest disappointment from this summer is the rejection of the proposal with Alaska Ocean Observing System. CIRCAC and NOAA were major partners of this proposal to do a 20-year hindcast of data against two circulation models in Cook Inlet and use that to identify data gaps or weaknesses in the models and help identify where that can be improved. From there it was to develop particle trajectory models from which a Cook Inlet oil spill trajectory model could be developed available to any user through a data portal.

Susan expressed her appreciation for the award and recognition, particularly after this difficult year.

Paul Shadura expressed his appreciation for Susan Saupe. He also appreciated the content of her written report that corresponds to issues addressed in the previous meeting minutes. He inquired about ADEC and water quality permitting and the potential for the federal government to step in and take it over because of delays. Susan Saupe stated there are very long delays under the NPDS program as well, and that may not solve the problem. She stated that she calls periodically to check in on any progress, and it’s been delayed for two years now. She will follow up on a timeline so she can provide an update at the upcoming EMC meeting if there is any new information.

* **Prevention, Response, Operations, and Safety Committee**

Vinnie Catalano touched briefly on all of the items contained in the written report. He noted that in terms of the Alaska Oil Spill Technology Symposium (AOSTS), the chair of the steering committee was the State, and they pulled out. The representative from University of Alaska Fairbanks took over as the chair, and they may be pulling out. There is some upheaval going on, but this symposium is a wonderful mechanism to showcase the work being done here in the state. It’s an opportunity for industry, government, and academia to share information and ideas, and CIRCAC has been involved since the beginning and will continue to promote and support it.

Paul Shadura referenced page 35 of the packet related to the biogenic oil related to the death of a bird in Brevig Mission coming from fish processing, and he wondered how they determined that. Vinnie Catalano stated that officials had the samples tested, and they did a hindcast that determined it came from the same area.

Walt Sonen asked if there was any update on the truck spill along the Sterling Highway and how much traffic and oil is being transported on a daily basis. Vinnie Catalano stated that he drove past that site, and everything is sitting there in Super Sacks. He believes the mitigation is just about complete. He is trying to get a representative from Carlile to address the PROPS committee. Jade Gambell added that she has been working on this spill, and informed the Council that all of the contaminated soil has been removed from the site, and they have analytics to show that cleanup is complete. Those bags of soil should be removed soon. Paul Shadura noted that he has photos of the cleanup operations if anyone is interested in seeing them.

* **Protocol Control Committee**

Vinnie Catalano reviewed his written report found in the packet.

* **Public Outreach**

Shaylon Cochran directed the Council to his written report. He added that they are in the same place they were last year in terms of being able to do outreach because of the pandemic. He stated that the annual report is finished, and Council members were provided with a link. Thank you to the staff for helping him get through his first annual report.

**5. CALENDARS & MISCELLANEOUS**

* EMC – October 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. – virtual
* Executive Committee meeting to be announced

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

John Williams felt the meeting went very well and complimented President Fandrei on a meeting well run.

Robert Peterkin appreciated the meeting and all of the presentations. He thanked the staff for all that they do, and felt President Fandrei was doing a great job.

Paul Shadura thanked the Council for indulging him with his questions. He appreciated the ex-officio presentations and the Hilcorp presentation. He thanked CIRCAC for putting him up at the Uptown Motel for a couple nights for him to attend the meeting. He commented that he asked Mr. Munger to travel to the Pacific Fishing Expo in Seattle, which he believes is still going to happen in November, and he will attend in person if approved to do so. If the meeting will be virtual, he will not attend.

Carla Stanley shared that she misses the face-to-face meetings and having lunch together. The information today was very good and informative. She sincerely appreciates Sue Saupe and all she has done for the organization. Sue has made it worth her while to have been a member all these years. She is looking forward to the next PROPS meeting.

Walt Sonen appreciated this meeting and was very impressed with Tiffany Larson, the new SPAR director, with her very detailed report. He looks forward to the draft regulations being released. He is very appreciative of Sue Saupe. He acknowledged her ability to work with other organizations and garner funding for CIRCAC through her cooperative efforts. He felt President Fandrei did a great job.

Michael Opheim thought the meeting was great, and he appreciated Sue Saupe getting some well-deserved recognition.

Scott Arndt commended President Fandrei on a job well done running the meeting. He also congratulated Susan Saupe.

Susan Saupe thanked the Council again for all of the support, and she looks forward to working with the new team. She welcomed Cassandra Johnson.

Vinnie Catalano stated that they wouldn’t be the organization they are without Susan. Many thanks for all she does, and it’s a pleasure to work with her.

Shaylon Cochran congratulated Susan on a well-deserved award, and he will be posting that information in newsletters and in various other forums. Thanks to Maddie Jamora and the staff for mentoring him in his new position. Thanks to the board for all their hard work and time.

Maddie Jamora congratulated Susan Saupe and thanked all the staff. She is glad to have Cassandra with them and looks forward to the new administrative assistant starting next week. Thank you to the board for taking the time in this virtual format.

Cassandra Johnson looks forward to working with everyone and meeting everyone in person.

Mr. Munger echoed Walt Sonen’s comments on Susan Saupe’s ability to create projects through her partnerships and collaboration. It’s been an honor to work with her, and her work will be one of the legacies of this organization in the years to come. He was thankful for the presentations today and felt they were extremely comprehensive. He felt this meeting went very smoothly even though it was a virtual format, and President Fandrei did a stellar job. Thank you to the Council for all they do and for the support they’ve shown to staff all these many years.

President Fandrei appreciates the help of the staff and all the board members.

**Paul Shadura moved to adjourn, seconded by Scott Arndt. Hearing no objection, the motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.**