

**Summary Record
Hydrographic Services Review Panel
June 8, 2009
Public Meeting via Teleconference Call**

Introduction

A public teleconference of the Hydrographic Services Review Panel (Panel) was held on June 8, 2009. The meeting was scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. EDT, but due to technical difficulties with the teleconference provider, the meeting was not called to order until approximately 2:15 p.m.

As stated in the Federal Register notice announcing the meeting (Vol. 74, No. 93, page 22887, published May 15, 2009), the purpose of the teleconference was to allow Panel members to deliberate and vote on recommendations related to topics that were presented during the April 14-15, 2009 Panel meeting in Baltimore, MD.

Primary topics discussed in the meeting were:

1. Recommendation letter to NOAA
2. Meeting schedule for remainder of 2009

Meeting

Before the meeting started, the teleconference operator announced that the meeting was being recorded, and advised any participant with objections that they could withdraw from the conference at that time. At approximately 2:15 EDT, the meeting was opened by the alternate Designated Federal Official, Rebecca Arenson, and called to order by the Panel Chair, Tom Skinner. Panel members, NOAA staff, and members of the public introduced themselves.

Tom Skinner stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and vote on the recommendation letter to NOAA, as well as to discuss meeting scheduling for the rest of the year, and any other new business.

Recommendation Letter

The first order of business was a discussion of the Panel's draft letter of recommendations directed to NOAA (to the Under Secretary, Dr. Lubchenco) regarding NOAA's hydrographic services. The letter contains six areas of comments and recommendations resulting from the Baltimore meeting.

Tom Skinner read the four approaches he drafted up to summarize e-mail discussion between panel members about the second bullet under the "Implement improvements recommended by the Baltimore stakeholder panel." Four word choices and/or approaches to address the concerns

about the bullet “Establish standards and a hydrographic surveyor certification process so that private sector surveys may be used on NOAA charts,” were:

1. Establish standards and a hydrographic surveyor certification process so that private sector surveys may be used on NOAA charts [CURRENT VERSION]
2. Establish standards and a hydrographic survey certification process so that private sector surveys may be used to update NOAA charts [LARRY WHITING VERSION]
3. Establish specifications and deliverables such that surveys from outside sources may be used to update NOAA charts [JON DASLER VERSION]
4. Delete bullet and discuss in more detail at the next HSRP meeting [DICK WEST VERSION]

Tom Skinner recommended holding off on the bullet (deleting it from the recommendation letter) and discussing it at the next in-person meeting in order to have time for a well-thought out recommendation, but asked for other views. Ed Welch agreed with holding off. Jon Dasler suggested dropping the hydro certification aspect and addressing it at a later point, but recommended that the panel simplify the bullet and include it in the letter. Tom said it would not be as strong to do two similar recommendations (one now and then more complete one later). Gary agreed with Tom’s sentiment. Larry Whiting mentioned that the certification relates to the surveys (specifications and deliverables) and the surveyors. John Dasler indicated that hydro certification goes beyond the scope of the panel, but setting standards is within the scope of the panel, and within the standards can get into those [other] details. Larry Whiting noted that NOAA will put new survey information about shallower depths on a chart but not a deeper depth on a chart without NOAA going out and surveying it. There is a need to address the delay between new information and NOAA approving the addition to the charts. Standards are needed to get survey data on the charts faster.

Tom Skinner then restated the issue and asked the panel members for feedback regarding the approach with the second bullet. The panel was supportive of waiting to provide feedback to NOAA on this topic (second bullet). Elaine Dickinson indicated that the Panel should not hold up the letter, rather should hold off on the one bullet point. The panel then approved (made a motion and voted on) sending the letter as written except for removing the bullet point and taking up the point at the next in-person meeting. No members were opposed and no members abstained.

Meeting Scheduling and Revised Report

Tom Skinner then brought up the issue of setting meetings for the remainder of 2009 (this topic was somewhat up in the air after the Baltimore meeting), as well as the Panel revision of the 2007 *Most Wanted Hydrographic Services Improvements* report. He noted that since it is not possible to get out the report by October, if the Panel holds two more meetings, then the HSRP will have held public meetings in all general geographic areas. There is a need to get the meeting times on folks’ calendars, and while the issue might not get settled today in the meeting, the

panel should consider possible dates for a Great Lakes meeting the week of September 14th or 21st. Mike Szabados indicated his concern with holding a meeting in the first quarter of FY10 as generally there are fiscal restraints in the first quarter of the fiscal year. He recommended considering having one meeting in September. Rebecca Arenson indicated that Steve Barnum was supportive of holding two meetings, but that the three office directors had not had an opportunity to discuss the issue. Juliana Blackwell has similar concerns as Mike Szabados' in that she anticipated operating under reduced Q1 funding. Andy McGovern stated that he understand the fiscal issues, and would like to have two meeting, but realistically may need to do one. John Dasler noted that another consideration was that the HSRP would be losing a number of panel members at the end of the year. Gary Jeffress asked if it would it be possible to schedule a fall meeting pending available funds. Tom noted that he was not sure, that the details needed to be worked out in the next couple of weeks, as it would be very difficult to meet all the requirements for meeting planning, etc. if the panel waited to schedule a Q1 meeting, and noted that the panel does not need to finalize the meeting dates now. Andy McGovern indicated that his only free time in September is the last week of September (28-30). Ed Welch recommended directing staff to schedule a fall meeting based on greatest number of folks who can attend, as it is more important to have the current panel vote on the revised report, rather than forcing two meetings. The Panel agreed to hold a September meeting and have staff follow-up on member's conflicts and preferences for meeting times.

Public Comments

Next Tom Skinner asked if there were any public comments.

John Oswald (Anchorage) had comments about the draft letter (as requested, due to interference on the phone line and to ensure the Panel understood his input, John Oswald sent written comments to Rebecca Arenson). John Oswald indicated that basically he thinks the letter is a great idea and good timing. In terms of the PORTS[®] line item, which he assumes has been carefully vetted during HSRP deliberations, he is uncertain why this item needs a separate line item. Since the HSRP has already recommended several times that PORTS[®] should be a Federally funded program, he suggests asking for this in the base [budget] (he noted that two other key CO-OPS programs, NWLON or ADCP (current), do not have line items). In addition, J. Oswald recommended making sure Laura Furgione of PPI gets a copy of the letter. He also would like the summaries of meetings posted sooner; the April 14-15, 2009 meeting summary is not yet posted.

Ken Fleming then asked for further clarification on the reason for taking the second bullet out of the recommendation letter. Due to interference on the phone line, Rebecca Arenson requested that he send in written comments to ensure that the Panel understood his input [as of June 16 no written comments had been received; however, the question was understood well enough to summarize]. Tom Skinner explained that the whole panel had not been able to discuss the recommendation in detail, and so wanted to do so at the next meeting. [The identity of the speaker was not clear] said that certification would give the public confidence. Jon Dasler added some more information regarding the recommendation letter edit; he said that the issue of certification needed to be further examined by the Panel first, including a review of already

established programs such as Navy's and ACM's. Also, he clarified that while the issue was tabled for now (re: recommendation letter), it was not being removed from discussion.

Final Business

The Panel was reminded that a call was out to solicit new members for the Panel, with a due date of June 26. Andy McGovern made a motion to adjourn the meeting, John Dassler seconded the motion, and the Panel voted in favor of the motion (none opposed, none abstained).

Meeting Outcomes

1. Recommendation letter as revised (removed text: *Establish standards and a hydrographic surveyor certification process so that private sector surveys may be used on NOAA charts;*) to be sent to NOAA Under Secretary.
2. Discuss issue of standards and certification at next Panel meeting [in person meeting].
3. Hold one Panel meeting in September, 2009. Location to be decided.
4. Consider funding feasibility of holding another Panel meeting in November or December.

Actions:

1. NOAA staff to follow-up with panel members and see which week in September would work the best for the greatest number of panel members.

Appendix A

Attendees

Voting HSRP Members

Tom Skinner, Chair	Senior Project manager, Durand & Anastas Environmental Strategies, Inc.
Edmund B. Welch, Deputy Chair	Independent Consultant for Maritime & Ocean Policy
Jonathan L. Dasler	Vice President, Director of Marine Services, David Evans and Associates., Inc.
Elaine L. Dickinson	Editor, Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatU.S.)
Gary Alan Jeffress	Professor of Geographic Information Science and Director, Conrad Blucher Institute, Texas A&M University
R. Adam McBride	Port Director, Lake Charles and Terminal District
Ramón Torres Morales	Executive Director, Port of Las Americas Authority
Capt. Andrew McGovern	Pilot, Sandy Hook Pilots Association
Matthew Wellslager	Program Coordinator, South Carolina Geodetic Survey
Rear Admiral Richard D. West, U.S. Navy (Retired)	Past President, Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education
Larry Whiting	Hydrographer, TerraSond LLC (retired)

Non-voting HSRP Members

Juliana Blackwell	Director, NOAA's National Geodetic Survey
Mike Szabados	Director, NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS)

NOAA: Designated Federal Official (DFO) and Staff

Rebecca Arenson	NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, acting DFO
Mike Aslasken	NOAA's National Geodetic Survey
Ashley Chappell	NOAA's Office of Coast Survey
Dru Smith	Deputy Director, NOAA's National Geodetic Survey
Danielle Stuby	NOAA's National Geodetic Survey
Kathy Watson	NOAA's CO-OPS & Office of Coast Survey

Others/Public

Ken Fleming	Business Development Manager, Tenix LADS, Inc.
Capt. Tom Perkins	Wilson & Co.
John Oswald	JOA
Du Shawn ?? (the name of the speaker was unclear)	Auto Data Solutions
Dr. Jerry Wilson	FUGRO PELAGROS