

## Program Development Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

11:00AM – 12:30PM

Participants: Commissioner Tom Pier, Nicole Ingot (DBW), Keren Dill (DBW), Andrea Lueker (Harbor Masters & Port Captains), Beau Biller (lobbyist, MRA), Jerry Desmond (lobbyist, RBOC), Joseph Devine, Morris Lum (RBOC), Jill Van Wie, Leliani Wales, Jim Merid, Randy Short, Scott Robertson, Kimberly Garvey, Jonathan Clay

### **Preliminary**

Ms. Garvey attended a different subcommittee meeting for beach nourishment alternatives and was redirected to this subcommittee. Ms. Dill added Ms. Garvey to the subcommittee email list.

Ms. Dill asked for comments regarding the program summary or Commissioner Pier's draft recommendation letter. Member appreciated the effort in putting the documents together but thinks the statements are too soft, e.g., "should consider." Additionally, they would also like to see DBW grow along with boaters, such as: the changing needs for non-motorized users, the possible implementation of a non-motorized certificate or boater card, and/or registration handed from DMV to DBW to establish more direct contact and long-term relationships with boaters.

Commissioner Pier suggested the way to proceed with this subcommittee is to circulate the draft, get feedback, have one more meetings prior to full Commission to solidify recommendations.

Commissioner Pier proposed the following agenda:

1. Review of existing programs – complete subcommittee review and comments.
2. Program development – discuss programs that stakeholders would like the subcommittee to undertake.
3. Draft recommendations – solicit thoughts on the circulated draft, discuss, and formulate recommendations before presenting to the Commission.

Member question: When is the next meeting?

Ms. Dill responded: The next Commission Meeting is mid-August.

Commissioner Pier reiterated the desire to wrap up this subcommittee and its recommendations in a timely manner and asked for any other agenda items before proceeding. None were recommended.

### **Continued Program Evaluations:**

#### **Boating Safety and Enforcement Unit**

- a. Law Enforcement Training - \$475,000. Member comment: This program was discussed briefly in the previous meeting, reiterated the importance of the training program to small agencies with fewer resources, and urged the committee to keep funding this program. Commissioner Pier commented that the program could be more selective to prioritize agencies without as many resources, rather than operating under the first-come-first-served policy at present. Member responded that the trainings do not appear to fill up too quickly and courses are good for networking. Commissioner Pier sought to include a recommendation to make this program more equitable for smaller agencies.
- b. Yacht Licensing & Brokers – \$321,000. Committee had no comments/recommendations for this program.

- c. For Hire Vessel Carrier (Insurance Verification Program) & For Hire Vessel Operator Licensing) - \$100,000. Commissioner Pier raised some concerns and wanted to review the distinctions between federal and state requirements for operators outside of this meeting. Committee had no comments/recommendations for this program.
- d. Boating Accidents – \$65,000. Commissioner Pier commented that this data is important. Member commented that another subcommittee says these statistics may change if we are wanting non-motorized boaters over 10ft to also be registered, which is emerging as a recommendation on another committee. Commissioner Pier asked if this registration would help compliance for boating accident data. Member confirmed. Committee had no comments/recommendations for this program.
- e. Boating Safety Financial Aid Program - \$11.5 million. Commissioner Pier commented that this is a very educational program with a great presence and communication with users, then asked how it could be improved. Committee had no comments/recommendations for this program.

#### **Grants and Loans Unit**

- a. Boat Launching Facility Grants – \$4.24 million. Committee had no comments/recommendations for this program.
- b. Non-Motorized Boat Launch Facility Grants – \$1 million. Member 1 comment: Another committee wants to implement vessel registration of hand-carry vessels Member 2 comment: If registration happens for non-motorized boaters, we should be able to tell them what they are getting out of the fee, such as implementing non-motorized launch guidelines like those for motorized and marina users. Member 3 comment: To clarify, if non-motorized registration fees are collected, would they help fund non-motorized facilities? Member 2 confirmed. Commissioner Pier commented that enforcement could be tough and asked how revenue would be collected. Member 1 responded that this program as proposed by the other committee would be voluntary, unlike vehicle registration that can be enforced by law enforcement.
- c. Ramp Repair and Modification Grants – \$750,000. Committee had no comments/recommendations for this program.
- d. Public Beach Nourishment/Erosion Grants – TBD. Commissioner Pier commented that much discussion has already been given to this topic, so there is no need to discuss it further at this time. Member comment: The recommendation for local municipalities to take responsibility for funding these items is not realistic, as local municipalities already contribute funds and require additional grant funds. Committee agreed to discuss this item further in Agenda Item #3.
- e. Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange Grants – \$2.75 million. Member comment: The problem is that 80% of boats in the water are private sector (marinas), and it is tough for them to receive these grants. There is pushback over the private sector needing to go through public agencies to get these grant funds and that the public sector has better things to do than help private agencies get grant money.  
 Ms. Dill responded that this public vs. private distinction is set in statute, so the grant program incentivizes law enforcement to plan in advance for the needs of the region when they apply for SAVE grants. Applications that demonstrate that planning and working with local private marinas score higher in grant applications There is also an incentive to be more proactive with receiving surrendered vessels. There is a shift this year in that it is the first year in a while we've received more applications for funding than we have funding available, agencies that work with their local marinas and receive surrendered vessels will score higher on their application and be more likely to be funded.

Member question: What changes could DBW pursue for the program?

Ms. Dill responded with the promotion of proactive activities by each grantee but ultimately, we are about \$500,000 short.

Member comment: The issue with the private sector getting involved is the convoluted process of ownership.

Member comment: Private agencies that do this don't have issues, we should sit down with the interested parties (private sector marinas and law enforcement).

- f. Aquatic Center Grants - \$1.6 million. Commissioner Pier commented on the great tour of the Aquatic Center in Channel Islands during May's Commission Tour and how it is a good use of funds.
- g. Boating Safety Education and Equipment Grants - \$1.5 million. Committee had no comments/recommendations for this program.
- h. Boating Infrastructure Grants – TBD. Commissioner Pier asked how this program is different from Boat Launching Facility Grants. Ms. Dill responded that this is a federally funded program that is administered by DBW, to provide facilities - such as mooring buoys and docks - for transient recreational boaters with vessels 26' or more in length who might be doing day trips or going up and down the coast.
- i. Floating Restroom Grants - \$1.17 million. Committee had no comments/recommendations for this program.
- j. Pump-out and Dump Station Grants - \$540,750. Committee had no comments/recommendations for this program.
- k. Sewage Education and Outreach Grants - \$560,000. Committee had no comments/recommendations for this program.
- l. Public/Private Marina Loans – TBD. Member comment: If marinas can see the value in these loans, past benefits, realize history of funds given, and how it works with interest, then money should be allocated to this program. Member comment: Harbors and ports have taken advantage of the loan program over the years and they will ask their members for input about the program.
- m. Sign Grants - \$10,000. Committee had no comments/recommendations for this program.

### **Co-Administered Programs**

Commissioner Pier asked what exactly is in our jurisdiction with these co-administered programs. Ms. Dill responded that programs from the old department are now housed in other Parks programs but are still funded through HWRF and co-administered by DBW.

- a. Environmental Boating Education / Clean and Green - \$261,084. Member comment: This program is effective.
- b. Boating Education and Outreach – \$758,333. Ms. Dill clarified that this program is for children K-12 and for lifejackets, publications, etc.
- c. Oceanography – \$1.47 million. Committee had no comments/recommendations for this program.
- d. Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup Support - \$107,565. Committee had no comments/recommendations for this program.
- e. California Boater Card - \$1 million. Member comment: More people should be getting their CA boater cards. Committee had no recommendations for this program.

- f. Boating Safety Media Campaign (Marketing and Communications) - \$1.14 million. Ms. Dill clarified that these funds cover billboards, social media, ads, etc. Committee had no recommendations for this program.

Commissioner Pier stated that the committee's due diligence on review of existing programs has been concluded.

### **Discussion of New or Enhanced Programs**

Member comment: Note the agency's and governor's initiative for outdoor access and how this could be integrated into new or existing programs.

Commissioner Pier commented that this is likely more an augmentation of existing programs, not coming up with new programs entirely. The committee agreed.

Member question: What does the future for boaters look like? Member suggested an enhanced role and power for the Commission to restore some decision-making, etc.

Member comment: Let's focus on non-motorized launches in the Delta – such as educating new non-motorized users, so they don't get run over and know better how to manage waves in this region.

Ms. Dill responded that DBW does have videos on safe boating, kayaking, canoeing available on DBW website as a resource.

Ms. Dill asked: if we implement a non-motorized sticker, how do we feel about a safety education component? Consensus among the committee in favor.

### **Draft Recommendations**

Commissioner Pier offered to proceed with the recommendations. If we have recommendations to add to the draft memo, we can integrate them into a single document and workshop it in the next meeting. Ms. Dill will receive and compile recommendations.

Ms. Dill suggested a subcommittee meeting in July. She stated that the Division needs the recommendations solidified by December, so the subcommittee may have an additional meeting after the August Commission Meeting, to incorporate additional feedback from the Commission prior to December's deadline.

### **Action Items:**

Committee members to send recommendations to Ms. Dill by July 1<sup>st</sup>. She will summarize and send the updated document of recommendations prior to the July meeting, during which the committee members will participate in editing and reviewing the document for presentation to the Commission in August.

Commissioner Pier reiterated that these are just recommendations; no action has been taken. The entire public is welcome to join these meetings.