



City and Borough of Wrangell
Port Commission
AGENDA

Thursday, November 04, 2021
6:00 PM

Location: Borough Assembly Chambers
City Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (*MOTION* - Move to approve the Minutes, as presented)

[a.](#) 09/02/2021 Port Commission Minutes

4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

5. CORRESPONDENCE

6. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

7. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

[a.](#) Harbormaster Report October/November

8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

[a.](#) Franks Roppel's Report

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Port Commission annual election to determine Port Commission President and Port Commission Vice President

11. NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

12. ADJOURN

Minutes of the Regular Wrangell Port Commission Meeting

Held September 2, 2021

Chairman John Martin called the Regular Port Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. September 2, 2021, via Zoom

PRESENT: Martin, Yeager, Roppel, Morrison, Merritt

ABSENT:

Harbormaster Steve Miller was also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of minutes from meeting June 3, 2021

M/S: Yeager/Roppel to approve the minutes, as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA - None.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD – Brian Herman of Canoe Lagoon Oysters LLC

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

Miller reported on the following items:

- OSHA visited and did a safety consultation for harbor and marine service center facilities on August 4, 2021. Most deficiencies have been corrected, and no extension should be needed to complete the remaining tasks.
- The Harbor Crew has been busy with maintenance and improvements. Safety ladders have been marked with fiberglass flag poles, foam billets have been added to portions of Reliance and Inner Harbor, and crane maintenance is in progress.
- The Marine Service Center slowed down briefly but we are starting to see an uptick in boats headed into winter storage.
- It was reported that another vessel went aground at the entrance to Meyers Chuck harbor. Miller reached out to the Coast Guard about better marking the area.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS –

- Yeager mentioned the condition of the airplane float in Reliance has some room for improvement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- None.

NEW BUSINESS –

10a. Approval of Tideland Lease Proposal from Canoe Lagoon Oysters LLC for approximately one acre of tideland within Parcel # 03-007-498 for the purpose of storing and raising mature oysters.

M/S: Roppel/Merritt to approve motion as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS – None.

The next Regular meeting is October 7, 2021

Regular meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Harbormasters Report October/November 2021

Admin- I would like to welcome Chris Bunes to the port commission. Chris is taking the reins from long time commissioner Brian Merrit. Thank you, Brian Merrit, for your time and commitment to the Ports and Harbors. Keeleigh Curley is back from maternity leave and is keeping busy attending to customer accounts and booking haul outs for the marine service center. I would also like to thank Jim Early for his commitment to the Ports and Harbors. As of October 15th, Jim will have worked for the department for 20 years.

Wrangell will be receiving another \$339,468.64 from the State Homeland Security Program. What we applied for under this round of grant applications was the following: Ports and Harbors Surveillance System \$567,505 Emergency Standby Generator Upgrades for the Nolan Center \$80,000. Approximately \$259,468, would be added to the other Ports and Harbors Security grant at \$148,000, to give us a total of \$407,000 toward that project. We will know more when they send the full award announcement.

With our new finance director at the helm, we are starting to figure out the financials for the ports and harbors. We currently have 3,127,790.76 in reserves this is a total of all three accounts. In addition to this money, we also have 690,709.98 for Meyers Chuck float replacement in its own reserve account. At some point in the past all reserves were put into one account and was considered Port and Harbor reserves. Our finance director and I do not believe this should be the way going forward. Mason is working on reallocating these funds to each individual account. He will be looking at historical information to figure out the best way forward. We will be looking forward to seeing a finished product in the near future.

The ports and Harbors staff has corrected all the deficiencies that were out lined by the OSHA Safety consultant without filing for an extension. We will continue to work on safety training and information for our employees.

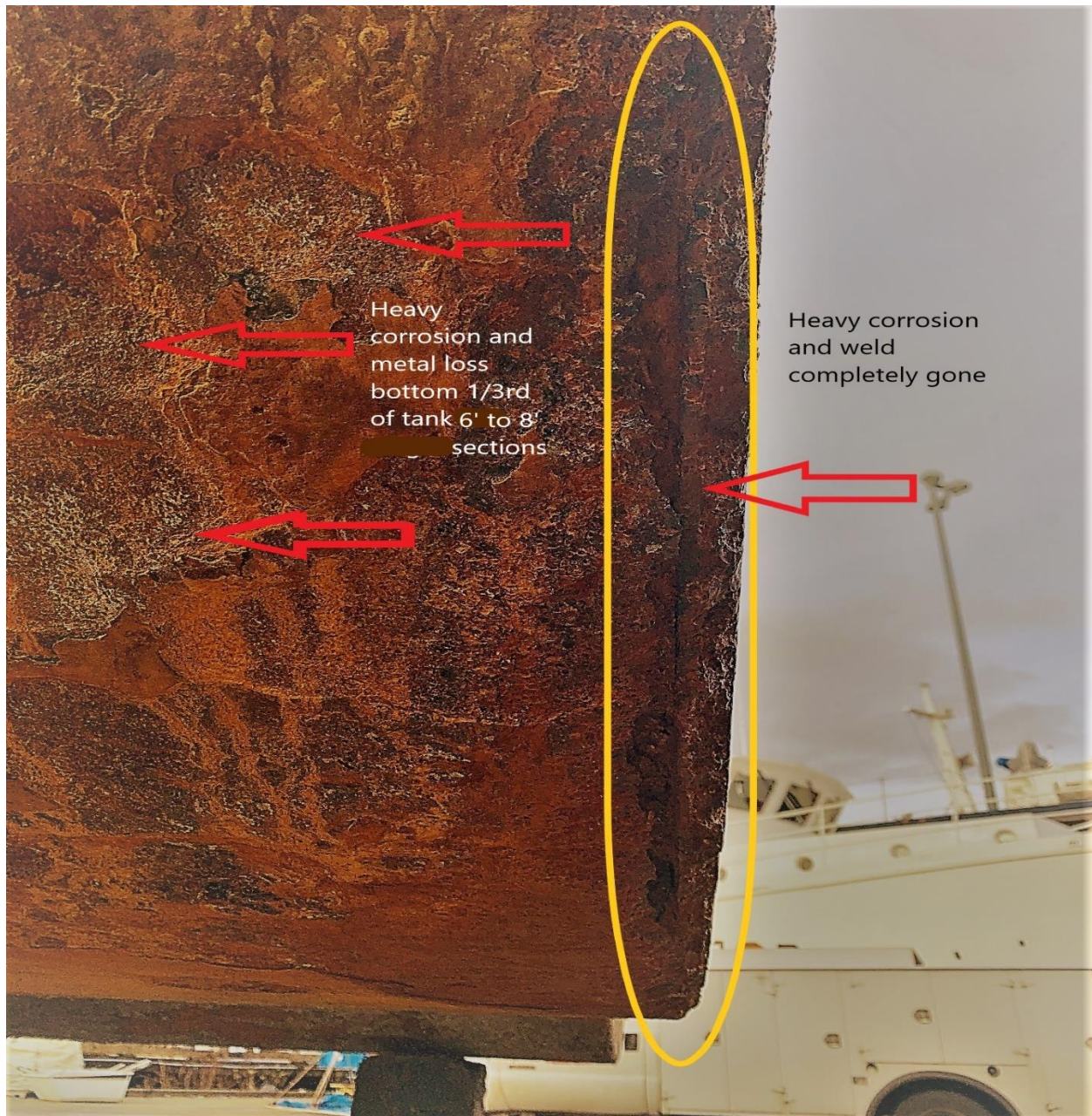
I will be representing Wrangell at Marine/Fish Expo at Lumen Field from November 18th to the 20th. If you have anything you would like to have displayed at the Wrangell booth, please drop it off at the Harbor office ASAP. If you happen to be in Seattle on these dates stop in and say hi.

Harbors- We are down to our normal employees as we had to lay off our summer temp workers at the end of September. We would like to thank Blaine Wilson who has worked with the harbor crew for the last 4 summers, and Shaun Gillen did a great job his rookie year. With that being said most fisheries have completed and boat traffic is at a minimum. The harbor crew will continue to do some pressure washing and maintenance as it arises. We will be preparing the floats for winterization and equipment for snow removal.

Marine Service Center- We have switched gears and are now pulling vessels for winter storage and some larger winter projects. I have talked with vendors and everyone in the yard has a full schedule of work throughout the winter. We will be working on and completing our 4th quarter ADEC reports for storm water pollution. We have recently scrapped one of the long-term impounded vessels the Parakeet we will be continuing to scrap more vessels that are impounded and have not sold.

Ports- The piling work is complete on the cruise ship dock. The contractor has moved to the barge ramp where he will be replacing 3 piling as well as removing the flotation tanks from the barge ramp. Some time at the end of August one of the harbor employees noticed the barge ramp was not lifting as high as

normal. We tried several things to try and remedy the problem. We pressure washed the top half of the floatation tanks and the uprights holding the tanks to the bridge structure. No holes were found and everything from the water up appeared to be sound. October 15th, we hired a diver to do an underwater assessment and there appears to be corrosion pitting in the bottom of the main flotation tank. At this time, we made the decision to shut the barge ramp down for repairs and notified Samson and Alaska Marine Lines. The barge is now landing at the old mill dock until the repairs are made and the tanks are reinstalled. We are working on a cost estimate and getting bid documents together so we can move forward with repairs.







Meyers Chuck- The longer than anticipated salmon season and emergency repairs to the barge ramp complicated scheduling for the replacement of the airplane float. The Meyers chuck airplane float replacement has been scheduled. We will leave Monday the 8th and should have the float installed and back to Wrangell by Wednesday November 10th.





City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Date: November 2, 2021

To: Steve Miller, Port Director

From: Carol Rushmore, Economic Development Director

Re: Advertising per Commissioner Roppel's suggestion

Commissioner Roppel discussed with me his interest in advertising in several yachting type publications. He dropped off samples of Power and Motoryacht and Soundings and I indicated that I would provide advertising information.

I would like to provide some background of some of the advertising/promotional activities currently being conducted broadly and specific for the Harbors and Marine Service Center. The Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau develops a marketing and promotional calendar for the visitor industry in a broad sense. There are more focused advertising campaigns that have included bird watchers, yachters, hikers/campers, wildlife viewing and opportunities, photographers etc.

More recently, the traveler trends are using online services for reservations, researching and making decisions, social media outlets like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Google advertising have become much more vital to the WCVB promotional efforts.

Over the years different print advertising options have been considered, implemented or avoided. Print advertising has always been notoriously expensive and thus the WCVB selects carefully what print advertising they consider and advertise in. Since they are doing more broad and general advertising for Wrangell, most of their print advertising is part of a cooperative effort with Alaska Travel Industry Association as it reduces the investment amount and the ad is part of an "Alaska" promotion. They currently will be advertising in the Travel Guide Breath of the Bear and Outside Magazine for 2023.

For the Marine Service Center specifically, in the past I worked with Greg Meissner and we did some radio advertising in area communities for MSC, but tracking-wise have no idea if the investment paid off. There used to be a Harbor ad in the Waggoner Guide – Cruising and Boating in the PNW. The one thing that occurs annually and is a joint effort between Port and Harbors and the WCVB is participation at the Seattle Boat Show. This is a 10 day tradeshow and has been enormously successful for Wrangell to get information out to yachters coming to the inside passage about the Wrangell area and services provided to boaters. For several years a while back we did informational mailings to yacht clubs in the PNW about Wrangell and the MSC, but those contacts would need updating.

I spoke briefly with Steve regarding the update of photos and information on the MSC webpages and I will work with him and Keeleigh to see those pages updated. A planned social media effort on the MSC specifically might be an additional avenue.

Regarding the two publications suggested by Commissioner Roppel, below is the advertising information.

Power and Motoryacht:

Circulation monthly: 70,000

Offer Print and Digital opportunities

Demographic highlights: 97% male readers; average age 61

Boating Activity: 97% Cruise; 75% Fish; 80% extended Cruise; 69% overnight cruise; 85% plan to charter in next 2 years; 98% own a power boat

January Issue – Ad closes 11/8

February Issue – Ad closes 12/8

Display ads ¼ page=\$6500 1/3page = \$7500

Digital advertising is priced approximately at \$20 per 1000 page views. (their online version receives approximately 636,228 page views per month)

Soundings:

Circulation:

Demographics: 87% Day cruise; 59% overnight cruise; 76% Fishing; 93% own a boat 20-50ft
61% of readers are from the northeast; 29% south/southeast; 3% western states

January Issue – Ad closes 11/9

February Issue – Ad closes 12/7

Rate sheet is not available on line and I have not connected yet with sales rep

Digital platforms: 142,000 avg monthly users

Average session duration 1:15

Editorials for both are based off of an editorial calendar and usually writers are lined up far in advance.

WRANGELL HARBOR COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

RESOLUTION REGARDING HARBORS CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMY

Whereas Wrangell's economy has suffered a continuing decline since the closure of the timber industry, the impact of the Covid 19 Virus, and the reduction of fish processing, the Harbor Board urges the City Council to consider actions related to the harbor facilities that will positively impact the local economy.

1. Consider the harbor facilities as a means to attract visitors and business for Wrangell.

A. Advertise however possible and economical the attractiveness of Wrangell as a pleasure boat destination. Wrangell has very good harbor facilities for visitors, great repair and lift out facilities, many attractions such as Stikine River-glacier and hot spring, LeConte Bay glacier viewing, Anan bear watching, local native museum and buildings, city museum, shopping facilities, fuel and many forest access roads and viewing locations fishing opportunities and a golf course.

B. Consider ways and means to expand dockage or floats to accommodate an additional cruise ship. Cruise ship docks have recently been added at Sitka and Ketchikan. There are other small communities such as Hoonah that have added dockage in recent years as well as other extensive additions in Juneau and Ketchikan.

The cruise industry forecasts increasing tours for Alaska, see the attached news article.

There has reportedly been a recent visit by cruise ship related companies interested in participating in additional dockage in Wrangell.

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F Roppel, 10/27/21

EDITORIAL

Ketchikan Daily News 10/22/2021

End of season

Ketchikan's 2021 cruise ship season concluded on Thursday with the Norwegian Encore's departure from Ward Cove, the ship's size and sparkle serving as a reminder of what might have been — and what many hope will be.

Only time will tell what the future holds.

In 2020, as it was becoming clear that the pandemic would erase that year's cruise season, we anticipated that ships large and small could return in near-regular numbers in 2021.

Alas, that was not to be. The surge in COVID-19 cases that started at the end of 2020 prompted the Canadian federal government on Feb. 4 to announce a ban on large cruise ships in Canadian ports through Feb. 28, 2022.

That ban alone could have prevented a 2021 cruise season in Alaska because of a U.S. law that requires large, foreign-flagged passenger ships to make at least one port call in a non-U.S. port while transporting passengers between U.S. ports. Fortunately, led by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the Alaska congressional delegation was able to secure unanimous consent from Congress for a temporary waiver of the U.S. law — a remarkable achievement, especially with the current divisions in U.S. politics.

COVID-19 remained a factor, though. With significant mitigation measures in place, small cruise ships began operating a few cruises in Southeast Alaska beginning in May. Although May marks the traditional start of the large ship cruise season, the first large ship to call in Ketchikan since 2019 was the Serenade of the Seas on July 9. Even that was a "test cruise" with between 200 and 300 volunteer passengers on board.

It wasn't until the end of July that full fleet of what would be eight large ships began to arrive in Ketchikan for a much-abbreviated season (In 2018, about 30 large cruise ships made at least one stop in Ketchikan; most had full seasons spanning from May through September).

Still, there was cruise history being made in 2021. On Aug. 4, the Norwegian Encore became the first cruise ship to moor at the Ward Cove Dock Group's facility in Ward Cove.

The Encore continued to call at Ward Cove every Thursday before concluding its Ketchikan season on Thursday afternoon.

It departed into a misty grey horizon that's reflective of the still-uncertain hopes that the community and industry have for the 2022 season.

As recently as late September, the travel press was reporting strong demand for Alaska cruises despite sharply softer interest in Caribbean itineraries. Cruise lines are offering Alaska voyages within the traditional seasonal time frame.

Meanwhile, Canada in July dialed back its large-ship port call ban, which now will end on Nov. 1 instead of Feb. 28. Also, Murkowski has announced the pursuit of a permanent change to the U.S. law.

All of these are positive indicators for the 2022 season. So is the fact that large cruise ships started to operate and were able to continue operating with significant mitigation measures in place while the more-infectious delta variant of the novel coronavirus began spiking case numbers across the United States — including Alaska.