

MINUTES



JRT Meeting



May 7, 2015
U. S. Coast Guard
Station Port Huron, MI

Attendance:

• J.J. Brickett	CCG Central & Arctic Region	JRT Co-chair
• Jerome Popiel	USCG Ninth District	JRT Co-chair
• T.J. Mangoni	USCG Ninth District	
• Scott Binko	USCG Ninth District	
• Joanne Monroe	National Energy Board	
• Jacob Quist	Transport Canada Marine Safety, Ontario	
• Mark Haas	CCG Central & Arctic Region	
• CDR Joe Higgins	USCG Sector Buffalo	
• Greg Schweitzer	NOAA	
• Herb Oertli	USCG Ninth District	
• MSTC Amanda Lea	USCG Sector Detroit	
• LT Jennifer Di Nino	USCG Sector Detroit	
• LT Greg Jensen	USCG Sector Detroit	
• LCDR Regina Adams	USCG Ninth District	
• LCDR Molly Hayes	USCG Ninth District	

Regrets:

• Kent Lien	National Energy Board
• Barry Putt	Transport Canada Marine Safety, Ontario
• Norman Monteiro	Transport Canada Marine Safety, Ontario
• Ronda Brooks	CCG Central & Arctic Region
• Gary Zikovitz	Ontario Ministry of the Environment
• Georges Long	Environment Canada

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1. Welcome & Introductions

Jerry Popiel, USCG, welcomed members to the meeting. J. J. Brickett, CCG participated via conference line.

CCG introduced J. J. Brickett as Acting Superintendent, Environmental Response Branch (ERB), CCG Central and Arctic Region, replacing Martin Blouin as Acting JRT co-chair.

2. CANUSLAK exercise

Anchors Aweigh Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) Table Top Exercise (TTX) Port Huron, MI - 2015

The exercise was a simulated pipeline release of crude oil into the St. Clair River affecting the river system and the communities of St. Clair County Michigan and Lambton County Ontario. The exercise was designed to improve Southeast Michigan's Area Committee and Canadian Partners abilities to conduct proper notifications, respond to and recover from a major oil spill on the St. Clair River, while coordinating through a Unified Command involving: U. S. Coast Guard, Michigan DEQ, U.S. local, state and federal response teams, Canadian federal, provincial, and local response teams, and First Nation tribal agencies.

Cross border agreements were discussed as a method to expedite government owned personnel and resources across the border. International Coordinating Officers (ICOs) were highlighted as a link to command posts on both sides of the border as best practice. Participation by key personnel was highlighted for this TTX as well.

This TTX will set-up up for the Full Scale Exercise (FSE) to take place in 2016. Additionally, JRT (NEB) discussed differences in actions and Acts if pipeline break would have occurred in Canada. Agencies requested better visibility on exercise products and access to GRPs (all response plans) for improvement leading up to, during and after an exercise.

ACTION:

- **Ensure distribution of exercise documents to participants in advance of FSE 2016.**
- **Additional work on cross border agreements between agencies.**

3. CANUSLAK Annex

ACTION:

- **Draft promulgation letter for signature and date.**
- **Update Annex to include US/CAN agency comments, National Energy Board (NEB), St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) and St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC).**

4. Recent Incidents

JRT discussed multiple groundings in St. Lawrence Seaway (SLS) in particular, M/V JUNEAU and communications between various different agencies.

The JRT further discussed groundings and the importance of agencies engaging Unified Command (UC) through CANUSLAK. Additionally, Sector Buffalo is requesting interagency work between partners to develop a framework to ensure proper spill and response equity, with a mutual understanding of actual and potential discharges. The framework developed could be included in the CANUSLAK Quick Response Card (QRC) for visibility.

Discussed grounding of M/V MISSISSAGI in Sector Sault Ste. Marie's AOR and potential for discharge, although there was no need for CANUSLAK notification. The incident provided additional insight for the need to develop a framework consistent throughout the Great Lakes.

ACTION:

- **Update CANUSLAK QRC.**
- **Move forward with developing a framework and exercise it (Possibly during Beyond the Border (BTB) fall of 2015.**

5. Spill statistics for the Great Lakes and connecting channels

CCG and USCG exchanged spill statistics summary reports for the Great Lakes and connecting channels. CCG summary provides statistics for activities undertaken by ERB, Central and Arctic Region for 2014 from vessels. USCG summary provides statistics for fiscal year 2014 for Ninth District from vessels, facilities, chemical and mystery spills.

ACTION:

- **Provide comparable vessel spill statistics between US and CAN by early June to satisfy International Joint Commission requirement.**

6. International Coordinating Officer

International Coordinating Officer (ICO)

ICO is the primary position and technical specialist to determine whether additional resources are required for cross-border activities.

- Primarily information management and communication between CG's
- Element of command authority comes with the position (represents command)
- Has full confidence of the Incident Commander
- Qualifications
 - Familiar with Geographic Response Plans

- Understand regime, annexes and policy
 - USCG Federal On-Scene Coordinator Representative (FOSCR)
 - Expertise to recognize potential challenges and hazards for response
- Enhance cooperation between countries and act as a point of contact
 - Coordinate tactical matters

ACTION:

- **Incorporate language for ICO team members.**
- **Revise content and resend to members for signature by 15JUN2105.**
- **Forward to CANUS executive committee as Best Management Practice (BMP).**

7. Emerging Threats and Terms of Reference (TOR) for the CAN-US working group on maritime transportation of hydrocarbons and their by-products

Emergent Transportation Trends

Discussed evolving emergent trends in Rail/ Pipeline/ Barge modes of transportation across borders and how to bi-nationally address the effects with CANUSLAK notification processes.

TOR – Approved and final version for working group signed and co-chaired by USCG and TC

The working groups focus is on issues surrounding the waterborne movement of hydrocarbons and byproducts. It will not address general vessel issues such as ballast water or air emissions. Facility issues will generally not be addressed except where there is a direct interface with vessels moving hydrocarbons. In defining hydrocarbons, initial efforts will exclude natural gas and gas mixtures such as liquefied natural gas (LNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), etc., and instead focus on crude oil and associated bulk liquids that require focused strategies for transport and remediation.

JRT agrees that regardless of mode of transportation, JRT owns the response. USCG notes recent concerns regarding open water response to submerged or sinking oils.

ACTION:

- **Distribute TOR to regions and units for review.**
- **JRT makes determination on any actionable items, goals, and way forward.**

8. Additional notes, discussion, action items

ACTION:

- **Ensure all necessary and appropriate documents and information are posted to Ninth District internet site for JRT.**
- **USCG – Forward EIA presentation and statistics to CAN agencies.**

- **USCG – Forward signed GLACP to CAN agencies.**
- **Work to ensure agencies exchange environmental data and safety and health information during incidents.**
- **For the development of a Wildlife Annex to CANUSLAK, identify and group international environmental partners for collaboration.**
- **Possibly exchange case studies quarterly or during JRT meetings.**
- **Agencies continue to invite necessary partners and provide information on meetings/exercises, i.e. Area Committee meetings, SEC SSM PREP, etc.**

10. Adjournment / Next meeting

- Next meeting to take place in early 2016, location TBD.
- Meeting was adjourned at 1130.