

12/11/2024 Derelict Vessel Meeting Notes Summary

Kirvie opened the meeting with round table introductions and updates

In-person attendees: Brittany Gordon, Amy Smalley, Scott Diener, Daria Etchings, Jonathan Raine, Adam Samara, Ellen Ross-Cardoso, Caleb Reese, Kathy Garcia, Sergeant Trey Holden, Sergeant Jason Hedstrom, Tami Griffey, Thomas Jury, James Strode, Rashni Ballard, Bob Ballard

Zoom attendees: Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech, Evan Dabrowski, Jeff Zappen, Robin Daley, Troy Wood

Updates:

1. Vessel Removal Progress

- Kirvie provided updates:
 - Previously discussed finding a contractor for a sunken vessel.
 - Worked with DNR using State DES Contract #16122 (with Jerry's assistance).
 - Bid closes on December 13 at 4:30 PM.
 - Bid requests sent to all vendors in Category C.
 - Coordinated with WDFW and reached out regarding HPA (may require a new HPA or use a blanket HPA if bids meet criteria).
- **Adrift Vessel Report:**
 - Apple Tree Cove incident: DNR responded swiftly; Port of Kingston was highly cooperative.
 - Kirvie seeks further details on contributors.
- **Comments:**
 - Think about the resources we have - private dock owners should have ease of addressing similar incidents.
 - Coast Guard won't redirect boats to private docks without permission.
 - Navy is required to follow the same rules as others.

2. Facility Verification Concerns

- **Robyn's Question:** Does verification occur before bringing a vessel to a facility?
- Suggested improvement: Notify 911 that you're the harbor master, and the boat doesn't belong there.
- Brittany to work with Kirvie on identifying challenges like these.
- A challenge identified was knowing the local conditions and ports. Such as is the facilities appropriate for the vessel.
- Need for a system to avoid future issues.

Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP)

- **Brittany's Update:**
 - Planning update shared; funding available through 2026.
 - VTIP is open year-round.
 - DNR's VTIP flyer is available; can be shared broadly.
 - Suggestion: Use Kitsap webpage for promotion. Troy shared this is not required. Brittany will talk to Kirvie about this.
- **Daria gave an update about the outreach she has begun; a follow up email will also be sent.**

Comments and Feedback:

- Tammy: Asked about vessels (e.g., at Port of Brownsville) and if they'll still qualify for VTIP by 2026.
- Brittany: Vessels that qualify now can use the VTIP.
- Troy: Participation depends on vessel owners' willingness. Ports should identify vessels with interested owners.

Focus Groups

- Brittany shared updates:
 - Vision: Quarterly meetings for focus groups to report progress.
 - Quarterly meetings will be in the same location unless decided otherwise.
 - Open to new members anytime.

2024 Recap and 2025 Plans

- Brittany shared a recap of the last six months and expressed gratitude for the group.

2024 Reflection Activity:

- Connections: Share one or more connections or relationships built through the program.
 - Positive Feedback: Share something you enjoyed or learned.
 - Constructive Feedback: Suggestions for improvement.
- Feedback from activity was shared:
 - Kirvie summarized feedback from the breakout room on Zoom.
 - Brittany and Daria shared feedback from the in-person meeting.

Connections

- It was very helpful meeting officials from the County, DNR, Fisheries, Ports, and others understanding procedures to deal with derelict and abandoned vessels
- All connections were very valuable – especially happy to have Troy's number. Thanks to all!

- Very valuable to have the DNR involved. The numbers for the coast guard are good to have
- Networking is important. This has been a great way to interact with others and share experiences.

Positive Feedback

- Very valuable to better understand available resources. Further clarifies what a huge problem this is
- Great job by Brittany and Kirvie heading things up
 - Seconded
- Glad to have law enforcements involvement
- There was a Kitsap County derelict vessel program about 10-15 years ago. It never made it off the ground. This new group is phenomenal – this is much needed, organized and I love the diverse stakeholders represented here—charge on!
- Keep this going! Thank you for opening this discussion in our county.
- Good to get people in the same space to understand the numerous tools that are being used so we can understand what tool would work to supplement that information

Constructive Feedback

- More consistent attendance, with a preference for in-person attendance
- Clear guidance and steps on webpage
 - For private individuals, marinas and ports
- Make webpage accessible
- Educational events for stakeholders and public
- Common contact list, who to call when vessel is towed in
- One point of contact at County would be helpful

2025 Meeting Schedule: Brittany presented the upcoming schedule.

Resources: Graphics and materials are available on the website for review.

Adjournment: Meeting ended at **2:31 PM**.