

NASBLA Waterways Management Committee Meeting

Chairperson's Report to the BLA Work Session (Sept. 26) and NASBLA Business Meeting (Sept. 27)

The Waterways Management Committee conducted its meeting on Sunday, September 24, 2006, and reports on the charges that follow.

1. The Committee unanimously approved a definition for “**waterway management**” that will guide and inform the types of issues and topics it considers, the approaches the Committee will take in addressing those issues, and resulting products. The goal is to become a more relevant tool and resource to all state members and the NASBLA organization.

This working definition was drafted by the Committee and then put out to all Boating Law Administrators for consideration via an e-mail survey in June of this year. That survey showed overwhelming approval of the definition as proposed.

The definition is:

“Waterways Management” is the integrated use of education, technical assistance, regulation, enforcement and other policies and programs to govern the waters of the state for navigation, public safety and access in ways that reduce conflicts, enhance the experience for waterway and shoreline users, and minimize risks to natural resources.

2. The Committee approved a carryover Charge #1 for 2007 related to development of a waterways management workshop and resubmission of a grant proposal to the United States Coast Guard Nonprofit Grant Program. The Committee requests that “*A Guide for Multiple Use Waterway Management*” be used as the basis for designing the workshop, and identified a subgroup that will work with NASBLA staff in developing the content.

If the grant proposal does not receive an award, the Committee strongly recommends that a scaled-down, pilot version of the workshop be conducted as an add-on to the NASBLA annual conference in 2007.

3. The Committee approved a carryover Charge #2 for 2007 regarding a selected number of “hot topics” pertaining to waterways management and in light of the approved definition. These “hot topics” were identified based on input from the Committee and from BLAs on the survey conducted this summer. They are implications of the ban on copper bottom paints; best management practices associated with power washers; the loss of recreational boating areas; and user conflicts and conflict resolution.

4. The Committee approved a carryover Charge #3 for 2007 regarding salvage insurance, agreeing to continue to investigate and research this issue and the effects of abandoned vessels on the states.

Regarding Staff Charges, the Committee is reassessing some of them in light of changes in the original charges over the past year, and in light of the revised definition of waterways management.

Having run over the allotted time by approximately twenty minutes and having no old or new business items, a motion for adjournment was made, ending the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucia R. Francis

Appendix:

Meeting Agenda
Committee Charges for 2006

Appendix

AGENDA

Waterways Management Committee

September 24, 2006

12:00PM – 12:45PM

Park Suite

Hyatt Regency

Louisville, Kentucky

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**
2. **Review and Acceptance of Minutes**
3. **Vote on Definition for “waterways management”**
4. **Updates on Committee Charges by Sub-Committee Chairs:**
 - a. **Workshop Funding Proposal – Deborah Gona**
 - b. **“Hot Topics” – Eleanor Mariani**
 - c. **Salvage Insurance – Alvin Taylor**
5. **Staff Charges:**
 - a. **NASBLA Backgrounder**
 - b. **Economic Impact Study of NMMA**
 - c. **Informing BLAs on Legislative Initiatives**
6. **Old Business**
7. **New Business**
8. **Next Interim Meeting:**
9. **Adjournment**

2006 CHARGES

Waterways Management Committee

Lucia Francis, Virgin Islands, Chair
Eleanor Mariani, Connecticut, Vice Chair
Deborah Gona, Committee Staff

State Members:

Larry Chenier, MA	Alvin Taylor, SC
Paul Niepling, DC	Ray Tsuneyoshi, CA
Paul Ouellette, FL	Ed Steinkoenig, VA
Mike Scanlon, RI	Jim French, WA

USCG Representative: Vann Burgess

Associate Members:

John Donaldson, Kawasaki	Julie McQuade, SOBA
Cecilia Duer, NWSC	Margaret Podlich / Susan Shingledecker
Veronica Floyd, Brunswick	Boat US Foundation
Brad Franklin, Yamaha Motor Corp USA	Jim Richardson, NSBC
Richard Frenzel, USCG-Aux	Paul Sanford, ACA
Maureen Healey, PWIA	Ken Ullman, Walsh Marine Products
Arlyn Hendricks, NWSC	Kiko Villalon, Ancon Marine

2006 Committee Charges:

1. Use *A Guide to Multiple Use Waterways Management* as the basis for designing a waterways management workshop program targeting federal, state and local policy-makers and the relevant academic community. Recommend appropriate scope, content, sites and dates for workshop.
2. Identify, characterize and compile significant national “hot spots” and emerging policy challenges pertaining to waterways management and environmental and social issues impacting recreational boating. Update “hot spot” abstracts on the committee web page. Monitor and assess environmental issues (local, state and national) that may impact recreational boating and access to the waterways, with the philosophy of ensuring access to the waterways for all. Share issues, developments and legislation at bi-annual meetings of this committee. Prepare and disseminate issue summaries or abstracts to membership.
3. Investigate state-mandated salvage insurance. Investigate mandatory salvage insurance for boaters, the effects of mandatory salvage insurance on boaters. Explore whether insurance companies can provide this product for boaters.

Staff Charges

1. Develop an informative *NASBLA Backgrounder* on issues pertaining to marking, modifying and/or removing low-head dams. The *Backgrounder* should include a brief overview on the dangers of low-head dams, the primary policy challenges and considerations related to low-head dams, specific examples of the types of remedies available for ameliorating the dangers

of these structures, and references and technical resources available for further information on the topic. Determine the demand for an in-depth, research-based, grant-funded primer on low-head dams.

2. Support the efforts of and collaborate with NMMA's Foundation for Recreational Boating Safety, Education and Environmental Awareness, and other boating organizations, to foster the development of a national recreational boating economic impact study.
3. Monitor and inform members on federal legislative initiatives impacting recreational boating and waterways management. Propose appropriate state and NASBLA responses to legislation, including letters of support or opposition, alternative legislative language, formal lobbying, etc.