

Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – January 2019

ACTION ITEM

Sponsor: Joe Banta and the Scientific Advisory Committee

Project number and name or topic: Project 965 - Coping With Technological Disasters Guidebook.

1. **Description of agenda item:** This agenda item requests acceptance an updated version of the Council's "Coping With Technological Disasters – A User Friendly Guidebook – Version 3" as revised under a project team process and approved by the Scientific Advisory Committee at its December 11, 2018 meeting. The Guidebook is a "how to" manual developed by PWSRCAC to help communities, organizations, businesses and individuals plan for and deal with the effects of an oil spill based, in large part, on many of the lessons learned in dealing with the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

As background, The Council originally initiated its Community Impacts Planning Project in 1994 with the hiring of Dr. Steve Picou, a noted expert in technological disaster research. PWSRCAC commissioned a feasibility study to determine if a community mental health demonstration project to mitigate stress associated with an oil spill could be developed.

Following the 1994 feasibility study, PWSRCAC decided in 1995 to contract for a full Mental Health Mitigation Program with Dr. Picou that began in February of 1995 and ended in the fall of 1997. Because of the extensive socioeconomic post-EVOS research carried out by Dr. Picou and his colleagues in the community of Cordova, Cordova was chosen as the pilot community. However, the mental health implementation guidebook was to be readily adaptable for use by all communities in the region affected by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

In 1998, Dr. Picou worked with PWSRCAC communities to determine how the generic mental health guidebook could be adapted for their communities. The end result was the first edition of PWSRCAC's "*Coping With Technological Disasters: A User Friendly Guidebook*" published in 1999. In 2001 the Peer Listener Training component was produced in stand-alone video format. This video was also updated in 2009. However, the full "Coping With Technological Disasters: A User Friendly Guidebook" published in 1999 has only undergone one update since its original release – in 2004. Because of technological changes and the study of resilience, a review and update of this important tool for communities and organizations in the PWSRCAC region was deemed a timely activity by the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Council.

In the past several years, a great deal of new research has been published regarding resilience and resilient communities and how resilience helps communities recover from disasters such as oil spills. In addition, technological changes such as social media were not really in place when the guidebook was developed and updated. The outreach and communication sections from the guidebook has especially benefited from this new media form. Furthermore, the study of resilience and social media had much to offer to the review of the guidebook, and inclusion of relevant information from these subjects has been an important part of updating and revising the guidebook.

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2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** Socioeconomic research was adopted as a priority by the Council in 1990. Not only was socio-economic research recognized in PWSRCAC's contract with Alyeska, but the Council has consistently recognized that very little effort had been put into mitigating the human impacts of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. This project is part of the Council's efforts to better address the subjects of socioeconomic research and human impacts from oil spills.

3. **Previous actions taken by the Board on this item:**

| <u>Meeting</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Action</u> |
|----------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Council | 11/2/90 | Adopted socioeconomic baseline as research priority. |
| Council | 5/23/91 | Approved Request for Proposal. |
| Council | 12/13/91 | Set aside initial \$300,000 for project. |
| Council | 5/15/92 | SAC given permission to begin contact negotiations. |
| Council | 9/24/93 | ISER contract terminated. |
| Council | 12/9/93 | Human Impacts Planning approved. |
| Council | 9/29/94 | Concept of sole source contract with Dr. Picou approved |
| Council | 1/26/95 | \$174,750 was set aside for negotiating a contract with Dr. Picou [contract was negotiated and work begun thereafter]. |
| Council | 9/26/96 | Change Order one approved which added \$10,000 to the contract for a formal evaluation. |
| Council | 3/97 | Approved adding \$4,000 to the contract to support a final presentation by the contractor [the funds were never added as the project team decided to accept the work products as draft and continue developing the guidebook in house] |
| Council | 12/98 | Progress report submitted to Board.. |
| Council | 5/99 | Approved the "Coping With Technological Disasters Guidebook" and Appendices for distribution. |
| XCOM | 8/7/00 | Approval given to release a Request for Quotations - Peer Listener Training Videos Production. XCOM was advised that a funding request would be brought to the full Board in September, 2000. |
| Council | 9/29/00 | Council directed SAC/CIP Project team and staff to look for funding partners for the Peer Listener Training Video Project and then bring the proposal before the Council again in March 2000. |
| XCOM | 12/5/01 | Approve contracting with Syntax Productions not to exceed \$36,000 and contracting with Dr. Steve Picou not to exceed \$10,000 and \$5,000 for logistical support for a total of \$51,000 for the Peer Listener project. |
| XCOM | 10/16/08 | Approve a sole source contract with Syntax Productions in an amount NTE \$24,135 to update the peer listening training program video; and authorized a budget transfer in the amount of \$20,635 from the contingency to 656 - Community Impacts Planning. |

4. **Summary of policy, issues, support or opposition:** None .

5. **Committee Recommendation:** At its December 11, 2018 meeting, the Scientific Advisory Committee recommended the Board accept the 2018 update to the "Coping With Technological Disasters - A User Friendly Guidebook."

6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** The work associated with this most recent update was completed in house by staff and members of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:** Accept the revised and updated version of the Council's "Coping With Technological Disasters - A User Friendly Guidebook - Version 3."

8. **Alternatives:** None recommended.

9. **Attachments:** "Coping With Technological Disasters - A User Friendly Guidebook - Version 3."