

Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee Meeting

February 1 & 2, 2008
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

AGENDA

February 1

Present:

Paul Donheffner, Chair
Dan Heskett
Mike Fields
Boyd Walden
Vicki Rhodes

Madelynn Fenske
Ronald Morris
Rick Brewer
Mary Hunter
Toni Wilson

Glenn Moates
John Nordby
Mike England

Kathy Poole
Aarn Rosen
Jack Ellis
Cindy Squires

Paul Donheffner called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. John Fetterman addressed the committee and talked about the new committee structure. John discussed the importance of the committees in development of policy for the association. John Johnson discussed how the committees will work at the annual conference. Ron Sarver explained the committee schedule for the year. Preliminary work needs to be complete by May 13. Final committee work will be due by mid July. The work will be presented to the BLAs at the annual conference in Clearwater Beach, September 6-10, 2008.

The committee's subcommittees then broke into separate groups to work on their charges.

February 2

The subcommittees presented the following to the full committee:

Vessel Identification Subcommittee

Assist the USCG on promoting Memoranda of Understanding for and state participation in the vessel identification system. Monitor implementation issues that arise. Are there privacy concerns? Are legislative changes necessary? Are key data elements not being captured?

Jack Ellis with Info-Link gave a quick over view of Info-Link's work with VIS. Info-Link was contracted by the US Coast Guard to consolidate the various states boating registration information.

Currently we have 16 states and territories signed up, three states have refused and 37 are still out for approval.

Kathy Poole informed the subcommittee that a letter to the governor of each state thanking them for or encouraging them to participate in the VIS system. The subcommittee asked for copies of that letter to be sent to all BLAs. Subcommittee asked for a copy of the MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) be sent to all BLAs for their records, both blank and signed once the MOA has been accepted.

Kathy Poole also presented a document on the history and overview of the program outlining areas of concern and how the committee can assist and address those concerns:

Area of Concern:

By conducting an independent review of the contractor's data security practices and publishing the results of that review, the committee may help convince concerned states to trust the contractor to properly handle their sensitive data.

Action Taken By Subcommittee:

Kathy Poole stated Coast Guard is sending a letter to states on security, how data is secured by Info-Link and how the information will be utilized. Letter will also address who Info-Link is in connection to VIS. Jack Ellis from Info-Link is also a member of this subcommittee.

Area of Concern:

By making a declaration that boat numbers are not confidential data and should be provided for public data requests, the committee may convince states to release that information even if they do not participate in VIS.

Action Taken by Subcommittee:

Found in CFR 133, subcommittee will be working on presentation for the BLA Spring Workshop shall include the fact that VIS is for law enforcement use only. In addition to this fact, the subcommittee will be researching with USCG on member states accessing VIS through NLETS (National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System) in order to minimize the number of Authorized Users to the Automated Information System.

Area of Concern:

Making a resolution encouraging states to establish unique identifiers for vessel owners' registration databases, may encourage states to address this issue.

Action Taken by Subcommittee:

Address this issue in our presentation to the BLA's in the spring workshop, by developing a required element list trying to de-emphasize the use of Social Security numbers.

Charge 3 was addressed with the presence of Tom Willis from the USCG. The issue discussed dealt with the documentation center notifying that registered boats from that state was documented.

Tom stated that VIS was the best method to pursue the flow of information between the states and the documentation center.

Jack Ellis stated that Info-Link is already collecting documented vessel information from the National Vessel Documentation Center and that this can be used to compare state registration information and the vessel documentation information. To produce a report identifying vessels that are violating CFR.

Work with USCG Documentation Center to notify states when a state registered vessel becomes documented.

The subcommittee will draft a letter for John Fetterman's signature to Admiral Salerno asking for a change to the CFR for Vessel Documentation to require a HIN. Cindy Squires will also work with the National Marine Bankers to do a similar letter. The subcommittee will also draft a letter to Kathy Poole, USCG, to assist her in addressing the process for Info-Link to work on the completion of a reporting system for the violation of the CFR regarding the violation of Documentation and Numbering of a vessel. Also, creating an indicator/notation that will show there is a lien on a vessel.

Analyze registration and titling data from a test group of states. Identify common errors and omissions. Develop training materials for states to improve accuracy and completion of registration and titling data.

Mary Hunter will be creating a required data element presentation and work with Mike Fields and Mike England on a live demo of VIS and NLETS during the spring workshop. Barry Nobles with the USCG will give a presentation on VIS at the spring workshop.

It was agreed upon by all parties of the subcommittee that the most crucial data element for this system is the hull identification number (HIN).

Work with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws [NCCUSL] to develop a Uniform Certificate of Title Act that includes vessels.

The vehicle side of UCOTA is moving very slowly. Only one state has attempted to pass the Act. NCCUSL is still in the study phase on developing a UCOTA for vessels. Perhaps a letter from NASBLA to the NCCUSL would help move the issue.

Develop briefing materials on UCOTA for BLAs and registration & titling authorities.

Boyd has developed a backgrounder on UCOTA. He will send the document to staff for distribution to committee.

Serve as a resource to non-titling states that wish to enact titling legislation.

Georgia (HB 1000) and Tennessee have bills introduced this year. *Boat Titling the Right Choice* and a letter could be sent to the appropriate committees. [Make sure BTRC is up to date.]

Prepare comments for NASBLA on Federal Register notice 17 Character HIN cost benefits study. Serve as subject matter experts to assist with a NASBLA 17 Character HIN cost-benefit study for recreational boating safety and small vessel security.

There has been no movement on the issue. The Coast Guard is doing another cost benefit study. NASBLA is looking to engage its own economist to do a cost-benefit study. NASBLA will be hiring an applied economist.

Prepare comments for NASBLA on revisions to the Standard Numbering System Regulations.

Three systems, SNS, VIS, BARD, capture similar data but have different terminology. Ask Fred Messmann to put on the agenda items for BSAC an update on the status of SNS regulations.

Draft position paper on making databases/systems uniform.

Revise NASBLA Model Act for Vessel Titling to include provisions for a salvage title.

Barrera moved that adopt the Model Act for Vessel Titling as amended to include the salvage title language. Heskett seconded. Motion carried.

Develop guidance/model procedure for state registration authorities on Indian tribe vessel registration.

The committee developed a reference guide for registering Indian tribe vessels. Add an introductory paragraph about Washington state consent decree and the Oklahoma situation. This will be placed on the password protected area of the NASBLA website.

Draft agenda for the Committee meeting at annual conference.