Rik F. van Hemmen



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Professional Experience:

2011 – Present

President and Senior Partner, MARTIN, OTTAWAY, van HEMMEN & DOLAN, INC.

1993 – 2011

Vice President and Partner, MARTIN, OTTAWAY, van HEMMEN & DOLAN, INC. Areas of specialization include forensic engineering, human factors, vehicle design and operations, ship appraisals, ship salvage, structural surveys, naval architecture and project management.

1987 – 1993

Engineering and Marine Consultant, FRANCIS A. MARTIN AND OTTAWAY, INC.

1984 – 1987

Chief Engineer, JOHAN VALENTIJN, INC., a high technology design and engineering firm in Newport, R.I. Responsibilities included: Conception and implementation of various design projects ranging from maritime design to industrial design, coordination of out of office research projects, construction management, design and supervision of computer facilities. Functioned as Chief Engineer for the EAGLE 1987 America's Cup.

1982 – 1984

Ocean Engineer and Surveyor for the AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING at their headquarters in New York City. Analysis and certification of fixed offshore structures. Final technical machinery approvals of every vessel and rig approved by the Bureau during that

period, and the computerization of the flow of plan approvals in the machinery department.

1979 – 1981

Work-Study employment with MAR, INC., an engineering company specializing in the solution of ocean-related problems. Worked on various defense projects, including the design of high speed sonar array depressors, variety of towing tank tests, and the design of a JTIDS communications simulation computer program.

Notable Projects

Testified as an expert witness on Naval Architectural and Engineering matters in arbitration, State and Federal Court on various occasions.

Analysis of numerous maritime accidents with regard to stability, human factors, loading, operational and structural issues.

Salvage Master on M.V. “HUAL INGRITA” grounding in 1990.

Consultant Naval Architect for Smit Americas in execution of salvage projects in the Western Hemisphere with responsibility for the design of salvage approach and methods in collisions, sinkings and groundings.

Analysis of the change in oil outflow in the “EXXON VALDEZ” incident if the vessel were to be fitted with a double bottom for plaintiff’s counsel. Testimony on structural aspects during “EXXON VALDEZ” trial in June of 1994.

Chief Engineer for the EAGLE 1987 America’s Cup Campaign; implementation, supervision and coordination of research projects involving approximately 30 scientists and engineers.

Consultant to Owners and Underwriters of some of the world’s largest yachts with regard to complex damage issues.

Consultant to McDonnell Douglas Corporation on the application of their Computer Aided Design system to Naval Architecture.

Design and construction supervision of a wide variety of sailing and power yachts.

Education and Professional Qualifications

Registered Professional Engineer in the State of New York (1989) License Number: 065588

Board Certified Diplomate in Forensic Engineering by NAFE, accredited by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (1993)

Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace and Ocean Engineering from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA (1982)

CO-OP certificate for completing the University’s work-study program at MAR, Inc., Rockville, MD (1982)

Harvard Business School OPM 29 (2000)

Certified Qualified Individual for the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and proven competent at the level of OSHA 24-Hour On-Scene Commander as per 29 CFR 1910.120(q) at Massachusetts Maritime Academy's Center for Marine Environmental Protection and Safety (1994)

Summer apprenticeship at the Boele-Bolnes shipyard in The Netherlands (1975)

College preparatory training in The Netherlands, senior year in high school in the United States (1977)

Memberships

Fellow, National Academy of Forensic Engineers

Fellow, Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers

New York Section Papers Committee Chairman 1992-1994

New York Section Executive Committee 1992-1994

1994 Ship Operations Symposium Steering Committee

Member Ad Hoc Panel #6 – Structural Response of Tankers to Collisions and Groundings 1999 – 2004

Member PE Licensing Committee 1999 – Present

Member Technical and Research Steering Committee 2002 – Present

Chairman Ship Repair and Conversion Technical Committee 2002 – 2008

Chairman pro tem ADHOC Panel 14 – OWS 2005 – 2006

Member Small Craft Technical Committee 2005 – Present

Member Human Factors Technical Committee 2005 – Present

Chairman Environmental Management Technical Committee 2009 – Present

Member (MT) Editorial Committee 2012 – 2022

Senior Member, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

Member, Society of Marine Port Engineers of New York

Member, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

Member, National Society of Professional Engineers

Member, American Boat and Yacht Council

Associate Member of the Association of Average Adjusters of the United States

Annual Subscriber to the British Association of Average Adjusters

Life member, United States Naval Institute

Awards

2014 New Jersey Council of County Vocational – Technical Schools (Monmouth County Vocational School District) Business Partner of the Year Award

1983 Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers Student Paper Award

1982 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics/Soaring Society of America national sailplane student design award, Second Place

Technical Publications

“The Monoform Ship Concept: Design Principles and Preliminary Performance Characteristics”, May 1982, for the Chesapeake Section of SNAME

“Twelve Meter Design: State of the Art in 1986”, April 1986, for the New York Metropolitan Section of SNAME. SNAME(mt) – October 1986

Various magazine articles and presentations regarding Computer Aided Design and yacht design, 1984-1988

Contributor “Industrial Fire Hazards Handbook”, chapter on shipyards. Publisher – National Fire Protection Association, 1989

The Bulletin of the Association of Average Adjusters of the United States, Spring 1996, No. 10, “Remarks on Unrepaired Damage- Cause and Effect in Today’s Market”

Author of chapter six “Commercial Vessel Issues” of Boat Accident Reconstruction and Litigation. Publisher – Lawyers & Judges Publishing Company, Inc., Tucson, AZ, 1996

Guest speaker at the College of Insurance of New York City, Massachusetts Maritime and Virginia Tech on ship and yacht surveying, salvage and naval architecture and human factors

“The Joint Field Survey Process” for the National Academy of Forensic Engineers. Published in the June 2000 Vol. XVII No. 1 issue of the Journal of the National Academy of Forensic Engineers

“OWS Weirdness”, October 2004, presented at SNAME annual meeting T&R session, Washington, D.C.

“A Proposal for a Joint Industry Effort at Improving Bilge Oily Water Separator Operation and Design”, March 2005, for the New York Metropolitan section of SNAME

“Oily Water Separators: 30 Years Experience and No Consensus”. Published in the Summer

2005 issue of Cleaner Seas

“Initial Recommendations For Bilge Oily Water Separator System Design And Operation”, February 2006, presented at ASNE MEETS Symposium, Crystal City, VA and published in the Indian Journal of Marine Engineering in March 2006

“Tales from the Cutting Edge”, October 2007, presented at the Annual Meeting of The Association of Average Adjusters of the United States, New York, NY

“The Need for Additional Human Factors Considerations in Ship Operations”, September 2008, presented at the Second International Symposium on Ship Operations, Management & Economics in Athens, Greece, republished in October 2009 issue of SNAME(mt)

“Filtration Challenges in the Marine Industry”, September 2008, presented at the American Filtration Society Conference in Charlotte, NC.

“A Chronology of Boating on the Navesink River” ISBN 978-1-4507-5192-6-53500, 2010.

“Systems Design for Meeting New and Existing International Regulations”, October 2012, presented at the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers Annual meeting in Providence, RI and published in the 2012 Proceedings and Transactions

“The Anti Antifouling Clause Argument,” October 2014, presented at the New York City Marine Insurance Day seminar

“Game Theory for the Maritime Professional,” October 2014, co-authored with Hannah van Hemmen, presented at 2014 SNAME Maritime Convention in Houston, TX

“Salvage and Doing Da OODA Loop,” October 2014, co-authored with Hannah van Hemmen, published in Soundings Fall 2014 issue

“Micro or Macro Design?” (The challenge of environmentally sound and sustainable ferry design), SNAME(mt) – July 2015

“Ferry Revival” (Lessons learned from the creation and development of a New Jersey/New York service), co-authored with Gary R. Dunzelman, SNAME(mt) – July 2015

“How is your Salvage Data Doing?” published in the Summer 2015 issue of ASA Soundings

“General Salvage Project Safety Considerations” published in the Summer 2015 issue of ASA Soundings

“A Chronology of Boating on the Navesink River,” 2nd Edition, ISBN 978-1-4951-8054-5, 2015.

“The Search for Oil Spill Data” published in the Spring 2016 issue of ASA Soundings

“Containerization V2.0” presented at SNAME Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA on November 4, 2016

“The Delightful Frustration of Cruise Ship Power Plant Design,” presented to joint meeting

of SNAME, ASME, and SAME, in Philadelphia, January 24, 2017, co-authored with Kyle Antonini

“Engineering Ethics Clashes and Crashes” presented to SNAME NY Metropolitan Chapter, May 9,2018

“Is This the Right Time for Large Scale Wave Energy Conversion?” presented at SMPE/SNAME/IMarEST joint meeting, in Newark, New Jersey, December 18, 2018, co-authored with Mike Raftery

“The Mechanics of Ship Explosions” published in Summer 2019 issue of ASA Soundings

“An Update on Large Scale Wave Energy Conversion” published and presented at SNAME Maritime Convention, in Tacoma, WA, October 30, 2019, co-authored with Mike Raftery

“The Use of Wave Focusing Technologies for Wave Energy Conversion Applications” published and presented at SNAME Maritime Convention, in Tacoma, WA, October 30, 2019, co-authored with Mike Raftery

“The Navy Needs Mariners” USNI Proceedings – February 2020

“Truly Sustainable Energy” SNAME(mt) – April 2020

Presentation for the USHST/WG 2020 Summit – eVTOL Infrastructure Workshop – Virtual Meeting #4 – Urban / Municipality Planning & Land Use, “Considerations for Water Borne Infrastructure,” May 2020

“Catharsis, the Creation of Aberration” Presented October 27, 2021 at IMAREST NY Joint Societies Meeting

“Salvage and Doing Da OODA Loop” published in the Winter 2021 issue of ASA Soundings, co-authored with Hannah van Hemmen

“Space Race the Size Conundrum in Ship Design” SNAME(mt) – January 2022

Regular Contributor to Maritime Reporter and Engineering News
https://www.marinelink.com/authors/by/rik-van-hemmen

“A Path to Better Ships” SNAME(mt) – July 2022

“Crawling out of my Smokestack and Discovering the Wisdom of the Ages is Hidden in the Cocktail Hour”| The Association of Average Adjusters of Canada and the United States Annual Meeting, On October 1, 2026

Languages

Fluent in English and Dutch; working knowledge of French and German

Nationality

Netherlands and United States Citizen

Clearance

Secret, while working for MAR, Inc.

Contact

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Mobile: (908) 568-7865

rhemmen@martinottaway.com

Blog Posts by Rik van Hemmen

- UPDATE: Critical Observation Before and After Internet and AI is Still Wrong. November 15, 2026
- Throwing the Nuclear Baby out with the Bathwater September 3, 2026
- In Memoriam – James L. Dolan September 1, 2026
- Solar Conestogas Revisited August 18, 2026
- Sustainable Electricity Where it Works July 31, 2026
- Alternative Fuels is a Path to Better Ships. July 27, 2026
- Aberration; Powerplant design V2 July 14, 2026
- Where to take the Erie Canal June 18, 2026
- "The Madison" and Tossing Maritime Under the Bus May 13, 2026
- Ship Operators Actually Don't Care what Fuel Costs April 24, 2026
- Floating Fire and Forget Infrastructure March 16, 2026
- Cargo Gear Certification Puzzles March 16, 2026
- Sistership Salvage March 10, 2026
- Critical Observation Before and After Internet and AI January 19, 2026
- Statistics, the Inspection Paradox and Customer Acceptance Update December 29, 2025
- The Big Maritime Things in 2025 December 29, 2025
- Martin & Ottaway founded 1875; The Country's Oldest Maritime Engineering Consulting Firm? November 28, 2025
- A Design you May Not Love, but will Have to Respect November 17, 2025
- You Think Ship Design is Hard? Try Organization Name and Logo Design September 19, 2025
- Martin & Ottaway 150 September 14, 2025
- Alternative Fuel System Efficiencies August 12, 2025
- Innovation; A New Jersey Specialty August 9, 2025
- Think Global and Act Local with the Maritime Association of the Port of New York and New Jersey. June 25, 2025
- Where is the Customer Service? April 21, 2025

- A Return to Fiction that Messed with My Head March 16, 2025
- Fiction that Messed with My Head March 2, 2025
- Beware the Curve Fit; A 12M Design Story February 11, 2025
- The Iceboat Paradox: How to Predict Failed Forecasts January 23, 2025
- Explorations Without Reservations January 21, 2025
- Maritime Marijuana is Just Different January 11, 2025
- The Big Maritime Things in 2024 January 2, 2025
- Trip and Tow by the Ancient Merchant Marine November 12, 2024
- Containerization, Intermodalism or Multimodalism? October 11, 2024
- A Historical trip up and down the Hudson August 12, 2024
- Exploring the Raritan River July 26, 2024
- In More Support of Grassroot Experiments; Apollonia June 30, 2024
- Maintenance and Cure; The Significance of a Proper Cocktail May 12, 2024
- Executing Bad Designers to Encourage the Others April 19, 2024
- Murat Kilic Joins Martin & Ottaway March 11, 2024
- Maritime; A Strange Trip. By Bob Burke March 5, 2024
- Zombie Proofing Aberration with Methanol March 1, 2024
- SHEWAC Aberration March 1, 2024
- Engineering/Marine Surveyor position at Martin & Ottaway January 17, 2024
- Call Us Ishmael, Maritime and the Origin of Modern Literature January 11, 2024
- The Big Maritime Things in 2023 December 26, 2023
- A Waterpomptang Christmas and the Undefined Void between Problems and Solutions December 20, 2023
- Svelte Speed; SC-1 Subchaser upgrade October 24, 2023
- Changing Habits to Reach Full Charger Capacity September 8, 2023
- How Reggie Helps Us Win the Zero Emissions Game August 9, 2023
- The Complexity of the Commons; EV Chargers July 20, 2023
- Lelie Vlet V2.0, Looking for Balance in Small Boats June 22, 2023
- Valve Fix May 24, 2023
- Dutch Boating in 1964 May 19, 2023
- EV Battery Longevity FUD; Much Better Than Anyone Expected April 8, 2023
- I Live in a Massive Park; Bigger than all the Lower 48 National Parks Combined. March 9, 2023
- In Support of Grassroot Experiments; Apollonia February 13, 2023
- Laser Scanning; an Update January 3, 2023
- The Big Maritime Things in 2022 December 26, 2022
- Wikipedia; The Best Holiday Season Present to the World December 21, 2022
- Great Looking Ships December 20, 2022
- Reinventing Taking Temperatures December 17, 2022
- Wooden Boats are Not Always More Expensive than Fiberglass Boats October 25, 2022
- Two New Partners for Martin & Ottaway October 21, 2022
- Welcome to a Dying Industry (1988) September 13, 2022
- The Art of Graceful Disappearance August 25, 2022
- Fatal Flaws in Design, or User Flaws? August 16, 2022
- Pondering the Container Securing Conundrum July 8, 2022
- From Booby Hatches to Pier, Jetty, Wharf or Quay? May 25, 2022
- So Big, So Small March 17, 2022
- World: What We Have Here is a Failure to Communicate About Sustainability March

13, 2022
- Are We Properly Calculating Lashing Loads on Large Container Vessels? February 24, 2022
- Going Gas to Diesel is Not Always One for One January 25, 2022
- Zombie Proofing Aberration with a Kite December 22, 2021
- Merry Christmas to All from Everyone at Martin & Ottaway December 21, 2021
- The Big Maritime Things in 2021 December 17, 2021
- In Engineering the Simple Stuff can be Very Valuable December 16, 2021
- Where are the Transportation Macro Designers? December 9, 2021
- Breaking the Port Congestion Logjam November 17, 2021
- Golden Ray Sanity Check; Tightropes are not a Proper Way to Cross an Ocean November 16, 2021
- Time for a Closer Look at Offshore Wind Turbines September 30, 2021
- Bilge Pump Switches; My Special Nightmare. September 17, 2021
- Aberration; Powerplant design July 21, 2021
- Separating Rotzooi from Technical Reality July 14, 2021
- Henk van Hemmen the Elder's encounter with WWII June 11, 2021
- Henk van Hemmen the Elder's Hedel (TBT) June 9, 2021
- Aberration; an Update and Personal Critique June 3, 2021
- Leadership, Passion and Commercial Reality March 22, 2021
- The Rough Road to a New Reality. My First EV Long Haul March 8, 2021
- All the Work that Fits a Blog February 8, 2021
- Make Mine Half Size (A Late M&O Christmas Present) December 31, 2020
- The Big Maritime Things in 2020 December 30, 2020
- If You Build It They Will Come November 23, 2020
- Alla Tsiring on Throw Back Thursday November 19, 2020
- Hybrid Propulsion; Stinkpotting for Raghaulers October 9, 2020
- Negotiations in Five Short Stories, Part Two September 3, 2020
- Negotiations in Five Short Stories, Part One August 25, 2020
- So, How Much Cheaper is Containerization? August 17, 2020
- Pitching your Tent in Dog Doo July 23, 2020
- Coronavirus; Why don't we think through the problem first? June 3, 2020
- New Jersey Global Warming Data to Defeat Deniers May 29, 2020
- A Method for Providing Audience Reaction in Zoom Style Meetings and Remote Broadcasts May 7, 2020
- Introducing James "Jim" Kline April 6, 2020
- The Unpredictability of Innovation in Wheelchair Use March 10, 2020
- Death by Ship Value March 9, 2020
- Build a Little, Test a Little and Learn a Lot; A Waterpomptang story February 5, 2020
- Hey UN! Here is your Golden Opportunity for Global Relevance January 29, 2020
- The Big Maritime Thing(s) in 2019 December 31, 2019
- Marmaduke Redux December 24, 2019
- Solar Math Update November 19, 2019
- Liberty Meats November 11, 2019
- Barbados: The Goldilocks Approach to Sustainability October 7, 2019
- Environmental Game Theory, A Story About Endangered Birds June 13, 2019
- The Mechanics of a Tank Barge Explosion May 9, 2019
- OHMSETT, A Hidden Technical Asset April 8, 2019

- The Jeep Stick; I'll Take Accidental Perfection Any Day March 12, 2019
- New Carissa 20 years later. February 21, 2019
- Guns Blazing; The War of 1812 and the Jersey Shore February 17, 2019
- SurfWEC to Develop Utility Level Wave Power January 11, 2019
- The Big Maritime Things in 2018 December 26, 2018
- This Year's Christmas Present December 26, 2018
- Season's Greetings December 17, 2018
- Statistics, the Inspection Paradox and Customer Acceptance November 18, 2018
- Sunday Morning, the Life of a Surveyor October 31, 2018
- Is It Possible to Argue about Taste? October 17, 2018
- Collision and Angle of Blow; Sticking with What Works September 17, 2018
- Grace in the Details Kills Bike Helmets September 9, 2018
- Sergio Marchionne, An Appreciation of a Leader July 30, 2018
- Happy Anniversary IMO, a Sterling Example of International Cooperation July 24, 2018
- Hydrogen As The Ultimate Fuel, Part 2 June 26, 2018
- David Del Corso Joins Martin & Ottaway May 16, 2018
- MAY 2018 – Joint Society Meeting Notice – SNAME/IMarEST/ASNE/SMPE Hosted by ASNE May 4, 2018
- Leonard Pucci Joins Martin & Ottaway May 4, 2018
- An Ode to Freestanding Masts May 3, 2018
- Books That Messed with My Head (2018 Update) April 23, 2018
- The Path to the Middle Class Runs Through the Port Of NY/NJ April 19, 2018
- Not Garbage In, But Still Garbage Out March 21, 2018
- The Bigger Idea Behind Street Survival February 18, 2018
- Whack the Whac-A-Mole Safety Approach February 3, 2018
- In Praise of Simulators; A Simple Example January 31, 2018
- Baby It's Cold Out There December 29, 2017
- The Big Maritime Things In 2017 December 14, 2017
- The King and His Consultant; A Fairy Tale December 13, 2017
- Thank You, Union Drydock November 20, 2017
- A New Approach for Determining Optimal Fleet Procurement October 31, 2017
- Patenting and Copyrighting Great Ideas October 13, 2017
- Surveying Tools October 9, 2017
- Surveying Techniques, Laser Scanning September 7, 2017
- Can Environmental Compliance Be Cost Effective? August 30, 2017
- New Jersey Solar Math July 25, 2017
- Brilliant Black June 2, 2017
- It Is The CO2, Stupid! April 27, 2017
- Ballast Water Treatment, OWS Redux? March 27, 2017
- Jim's 75th Birthday Lunch at Juanito's March 8, 2017
- Capsize Complexities (Let's Be Careful Out There) March 8, 2017
- The Transition From Artist Rendering to 3D CAD Rendering February 3, 2017
- The Delightful Frustration of Cruise Ship Power Plant Design January 25, 2017
- TBT, County of Edinburgh Stranding January 18, 2017
- The Big Maritime Things In 2016 December 29, 2016
- A Holiday Gift December 7, 2016
- Why Not Supply Purified ISO Heavy Fuel to Ships? November 30, 2016
- Pumpkin Boats, A New Business Opportunity for Naval Architects? October 31, 2016

- Good News About Sustainable Energy September 27, 2016
- Rattling the Cage of Preconceived Notions in Design September 2, 2016
- Project 114, Research Vessel Optimization August 12, 2016
- How to Measure Solar Impulse Success? July 26, 2016
- Thoughts on Convoying Fuel Efficiencies June 23, 2016
- Project 114 and Student Use. May 30, 2016
- Join The Martin & Ottaway Team May 12, 2016
- Will Robot Ships Be Trading By 2020? April 15, 2016
- In Memoriam Gene Ferrari April 11, 2016
- Old Time Model Testing March 3, 2016
- SWATH, The Art Of Compromise February 11, 2016
- What M*A*S*H Taught Me About Memory December 30, 2015
- The Big Maritime Things In 2015 December 24, 2015
- The Search For Oil Spill Data December 21, 2015
- An Unexpected Christmas Present December 14, 2015
- Root Cause, Causal Factors, Proximate Causes Or Contributing Causes November 24, 2015
- Devastating Ignorance and Plastic Island Delusions November 24, 2015
- Houston! We Have A Nomenclature Problem October 27, 2015
- Are We Sure Marine Escape Chutes Work? October 20, 2015
- A Loadout Cautionary Note October 20, 2015
- How Not To Be Ignorant About The World October 9, 2015
- TBT, Worst Dutch Real Estate Deal Ever September 17, 2015
- A Cathedral Of Internal Combustion September 15, 2015
- What's So Funny About ORB's? August 14, 2015
- MAX1: Do People or Equipment Cause Ocean Pollution? August 13, 2015
- Diversity and Persistence: 5000 Projects Since 1995 August 11, 2015
- James van Langen Joins Martin & Ottaway July 22, 2015
- A Forensic Engineer's Short Course in Flawed Analysis, Or A Norden Bombsight Insight July 9, 2015
- MAX1 Conference In Wilmington, NC; A First In Shipboard Waste Management July 1, 2015
- SCABU – Shipping Containers As Buoyancy Units July 1, 2015
- MAX1 Studies OWS Conference Speakers Announced June 8, 2015
- Solving the Really Difficult OWS and Police Brutality Problems May 28, 2015
- NAME Computer Programs; Making Admiral Meyer Smile. April 13, 2015
- MAX1 Studies: Please Take the Survey to Build Knowledge of OWS and OCM April 9, 2015
- Feedback: Here's Your Sign. April 8, 2015
- MAX1 Studies OWS Chronology Analysis March 27, 2015
- AD 1522 to 2015, A Really Big Step for Mankind March 9, 2015
- Double Dog Day February 25, 2015
- National Bulk Carriers, Daniel Ludwig and Universe Ireland (TBT) February 5, 2015
- MAX1 Studies, a NFWF Ship Waste Stream Management and OWS Study. Invitation for Participation January 29, 2015
- Baby It Is Cold Outside, So Be Careful January 22, 2015
- Christmas Poetry December 29, 2014
- The Big Maritime Things In 2014 December 23, 2014

- Big Load Afloat December 3, 2014
- Invention: Vinyl Plus Memory Stick; You Saw It Here First November 27, 2014
- Ryszard Kaczmarek Can Do! November 26, 2014
- Great Design Is No Joke November 24, 2014
- 48 Hours On The Lettie G. Howard October 13, 2014
- Funding The Lettie Project, Two States One Port October 13, 2014