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PERSONAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

GSA Personal Property Aids New York with Acquiring a Vessel to Expand Artificial Reef

Challenge: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) decommissioned the M/V HUDSON, a 53 foot, nineteen-ton, steel-hulled, multipurpose workboat, after serving the Nation for 56 years. The M/V HUDSON's career included collecting fisheries, water quality and sediment samples in support of waterborne navigation dredging. The vessel also played a role in TWA Flight 800 recovery operations, and responded with the transport of equipment and personnel across the Hudson River from Manhattan to New Jersey in the wake of 9/11. The vessel was in salvage condition, and the USACE reported the M/V HUDSON as excess personal property to the General Services Administration (GSA).

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) expressed an interest in acquiring the vessel to sink to expand the artificial reef program to support the local economy and improve the health of the fisheries off the coast of Long Island.

Action: The GSA develops and promotes personal property management policies and regulations for the effective and efficient stewardship of Federal personal property assets. Policies and regulations require excess personal property to be offered to other Federal agencies and State Agencies for Surplus Property (SASP) before it is offered to the public for sale. GSAXcess is the entry site for the Federal Excess Personal Property Utilization Program and the Federal Surplus Personal Property Donation Program operated by GSA. Agencies can report excess personal property for transfer by GSA to other Federal and SASPs as well as search for and obtain excess personal property.

GSA's Personal Property Management Southeast-Great Lakes Zone serves as the National Center of Expertise for the disposal of civilian vessels 50 feet and larger. Vessels that are 50 feet and larger require special processing and are generally listed in GSAXcess for sixty days. The special processing includes the reporting agency's certification regarding the status of hazardous materials such as polychlorinated biphenyls and asbestos on the vessel.

Solution: With the USACE able to confirm that the M/V HUDSON was free of hazardous materials and there being a recipient interested in the salvage-grade workboat, GSA's Personal Property worked closely with the Agency to ensure all reporting requirements were satisfied. GSA was able to shorten the screening period in GSAXcess to two weeks due to its condition.

GSA coordinated with the New York State Office of General Services (NYS OGS), the New York SASP, who worked with their donee, the NYSDEC, in acquiring the vessel. The NYS OGS confirmed the NYSDEC was an eligible donee to receive federal surplus property and officially requested the vessel in GSAXcess. The NYS OGS also provided GSA the additional information that is required for larger vessels to ensure all documentation was complete and the vessel could be allocated to a SASP. This documentation included a letter of intent from the donee, letter from NYS OGS certifying the donee's eligibility and that the donee can perform per their letter of intent, conditional transfer document, and a signed copy of the distribution document.

Result: GSA's Personal Property expedited the disposal of the USACE's M/V HUDSON resulting in the vessel being allocated to the NYS OGS in less than one month from the reporting date. The coordination resulted in the required documentation for larger vessels being completed in record time. The M/V HUDSON was removed by tug the same day the donation was approved by GSA. As part of New York State's reef expansion effort, the vessel will continue service to the Nation and begin a second career by creating marine habitat and improving the environment as well as providing recreational opportunities for fishing and diving off the coast of Fire Island.



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