

Connecticut Maritime Commission Annual Report 2014

The Connecticut Maritime Commission (CTMC) was established in July 2004 by Connecticut General Statute (TITLE 13b CHAPTER 242* Section 13b-51a) as the successor agency to the Connecticut Port Authority. Originally, the CTMC consisted of fifteen members representing five State agencies, the maritime business industry, local port authorities, port operators, marine passenger services, port labor unions, recreational marine services and the coastal communities. The State agencies were originally represented by the Commissioners of the Departments of Transportation (DOT), Economic and Community Development (DECD) and Environmental Protection (DEP), the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the Chairman of the Transportation Strategy Board (TSB) or their respective designees. Legislatively the Transportation Strategy Board was eliminated effective July 1, 2011. Thus, membership to the CTMC was reduced from fifteen to fourteen. The remaining non-state agency members of the CTMC are appointed as follows: four members appointed by the Governor; one member each appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the House of Representatives. All appointed members serve for terms coterminous with their appointing authority and until their successor is appointed and has qualified. Qualification has never been defined. Vacancies on the CTMC are filled for the remainder of the term in the same manner as original appointments. The chairman of the CTMC is selected by the Governor from among the appointed members of the Commission. The Commission may elect a vice chairman, secretary and such other officers as it deems proper. Members receive no compensation for the performance of their duties.

In accordance with TITLE 13b CHAPTER 242* Section 13b-51a(f) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), on or before January 1st of each year, the CTMC is to submit an annual report to the Commissioner of Transportation and the Governor. The report is to provide: (1) a list of projects which, if undertaken by the state, would support the state's maritime policy and encourage maritime commerce and industry; (2) recommendations for improvements to existing maritime policies, programs and facilities; and (3) such other recommendations as it considers appropriate. Copies of the report are to be submitted to the General Assembly.

During calendar year 2014, the CTMC met monthly on the third Wednesday of each month. All but one of the meetings were held at the Department of Transportation Headquarters in Newington, CT. The exception was held at the State Pier Administration Building on February 19th in New London, CT to accommodate attendance of a formal MOA signing ceremony regarding National Coast Guard Museum. The annual schedule of the CTMC meetings and the summary report of meetings held were made available to the general public by being posted on the ConnDOT webpage (www.ct.gov/dot) under "About Us" and then "Commissions" or directly at <http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=2314&q=307038>.

There was one new appointment to the membership of the CTMC during the year and one unexpected vacancy occurred mid-year. A vacancy created by the resignation of a gubernatorial appointment, Mr. John Opie, in March 2011 was filled by Grant Westerson in April 2014. The new vacancy was created with the passing of State Representative Lawrence Miller in June 2014. Other members of the CTMC were as follows:

State Agency Members

OPM Secretary Benjamin Barnes (Designee David LeVasseur)
DOT Commissioner James P. Redeker (Designee Charles Beck)
DEP Commissioner Robert Klee (Designee George Wisker)
DECD Commissioner Catherine Smith (Designee Timothy Sullivan)

<u>Appointed members</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Appointing Authority</u>
*Joseph A. Riccio, Jr		Speaker House (Donovan/ Sharkey)
John Johnson	Thames River Properties	Governor (Rell/ re-appointed Malloy)
O. Thomas Dubno	Gateway Terminals, Inc	Governor (Rell)
Michael Griffin	Norwalk Harbor Master	Senate Minority Leader (McKinney)
Stanley Mickus	Cross Sound Ferry Services	President Pro Tempore (Williams)
VACANT		House Minority Leader (Cafero)
Robert Ross	Exec Dir CT Mil Affairs	Governor (Malloy)
David Shuda**	Coastline Terminals of CT	Senate Majority Leader (Looney)
Parker Wise	American Cruise Lines	House Majority Leader (Sharkey)
Grant W. Westerson	Yacht Safety	Governor

*Appointed Chairman by Governor April 2009

** Did not attend any meetings in 2014

The Maritime Policy for the State of Connecticut developed by the CTMC in December 2005 and approved by the Governor's office in 2006 continued to serve as the cornerstone of issues addressed by the Commission during calendar year 2014. Maintenance dredging of the state's waterways and the associated economic impact remained the top issues throughout the year. Public Act 11-57 Section 13(f) provided \$6 million in the FY 2012 capital budget for port infrastructure projects including dredging and navigational direction. Public Act 11-57 Section 32(f) provided \$25 million in FY 2013 for the same purposes. Public Act 13-239 Sections 13(g) and 32(f) provided \$5M in each of FY 14 and FY 15. However, a mid-year budget adjustment added \$20 million to the FY 15 for a total of \$25 million. The proposed FY 16 and FY 17 capital budget if approved will provide \$10 million each year for port infrastructure improvement projects including dredging and navigational direction. The CTMC monitored the dredging projects and studies initiated by the Department of Transportation during 2014. Updates on active dredging and port infrastructure projects were provided to the CTMC by the State Maritime Office's project management staff. Future projects were presented to the CTMC for consideration and discussion.

The New England District of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) routinely provided updates on the development of the Long Island Sound Dredge Material Management Plan (LIS DMMP) as well as on Connecticut infrastructure and dredging projects such as; Wethersfield Cove, New Haven Harbor, Norwalk Harbor Phase III, Mystic River and repairs to the New Haven and Bridgeport harbor breakwaters. The New England District of the Army Corps of Engineers held LIS DMMP Steering Committee meetings during 2014 and indicated that a draft of the LIS DMMP was expected by December 2014 as was a Preliminary Environmental Impact Study (PEIS). The 2012 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill contained language inserted by Congressman Courtney and Senator Lieberman prevented the New London and Cornfield Shoals Disposal Sites from being closed for an additional 5 years in order to give the EPA time to complete the Eastern Long Island Sound Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (ELIS SEIS). However, no federal funding was provided. In order to move re-designation of the ELIS disposal sites along, State funds were transferred to the EPA to initiate the ELIS SEIS. UConn Avery Point was contracted to lead the ELIS SEIS effort.

Three dredging projects (New Haven, Norwalk and Wethersfield Cove) were completed during the 2013-2014 dredging season by combining state and federal funds as well as developing innovative disposal solutions for the dredge material. The Norwalk Phase III project was combined with the New Haven Harbor project for disposal material management purposes. The New Haven material provided the required cap for the Norwalk material at the Central Long Island Sound (CLIS) disposal site. Both projects were started in October 2013 and completed by April 2014. The Mystic River FNP channel dredging project was started in November 2014. The Mystic River Auxiliary Channels dredging project was part of the Mystic River FNP bid project solicitation as options. However, the Auxiliary Channel work had to be postponed due to the NY Department of State objection of no consistency under Coastal Zone Management.

As a means of keeping current on national as well as maritime issues around the state, the CTMC entertained presentations during the year from federal agencies, state agencies, harbor management commissions, local port authorities, marine developers and other maritime organizations. Presentations were provided to the CTMC in 2014 by the following: Transform CT, Bridgeport Port Authority, New Haven Port Authority, New London Port Authority, Thames River Heritage Park Committee, the National Coast Guard Museum Association, Mystic Seaport, OPSAIL Connecticut Committee; Northeast Region Ocean Policy Council (NROC); the North Atlantic Port Association (NAPA); the Maritime Administration (MARAD); and the Connecticut Cruise Ship Task Force (CSTF).

A wide variety of issues were covered during the presentations and follow-on discussions. Briefings and updates were provided on: TransformCT efforts; dredging related issues/projects; the creation of a statewide port authority; National Freight Advisory Committee actions; LNG developments; the CHARLES MORGAN; TIGER Grants; OPSAIL Connecticut/Maritime Heritage/Schooner Fest planning and after action reports; Thames River Water Taxi service; the Port Study; the Marine Highway; the Eastern Long Island Sound Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (ELIS SEIS); the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF); Physical Oceanographic Real Time System (P.O.R.T.S.); proposed guidelines for passenger vessels; Ballast Water Management Systems; Northeast Diesel Collaborative (NEDC); Project Liberty Ship; Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC); Vessel General Permit (VGP) Process and the National Coast Guard Museum. Of particular importance to the CTMC were discussions on recommendations made in the Port Study and the legislative creation of a statewide port authority (PA 14-222). Commissioner Stan Mickus was appointed by State Senator Williams to represent the CTMC on the Port Authority Working Group (PAWG) tasked with developing the plan to transition all maritime functions from the DOT to the CT Port Authority (CPA). Eight (08) other CTMC Commissioners were also legislatively appointed and/or selected by the various state elected officials to participate on the PAWG: Chairman Joe Riccio, Vice Chairman John Johnson, Commissioner Tom Dubno, Commissioner Bob Ross, Commissioner Parker Wise, DEEP Commissioner Klee, DOT Commissioner James Redeker and DECD Commissioner Smith. Updates to the progress of the PAWG's transition plan were provided during the monthly meetings.

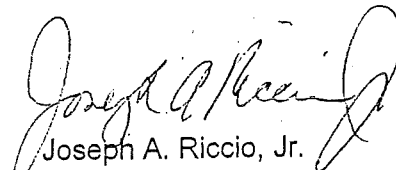
Updates on the Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Committee (LIS AMSC) and the Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Committee (LIS HSC) were provided as a standing agenda item by representatives from U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound (CG Sector LIS). At the request of CG Sector LIS, the CTMC serves as the Harbor Safety Committee for the Connecticut region of the Sector's area of responsibility. Issues presented to the CTMC by the CG included port security grants, heavy weather plans and security related exercises held by the various Regional Marine Groups.

The CTMC provided letters of endorsements and support during 2014. A letter of support for New England Central Railroad was provided for their 2014 TIGER Grant application in April. A letter of endorsement for the creation and financial support of the Thames River Heritage Park was provided in November.

Although all of the CTMC meetings are open to the public, the 2014 Annual Meeting of the CTMC required to be held in accordance with CGS Sec. 13b-51a (e) was held on December 17, 2014 at the ConnDOT HQ building in Newington, CT. State Agency Commissioners Klee and Smith attended. Topics of discussion included a review of the 2014 port infrastructure and dredging projects, an update on the creation and implementation of the Connecticut Port Authority, a review of the Thames River Heritage Park initiative and Governor Malloy's declaration that the summer of 2015 will be Coast Guard Summer. The declaration is to honor the 225th anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard, the 100th anniversary of the CG Academy in New London, the decision to locate the National Coast Guard Museum in New London and the prospects of New London being designated a Coast Guard City sometime in 2015. The draft 2014 Annual Report was presented at the Annual Meeting for review.

At the October 15, 2014 CTMC meeting a motion was approved to hold all of the 2015 monthly meetings at 0930 on the third Wednesday of each month (with the exception of August) at the ConnDOT HQ Building in Newington, CT. All were reminded that: the CTMC calendar year 2015 meeting schedule; the Mission Statement; Summary Reports of CTMC meetings; Annual Reports; Commission Member information and the Maritime Policy are all posted on the CONNDOT web page www.ct.gov/dot under About Us then Commissions or directly at <http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=2314&q=307038>.

Submitted



Joseph A. Riccio, Jr.
Chairman