

CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #5-15)
May 20, 2015

Location of Meeting: Conn-DOT HQ Building
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Joe Riccio
Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner Redeker)
Tom Dubno
Dave LeVasseur (for OPM Secretary Barnes)
Bob Ross
Grant Westerson
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for DEEP Commissioner Klee)

Absent

Mike Griffin
John Johnson
Stan Mickus
Tim Sullivan (for DECD Commissioner Smith)
Dave Shuda

Guests

Ned Farman Scot Graham Martha Klimas LT Megan McGovern Joe Salvatore

I. Call to Order:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM. A quorum wasn't immediately present. Pending the arrival of Commissioner Ross, the Chairman asked for all present to introduce themselves starting with the Commissioners then moved to various updates.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

Upon arrival of Commissioner Ross, a motion to approve the summary report of the February 18, 2015 CTMC meeting was made by George Wisker seconded by Dave LeVasseur and passed by unanimous voice vote.

III Discussion Open to Public Noting the absence of Tim Sullivan, Martha Klimas asked if there would be an update on the Port Authority Working Group meetings. The Chairman stated that there were other CTMC Commissioners present who were also members of the PAWG that would be able to provide information.

IV Old Business:

Dredging Update –Joe Salvatore provided an update on the Mystic River Auxiliary Channel dredging project. A meeting had recently been held that included the representatives from the marinas adjacent to the Auxiliary Channel, the CMTA, the New England District of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), the CTDOT Maritime Office and the contractor hired by the Corps to dredge the Mystic Auxiliary Channel. Additional funding needed for the Auxiliary Channel was approved at the May 11, 2015 Bond Commission. It is hoped that the dredging of the Auxiliary Channel can be coordinated with the marinas with work to start in October 2015. Joe provided an update on the ELIS SEIS project stating that it was moving along on schedule and in alignment with the LIS DMMP. Both are on track for a draft final report by the end of summer 2015.

Joe stated that the New Haven Harbor FNP deepening study was moving forward. The representative of the ACE met with the NHPA on May 7th to advise on next steps and the need for a local sponsor to be designated. The NHPA agreed to serve as the local sponsor and commit to providing the 50% local match required for the Feasibility Study which is estimated to cost no more than a total of \$3M. It is anticipated that the NHPA will request a port infrastructure grant-in-aid from the CTDOT to cover the \$1.5M local share. In response to a question, Joe stated that the most recent passage of WRDA changed the rules for feasibility studies, local share requirements and time constraints for completing studies.

LIS AMSC/HSC Update – Capt Scot Graham USCG (ret) was present and representing USCG Sector LIS. He distributed copies of the 2015 CT Boater's Guide stating that it contains both safety and regulatory information from CTDEEP, NOAA as well as the CG. He specifically mentioned the new abandoned boat laws. Graham stated that a CT Harbor Master Training course had been held in the Marine Group 4 region (SECT). The course was organized by Waterford Police Chief Bud Pendleton and was very well attended. Captain Graham reminded all that the 2015 hurricane season officially starts June 1, 2015. He also provided information on the 2015 Port Security Grant process, stating that the application dated had passed. CG Sector LIS was aware of 28 Investment Justifications (IJ) being submitted from the LIS AOR which will now compete for \$100M being made available nationwide. Two notable changes to the grant rules for 2015 was a return to the 3 year performance period and a reduction to 25% for private grant cost share. Lastly Capt Graham advised that the mass Casualty exercise originally scheduled for June 3 has been delayed to September 16, 2015.

Connecticut Port Authority Working Group - Update (PAWG) – The Chairman stated that here had not been a PAWG meeting since March. He then advised all of a recent correspondence between CTMC Commissioner Mickus and the staff of CT legislative leaders. In the email, Commissioner Mickus stated his opinion on recent changes made to HB 6816, the Bill that will create the CT Port Authority. The recent changes to HB 6816 expands the scope of responsibility of the CPA to all CT ports and harbors, moves the harbor master program from CTDOT to the CPA and deletes any reference to specific qualifications for CPA Board of Director members. The email indicates that Commissioner Mickus is a member of the PAWG. The concern expressed is that it could be interpreted that his comments are being made on behalf of the CTMC since Commissioner was appointed by then CT Senate President Williams to be the CTMC representative on the PAWG. The Chairman distributed a draft document that would set the record straight and asked the CTMC Commissioners present for approval to send. After reviewing the draft document and Commissioner Mickus' email, Dave LeVasseur made a motion to approve sending that was seconded by George Wisker. In response to a question by Commissioner Dubno, the Chairman repeated that the draft document only clarifies that the opinions in Commissioner Mickus' email were his alone and not those of the CTMC. There was no further discussion. The motion passed with 7 affirmative and one opposed (Dubno) votes.

CG Summer in CT 2015 – In the absence of Vice Chairman Johnson, Commissioner Ross provided an update on the CG Museum project. He stated he had attended a meeting that included AMTRAK and National Coast Guard Museum Association (NCGMA) representative working towards the agreement among all parties on the location and construction of the NCGM. He stated that a Mr. Grahn had been hired by the NCGMA to be the point person for the project.

Capt Graham advised that planning for the Maritime Heritage Festival to be held in New London the weekend of September 12th continues.

V New Business:

Grants - The Chairman noted that Capt Graham had already covered the Port Security grants. Chuck Beck reminded all of the TIGER VII Grant application window was about to close. Information on the application process had previously been distributed electronically to the CTMC and CPC email distribution lists.

LNG – The Chairman noted that Chuck Beck had been sending out article related to LNG to the CTMC over the past several months. Beck elaborated that his intent was to generate interest in bringing LNG to CT for use by commercial vessels as well as energy production. The shipping industry is steadily converting to LNG powered propulsion primarily to meet the new air pollution standards being adopted in the US and worldwide. He stated he believes there is a business opportunity in CT to establish the capability of bunker commercial vessels with LNG. Ships might stop just to fuel. Better yet ships might call upon CT ports to deliver to/ take cargo from CT ports if they could also refuel. Beck reminded all that the Governor's energy plan calls for more conversion to clean burning fuels like natural gas. Thus the ability to bring LNG into a CT port would not only better serve the commercial vessels but energy production and heating.

George Wisker commented on the current capabilities of existing gas pipelines. The failed attempt to bring LNG into LIS (Broadwater) was discussed. Commissioner Westerson reminded all of the delivery of LNG into the Port of Boston over the years without incident. Martha Klimas reminded all that GD Suez had made a presentation to the CTMC several months ago. She advised that there would be a presentation on vessel conversion to LNG at the next North Atlantic Ports Association meeting begin held in Boston on June 3-5 and suggested that some of the CTMC members attend. She also stated that the North East Diesel Collaborative was investigating better uses of LNG as an alternative fuel. Capt Graham advised that LNG was already moving about CT via the pipelines and tank trucks. He agreed that conversion to and/or providing LNG bunkers could be an economic driver for CT. The Chairman asked if LNG conversion or storage and distribution was on the CT Maritime Coalition radar. Commissioner Westerson asked if it would be appropriate for the CTMC to generate a "positive message" letter to the Governor on LNG. Beck closed the discussion stating that he thought there was still time for CT to lead as opposed to follow in the LNG arena but not for much longer.

Ocean Planning – In response to a question from the Chairman, Commissioner Dubno advised that the presentation made by NROC's Nick Napoli to the CMC meeting held in April went very well. There was a good exchange of information between the industry representative present and Mr. Napoli

VI Executive Session – none held.

VII Date of Next Meeting: All were reminded that the next meeting of the CTMC will be held at 0930 at ConnDOT HQ on **Wednesday June 17, 2015.**

VIII Adjournment: - Prior to a motion to adjourn, Chuck Beck announced that this would be his last CTMC meeting as he was retiring from State service at the end of the month. The Chairman expressed his appreciation for Beck's support, zeal, passion and knowledge on maritime matters of the CTMC. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Dubno, seconded by George Wisker and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:11 AM.