

CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #10-14)
October 15, 2014

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

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

John Johnson
Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner Redeker)
Tom Dubno
Mike Griffin
Dave LeVasseur/OPM (for Secretary Barnes)
Stan Mickus
Tim Sullivan (for DECD Commissioner Smith)
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for DEEP Commissioner)

Absent

Joe Riccio
Bob Ross
Dave Shuda
Grant Westerson

Guests

Deborah Donovan Ned Farman Scot Graham Martha Klimas Joe Salvatore
Joel Severance Bill Spicer Alan Stevens

I. Call to Order:

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 0935. A quorum was not initially present. The Vice Chairman asked for all present to introduce themselves starting with the Commissioners.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

Initially deferred due to a lack of a quorum, later in the meeting at the conclusion of Old Business, the summary report of the September 17, 2014 meeting was reviewed. A motion to approve the summary report was made by Commissioner Dubno, seconded by Commissioner Wise, and passed by unanimous voice vote.

III Discussion Open to Public Chuck Beck requested that an update of the Thames River Heritage Park be added to the agenda under New Business. There were no objects from the Commissioners/designees present.

IV Old Business:

Dredging Update –Joe Salvatore stated that there were two projects recently awarded by the New England District of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). The first, the Mystic River FNP and Auxiliary Channel dredge project, was awarded to Cashman. The Mystic FNP bid was \$5.28M to remove 250K cu yds. The Mystic Auxiliary Channel bid was \$1.238M to remove 28K cu yds. However, the project could be in jeopardy for the upcoming dredging season due to objections by NY Department of State (NYDOS) and the potential of an injunction. The NYDOS objection is based on the use of the New London Disposal Site (NLDS). NYDOS has submitted a third 12 page letter of objection that is being reviewed by the ACOE. Discussion centered on possible actions if any that CT could take to support getting the project done as designed by the ACOE. Joe Salvatore informed that there isn't much if anything that CT can do as the process is in the federal arena. NYDOS initially claimed that the NLDS is no longer a designated disposal site despite a Senator Lieberman and Congressman Courtney sponsored Bill that extended the life of the NLDS. George Wisker added that NYDOS is making legal arguments related to a lack of consistency with the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) laws. Congressman Courtney and his staff have been fully brief on the issues raised by NYDOS and the potential for an injunction.

Options were discussed that included changing the disposal site to the Central Long Island Sound (CLIS) disposal site at an additional cost related to the hauling distance. Comments were made about the need to amend permits for other privately funded dredging projects that were counting on the Mystic material as cap to allow disposal at CLIS vs NLDS, at least one of which has been waiting 8 years to get his project done. The Mystic River dredging project discussion closed with Joe Salvatore mentioning that it is anticipated that the end result of the ongoing Eastern Long Island Sound Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (ELIS SEIS) will reestablish a dredge material disposal site in eastern LIS.

Joe Salvatore stated that the second project is the Guilford Harbor FNP dredging project funded by federal Hurricane Sandy money. The Guilford Town Marina dredging and pile repair is an option to the FNP using state port infrastructure improvement funds. However, the bids came in higher than what the ACOE had anticipated for both the FNP and the Marina work. The Town of Guilford has agreed to contribute \$278,319 towards the project to move it along. The Guilford FNP will remove approximately 53K cu yds and the Marina 7K cu yds some of which is of good grade sand. All of the good material will be relocated to Hammonasset State Park Beach. The rest will go to CLIS.

Joe provided an update on the ELIS SEIS. A draft report is expected in Dec 2014/Jan 2015. The final report is expected in Dec 2015. Joe added that public meetings on the Long Island Sound Dredge Material Management Plan (LIS DMMP) will be held in 2015 with a final report to be out by Dec 2016.

LIS AMSC/HSC Update – Scot Graham provided handouts: a copy of the Fall 2014 edition of the Coast Guard Journal PROCEEDINGS and a copy of BULLETIN (AMSB) No 001-14 on the Ebola Virus Disease Threat and the Marine Transportation System which had already been electronically distributed to the CTMC prior to the meeting. The Bulletin mainly reemphasizes the need and methods of communications among shipping agents, the ship's Master, the CG, US Customs, etc. related to arriving vessels with sick crew. Scot solicited all to take the NATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY SURVEY which had also already been distributed to the CTMC electronically. Scot stated that the LIS Area Maritime Security Plan (AMSP) 5 year update had recently been approved and that an announcement would be forthcoming. The updated AMSP is available on the LIS Homeport web page; some part in the SSI section others on the public side. Scot advised that the next LIS Area Maritime Security Council (AMSC) Executive Steering Committee meeting is being held in Bridgeport at the State Police Troop G barracks on October 29. Chuck Beck, Commission Westerson are members of the AMSC. Another meeting of general interest is the annual post Recreational Boating Season meeting being held at the CG Sector LIS office in New Haven at 1000 on October 28, 2014. Any interested in attending should contact LT Jason Schaumburg at (203) 468 4401. Scot advised that on June 4, 2014 a full scale mass rescue/casualty exercise will be held in the New London area. Lastly, Scot referenced a handout provided about a Voluntary Cyber Assessment Program encouraging all to participate.

V New Business:

Connecticut Port Authority Working Group - Update (PAWG)

Tim Sullivan provided an update stating that the first PAWG meeting had been held on October 1, 2014 in Hartford with almost a full slate of PAWG members attending. Information on the PAWG is posted on both the DECD and the Secretary of State web pages. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in New London on November 5, 2014. The initial meeting covered ethics rules and the selection of co-chairs for the PAWG (DECD Commissioner Smith and DOT Commissioner Redeker). Commissioner Redeker provided a brief on the State Maritime Office. Bob Ross provided a brief on the Port Study conducted in 2011. Tim advised that he provided a brief on the PAWG tasks contained in PA 14-222. The PAWG agreed that the first goal is to create an implementation report to the Connecticut General Assembly by March 15, 2015. The PAWG agreed that the goal is to accelerate delivery of the plan to the start of the 2015 Session in January 2015. The second goal is creating a business plan for the CPA. The CT Airport Authority (CAA) will be asked to make a presentation to the PAWG on the lessons learned during its creation/ implementation.

Thames River Heritage Park (TRHP) – As an add-on to the agenda, Deborah Donovan provided an update to the TRHP. The TRHP was actually created by state legislation in 1987 but has never received the funding necessary to foster its creation. The goal is to connect the various historic sites along both banks of the Thames River. Accessibility and historic interpretation are two big challenges. The TRHP would be flexible to include new tourist attractions like the proposed USCG Museum. The TRHP will have a regional impact increasing tourism and regional transportation. The proposed water taxi to connect waterfront sites could be expanded to provide shuttle services for businesses that have a footprint on both sides of the River like Electric Boat, UConn Avery Point and Mitchell College. Deborah advised of the recent interest in resurrecting the TRHP concept driven by the Avery Coop House with assistance from the Yale Urban Design organization. She provided information the trial runs of a water taxi used during two weekends in September; TRHP event on Sept 5-7 and the Schooner Fest on September 12-14. It was estimated that the taxi service handled approximately 1,000 people per day of operation between the hours of 1100 and 2100 drawing passengers from both sides of the River. Establishments on the Groton side reported an increase in business during the water taxi hours of operation. In response to questions, Deborah reported that work continues via committees on resolving issues such as the proper boat design, hours of operation, fares to charge, coordinating ground transportation, outside funding sources, best ownership/operation model, etc. Scot Graham recommended designating landing sites as “public access facilities” relative to compliance with HLS and Marine Transportation Security Act requirements. At the conclusion of her remarks, Deborah solicited the CTMC for a letter of support for the TRHP. After some brief comments by the Vice Chairman, Chuck Beck made a motion for the CTMC to provide the requested letter of support. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Griffin and approved by unanimous vote. The Vice Chair asked Beck to draft a letter, solicit it electronically to the CTMC Commissioners for review/approval.

VI Executive Session – none held.

VII Date of Next Meeting: All were reminded that the next meeting of the CTMC will be 0930 at ConnDOT HQ on **Wednesday November 19, 2014.**

VIII Adjournment: -. A motion to adjourn was made by George Wisker, seconded by Tim Sullivan and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.