

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #08-1)
16 January 2008**

Location of Meeting: CONNDOT Headquarters
Newington, CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Frankel)
Vincent Cashin
Sue Decina (for Commissioner McDonald)
Tom Dubno
Judy Gott
G.L. "Doc" Gunther
John Johnson
Joseph P. Maco (for TSB Chair Kelleher)
Joe Riccio
George Wisker (for Commissioner McCarthy)

Absent

David Shuda
Phil Smith (for Secretary Genuario)
Martin Toyen
Robert Virgulak
John Wronowski

Guests

John Crowther	Bob Hammersley	David Lis	Larry Miller	LCDR Kevin Oditt
Ed O'Donnell	Capt Dan Ronan	Dave Rossiter	Joe Salvatore	Joel Severance
Bill Spicer	Alan Stevens	Brian Thompson	Kurt Walton	Grant Westerson

I. Call to Order:

- The Vice Chair, Joe Riccio, opened the meeting at 9:35. A quorum of 10 was present..

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

- The draft minutes of the 19 December 2007 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept was made by Judy Gott, seconded by John Johnson and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote. Doc Gunther made a plea that the minutes should be a verbatim transcript due to the importance of the issues discussed at the CTMC meetings. He acknowledged that he has made the plea several times before. No action was taken.

III Discussion Open to Public

- Bill Spicer presented material (nautical charts and geological maps) to support his contention that the New London Disposal Site was outside of Long Island Sound. The running thesis is that since the NLDS is not within Long Island Sound, the use of the NLDS is not constrained by the Ambro amendment to the Marine Resources and Sanctuary Protection Act (MRSPA) also known as the Ocean Dumping Act (ODA). There was some discussion relative to the accuracy of the charts/maps as well as to the value of the argument. It was pointed out that the NLDS was scheduled to close in 2011 unless something is done. The scope and timeline of the Long Island Sound Dredge Material Disposal Plan (LIS DMMP) was discussed. A question was asked as to who the arbiter would be in making a determination of the boundaries of Long Island sound with different answers offered. Vince Cashin moved and John Johnson seconded that the CTMC should send a letter to the CT Attorney General requesting a determination as to whether or not the waters south of New London, east of Bartlett's Reef and northeast of Little Gull Island all the way to the Rhode Island boundary is part of Long Island Sound. After some additional discussion about the CTMC staff discussing the matter with the assistant AG who works within the CONNDOT Bureau of Aviation and Ports, the motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 nay and 2 abstentions.

- Doc Gunther introduced State Representative Larry Miller. State Representative Miller stated that he had more than a working knowledge of some of the issues being discussed by the CTMC, specifically, the Coastline (CILCO terminal, New Haven Terminal and barge operations).

IV Old Business:

- Dredging Update: Joe Salvatore reported the President had signed a \$555B appropriations act that contained the Energy and Water Appropriation Act. The Energy and Water Appropriation Act contained funding for several dredging related projects in CT: Norwalk (\$5.609M), North Cove (\$4.33M), LIS DMMP (\$3.525M), Bridgeport Harbor (\$738K) and Patchogue River (\$93K).

A copy of the "Second Annual Report Regarding Progress in Developing a Dredged Material Management Plan for the Long Island sound Region" was provided as a handout. The report covers the period July 6, 2006 to July 5, 2007. Also provided was a copy of a document entitled "The Role of the Federal Standard in the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New and Maintenance Navigation Projects; Beneficial uses of Dredged Materials".

The draft legislation to create a state dredging fund was discussed. Specifically the draft letter to be used to present the legislation to key members of the State legislature was reviewed. Doc Gunther recommended that all state legislators representing a coastal or river community should be added to the distribution list of the letter. A motion to approve the draft letter was made by George Wisker and seconded by Tom Dubno. After some additional comments, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

- Annual Report – A draft Annual Report for 2007 was provided for review. Both Doc Gunther and Judy Gott moved that the draft Annual Report be approved. There was some discussion lead by Doc Gunther questioning some of the content of the Annual Report. At the conclusion of the discussion no changes were offered or recommended. The motion to accept was approved by a unanimous vote.
- Captain Dan Ronan, Commander U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound, was afforded the opportunity to address the CTMC. Captain Ronan stated that the FERC EIS on the Broadwater project was on the street and being reviewed. He also provided information on the Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC) system that is being implemented throughout the U.S. A TWIC processing center will be opened in the New London area shortly, followed by centers in New Haven and Bridgeport.

V New Business:

- CMA Conference: All were reminded that the Connecticut Maritime Association (CMA) conference was being held in March 2008 in Stamford. The CTMC and CMC had agreed to cooperatively coordinate staffing a booth on behalf of the maritime interests in CT. CMC will take the lead on drafting a schedule.
- Traffic Issues at the Port of New Haven: Tom Dubno introduced a letter sent by the New Haven Harbor Coalition to the CONNDOT Commissioner. The subject of the letter is the traffic issues at the Port of New Haven caused by the Quinnipiac River Bridge project. Problems with the design of the I-95 exit ramp (Exit 50) is limiting access to the port area CONNDOT is working on a solution but options are limited. There was some discussion on the status of the rail road lines being reinstated to the port facilities. Tom Dubno stated that work progresses but there are still issues involving access to specific facilities.

- DECD State Economic Strategic Plan: Chuck Beck introduced a draft letter to Commissioner McDonald (DECD). The intent of the letter is to ensure that the maritime issues identified over the past two years by the CTMC are considered during the development of the State Economic Strategic Plan. Discussion about the letter was brief. It was pointed out that the New Haven Port Authority requested that the Port of New Haven's dredging needs be included in the letter. Tom Dubno pointed out that dredging in general is flagged in the letter without specific mention of any CT port. Tom Dubno moved to approve the draft letter. The motion was seconded by Judy Gott and carried with 9 yeas and 1 abstention.
- Feeder Barge Update: An update of the Feeder Barge project was provided. Additionally several recent article about the project were distributed as part of the handout materials. All were advised that the Feeder Barge project was on the agenda of the Transportation Strategy Board meeting to be held at 0800 Thursday 17 January 2008 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, CT
- CSTF presentation: All were advised that George Cassidy, Executive Director of the Cruise Ship Task Force had been invited to make a presentation at the February CTMC meeting being held at the Fort Trumbull Conference Center in February. Confirmation has not yet been received.

VI Date of Next Meeting:

- All were reminded that the next meeting of the CTMC is scheduled at 9:30 AM **Wednesday** 20 February 2008 at the Fort Trumbull Conference Center in New London, CT.

VII. Adjournment:

- A motion was made by Tom Dubno, seconded by Vince Cashin and approved unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:50 AM.