

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #09-01)
21 January 2009**

Location of Meeting: CONNDOT HQ
Newington, CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Marie)
Sue Decina (for Commissioner McDonald)
Tom Dubno
G.L. "Doc" Gunther
John Johnson
Larry Miller
John Opie
Joe Riccio
George Wisker

Absent

Vincent Cashin
Robert Genuario
Joseph P. Maco
David Shuda
John Wronowski

Guests

John Crowther Henry Goyette Mike Griffin David Head Jack Karalius
CDR Oditt Joe Salvatore Joel Severance Judi Sheffile Bill Spicer
Geoff Steadman Alan Stevens Brian Thompson Fred Walters

I. Call to Order:

- A. The Vice-Chair, Joe Riccio, opened the meeting at 9:32 AM. A quorum of 9 was present. The CTMC members were asked to introduce themselves.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

- A. The summary report of the 17 December 2008 meeting was reviewed. A motion was made by John Johnson seconded by Tom Dubno to approve. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

III Discussion Open to Public

- A. Joel Severance representing the CT Harbor Management Association announced that the CHMA was sponsoring a Maritime Hurricane Preparation Exercise from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday 14 February 2009. The exercise is being held at the DEP facility in Old Lyme. Lunch will be provided. The focus of the meeting will be on recreational boat and marina preparations in advance of a hurricane particularly in the lower CT River Valley region. Presentations will be made by the representatives from the USCG and other organizations.

IV Old Business:

- A. Dredging Update - Joe Salvatore
1. Norwalk Dredging Project – Approximately 130K cubic yards of the 200K of material have been removed and deposited at CLIS. The remainder should be removed by 31 Jan. The 40K cubic yards of cleaner material should be removed by mid February.
 2. North Cove Dredging Project – Approximately 85K of the 180K cubic yards of material has been removed and transported to Cornfield Shoal Disposal Site (CSDS). The contractor will hold the last 75K cubic yards of material until the end of March to

be able to provide the capping material for the Norwalk and other projects at Central Long Island Sound Disposal (CLIS) area.

3. The Rocky Hill-Glastonbury Ferry dredging and slip improvement project has started. Approximately half of the 4K cubic yards of material has been removed and stockpiled at a state facility for testing before disposal at an upland landfill. Questions were asked and answered with respect to the cost, quantity of material being transported upland, why open water disposal was not used, etc.
 4. Through coordination among the various dredging project consultants, DOT, DEP and the ACOE, 19 private and municipal dredging projects being accommodated by the capping material primarily available from the North Cove and Norwalk projects are coming to a close. Most had an end date of 31 December. Two have until 1 February
 5. LIS DMMP – The official end date for receiving questionnaires was 1 January 2009. The return rate of the questionnaires is above 57%. The ACOE 's contractor (Battelle) will continue to accept questionnaires but for the summary report only. George Wisker added that the contractor is working on an upland disposal facility data base for coastal CT.
- B. LIS AMSC Update – CDR Oditt from Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound (CGSECLIS) provided an update on the Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Committee (LIS AMSC). He provided an update on the Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC) card program, and an upcoming Facility Security Official (FSO) training offering.
- C. LIS HSC Update – CDR Oditt CDR Oditt provided an update on the Block Island Sound Port Access Route Study (PARS) being conducted as well as work being done by the heavy weather sub-committee to the LIS Harbor Safety Committee. He also stated that the Annual Small Passenger Industry Day would be held on Long Island on 25 February 2009. CDR Oditt provided a brief description of the icebreaking operations the CGC BOLLARD has been conducting in the CT River. He also provided a brief description of the Christmas Day incident that took place at the Magellan Terminal dock. A tide measure devise place on the dock in conjunction with a dredging project was mistakenly identified as a possible improvised explosive device. The good news was that the response was very good. The bad news s that had the dredging company notified the proper organizations, the response would not have been necessary.

V New Business:

- A. Annual Report – Joe Riccio noted that the completed draft of the 2008 Annual Report was part of the meeting package and had been distributed previously via e-mail. He asked if anybody had any changes/found any errors. None were offered. John Johnson offered and Tom Dubno seconded a motion to accept the report. The motion was passed by unanimous vote
- B. Silent Inspector – All were advised that participation in the ACOE's Silent Inspector Program is mandatory as of 1 January 2009 for dredging projects. A copy of the Public Notice was part of the handout package. Jack Karalius noted that the first two projects in CT to use the silent inspector were Norwalk and North Cove.
- C. Economic Stimulus Package – Joe Riccio noted that the House of Representatives had introduced a Bill that would provide \$4.5B to the ACOE; \$2.0B for construction projects and \$2.5B for Operations and Maintenance. It is not clear at this time how the "matching funds" for projects might be affected. Doc Gunther provided a handout from the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The handout was a letter dated 22 December 2008 from the CAC to Congressman Israel (D-NY) and Congressman Shays (R-CT) that provided an extensive list of projects that should be considered under the stimulus package as an investment in Long Island Sound. Among the projects were several "shovel ready" dredging projects that had

been provided to the CAC by the CTMC upon request. Joe Riccio stated that the problem at this time is it is not known how the stimulus funding will be distributed. It could come as a lump sum to the Governor for further distribution. Doc Gunther called for coordination to bring pressure on the CT Congressional Delegation (CTCODEL) and the Governor's office to get the money and get it distributed. Joe Riccio and others explained that state agencies had been tasked with developing a list of projects and that they were all submitted to the Governor's office to be "coordinated". John Johnson recommended that the CAC be advised to submit their project list to the Governor's office. It was stated that the Governor's office had already met with the CTCODEL to discuss CT's needs. John Opie recommended that the best approach will be to allow the economic stimulus package parameters to be publicized, then follow the money with respect to submitting requests.

- D. Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund – Joe Riccio started the discussion by pointing out the material in the handout packages: a copy of an AAPA News Letter, copies of letters to Senators from their contemporaries on the need to release more of the HMTF for its intended purpose (maritime infrastructure projects like dredging) John Johnson questioned why Congress had not released more of the HMTF. Joe Riccio stated that the HMTF was not structured as a "protected" fund in the same manner as the Highway Trust Fund or the Airport Trust Fund when created. It was also pointed out that funds like the HMTF were often used by Congress and the Administration as offsets to balance the budget/reduce the deficit at least on paper. George Wisker added comments about the HMTF and the taxes on short sea shipping projects. Joe Riccio stated that Congressman Cummings (D-MD) had been and is expected to continue to be a proponent for releasing more of the HMTF. Former Congressman Shays had introduced such legislation to past Congressional sessions.
- E. Errata - Off-topic, Larry Miller asked if the CTMC planned any follow-up to the response provided by the CT AG on the eastern LIS boundary question. Joe Riccio offered that if the CTMC wanted to pursue the topic it should be added to the agenda of the next meeting. However, the discussion continued, with a call to attempt to get an answer on the question from a Federal agency. Chuck Beck stated that the question had been asked and answered and that the CTMC should not spend any more time on the matter.. He also offered that the issue was not pertinent any longer in that the expanding the area covered by the LIS DMMP would be beneficial to CT dredging projects in the longer term. George Wisker offered that the EPA was working on responding to the question of the eastern boundary of LIS due to the matter being raised during the public scoping meetings for the LIS DMMP that were held over a year ago. It was suggested that the CTMC wait for the EPA determination. Doc Gunther recommended that the CTMC get someone (presumably from the EPA) to attend the next CTMC meeting to address the issue. Joe Riccio concluded the discussion by stating that it would be an agenda item for the February meeting.

Doc Gunther once again raised his concerns with the proposed anchoring and liting zones being proposed by the USCG. His major concern remains his opinion that the CG has not done enough public outreach. CDR Oditt explained that the outreach done by the CG thus, far has merely been preliminary. The CG will still be required to present the proposed anchoring and liting zones via the Notice to Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) process which includes notice in the Federal Register. CDR Oditt attempted to alleviate Doc Gunther's concern that there were pipelines and electrical cable that might run through the zones. CDR Oditt offered to discuss the matter further with Doc after the meeting.

Larry Miller asked if anybody had any information on the reported purchase of a terminal in Hartford by the Buckeye Pipeline. Tom Dubno stated that he did not have any information. However, he was aware that storage of petroleum products was an issue due to the fact that barges used to deliver product from New Haven up the CT River has been limited due to shoaling of the channel.

John Johnson announced that the Connecticut Marine Trades Association's (CMTA) annual boat show was taking place this weekend. He also asked if anybody was aware of a Bill HB 5206 - An Act Establishing an Inland Waters Commercial Vessel Operators License recently introduced to the current session of the CT Legislature. The Bill if passed would require "any person, who operates a vessel for a fee on the inland waters of the state for the purpose of carrying passengers on such vessel to hold such license and a current passenger-for-hire license issued by the United States Coast Guard." Chuck Beck stated that he was aware of the proposed Bill and had provided comments to the CONDOT legislative Liaison's office for consideration. John Johnson stated that the CMTA felt that the Bill was insanity. He also stated that the CT Maritime Coalition (CMC) objects to the Bill and will be filing an opinion. He recommended that the CTMC weigh-in as well. All agreed to track and put the discussion of the Bill on the agenda for the February meeting.

Joe Riccio provided information to all on the annual CT Maritime Association (CMA) Conference being held in Stamford on 23-25 March 2009. In the past, members of the CTMC had assisted the CMC with manning a booth during the Conference.

Chuck Beck announced that an invitation had been made to and accepted by New London City officials to make a presentation on the New London Port Authority at the February meeting of the CTMC. He also stated that an invitation had been made to the Pawcatuck Harbor Management Commission but that a commitment was pending.

VI Date of Next Meeting:

- A. It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be at the Fort Trumbull Conference Center in New London, CT at 0930 on Wednesday February 18, 2009.

VII Adjournment:

A motion was made by John Johnson, seconded by Tom Dubno and approved unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:32 AM.