

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)  
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #08-11)  
19 November 2008**

**Location of Meeting:** Aquaculture School  
Bridgeport, CT

**Attendance:**

**Commissioners**

***Present***

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

***Absent***

Robert Genuario  
Martin Toyen  
Joseph P. Maco (for TSB Chair Kelleher)  
David Shuda

**Guests**

John Crowther	Bob Gesullo	Jack Karalius	Toni Mobilia	Emmett Pepper
Bill Roc	Dave Rossiter	Joe Salvatore	Bill Spicer	Geoff Steadman
Alan Stevens	Fred Walters			

**I. Call to Order:**

- The Vice-Chair, Joe Riccio, opened the meeting at 9:35 AM. A quorum of 11 was present.

**II. Review of Meeting Minutes:**

- The summary report of the 15 October 2008 meeting was reviewed. After a couple of minor corrections were noted and Doc Gunther's monthly appeal for verbatim transcripts, a motion was made by John Johnson seconded by Vin Cashin to approve. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
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**III Discussion Open to Public**

- Bill Spicer, co-chair of the Long Island Sound Assembly (LISA), reported on the organization's draft 2008 Report. He provided a draft copy. He reminded all that the clock was ticking with respect to the closing of the disposal sites in Long Island Sound, specifically Western (WLIS) and Central (CLIS). The New London disposal site (NLDS) is scheduled to close in 2011. LISA intends to seek state regulatory agency support to keep the sites open.
- Bill Rock, Chairman of the Stratford Waterfront & Harbor Management Commission, stated that the Housatonic River is a source of clean capping material that has been untapped. Additionally the channel in the Housatonic has several areas that need to be maintenance dredged.

#### IV Old Business:

- Dredging Update
  - North Cove Dredging Project – Joe Salvatore reported that the project has been started with approximately 21K cubic yards of material removed and transported to Cornfield Shoal Disposal Site (CSDS). The last 75K cubic yards of material will be left until the end to be able to provide the capping material for the Norwalk project. George Wisker noted that initiation of disposal at CSDS by the Corps has started the 5 year countdown on use of the CSDS by projects subject to the requirements of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA). If not formerly designated by EPA, CSDS will close to MPRSA projects November 6, 2013.
  - Norwalk Dredging Project –The work has been ongoing since October. Approximately 37K cubic yards of material have been removed and deposited at CLIS.
  - Through coordination among the various dredging project consultants, DOT, DEP and the ACOE, the most recent list of municipal and private dredging projects that will be accommodated by the capping material primarily available from the North Cove and Norwalk projects is up to 21. It was reported that Joe and Chuck Beck had attended the press conference organized by the Norwalk officials. Also in attendance was Congressman Shays, Mayor Moccia and other Norwalk City and Harbor Management officials.
  - The Rocky Hill-Glastonbury Ferry dredging and slip improvement project had to be re-solicited. The low bid was by Guerrera Construction at \$1.493M. Work should begin by December 2008.
  - LIS DMMP - Joe Salvatore reported that the return rate of the questionnaires distributed was at 54.5%. Although significantly better than the 30% return rate from past surveys, a push is being made to improve the rate. Key people have been asked to reach out to facilities in the area who have not responded and get them to do so. The same people and others have been asked to review the list of non-responding entities to determine which of them should be deleted as a duplication or mail drop.
  - George Wisker provided information on the New England Regional Dredge Team (Sudbury Group) meeting that was held on 21 October. He and Joe Salvatore attended. One of the agenda items was how to reduce the conflict between the ACOE and the state and federal fisheries agencies with regards to establishing dredging windows. More data is needed to prove/disprove the actual spawning areas and times of various aquatic species. Doc Gunther provided some history on the topic focusing on oyster beds. He also inquired about the Caswell Cove dredging project. It was pointed out that the project is one of the 21 that is being accommodated by the North Cove capping material as indicated in the meeting handouts.
  - George Wisker provided information on the ongoing Innovative Technology project. The project is a demonstration project using surrogate material from New Jersey to determine the ability and cost of treating dredge material through one of several techniques and then using the material for a beneficial purpose. Joe Riccio provided some additional information on the Bridgeport Harbor Innovative Tech project. There was some ensuing discussion on the source of the material (NJ) the duration of the demonstration project (timeline) and the source of the funding (WRDA 2000 grant)
- Letter to Attorney General - Chuck Beck stated that he was aware the Assistant AG in the Bureau of Aviation and Ports had been tasked with researching the boundary line issue and that the CZM issue was being staffed by the Assistant AG assigned to environmental issues. However, no response had been received to date. There was a discussion on the history of the letters sent to the AG that had not been answered. Doc Gunther made a recommendation that the Vice Chair call the AG or the AG's legislative liaison (Keyhole) and inquire.

- LIS AMSC Update - Nobody from Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound (CGSECLIS) was present to provide an update on the Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Committee (LIS AMSC). Chuck Beck stated that the FY 2009 Port Security Grant Guidance was on the street. He also provided an update on the Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC) card program.
- LIS HSC Update – Before the topic was introduced, Doc Gunther requested that somebody interpret the chartlet that had previously been provided on the proposed littering and anchorage zones. He could not determine where the proposed zones were relative to pipelines, electrical cable, shellfish beds, etc. He stated that he had contacted various agencies/groups to determine if they were aware of the proposed zones and several had indicated that they were not. Doc Gunther then broke out a packet of his personal chartlets mounted on poster board that depicted the various pipelines, electrical cables, telephone cables and fishing beds in Long Island Sound. He stated again that the owners of the oyster beds were not aware. Vince Cashin and George Wisker stated that they had been involved in meetings with the Coast Guard relative to the establishment and location of the zones and felt comfortable that the CG had reached out to all concerned. George Wisker explained that the process to establish the zones had taken place over several years, involving public notice, meetings with interested parties like fishermen, involvement of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the CT Dept of Agriculture. Vin Cashin validated that the fishing industry had been engaged in the process and that fishing in the zones would not be precluded though fixed gear might be at risk. Chuck Beck stated that all of the out reach completed to date by the CG was preliminary to a formal Notice to Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that would be published in the Federal Register. Doc Gunther wants to see a chart of Long Island sound with overlays of the various pipelines, electrical cables, communications cables and fishing beds. Chuck Beck stated that he would pass Doc's request to the CG. The remainder of the Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Committee (LIS HSC) brief was that a heavy weather advisory group had been established as a sub-committee to the LIS HSC.

## **V New Business:**

- Membership and 2009 Meeting Schedule – Chuck Beck pointed out that there were three letters in the meeting packets concerning membership to the Commission. One was a letter of resignation submitted by Marty Toyen as a member and Chairman effective 1 January 2009. Another was a letter of acknowledgement of the resignation of Judy Gott effective 15 October 2008. The third was a letter of appointment to John Opie as Judy Gott's replacement. The discussion turned to the 2009 Meeting Schedule that had been approved prior to Judy Gott being replaced. Chuck Beck stated that Judy had communicated to him that she would still host the two meetings scheduled to be held at her facility (March and July). The question was put to the Commissioners present as to whether or not an alternative location should be considered. A statement was made that a location in New Haven would be more convenient to most members. Chuck Beck stated that he determined that the Coast Guard could host the March and July meetings at the new CG Sector LIS office building in New Haven. A motion to that affect was made by Vin Cashin, seconded by Tom Dubno and approved by unanimous vote.

Doc Gunther introduced a topic off agenda. He requested that the CTMC once again pursue asking various harbor commissions to make presentations to the CTMC when meetings are held in that part of the state.. He specifically mentioned the southeast region of the state when the CTMC meets at the Fort Trumbull Conference Center. An effort will be made to contact harbor commissions in the SECT region and invite them to attend the February meeting scheduled to be held at the Fort Trumbull Conference Center in New London.

- Letters of Invitation to the Annual Meeting –A draft letter of invitation intended to be sent to State Agency Commissioners to attend the CTMC Annual Meeting on 17 December 2008 had been circulated prior to the meeting and was part of the handouts. No changes to the

letter were offered. The letter will be put on CTMC stationery, signed by the Vice Chair and mailed.

- **LEAN Review** – George Wisker made a presentation on DEP's efforts to streamline the permitting process. Handouts had been circulated prior to the meeting as part of the meeting package. It is anticipated that the LEAN review will reduce the permit review timeframes by more than 50% by decreasing complexity and redundancy in administrative tasks forms and procedures. Additional information is available on the DEP web site ([www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep)) under Updated Documents & Permit Application. There was some discussion about fees, the need to extend permits from 3-5 years and whether or not the LEAN review was being done in-house by DEP or by a consultant. The efforts to streamline the permitting process were commended by several people in attendance. George was asked and agreed to provide updates at future CTMC meetings as appropriate.
- **Annual Report** – Chuck Beck stated that he had the 2008 Annual Report draft up to today's meeting. He stated that he planned on providing a draft with the December meeting package to be considered at the Annual meeting. All agreed.
- **Deep Draft Ports Strategy** – It was pointed out that during the 2008 Legislative Session there had been an item that would have provided \$500K for a Deep Draft Port Study to be conducted. The item was scrubbed due to the State's financial situation. However, that does not diminish the need for such a study/strategy to be conducted. The question was posed as to whether or not a deep draft port strategy should be something that the CTMC pushes to be conducted. It was pointed out that the CT Maritime Coalition (CMC) is close to having a study completed on the economic impact of the ports to the state. There is also the data being collected as part of the LIS DMMP initiative. There was a discussion on governance of the ports, marketing of the ports (the Port of CT concept), the green port strategy, the sale of the CILCO Terminal, infrastructure investments and other issues. It was decided to carry the topic to the December meeting agenda.

Tony Mobilia, Chairman of the Norwalk Harbor Commission, expressed his gratitude for the assistance and support of the CTMC, George Wisker (DEP) and Joe Salvatore (DOT) in getting things lined up to allow the Norwalk dredging project to go forward.

#### **VI Date of Next Meeting:**

It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be at the CONNDOT HQ building in Newington at 0930 on Wednesday 17 December 2008

#### **VII Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Tom Dubno seconded by John Johnson and approved unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 11:59 AM.