

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)**  
**SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #11-12)**  
**November 21, 2012**

**Location of Meeting:**                    **Bridgeport Regional Vocational  
Aquaculture School  
60 St. Stephens Road  
Bridgeport, CT**

**Attendance:**

**Commissioners**

***Present***

Ronald Angelo (for DECD Commissioner)  
Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner)  
Tom Dubno  
Michael Griffin  
Stan Mickus  
Joe Riccio  
Bob Ross  
David Shuda  
Parker Wise  
George Wisker (for DEEP Commissioner)

***Absent***

Dave LeVasseur (for OPM Secretary)  
John Johnson  
Larry Miller

**Guests**

George Cassidy    Ned Farman    Don Frost    Bill Gash    Scot Graham    Fred Hall  
Paul Hinsch       Martha Klimas    David Kooris    Pat Obrien    Dave Rossiter    Greg Roth  
Joe Salvatore       Joel Severance    Judi Sheiffele    Steve White

**I.        Call to Order:**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 0932. A quorum was present. The Chairman asked for all present to introduce themselves starting with the Commissioners.

**II.       Review of Meeting Minutes:**

The summary report of the October 17, 2012 meeting was reviewed. A motion to approve the summary report was made by Commissioner Ross. George Wisker provided a second and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**III      Discussion Open to Public**

Prior to opening the floor to the public, the Chairman requested that comments from the public be limited to topics/announcements other than agenda items to be discussed. He added that initial discussion on the Port Study under New Business would be limited to the CTMC Commissioners. Once the initial discuss was concluded, comments from the public would be solicited.

Don Frost provided information on a recent CNBC program (Squawk Box). The program had a 5 day series based on a book Dynasties of the Sea by Lori Ann Larocca. He highly recommended the book.

George Cassidy, Executive Director of the CT Cruise Ship Task Force (CSTF), advised that during a recent trip to Fort Lauderdale, Princess Cruise Lines expressed a desire for the M/V DAWN PRINCESS to call on New London. The ship is 856 feet in length, carries 1950 passengers and 900 crew. The CSTF is working with Logistec with respect to the desired date of call (07/22/2014) and other administrative matters. Mr. Cassidy also stated that the CSTF was happy with the information contained in the Port Study about the Port of New London.

**IV Old Business:** Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore advised that EPA Region 1 had held the first of two public meetings about the Eastern Long Island Sound Supplementary Environmental Impact Study (ELIS SEIS) on 11/14/2012 at UConn Avery Point. Another meeting has been scheduled to be held at Riverhead, NY on January 9, 2013. Joe advised all that anybody wishing to be placed on the email distribution list to be kept in the loop on future meetings and information should send a request to EPA Region 1 at [ELIS@EPA.gov](mailto:ELIS@EPA.gov). Joe Salvatore updated all on the three dredging projects currently underway in CT: Patchogue River, Clinton Harbor and Housatonic River. ACOE Dredger CURRITUCK has been conducting dredging operations in Housatonic River. A press conference attended by TV, radio and print media was held by the Stratford Harbor Management Commission on 11/13/2012. The Patchogue River project is underway and should result in the removal of approximately 36K cubic yards of material. The Clinton Harbor dredging project is temporarily on hold until a Piping Plover monitoring plan can be implemented. Funding for the plan has been identified and should be in place shortly.

**V New Business:** Study of a Strategy of the Economic Development of CT's Ports (Port Study) The Chairman started by reminding all that the Port Study had been made available to a couple of months or so ago. The CTMC had agreed at the October meeting to discuss the Port Study and determine whether or not any recommendations related to the Port Study should be made to the Governor and CT Legislature as per the charter of the CTMC. He noted that the Port Study has many layers, the two most prominent being a change in governance over CT's ports and establishment of a grant in aid program. The Chairman stated that it was not his intent or recommendation that the CTMC develop any specific organization but thought the CTMC should develop a list of key elements that any legislation that would create a new governing body should contain. The Chairman added that in anticipation of legislative hearings that might be held perhaps the CTMC could assist in defining the goals and expectations of a statewide port authority (SWPA) should one be legislatively created. There are many questions that could be resolved in advance such as the relationship of an overarching port governing body to the existing local port authorities as well as the scope of such a body; i.e. will it take responsibility for the harbor master program, the CT River ferries. Or would the organization be limited to only the 3 deep draft ports. The Chairman stated he worried about mission creep, particularly if the board of directors for the governing body was too large and wondered how the background of the BOD members should be defined; maritime background or business background.

Commissioner Ross stated that the Port Study mentions two possible paths to follow for developing a new governing body. One path would be to change the culture of an existing state agency. The other would be to create a SWPA. He added that he didn't think that the CTMC's roll would be to structure a new governing body but could certainly recommend the path to follow. George Wisker stated that the CTMC could perhaps address the who, what, where questions associated with a new governing body as well as emphasize the need for any legislation to identify the funding source and the authority grant. Commissioner Wise added that other states have created such governing bodies that could perhaps be used as a model. Commissioner Shuda stated that changing the culture of a state agency would be difficult, thus he favored the creation of a SWPA. He felt a SWPA could better focus on marketing and would be favored by the business community. The discussion turned to whether or not the CTMC should make a recommendation to the legislature and the Governor to pursue a SWPA vs. changing the culture of a state agency. Commissioner Ross stated that the Port Study recommendations on the authorities to be given to a governing body mimic those that are presently vested in the municipal port authorities. Commissioner Dubno stated that the CT Housing Authority could serve as a model. Ron Angelo stated that CT has several models that could be used in the creation of a port governing body thus all the state had to do is pick one. He specifically mentioned the Capitol Region Development Authority (CRDA) and the recently created CT Airport Authority (CAA). Each had defined missions and objectives. The CRDA is administratively attached to DECD. The CAA is totally independent of any state agency. A question was raised about the difference in how the examples offered were funded. The need for any legislation creating a port governing body to define the funding source was restated by Chuck Beck. Commissioner Dubno, who also serves as the Vice Chairman of the CT Maritime Coalition (CMC), stated that Senator Maynard, Co-chair of the Transportation Committee, is planning to hold meetings on the Port Study in early

December. He continued by stating that there is a difference between discussing and dictating what should be considered and cautioned the Chairman on not letting "his friend drive the conversation". The Chairman stated that DECD had made a commitment of support (administrative, financial, etc.) to the CRDA. Ron Angelo agreed but recommended that the CTMC not be too specific in any recommendation. There was some additional back and forth discussion on the need to recommend specific elements be included in any legislation vs. letting the legislators take care of the specifics since as Ron Angelo stated, they were obvious. Eventually Commissioner Ross made a motion that the CTMC should endorse the recommendation in the Port Study for the establishment of a port governing body in the form of a SWPA. Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion. Additional discussion Commissioner Wise reiterated that the CTMC should take the opportunity to be more demonstrative in its recommendation by at least mentioning concerns about the makeup of and funding for a SWPA. In response to a comment from Commissioner Ross that the legislative hearings would provide such detail, Chairman Riccio reminded all of the comment previously made about legislative hearings taking place the first or second week of December prior to the next CTMC meeting thus if nothing is done soon it will be a missed opportunity. Ron Angelo stated that any legislation would be months away from being drafted. Commissioner Ross recommended that as many members of the CTMC should attend the legislative hearings as possible. Commissioner Dubno stated that attendance would be fine but that only the Chairman should attend as the representative of the CTMC with others representing themselves. The Chairman called for a vote. The motion made by Commissioner Ross was passed by unanimous vote.

The Chairman opened the discussion on what had been discussed and adopted by the CTMC to the general public for comment. Don Frost offered two items for consideration. The first was that implementation of recommendations contained in the Port Study should be less about individual port and more about maritime interests as economic drivers. The second was the potential limited revenue creation by a SWPA without adding costs. Judi Sheiffele stated that she supported the CTMC's action on the Port Study. She commented on 2 items that were recommendations in the Port Study. The first was that any SWPA should concentrate on the marketing of the ports. The second was a concern expressed about the competing interests with respect to property in and around the ports. She mentioned the gentrification of port property as cities attempt to increase their respective tax base. Greg Roth stated that he supports the CTMC's actions on the Port Study. He mentioned that the authorities granted to the municipally chartered port authorities stem from legislation. He stated that the New London Port Authority doesn't control the vast amount of the Port of New London. The State Pier Facility, owned by the state, is the principle general cargo facility. Unlike the other deep draft ports, New London harbor is bordered by more than one municipal entity. He supported #9 in the summary document distributed by Chuck Beck as meeting preparation material. George Cassidy stated that pursuit of a SWPA is good from the CSTF's perspective. There are only 3 potential sites where a cruise ship could moor within the New London harbor; State Pier for large ships, Fort Trumbull for moderately sized ships and City Pier for smaller ships. A SWPA could broker the pier location for cruise ships. Martha Klimas reiterated the origin of the local port authorities' powers. Scot Graham made an observation that the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) is a significant representative for port authorities and wondered if the AAPA mission statement could be useful in the creation of a CT SWPA. Commissioner Dubno interjected that the NHPA is already a member of the AAPA and confirmed via a question to Judi Sheiffele about her attendance at AAPA meetings. The Chairman stated that he was very familiar with the AAPA as he had been a member of the AAPA BOD at one time. Joel Severance reminded all that the CTMC had unsuccessfully tackled the question of a SWPA once before in conjunction with DECD's 2009 Economic Strategic Plan (ESP). He continued by stating that the CT Harbor Management Association (CHMA) was in favor of a SWPA.

Noting the hour, The Chairman stated that unless there were any objections, discussion on the grant in aid issue would be deferred until the December CTMC meeting. No objections were voiced.

**VI Executive Session – none held.**

**VII Date of Next Meeting:** It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be the **Annual Meeting** and held at the **ConnDOT Headquarters Building** located at **2800 Berlin Turnpike** in **Newington, CT** on **Wednesday December 19, 2012**

**VIII Adjournment:** -. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Dubno, seconded by Ron Angelo and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 10:48 AM.