

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #12-10)
December 15, 2010**

Location of Meeting: CTDOT HQ building
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Parker)
Tom Dubno
John Johnson
Joan McDonald
John Opie
Joe Riccio
David Shuda
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for Commissioner Marrella)

Absent

Ronald Angelo
Vincent Cashin
G.L. Gunther
Joseph P. Maco
Larry Miller
Brenda Sisco

Guests

Dan Carstens	George Cassidy	Mary Jane Cassidy	Ned Farman	Jon Kachmar
Martha Klimas	Al Martin	Ed O'Donnell	Martin Olsen	Dave Rossiter
Joe Salvatore	Judi Sheffele	Peter Simmons	Bill Spicer	Geoff Steadman
Alan Stevens	Brian Thompson	Grant Westerson		

I. Call to Order:

The Chairman Joe Riccio opened the meeting at 0938. A quorum of 8 was initially present with a total of 9 after the arrival of Commissioner Shuda. Role call of the CTMC Commissioners/designees was taken followed by introductions of the audience. Mention was made of the fact that once again there was a conflict between the Annual CTMC meeting and a TSB meeting. It was expressed that hopefully the conflict can be resolved for calendar year 2011.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

The summary report of the November 17, 2010 meeting was reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to approve the summary report. The motion was seconded by George Wisker and approved by unanimous vote. Commissioner commented on the excellent quality of the summary reports by staff throughout the year.

III Discussion Open to Public None were offered.

IV Old Business:

A. Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore provided an update on the status of the LIS DMMP. He reminded all of the working groups created by the ACOE to review various aspects of the LIS DMMP. Membership to the working groups is being established. It is anticipated that the groups will begin meeting in Jan/Feb 2011. There are sufficient funds on hand to cover the expenses of the working group activities and development of the LIS DMMP.

B Connecticut Economic Strategic Plan (ESP) Statewide Port Authority (SWPA) Update –Peter Simmons stated that DECD had drafted a response to the CTMC 17 Sept 2010 letter that requested no legislative action be taken during the 2011 legislative session by DECD on a statewide port authority. However, the DECD response letter has been overcome by events. Governor Elect Malloy had made port development and formation of

a statewide port authority part of his campaign. DECD did submit a place holder piece of legislation that is not fully formed. No specific legislative language is contained in the place holder. Peter Simmons stated that the three state agencies have been collaborating but now had to wait on the recommendations from the Transition Team's Transportation Policy Committee. Chairman Riccio asked Commissioner Dubno if he, as a member of the Transition Team's Transportation Policy Committee, had anything to add. Commissioner Dubno stated that the CT Maritime Coalition was working on a document to submit to the Transition team. He anticipated that the document would reflect the maritime industries views on the value and possible structure of a state port authority but would most likely not take a stand one way or another. In response to a question, Commissioner Dubno was not certain if the CMC document would initially be a public document but if used by the Transition Team would eventually be so. Commissioner McDonald arrived and joined the discussion. She stated that it was very significant that the new administration was paying attention to port issues. She hoped that the dialogue would focus on the significance of a state port authority vs. organizational issues. She also recognized the accomplishments of and need for the local port authorities. Commissioner McDonald made mention of the discussion on port governance at the June 2010 North Atlantic Port Association held in Groton, CT. The discussion covered three different model of port governance. The goal is to improve the CT model.

C. OPSAIL 2012 – Vice Chairman Johnson provided information on an invitation by the national OPSAIL organization for New London to participate in OPSAIL 2012. He indicated that an initial planning meeting had been held in December and that future meetings would be held on a regular basis on the first Tuesday of every month starting with Tuesday January 4, 2011. Commissioner Johnson stated that a lot of interest in the OPSAIL event has already been generated. The USN has also held planning meetings for a parallel event; the commemoration of the War of 1812. The two events could merge. The Governor through DECD has provided \$40K for the planning phase of the OPSAIL 2012 event. Commissioner Johnson stated that the previous OPSAIL event in New London held in 2000 had received \$6.4M from the state of which \$1.4M was returned. In response to a question, it was stated that the CGC EAGLE would be a participant in OPSAIL 2012.

Commissioner Johnson advised that the New York Yacht Club had announced that New London had been chosen to be the first port call of the NYYC 2011 annual cruise to be held on July 29, 2011. The event could draw as many as 150 yachts.

D. Cruise Ship Task Force Update – George Cassidy, Executive Director of the CSTF, provided an update of the financial difficulties of the organization. He provided details on grants previously received from various state agencies such as DECD, CCCT, OPM as well as the City of New London and private organizations. Mr. Cassidy provided an explanation of how the grants were spent: primarily to hire motor coaches to transport cruise ship passengers and crew to downtown locations and other regional attractions. He reported that the cruise ship industry advertizes that each passenger spends approximately \$150 per port visit. The CROWN PRINCESS visited New London in September with 3050 passengers and in October with 3075 passengers plus a crew of about 1400. The positive economic impact on the new London area is a matter of calculation. He also stated that contact had been made with a Holland America official concerning cruise ship visits. Mr. Cassidy reported that the OPM had recently sent a letter to the CSTF recalling any unspent funds previously provided by any and all state agencies. The CSTF has a meeting with OPM on December 21, 2010 to discuss the issue. Returning the funds would essentially close the doors of the CSTF. After further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Johnson for the CTMC to write a letter to OPM Secretary Sisco requesting she reconsider the recall of the CSTF funds (\$43,083.33). Commissioner Wise provided a second. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Staff was asked to draft a letter for the Chairman's signature.

D. Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Council (LIS AMSC) Update – In the absence of a representative from CG Sector LIS, Chuck Beck advised that a video teleconference meeting of the LIS AMSC Executive Steering Committee was held on December 2, 2010. The main topic of discussion was the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) document being created for the LIS AMSC. The CONOPS document will be the guiding document for future port security grant applications and expenditures.

E. Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Committee (LIS HSC) Update. – In the absence of a representative from CG Sector LIS, Chuck Beck advised that the anchorage areas outside of CT's three deep draft ports (New London, New Haven and Bridgeport) had been published in the CFR as a final rule. There was some discussion on the evolution of the anchorage designations and design.

V New Business:

A. Annual Report – The draft 2010 Annual Report had been provided to the Commissioners as part of the meeting package. No specific comments were made on the draft other than a statement that the results of the Annual meeting would be added as appropriate. The final draft would be part of the January 2011 CTMC meeting package and agenda. Chuck Beck pointed out that there was a typo on the 2011 CTMC meeting schedule that was in the meeting package. The January 2011 meeting will be held on 19 vs 22 January.

Commissioner Wise inquired as to whether or not the CTMC would be submitting any recommendations to the Transition Team relative to the creation of a state port authority. A discussion ensued that brought Commissioner Wise up to speed on the past attempts (the working group) to get the CTMC to come to a consensus on the need and/or organizational structure of a state port authority. The bottom line is that the Transition Team has asked certain individuals and organizations to provide input on a state port authority and port development. In response to a question by Commissioner Opie, Chuck Beck stated that the CTMC had not been asked for input by the Transition Team's Transportation Policy Committee, neither had the Department of Transportation, though some individuals within CTDOT had. The Chairman pointed out that the fact that the Transition Team was seeking port development related information on behalf of Governor Elect Malloy was a good sign.

VI Executive Session – none held

VII Date of Next Meeting: It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at **0930 Wednesday January 19, 2011 at the CTDOT HQ building in Newington, CT.**

VII Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Dubno, seconded by Commissioner Opie and approved by a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:28 AM. All were wished a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.