

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #02-14)
February 19, 2014**

Location of Meeting: **State Pier Admin Building
200 State Pier Road
New London, CT**

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Joe Riccio
John Johnson
Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner)
Michael Griffin
Dave LeVasseur (for OPM Secretary)
Stan Mickus
Bob Ross
Tim Sullivan (for DECD Commissioner)
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for DEEP Commissioner)

Absent

Tom Dubno
Larry Miller
David Shuda

Guests

Capt Ed Cubanski	Ned Farman	Jeff Flumignan	Don Frost	Scot Graham
Ned Hammond	Patrick Kennedy	Martha Klimas	Stephen Loy	Jesse Marshall
Brent Pounds	Jeremy Riddle	Dave Rossiter	Bill Spicer	James Stidfole
Grant Westerson				

I. Call to Order:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 0904. All present were asked to introduce themselves starting with the CTMC Commissioners and ending with the interested parties in the audience.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve the January 15, 2014 summary report was made by Commissioner Ross and seconded by Commissioner Griffin. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

III Discussion Open to Public: LCDR Brent Pounds reminded all of NOAA's Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) that will be meeting at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in downtown New York City on February 25 and 26. The meeting is open to the public and will have 3 breakout sessions. Interested parties can contact LCDR Pounds or visit the following link (<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/hsrp.htm>) for details. LTJG Loy from NOAA's Response Team 5 provided an update on survey work completed in eastern LIS. He noted that Long Sand Shoal was not charted accurately on present charts. Survey work will continue to the west in LIS.

Jeff Flumignan, Director of the Maritime Administration North Atlantic Gateway, announced that the Secretary of Transportation had approved designating LIS as M-295 within the MARAD Marine Highway. A public notice is expected soon.

James Stidfole of the New London Port Authority questioned what might be known about rumored legislation to create a statewide port authority. He voiced concern about the relationship between such an authority and the existing local port authorities. He was advised that the CT Port Authority was on the agenda under New Business.

Referencing an ACOE Public Notice to dredge Mystic Harbor, Bill Spicer raised concern about the potential for disposing of the material in the open waters of Block Island Sound. His concern focused on the use of shallow draft vessels/barges that would have to deliver the dredged material to an open water site further away than the more protected NLDS.

Chuck Beck brought two recently received emails to the attention of all. One was from Nathan Frohling of the Nature Conservancy. Mr. Frohling solicited CTMC participation on an informal working group that has been meeting for a year and a half on behalf of creating the enabling conditions for a Long Island Sound marine spatial planning effort. Captain Cubanski advised that CCGD1 was a participant in the spatial planning effort and he would make certain any information gathered would be provided to the CTMC. Scot Graham added that the CGLIS Command had conducted a PAWSA relative to the Broadwater project thus had lots of information on how LIS was used relative to spatial planning. George Wisker advised all of the C-4 mapping that had been conducted in LIS. After some additional discussion, the CTMC Commissioners agreed that the CTMC was already represented on the spatial planning workgroup through one of its Statutory Commissioners: Commissioner of DEEP. The conclusion was that the CTDEEP Commissioner (or more likely his designee to the CTMC) would keep the CTMC informed on the spatial planning efforts and serve as the conduit to transmit any CTMC issues to the workgroup as needed. The second topic introduced by Beck was TransformCT. He distributed a handout to all present that provided information on a series of TransformCT public meetings. Vice Chairman Johnson committed to attend the meeting scheduled in New London on Thursday, February 27, 2014.

IV Old Business:

Dredging Update --Joe Salvatore reported on three ongoing Federal dredging projects: Norwalk, New Haven and Wethersfield Cove. The Norwalk FNP maintenance dredging project has essentially been completed. The New Haven FNP is ongoing with a completion date on or about April 1st. The third project, Wethersfield Cove, has been bid and contractor selected. The Wethersfield Cove material will be used to re-nourish the north side of Gildersleeve Island in the CT River. Salvatore reported that the LIS DMMP Steering Committee had met on 2/11/2014 at the CTDOT HQ building. The Steering Committee has representatives from CT, NY, EPA and the ACOE. Mike Keegan of the ACOE reported to the Steering Committee that the LIS DMMP project was approaching its 8th year. A draft LIS DMMP is expected by December 2014. A PEIS is also expected by December 2014. A last round of public meetings will be held starting on or about January 2015. It is anticipated that the final LIS DMMP will be completed on or about April 2015. In response to a question about sufficient funds to complete the LIS DMMP, Salvatore stated that funding was not an issue. Over all \$8.32M had been authorized for the LIS DMMP of which \$4.15 has been obligated thus \$4.16 remains. An additional \$500K has been requested in FY 2014. George Wisker added that the remainder of the work was predominantly written compilation in nature. In response to a question from Commissioner Griffin, Salvatore stated that a list of private projects needing cap material that had been accommodated by dredging projects funded by the state was not available at this time but the number was around 20-24 just this year. Commissioner Griffin provided kudos to Joe Salvatore and Chuck Beck for the coordination work they had done to move dredging projects along in CT. He also acknowledged the coordination between the DOT and DEEP, particularly George Wisker.

Martha Klimas advised all about the ACOE project to restore the New Haven and Bridgeport breakwaters. A contractor should be selected by April. The projects are being funded in large part by Storm Sandy Relief Funds. The work is limited to restoration due to the language of the Storm Sandy legislation. Estimates are \$5M for the Bridgeport work and \$10M for New Haven. The ELIS SEIS is in the process of being collected by from the bottom by UConn Avery Point to obtain the winter seasonal data. The final phase of the project will be organizing and reporting on the data. In response to a question Salvatore stated that an initial \$1.3M has been appropriated for the ELIS SEIS. More public meetings will be held during the summer of 2014 with a target completion date of January 2015. Salvatore stated that the EPA's Annual Report for 2013 is available on the ACOE web site under LIS DMMP. The report contains the quantities of material dredged and relocated for the year. Noteworthy is the quantity of material that was relocated for beneficial reuse. Anticipated projects for next winter are Mystic River, Mianus River and Housatonic River. Salvatore concluded his remarks by advising that he and Tim Sullivan had attended a meeting in Norwich held by the Norwich HMC related to the relocation of the boat landing project which had been presented to the CTMC at a previous meeting.

LIS HSC/AMSC Update – Captain Ed Cubanski advised that he had just issued a Marine Safety Information bulletin (MSIB) concerning the Thames River railroad bridge being stuck in the down position. Repairs are underway with an anticipated ETR of 5-7 days. AMTRAK and the CG are aware of vessels stranded upstream from the bridge such as a Bridgeport Port Jefferson and Cross Sound ferry vessel. Scot Graham provided kudos to the CSF organization for hosting the Passenger Vessel Safety Industry Day last week. There were approximately 120 participants. Graham also advised that the NTSB had recently released its report on the sinking of the *SV BOUNTY* remarking that it was the first non-technical report issued by the NTSB. The report is available on the NTSB web site. Graham advised that the sailing plans of the Charles Morgan have increased to the point that the First CG District is now involved. The event could become a marine event of national significance (MENS). Graham alerted all that an announcement on the FY 2014 Port Security Grants is expected soon. There is a requirement to solicit for applications to the next round of PSGs within 90 days of the Federal budget agreement becoming a reality. He advised that \$37-40M of the anticipated \$100M being made available nationally should be provided to CG Sector LIS. The application process should be the same as FY 2013 and the solicitation for grant applications should be out by mid-April 2014. Captain Graham noted that a information on cybersecurity had been distributed by Chuck Beck and lastly that the AMSC 2013 Annual Report was available on the LIS Homeport web site.

National Coast Guard Museum – Though not on the agenda, the Vice Chair asked for an was granted time to invite all present to attend the MOA signing ceremony for the establishment of a National CG Museum in downtown New London. The ceremony is being held at 1100 in the New London Railroad Station. Officials will include Mayor Finizio, Governor Malloy, CG Commandant ADM Bob Papp and the Chairman of the NCGM Association Jimmy Coleman.

V New Business:

State Director of Waterfront, Brownfield and Transit Oriented Development – Tim Sullivan was introduced as the new Director of Waterfront, Brownfield and Transit Oriented Development. He stated that he had been on the job all of three weeks arriving from a position in Mayor Bloomberg's administration in New York City, where he served as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development. His responsibilities included managing all staff, projects and programs in these areas. He will have similar responsibilities in his new position and serve as part of the DECD's senior leadership team. He will report to DECD Commissioner Smith working closely with Deputy Commissioner Angelo and the DECD business development staff. One of his primary tasks will be to draft an implementation plan once the CT Port Authority legislation is passed. Tim stated that he looks forward to meeting all of the maritime stakeholders. As a note of interest his grandfather was a longshoreman in NYC.

Connecticut Port Authority – Chuck Beck reported that as of the start of the CTMC meeting, legislation to create the CT Port authority had not yet been introduced within the CT Legislature. In response to a question by Commissioner Parker, the Chairman stated that the CTMC is already on record in support of the creation of the CPA and would submit additional testimony as appropriate.

Movement of Freight – Chuck Beck briefly described two virtual meetings that he attended; one on the NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON PORTS sponsored by EPA and another on STRONG PORTS sponsored by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA). The NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON PORTS was billed to be about the challenges, concerns, and opportunities within the ports sector. The insights and lessons gleaned from the meeting are supposed to help EPA develop a comprehensive and valuable agenda for a National Ports Stakeholder Summit, scheduled for April 8, 2014 in Baltimore, Maryland. Beck expressed his disappointment with the first meeting. The focus was more about how ports were the center of health issues in the surrounding communities due to diesel emissions. There was little discussion on the economic importance of the ports. The STRONG PORTS meeting was very positive. Stephen Shafer (MARAD) made a presentation on the USDOT's Strong Port Program that included information on the importance of all, not just the large ports in the US. Chris Lamm (Cambridge Systematics) made a presentation of the upcoming NJTPA Regional Freight Commodity Profiles Study. Jeff Flumignan stated that he was physically present at the NJTPA

meeting. He reminded all of an upcoming Port Infrastructure panel and reminded all of the MARAD Marine Highway initiative. Jeff also stated that another round of TIGER grants should be announced soon making \$600M available in FY 2014, \$30M of which could be set asides for planning projects.

LNG Developments – Chuck Beck pointed out the uptick in articles related to the use of LNG ranging from electrical generation, to fueling for ships to fuel for vehicles. A major move is being made to convert marine vessel engines from diesel to a cleaner burning fuel such as natural gas. Making a reference to the failed Broadwater project, Beck expressed concerns about CT getting behind the power curve with respect to establishing LNG storage facilities for domestic use of LNG as well as for fueling commercial vessels/vehicles. He posed the question as to whether or not the CTMC perhaps partnering with other organizations such as the CT Maritime Coalition should draft position papers to present to elected officials encouraging the establishment of an LNG plan. Jeff Flumignan remarked that such work would fit well for the Tiger planning grants he mentioned earlier. Martha Klimas stated that GDF Suez already operates LNG storage, processing and delivery systems in the US. Commissioner Griffin reminded all of the Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment (PAWSA) conducted by the CG for the Broadwater project and proposed that the CTMC review it. The Chairman brought the discussion to a close requesting that the item be carried on the agenda for future discussion.

VI Executive Session: None called.

VII Date of Next Meeting: All were reminded that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at **0930 on Wednesday March 19, 2014** at the **ConnDOT HQ Building in Newington, CT in Conference Room B.**

VIII Adjournment: - A motion to adjourn was made by George Wisker, seconded by Commissioner Griffin and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 AM.