

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)  
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #09-03)  
18 March 2009**

**Location of Meeting:** Coast Guard Sector Long Island sound  
New Haven, CT

**Attendance:**

**Commissioners**

***Present***

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Marie)  
Vincent Cashin  
Sue Decina (for Commissioner McDonald)  
Tom Dubno  
John Johnson  
Joseph P. Maco (for Chairman Kelleher)  
John Opie  
Joe Riccio  
George Wisker (for Commissioner McCarthy)  
John Wronowski

***Absent***

Robert Genuario  
G.L. "Doc" Gunther  
Larry Miller  
David Shuda

**Guests**

Alan Blume     John Crowther     Bill Gash     Jon Kachmar     CDR Kevin Oditt  
James Phyfe     Dave Rossiter     Joe Salvatore     Joel Severance     Judi Sheiffele  
Bill Spicer     Lou Steinbrecher     Alan Stevens     Brian Thompson     Fred Walters  
Grant Westerson

**I. Call to Order:**

- A. The Vice-Chair, Joe Riccio, opened the meeting at 9:32 AM. A quorum of 9 was initially present with a 10<sup>th</sup> arriving moments after convening. The CTMC members were asked to introduce themselves. The audience was asked to introduce themselves.

**II. Review of Meeting Minutes:**

- A. The summary report of the 18 February 2009 meeting was reviewed. A motion was made by John Johnson seconded by John Opie to approve. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Joe Maco noted the absence of Doc Gunther and asked if he was OK

**III Discussion Open to Public**

- A. No comments were offered.

**IV Old Business:**

- A. Dredging Update - Joe Salvatore
1. Norwalk Dredging Project – Phase II of the dredging project was completed on 15 Feb 2009. Discussions are already taking place on a possible Phase III to complete the heretofore under funded project.
  2. North Cove Dredging Project –The dredging of the 75K cubic yards that was held to provide capping material at the Central Long Island Sound Disposal (CLIS) has begun. Approximately 55K cubic yards remains. Work is expected to be completed by the end of March.
  3. The Rocky Hill-Glastonbury Ferry dredging has been completed. The ramp improvement work remains.

4. Of the 21 private and municipal dredging projects permitted but needing capping material, 19 were completed within the recent winter dredging window in addition to the two federal projects (Norwalk and North Cove) and one state project (Rocky Hill-Glastonbury ferry slips).
  5. It was noted that Greenwich, CT had submitted a request for dredging funds to Senator Lieberman's office. Chuck Beck reminded everybody that the CTMC had taken on the roll of coordinating the states dredging needs and vetting/prioritizing them for consideration by CONNDOT and the ACOE. He further advised that the CTMC had met with the CT Congressional delegation (CT CODEL) several times on dredging matters. The CT CODEL staff has been offered to use the CTMC as a coordination tool in meeting constituents' requests for dredging project funding within their principal's district. Fred Walters provided insight into recent organizational changes within Greenwich's waterfront departments. The Marine Facilities Department is no longer involved with federal dredging issues. The Marine Coastal Management group and the Harbor Master now have the lead on Greenwich's federal channel dredging issues.
  6. The New England District of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is reviewing the maintenance dredging needs for New Haven Harbor brought to light by concerns expressed by State licensed marine pilots and a recent bathometric survey.
  7. LIS DMMP – The official end date for receiving questionnaires was 1 January 2009. The return rate of the questionnaires was 60.2%. A draft report is being reviewed by the Project Development Team. There was additional discussion on the various steps/chapters of the LIS DMMP. Brian Thompson stated that the LIS DMMP has some momentum at present due to \$3.25M funds provided in the FY 08 budget and the \$1M provided in the FY 09 appropriation. However, the effort will need additional funding in FY 2010. CTDEP has requested FY 2010 funding through the CT CODEL.
  8. Grant Westerson inquired about the North Cove Project (available capping material). There will be approximately another 100-150K cubic yards of clean material suitable as capping material that could be removed from North Cove if funding is provided. Vin Cashin inquired about the CT River dredging needs. It was stated that very few if any facilities on the CT River responded to an inquiry for information on their needs.
  9. Economic Stimulus Package Update – No new information was available.
- B. Legislative Proposals – Joe Riccio reported that there were three legislative proposals on the radar for the CTMC, two of which were the subject of letters from the CTMC to legislative leaders. He reported that HB 5206 An Act Establishing Inland Waters Commercial Vessel Operators License had died in committee. There was now news on the status of HB 5471 An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Dredging. It was noted that most bonding Bills were not acted upon until the end of the legislative session. HB 1078 An Act Establishing a Bi-State Long Island Sound Commission was discussed. Bill Spicer opined that if passed the dynamics of the LIS DMMP could drastically change. It was his opinion that NY would be given too much authority over CT on matters related to LIS. He further stated that he felt that cognizant state agencies were not looking out for the best interests of the State. Chuck Beck stated that he totally disagreed with all of Bill Spicer's opinions. He stated he had compared the mission of the new Bi-State Commission to the one it was replacing and that it was not much different. Nor did it impinge on the mission of the CTMC as some feared. Joe Maco and John Johnson stated that the CTMC should seek representation on the new Bi-State LIS Commission. After some discussion a motion was made by John Johnson, seconded by Vin Cashin and approved (6 affirmatives, 3 abstentions) to draft a letter from the CTMC to the CT Legislative Leaders and the Governor. The letter will support the Bill and recommend a CTMC seat on the new Bi-State LIS Commission.
- C. Eastern Boundary of LIS – George Wisker stated that EPA was still working on a letter reply to the question on the location of the eastern boundary of LIS raised during the LIS DMMP Public Scoping meetings held last year.

- D. 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 stated that an LIS AMSC Open Forum meeting was scheduled for 6/10/2009 at Port Jefferson. A notice of the meeting will be out in the near future. He also provided a brief update on the Port-Wide Risk Mitigation and Management Plan (PRMP)/ Trade Resumption and Resiliency Plan (TRRP) project. Remarks were kept short due to a presentation on the subject latter in the agenda. He reported that 15 April 2009 was the drop dead date for full TWIC card implementation. John Johnson offered that the New London TWIC center would be closing on 3/31/2009.
- E. LIS HSC Update – CDR Oditt CDR Oditt stated that Passenger Vessel Safety meeting had recently been held in Port Jefferson. He further stated that a LIS Harbor Safety Committee meeting would be held in Port Jefferson on 3/31/2009. All were reminded about Operation Paddle Smart. CDR Oditt concluded with a brief description of the icebreaking operations the CGC BOLLARD for the winter season: 100hours of operation on the CT River assisting approximately 20 vessels.
- F. Attendance and Membership – Joe Riccio reminded those present that during the last meeting there had been a discussion on the desire for the CTMC to take steps to improve the attendance of all of its members. Some suggestions were made on appropriate steps to consider. All agreed that the CTMC had no authority to force attendance or to sanction members for unwarranted absences. A statement was made that one of the chronic absentees was a state agency. The end result of the discussion was that the Chair would contact the member and remind of the obligations to attend meetings if a Commissioner missed 3 meetings in a calendar year. If a Commissioner or designee missed 4 meetings in a calendar year, a letter would be sent from the Chair to the member's appointing authority asking for assistance in getting their appointee to attend or to consider replacement. A draft policy and a draft letter will be created and circulated electronically prior to the next meeting. Both will focus on the need to maintain a quorum at meetings and advance notification to the Chair when a Commissioner can not attend. The topic will be carried over to the April agenda.

**V New Business:**

- A. The Nature Conservancy Brief – Jon Kachmar, Director of the Nature Conservancy's LIS Program, provided an overview of his organization. The LIS Program was initiated 18-24 months ago and he is the first Director. The LIS Program is looking to create a regional vision for LIS and work towards long term solutions. The intent is to engage with the greater LIS community from environmentalist to industrialist. LIS is seen as an urban estuary with lots of environmental resources. The coastal area of CT is seen as complex in its use, regulations and resources. The Conservancy's efforts will include infrastructure protection/development, land values and environmental issues. Jon stated that his office will be moving from Middletown to New Haven soon and that his efforts will be a bi-state (NY/CT) effort given the nature and location of LIS. He provided some handouts that summarized some conservation programs: restoration of migratory fish populations, sustainable shell fish populations, habitat restoration/conservancy and adapting to coastal climate change. Upon a question Jon provided some of his background/knowledge on dredging issues. The goal of the Conservancy was to keep as much of the sediment in the system as possible. He further stated that all stakeholders needed to be involved in the process. Only governments could set policy thus, the role of the Conservancy was to act as a facilitator. The Conservancy is primarily privately funded through donations with the rest coming from government (state and Federal) grants. Joe Maco asked if the Conservancy looked at the source of the silt flowing into the harbors. Jon responded in the affirmative. He stated that the LIS basin extended as far north as Quebec. He further stated that 70-80% of the fresh water entering LIS was from the CT River.

- B. New Haven Port Authority – Judi Sheffele, the Executive Director of the New Haven Port Authority, provided a brief overview on the NHPA. She provided a history and description of the New Haven waterfront and its facilities. The current New Haven Port District is defined legislatively as 366 acres containing 6 terminals (4 handle liquids, 2 handle dry (cargo). Approximately 86 of the 366 acres include a sewage facility, a United Illuminating facility and a PSG&E facility. Steps were taken to create the NHPA around 2002 due to land use issues. There is limited revenue generating property to manage as most of the waterfront is privately owned. The NHPA has acquired some property within the Port District adjacent to the waterfront which it leases to facility operators as lay-down area. NHPA is constantly looking for new opportunities for port development. Two most recent potential projects were shipping used cars to Africa and bringing rolled steel into the port during the winter. CT DOT is in the process of completing rail service to the port facilities entrances. The facilities are responsible to complete the service within their property. One of the six sites has been completed thus far. It was noted that the Buckeye Pipe Line originates at New Haven Port District and supplies fuel to Bradley International Airport as well as Westover AFB among other customers. NHPA has commissioned a Strategic Land Use Plan.
- C. Connecticut Maritime Coalition Brief – Bill Gash, Executive Director, provided a briefing on the Connecticut Maritime Coalition (CMC). The CMC was formed in 1999 as a non-profit organization through a small state grant as the “maritime cluster”. The CMC is a mostly self-sufficient, member funded organization that receives state grants through DECD for specific studies/projects. One such study currently being conducted via a consultant is a Maritime Industry Economic Impact Study which is scheduled to be completed in June 2009. Bill Gash stated that the CMC was responsible for enticing the cruise ship industry to make port calls in New London.
- D. Port-Wide Risk Mitigation and Management Plan/ Trade Resumption and Resiliency Plan Brief (PRMP/TRRP) - Alan Blume provided a summary of the work being conducted by a consultant to define risks that would disrupt operations at Connecticut’s three deep draft ports as well as steps that could be taken to mitigate the affects of such disasters and resume port operations. The focus of the analysis has been defined as disruptions caused by both natural and man made disasters. The analysis is a requirement of the FY 2008 and the FY 2009 Port Security Grant. The results of the analysis will be used to create a spend plan to reduce disruptions and expedite the return to normalcy. Combined the FY 2008 and FY 2009 PSGs provide \$8.6+M towards making the CT deep draft more secure and resilient.

**VI Date of Next Meeting:**

It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be at Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture School in Bridgeport, CT at 0930 on Wednesday April 15, 2009.

**VII Adjournment:**

A motion was made by John Johnson, seconded by John Opie and approved unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 11:09 AM.