

CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #03-13)
March 20, 2013

Location of Meeting: Fort Trumbull Conference Center
90 Walbach Street
New London, CT 06320

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner)
Joe Riccio
Parker Wise
John Johnson
Dave LeVasseur (for OPM Secretary)
Stan Mickus
Larry Miller
Bob Ross
George Wisker (for DEEP Commissioner)

Absent

Tom Dubno
Michael Griffin
David Shuda
Catherine Smith/Ron Angelo

Guests

Jay Baird Ned Farman Scot Graham Jack Karalios Martha Klimas John Paul Merein
Jeremy Riddle Greg Roth Joe Salvatore Bill Spicer Geoff Steadman Alan Stevens
Jason Vincent Grant Westerson

I. Call to Order:

The Chairman, Joe Riccio, called the meeting to order at 0935. 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 December 19, 2012 meeting was reviewed. A motion to approve the summary report was made by Vice Chairman Johnson. George Wisker provided a second and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

III Discussion Open to Public No comments were offered.

IV Old Business:

Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore reported that the LIS DMMP is still progressing. The completion date is supposed to be June 2013 so a 1 year extension will be request to push the end date to June 2014. Extension should not be a problem since no funding was provided for the first 2 years. In response to a question by the Vice Chairman George Wisker stated that sufficient funding is on hand so should not be an issue. Eastern Long Island Sound SEIS has been assigned to UCONN Avery Point. Monitors have been deployed on the bottom to collect data. Patchogue River dredging project has been completed. Housatonic River dredging project has been completed. Clinton Harbor dredging project should be done in a week or so. Approximately 50K cu yds of material dredged from Clinton Harbor has been deployed onto Hammonaset State Park Beach. A piping plover mitigation plan had to be developed as part of the dredging project. Last Wednesday there was a State Bond Commission meeting and ConnDOT had two items (21 and 22) on the agenda for the maritime program. A lengthy discussion took place on how the funds would be used. Discussion covered the identified dredging projects: New Haven (\$10M), Norwalk (\$1.75M, Mianus River (\$2M), Mystic River (\$5.5M), Wethersfield Cove (\$1.1M) and the CT River (\$1M) as well as use of any federal funds (Norwalk only), capping requirements or not (Norwalk only), and potential conflicts with the Cross sound Cable in New Haven (none). Salvatore stated that the New Haven project will produce approximately 810K cu yds of "clean"

material that can be used for capping other privately funded dredging projects that are already permitted and ready to go. He also stated that the FY 14 and FY 15 capital budgets each has \$5M identified for port infrastructure projects including dredging.

LIS AMSC Update – Scott Graham wished the Commission a happy vernal equinox then mentioned that Chuck Beck had sent an email out to the CTMC informing of a National Maritime Security Advisory Committee meeting taking place in Washington DC on April 2-3, 2013. This is a good meeting for anyone in the industry to attend that would like to get a chance to look at security data and information on a national scale. The New London harbor degaussing project is 99.9 percent complete. The RNA is still in effect, the equipment is being demobilized and the dive work is complete. In response to a question from Vice Chairman Johnson Scott Graham stated that there is no expected impact on harbor operations in New London since the range is buried under the bottom of the channel and is for use by the USN only. There was good news in the Port Security Grant area, as \$366K from the FY 2010 PSG program was still available for Connecticut. A review committee convened and agreed to distribute the grant funding to nine ready to go Connecticut port facilities projects to meet the May 2013 deadline for using the 2010 grant funding. It is anticipated that there will be another round of competitive Port Security Grant funding for FY 2013, and an announcement is expected within a month. Recently an Executive Order regarding cyber security was signed, which included basic precautions for port facilities to begin observing. It is anticipated that cyber security is on track to become a major focus in homeland security in the near future. There will be a change of command at USCG SECTOR LIS in July 2013. Captain Lobanski from the 8th USCG district in New Orleans will be relieving Captain Vojvodich. Captain Vojvodich has been selected for Rear Admiral, and will be stationed in Washington DC as Chief of Acquisitions.

V New Business: Draft 2012 CTMC Annual Report – Vice Chairman Johnson moved that the draft report be approved. Commissioner Ross provided a second. There was no discussion. The CTMC Annual Report was approved and accepted by a unanimous voice vote.

Cruise Ship Task Force – Chuck Beck reported that George Cassidy was unable to attend to provide an update. In response to a question from Vice Chairman Johnson Chuck Beck stated there were no scheduled cruise ship visits for this season but there is a scheduled visit for 2014. Commissioner Larry Miller reported on his efforts to introduce placeholder legislation to encourage cruise ships to visit New London.

Long Island Sound Assembly (LISA) Report – Chairman Riccio announced that Commissioner Mike Griffin was unable to make the CTMC meeting this morning because he is attending an 11:00 am press release with the Mayor of Norwalk to announce the dredging projects moving forward in Norwalk. Grant Westerson provided some history on the Long Island Sound Assembly, its composition and function. The LISA is tasked with creating a report to the Legislature on an annual basis. Grant Westerson offered to provide the report to anyone that had an interest, and gave a description of some of the important issues that made it into this year's report: open water dredge disposal, living marine resources, marine law enforcement, training program for town marine officers, clean water fund bond authorization, prescription drugs in Long Island Sound, storm water management, climate change, coastal and marine spatial planning.

National Freight Advisory Committee – Making reference to an email distributed by Chuck Beck on the National Freight Advisory Committee, Vice Chairman Johnson asked if the CTMC should consider joining/participating. A brief discussion followed, and it was agreed that more information should be obtained. Commissioner Wise "volunteered" to research and report back to the CTMC. The Chairman stated that the item would be kept on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Transportation Committee's Informational Hearing on Connecticut's Ports – Chairman Riccio stated that most of the people who testified were members of the CT Maritime Coalition (CMC) Board of Directors (BOD). Chairman Riccio summarized the testimony that he offered at the hearing. He stated that he and the CTMC supported the concept of a statewide port authority,

but explained to the committee that forming a statewide port authority would take a considerable amount of coordination. He emphasized the need to consider both the current port activities as well as development plans for the future. Vice Chairman Johnson stated that the Legislature seemed poised to act on creating a statewide port authority, the committee members were engaged, and legislation creating a statewide port authority should be expected to pass this year. A discussion on the status of the legislation was held, and Chuck Beck reported that language from the Connecticut Airport Authority legislation appeared to have been used to create the proposed CT Statewide Port Authority (CSPA) Bill (HB 5569). It was also reported that the proposal was referred to the Commerce Committee. Grant Westerson provided current information received from a lobbyist working for the Connecticut Marine Trades Association (CMTA). Commissioner Miller explained that the Bill could die or be referred to another committee before being taken up by the full Legislature. CTMC members agreed that the progress of this proposal should be monitored closely.

Chairman Riccio agreed to a request from Commissioner Larry Miller to take 5 – 10 minutes to speak about an issue that former Commissioner and State Senator Doc Gunther had been advocating for many years. Commissioner Miller spoke about a resident that actually was able to build and fly an airplane before the Wright Brothers. Before he passed away, Doc Gunther went to great lengths to try and get the aviation community and the Smithsonian Institute to consider documentation that showed that a German immigrant from Connecticut named Gustav Whitehead had taken off and flown an airplane between 1900 and 1902. Currently, the Aviation magazine, Jane's, included an article that names Gustav Whitehead as the first person in flight rather than the Wright Brothers at Kittyhawk. Commissioner Miller believes that this finding highlights how important the state of Connecticut has been in aviation history, and continues to be in aviation today.

Norwich Harbor Management Commission Presentation - With the assistance of Geoff Steadman, John Paul Mereen and Jason Vincent, two Norwich Harbor Management Commission representatives, used handouts and large displays to introduce the Norwich Harbor Management Commission and share some planned projects which have been identified by the HMC for Norwich harbor improvement. The Norwich HMC currently is seeking assistance from governmental agencies and officials to identify potential state, federal, and nongovernmental funds, including grant programs, for planning and implementation of the above-noted projects. The presentation was informative and the handout material listed several projects identified by the HMC as important infrastructure improvements for Norwich harbor. A focus was placed on the NHMC priority project for 2013: development of a new public boat launching facility for trailered boats. There was general consensus among the CTMC members, that the Norwich infrastructure improvement program was a topic which should be given standing and consideration by the CTMC. Chairman Riccio directed the Norwich Boat Launch Project be placed under New Business on the next meeting agenda.

VI Executive Session – none held.

VII Date of Next Meeting: All were reminded that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at the Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture School 60 Saint Stephens Road Bridgeport, CT at 0930 on **Wednesday April 17, 2013.**

VIII Adjournment: -. A motion to adjourn was made by George Wisker, seconded by Vice Chairman Johnson and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting ended at 10:54 AM.