

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)**  
**REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #09-04)**  
**15 April 2009**

**Location of Meeting:** Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture School  
Bridgeport, CT

**Attendance:**

**Commissioners**

***Present***

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Marie)  
Sue Decina (for Commissioner McDonald)  
Tom Dubno  
G.L. "Doc" Gunther  
John Johnson  
Larry Miller  
Linda Krause  
Joseph P. Maco (for Chairman Kelleher)  
John Opie  
Joe Riccio  
George Wisker (for Commissioner McCarthy)  
John Wronowski

***Absent***

Vincent Cashin  
Robert Genuario  
David Shuda

**Guests**

John Crowther	Ross Hatfield	Jack Karalios	David Lis	Gary Montono
CDR Kevin Oditt	James Phyfe	Bill Rock	Dave Rossiter	Joe Salvatore
Lee Sharp	Judi Sheiffele	Bill Spicer	Alan Stevens	Ray Swift
Geoff Steadman	Brian Thompson	Rob Varnon	Fred Walters	Grant Westerson

**I. Call to Order:**

- A. The Vice-Chair, Joe Riccio, opened the meeting at 9:32 AM. A quorum of 12 was present. The CTMC members were asked to introduce themselves. The audience was asked to introduce themselves. During the introductions Commissioner Miller introduced Ross Hatfield, the Stratford Harbor Master, who was recently cited by the General Assembly and the Red Cross for a heroic water rescue.

**II. Review of Meeting Minutes:**

- A. The summary report of the 18 March 2009 meeting was reviewed. After clarification on the remarks attributed to the Executive Director of the New Haven Port Authority, a motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Dubno to approve. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Commissioner Gunther made his usual statement concerning the need for a verbatim transcript.

**III Discussion Open to Public**

- A. Bill Rock of the WHMC offered remarks about the need for dredging on the Housatonic River. He provided a short description of the River and a short history on how the 18 foot channel had previously been used to deliver fuel to the Devon Power Plant owned by NRG. Mr. Rock emphasized that even without barge traffic there was a pending need to remove sediment in the vicinity of buoys 23, 14 and 4 to provide a proper margin of safety for the recreational and commercial fishing vessel operating out of the River. A total dredge of the channel restoring the federally authorized project depth to 18 feet would remove an estimated 650K cubic yards of material. The amount of materials needed to be removed as a partial dredge to a lesser depth to accommodate the recreational and fishing vessel is in the process of being

determined but is estimated to be around 100K cubic yards. Additionally the materials have already been tested and deemed suitable for beach nourishment at an adjacent Stratford beach. It was stated by Jack Karalios that as it stands right now, the beach disposal would be the least cost environmentally acceptable method of disposal. There was some follow-on discussion about local sponsor requirements, problems obtaining data/information from the Devon Power Plant on fuel needs, construction of Stratford's Commercial dock as a benefit to the fishing industry and caution not to allow the 18 foot channel to be "decertified". Commissioner Gunther offered some history on how the Housatonic River was used 42 years ago to mine materials raising funds for the State. Mr. Rock committed to keep the CTMC apprised of the project.

Geoff Steadman offered comments concerning a dredging project being requested by Greenwich, specifically the Mianus River on the Cs Cob side of town. He stated that the materials have been deemed suitable for open water disposal but the upland disposal options are being investigated. The project would restore the 6 foot depth of the navigational channel by removing approximately 45-50K cubic yards of material. There was a question concerning the anchorages but it was re-emphasized that the project was only for the navigational channel.

The Vice Chair welcomed Linda Krause as a newly appointed member of the CTMC. Commissioner Krause is the Executive Director of the Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency (CRERPA)

#### **IV Old Business:**

##### **A. Dredging Update - Joe Salvatore**

1. 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) is near completion. Although the permit allows the work to continue until the end of May, work is expected to be completed by the end of April.
2. The Rocky Hill-Glastonbury Ferry dredging has been completed. The ramp improvement work is nearly complete.
3. Sediment testing at the State pier Facility in New London will be conducted in May. The testing is the first step of a planned maintenance dredging project.
4. Lou Allyn, Mystic Harbor Master, recently contacted CONNDOT regarding a Mystic River maintenance dredging project. The ACOE reported that the project is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of sediment testing which should be completed by September. Disposal options are also being investigated. The project is not fully funded at this time.
5. LIS DMMP – The draft dredging needs report based on the navigation dependent facilities survey is being reviewed by the Project Delivery Team. The final dredging needs report should be available in June 2009.
6. Economic Stimulus Package Update – No new information was available The New England District of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has yet to receive an approved list of projects from its higher command. Commissioner Dubno made reference to a recent newspaper article that stated Congressman Courtney had managed to acquire \$689K to dredge the Patchogue River in Westbrook. Clarification was provided that the funding was part of the FY 2009 Omnibus Bill not the stimulus package. It was also stated that the funding provided was less than half of what is estimated to be needed.
7. Information was provided on an Amtrak project to replace the Niantic River RR Bridge. Although the project has not gone out for public comment, part of the project will involve the mitigation of the adjacent beach including construction of a groin. The beach and groin work will require a considerable amount of clean material. There may be an opportunity to ask the ACOE and CTDEP to require the source of the clean material to be dredged out of the CT River as part of the Niantic River RR

Bridge project. Doing so would provide suitable material to be used from a nearby location that would also provide maintenance dredging badly needed in at least part of the CT River. A draft letter to the ACOE and CTDEP asking them to require Amtrak to use the CT River material was distributed for consideration. After some discussion, the draft was changed to encourage Amtrak vs require to use CT River Material. Commissioner Gunther moved to approve the letter as amended. Commissioner Johnson provided a second. The motion approved unanimously.

- B. Legislative Proposals – Chuck Beck reported that HB 5471 An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Dredging had died in committee. He further reported that CTMC letter of support for HB 1078 An Act Establishing a Bi-State Long Island Sound Commission had been sent on 25 March 2009 and that a copy was in the meeting package. HB 1078 was voted out of the Environment Committee on 4/06/09 and assigned a Senate calendar number (358) as well as a file number (471). Commissioner Gunther provided a history of the original Bi-State Council and asked if anybody had reached out to NY because they had generated long delays on the formation of the original Council. Commissioner Johnson volunteered to track HB 1078 and report to the CTMC.
- C. Eastern Boundary of LIS – George Wisker stated that there was nothing new to report. EPA is 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 reported that today, 15 April 2009, was the drop dead date for all CG licensed mariners to have their TWIC cards.
- E. LIS HSC Update – CDR Oditt CDR Oditt stated that he had attended a recent State Boating Law Administrator (SBLA) meeting. Operation Paddle Smart was a prime topic. Paddlers are being encouraged to put a weatherproof sticker in their water craft that would provide contact information. Doing so would assist the CG in determining if a paddle craft found adrift needed to be treated as a SAR case for the operator or merely a vessel that had slipped its mooring. There was some discussion about any plans to require paddle boats to be registered by the home state like power and sail boats. CDR Oditt stated that no state requires paddle boats to be registered at this time but such discussions were being held at SBLA meetings. Grant Westerson provided information on the last time an attempt was made to bring paddle boats in to the registration program; created a huge protest and was dropped. CDR Oditt stated that the CG is responsible to permit all marine events such as regattas, firework shows, races, etc. He stated that the CG was investigating the possibility of creating a standing permit for events held annually/routinely vs the present procedure of treating each event separately.
- F. Attendance and Membership – As a carry over from the last meeting a draft policy and a draft letter was created and circulated electronically prior to the meeting. The “policy” was contained within a draft document entitled Governing Rules of the CTMC. Discussion centered on the need to better define an excused absence from an unexcused absence. It was decided that if a Commissioner advised the Chair of his/her inability to attend a scheduled meeting in advance of the meeting, the absence would be excused. Additionally there was discussion on the last paragraph of the document that provided guidance on how the CTMC meetings should be conducted and how members and the participating public should conduct themselves. A motion was made by Commissioner Dubno to accept the policy statement with a better definition of an excused absence and without the last paragraph about the conduct of the CTMC meetings. Commissioner Johnson provided a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

**V New Business:**

- A. Bridgeport Port Authority Brief – Joe Riccio, the Executive Director of the Bridgeport Port Authority (BPA), was to provide a brief overview on the BPA. However, due to technical difficulties with the laptop computer and the hour it was decided to postpone the presentation until the May meeting. .

**VI Date of Next Meeting:**

It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be at **Connecticut Department of Transportation headquarters building in Newington CT at 0930 on Wednesday May 20, 2009.**

**VII Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Dubno, seconded by Commissioner Gunther and approved unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:45 AM.