

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)**  
**SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #04-13)**  
**April 17, 2013**

**Location of Meeting:**                    **Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture School**  
**60 Saint Stephens Road**  
**Bridgeport, CT**

**Attendance:**

**Commissioners**

***Present***

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

***Absent***

David Shuda  
Catherine Smith/Ron Angelo

**Guests**

Ned Farman    Don Frost            Bill Gash            Scot Graham    Fred Hall    Martha Klimas  
Joe Salvatore   Joel Severance   Geoff Steadman   Alan Stevens

**I.        Call to Order:**

The Chairman, Joe Riccio, called the meeting to order at 0932. 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 March 20, 2013 meeting was reviewed. A motion to approve the summary report was made by Vice Chairman Johnson. Commissioner Miller provided a second and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**III       Discussion Open to Public:**

Chuck Beck reminded all of the Schooner Fest event being held in New London in September. Commissioner Johnson stated that he would provide more information under New Business. Commissioner Ross informed that he had brought a copy of the design of the US Coast Guard Museum recently announced to be located on the New London waterfront.

**IV       Old Business:**

Dredging Update -- Joe Salvatore reported that the LIS DMMP is still progressing. The original completion date of June 2013 will require a 1 year extension to June 2014. He also advised that UCONN Avery Point has been deployed 7 monitors/meters on the bottom to collect data as part of the Eastern Long Island Sound (ELIS) Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (SEIS). Joe provided an update on dredging projects. Patchogue River, Housatonic River and Clinton Harbor dredging projects have been completed on time and under budget. Next dredging season (winter of 2013-2014) it is anticipated that maintenance dredging projects will be conducted in New Haven harbor (810K cu yds) and Norwalk harbor Phase III (150K cu yds) will be completed. In recent talks with the New England District of the Army Corps of Engineers it appears that federal funds (\$10M) will be appropriated for the New Haven project. The Norwalk project will be funded by a combination of federal (\$3.3M) and state (\$1.75M) funds. Additional state funds have been bonded for Mianus River (\$2M), Mystic River (\$5.5M), Wethersfield Cove (\$1.1M) and the CT River (\$1M). However, due to post Storm Sandy demands on dredging

equipment and the ACOE staff, these projects might be deferred until winter 2014-2015. Joe stated that the New Haven project will generate an abundance of clean "capping" material and appealed to all who might have a dredging project requiring capping material to get the projects ready to execute. There was some follow-up discussion on the scope of the New Haven dredging project. Shifting gears, Joe stated that the CTDOT had bonded \$6.1M for infrastructure improvements at the State Pier Facility and the CT River ferries. He clarified a misconception about the source of the bond money by stating that the \$6.1M was not part of the funds the Governor made available through PA 11-57 for port infrastructure improvements including dredging and navigational direction to CT ports. The \$6.1M was a separate request and would be used for several purposes; state match for an FBD grant to build a new office building for the Rocky Hill-Glastonbury Ferry, initiate a project to build renovate the Chester-Hadlyme Ferry office building and further the engineering and design work for improvements at the State Pier Facility. Joe concluded his remarks by thanking the Stratford Harbor Management people for the multiple letters of thanks related to the completion of the Housatonic River dredging project. Commissioner Griffin took the opportunity to thank Joe and Chuck Beck for their efforts to complete the dredging of Norwalk Harbor stating that since their hiring, the State has been moving ahead on maintenance dredging issue more rapidly and predictably.

Commissioner Miller announced that former CTMC Commissioner and State Senator Doc Gunther will be honored by the CT Harbor Management Association (CHMA) at the annual dinner in June as the "father of the harbor master program". The Vice Chair asked Commissioner Griffin if he had any knowledge about the formation of a Harbor Management Commission (HMC) and creating a Harbor Management Plan (HMP) in New London. Several others in attendance provided information relating to the efforts that the New London Port Authority has made. The NLPA has taken on the role of the HMC and has reached out to other ports (Bridgeport) and consultants moving forward on developing an HMP.

LIS AMSC Update – Scott Graham Provided some handouts and comments about the need to be continue to be vigilant with respect to maritime facility security in light of the Boston Marathon event. One of the handouts provided information on how to contact the CG Sector LIS Command Center. The other focused on Cyber Security and provided information on the recently released Presidential Executive Order. Lastly Scot reminded all about the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) teleconferences scheduled for 4/25/2013 and 4/29/2013. The Strategic Planning Subcommittee of the NBSAC will conduct a teleconference meeting on 25 April to discuss issues related to the strategic plan of the national recreational boating safety program (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-04-01/pdf/2013-07531.pdf>). The Prevention Through People Subcommittee of NBSAC will conduct a teleconference meeting on 29 April to discuss issues related to improving safety of recreational boating through the development of safer boating practices (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-04-01/pdf/2013-07523.pdf>).

Connecticut Statewide Port Authority Legislation – Chuck Beck reported that HB 1043 introduced by the CT Legislature's Transportation Committee had been voted out of Committee but recently had been returned to the Committee. HB 5569, the more substantive Bill introduced by the Commerce Committee had been voted out of Committee several weeks ago but no update was available. Commissioner Ross added that State Senator Maynard had told him that the Senator wants to have more meetings with the stakeholders.

Commissioner Miller stated that NOAA has released 2 new/updated/ charts for Long Island Sound. NOAA's LCDR Brent Pounds added that the charts were electronically available via the NOAA web site <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov>

Norwich Harbor Improvement Project – Geoffrey Steadman summarized the presentation he and members of the Norwich Harbor Management Commission (NHMC) had made to the CTMC at the March meeting. (1) There is a significant demand for public recreational boating facilities in the Norwich area. (2) There is no State boat ramp on the Thames north of the Gold Star Bridge. (3) The current boat ramp located adjacent to the downtown area of Norwich is inadequate to meet the demand. (4) NHMC has been studying possible solutions for several years. A request was made verbally and by a letter distributed to the CTMC Commissioners for a

letter of support. There was some discussion concerning dredging needs (none) and whether or not the old facility would be kept after the new facility is built (yes but limited to kayaks/canoes). With the consent of the Commissioners present, the Chairman advised Geoff Steadman that the CTMC was generally supportive of the NHMC's plan but would need to see a specific request made by the NHMC to the Governor or State Agency in order to provide a letter of support.

**V New Business:**

National Freight Advisory Committee – The Chairman decided to defer discussion on the topic to the May meeting.

Small Shipyard Grants – Commissioner Stan Mickus provided a summary of a recently released MARAD grant for Small Shipyards. A handout was provided that detailed eligibility and the application process. Stan mentioned that Thames Shipyard had previously obtained a similar \$1.4M grant to widen a dry dock. DECD provided \$500K as the local match. The increased capacity of the dry dock resulted in a 25% increase in hiring. It also allowed Thames to successfully bid for a 7 year \$7M contract with the FDNY for work on their fireboats. The grant also lead to additional work such as ACOE vessels. Commissioner Mickus stated that Thames Shipyard would be applying for the Small Shipyard Grant to procure a power hydro-blaster and associated equipment. The equipment would double the current capacity. He requested a letter of support from the CTMC to be included with the grant application. After some additional discussion, the Vice Chairman made a motion for the CTMC to provide the letter of support. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dubno. There was some additional discussion on points to emphasize such as impact on security and potential alternate uses of the Thames Shipyard as a ferry terminal. There was also clarification as to whether Thames would need a public sponsor for the grant (no). The Chairman asked Commissioner Mickus to provide the details of the use of the grant to Chuck Beck so a letter of support could be drafted. He then called for a vote: motion passed unanimously.

**VI Executive Session – none held.**

**VII Date of Next Meeting:** All were reminded that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at **ConnDOT HQ building located at 2800 Berlin Turnpike Newington, CT at 0930 on Wednesday May 15, 2013.**

**VIII Adjournment:** -. A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Johnson to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Dubno and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting ended at 10:17 AM.