

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #09-11)
September 21 , 2011**

Location of Meeting: CONNDOT Headquarters
Conference Room A,
2800 Berlin Turnpike Newington, CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

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

Absent

Ronald Angelo (for DECD Commissioner)
Vincent Cashin
Michael Griffin
David Shuda

Guests

Andy Davis Don Eversley Ned Farman Ken Fisher Scot Graham Jack Karalius
Martha Klimas Ed Lavernoch Dave Rossiter Joe Salvatore Judi Sheiffele Alan Stevens
Grant Westerson

I. Call to Order:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 0933. A quorum of 8 was initially present with a 9th arriving a few minutes later. Commissioners/designees introduced themselves followed by introductions of the audience.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

The summary report of the July 20, 2011 meeting was reviewed. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Johnson to approve the summary report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dubno and approved by with 6 affirmative votes out of 8 present at the time of the vote. There were 2 abstentions.

III Discussion Open to Public No comments were offered.

IV Old Business:

A. Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore advised that the next LIS DMMP Working Group was scheduled to take place on October 6, 2011 in Port Jefferson, NY. The meeting will be held at the Port Jefferson Village Center from 1500-1700. Joe advised that Senator Lieberman had inserted language in Section 117 of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill that would prevent the closure of the NLDS until the SEIS for Eastern Long Island Sound was completed. The Bill has been reported out of the full Appropriations Committee with the following language: "The New London Disposal Site and the Cornfield Shoals Disposal Site in Long Island Sound selected by the Department of the Army as alternative dredged material disposal sites under section 103(b) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended, shall remain open until completion of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to support final designation of an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site in eastern Long Island Sound under section 102(c) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972." In response to various questions it was stated that the CMC through Bill Gash had been working with the Senator's office as well as with Congressman Courtney's office on the SEIS issue. It was also stated that the CTM had written the CT CODEL on the SEIS several times seeking funding for EPA to conduct the SEIS. Joe was asked to track the Bill through the approval process. Joe also

reported that on the CT Bond Commission agenda for September 23, 2011 there is a request for a bond worth \$398,750 for dredging of Guilford harbor (\$198,750) and a preliminary study (\$200,000 for testing and sampling) for the dredging of Black Hall & Four Mile River. The projects were selected using the prioritization criteria developed by the CTMC. Lastly Joe pointed out that in the Supplemental Package previously distributed electronically there was an article from a trade magazine about the Housatonic and the Wethersfield Cove low use navigation projects. The projects are 2 of 7 being considered by the Army Corps nationwide.

B. OPSAIL2012CT Update–Vice Chairman Johnson provided an update on OPSAIL2012CT taking place Friday July 6, 2012 through Monday July 9, 2012 in New London. The OPSAIL2012CT Committee is in the process of finalizing the agreement with OPSAIL2012 National. The Committee has obtained a Maritime Event of National Significance (MENS) designation and permit from the Coast Guard. The Vice Chair concluded his remarks by informing all that OPSAIL2012CT now has a web site. www.opsail2012ct.org He encouraged all to check it out.

C. NYYC Event update –Vice Chairman Johnson, provided a brief summary of the NY Yacht Club event that took place in New London the weekend of 07/29/2011. A reception was held at the Coast Guard Academy. A race was held just off shore on Saturday. A formal dinner was hosted at the Coast Guard Academy Saturday evening. Although the NYYC events were centered at the CG Academy, many of the NYYC participants and boaters visited the sites and shops in the greater New London area.

D. Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Council (LIS AMSC) Update – Scot Graham advised that CG Sector LIS appreciated the letter the CTMC had sent to the CTDEMHS requesting CT voice its opposition to FEMA’s plan to lump the Port Security Grants with the other FEMA preparedness grants. He provided some general information related to “chatter” related to the targeting of critical infrastructure sites thus the need for all to remain vigilant especially around port facilities. He provided a brief summary of the Table Top Exercise he was recently involved in at the Port of NY and NJ. A key element learned was that the Marine Transportation System (MTS) relies on many elements. As an example, there are over 14,000 pilot assignments in the Port of NYNJ on average per year. That provides each licensed pilot with 180 opportunities to observe and potential report anything unusual.

E. Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Committee (LIS HSC) Update – Scot Graham provided a copy of a letter from Captain Vojvodich being sent to all CG Sector LIS stakeholders, thanking them for their outstanding efforts dealing with all phases of Hurricane IRENE. He reminded all that there is a Harbor Safety Advisory Board upon which sits Grant Westerson and Chuck Beck. He invited all to review the CG Sector LIS MTS Recovery Plan located on the public side of Homeport at <http://homeport.uscg.mil/lis> .

F. Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Letter – Nothing new to report. The letter drafted and sent by the CTMC to the Governor for his consideration and signature in support of changes to the HMTF has yet to be acted upon. The Chairman stated that he had a call into Liz Donohue, the Governor’s policy POC. It was stated that Congressman Courtney is engaged in the modifications to the HMTF.

V New Business:

A. Study of the Strategy for Economic Development of CT’s Deep Draft Ports – The Chairman reported that the letter drafted by the CTMC and co-signed by the Chairman and Chairman of the CT Maritime Coalition (Dave Pohorylo) had been sent to Governor Malloy on August 22, 2011. A copy of the letter was in the meeting package.

B. CTMC Letter on FEMA and Port Security Grants – The Chairman stated that the CTMC letter to Deputy Commissioner Peter Boynton asking the State to reject FEMA’s proposal to

combine the Port Security Grants with other domestic preparedness grants had been sent. A copy was in the meeting package.

Off agenda the Chairman welcomed Bob Ross to the CTMC. Bob is replacing Ron Angelo as a Gubernatorial appointee to the CTMC. Ron Angelo is now the DECD Commissioner's designee.

There was also a discussion initiated by Commissioner Miller about Milford's plan to renovate the downtown/waterfront area in a Newport, RI style to attract visitors.

Grant Westerson asked if there was any fiscal note attached to the SEIS language previously discussed in the Dredging Update. It was stated that fiscal notes are tools used by the CT State Legislature. He also asked if there had been any post-IRNE assessment done relative to the sand that had been dredged from Patchogue River and deposited off the shore of Hammonasset Beach? George Wisker stated that none had been done ATT.

The Chairman asked the visiting officials from the City of Bridgeport and Derecktor Ship Yards if they cared to comment on the recently published reports about Derecktor leaving. Don Eversley from the City of Bridgeport stated that the City and the Bridgeport Port Authority were very supportive of maritime development and were committed to working with Derecktor to keep them as a viable ship yard well into the future. Ken Fisher from Derecktor thanked Mr. Eversley for his comments and the City's support. He stated that Derecktor is not dead as reported in the press but was facing some economic challenges.

VI Executive Session – none held.

VII Date of Next Meeting: It was announced that next meeting of the CTMC will be held at 0930 on Wednesday October 19, 2011 at the Fort Trumbull Conference Center 90 Wallbach Street New London, CT 06320.

VIII Adjournment: - A motion to adjourn was made by the Vice Chairman seconded by George Wisker and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 10:22 AM.