

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #11-10)
November 17, 2010**

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

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Parker)
Vincent Cashin
Tom Dubno
G.L. Gunther
John Johnson
Larry Miller
John Opie
Joe Riccio
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for Commissioner Marrella)

Absent

Ronald Angelo
Joan McDonald
Joseph P. Maco
David Shuda
Brenda Sisco

Guests

John Burgeson	LT Jud Coleman	Dan Coleman	Ned Farman	Martha Klimas
Dave Rossiter	Joe Salvatore	Devin Santa	Bob Scinto	Joel Severance
Bill Spicer	Geoff Steadman	Alan Stevens		

I. Call to Order:

The Chairman Joe Riccio opened the meeting at 0934. A quorum of 10 was present, including newly appointed Commissioner Parker Wise. The CTMC Commissioners, designees and the audience were asked to introduce themselves.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

The summary report of the September 15, 2010 meeting was reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to approve the summary report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dubno and approved by unanimous vote.

III Discussion Open to Public Geoff Steadman of the CT Harbor Management Association (CHMA) distributed handouts to the Commissioners and talked about the content of the three documents contained in the package. One document was a Summary of Findings and Recommendations from a study by the CHMA of the Federal Maintenance Dredging Process dated March 21, 2005. The document contained 27 findings and 10 multi-tiered recommendations. It was pointed out that several of the recommendations have been implemented during the intervening years. Another document dated November 4, 2010 was the Highlights and Recommendations from the July 19, 2010 Dredging Seminar conducted by the CHMA at the Sound School in New Haven. Mr. Steadman stated that the focus of the seminar was on special purpose dredging equipment like the ACOE Dredge Vessel CURRITUCK. Presentations were made by representatives from the ACOE, CT, MA and RI as well as local officials from Stratford and the CHMA. He remarked that unlike in CT, officials in MA and RI do not see a conflict between advocating for dredging projects and regulating the process. Steadman stated that the CHMA has made a request to the ACOE for funds for a Low Use Navigation project. A key to a Low use Navigation Project is to identify a near shore disposal site. He stated that one of the recommendations contained in the document is better use of the Regional Dredging Team (RDT). The third document provided was a letter from CHMA dated Nov 14, 2010 to CTDEP. The letter was submitted as a response/input to the October 01, 2010 DEP Public Notice soliciting comments concerning the CT Coastal Management Program. The

recommendations contained in the letter were consistent with those in the previous two documents.

A lengthy discussion ensued. The Chairman asked for clarification on the tasking recommended for the dredging project coordinator contained in the Dredging Seminar Summary document. Chairman Riccio thought the recommended tasks were things already being accomplished by the dredging project Coordinator. Geoff Steadman provided an example of how Greenwich had to create their own dredge disposal analysis in order to move their project along. Chuck Beck questioned the need for such a disposal analysis once the LIS DMMP is completed. Joel Severance stated that a "template" was needed to assist locals to generate disposal plans. Chuck Beck stated that generating dredge material disposal plans for federal channels was the responsibility of the ACOE. He further stated that he was pretty certain that the "template" requested was already available on the New England Division of the Army Corps of Engineers web site. John Opie questioned the value of a cookie cutter approach since most dredging projects were unique. Geoff Steadman stated that Greenwich had to collect data on and analyze 12 landfills as part of their efforts. Joe Salvatore re-stated that such an analysis was a responsibility of the ACOE for all federal dredging projects. Commissioner Gunther stated that a proactive vs reactive approach needs to be pursued and gave the Housatonic River dredging project as an example. Geoff Steadman emphasized that Greenwich and the ACOE had been working together but made no mention of including the state. Joe Salvatore reiterated that the LIS DMMP will include upland disposal options. Geoff Steadman reiterated that Greenwich had spent its own time and money to get the disposal analysis done in a timely manner. Chuck Beck stated that the ACOE has always been willing to let someone else like the local municipality pay for work for which the ACOE was responsible. He continued to explain that the Low Use Navigation Program was fashioned in a similar way. The minimum amount of funding to be provided by the ACOE for the Program is for planning only. The planning is to be directed a small harbor dredging projects with an expectation that some entity other than the ACOE will find an "alternate" (i.e. non-federal) funding source for the actual dredging. Geoff Steadman turned to discussion of the Housatonic River dredging needs by calling for a cooperative approach similar to that recently taken to raise the cottages Long Beach in Stratford. He also stated that the CHMA was going to work with the CT Legislature to approve legislation that would reinforce a dredging focus in CTDEP. Commissioner Miller pointed out that unlike CT, RI and MA do not have to deal with opposition to dredging projects from NY. Chuck Beck questioned Geoff Steadman about the information, conclusions and recommendations contained in the Highlights and Recommendations document on the July 19, 2010 Dredging Seminar. He stated that he was present for the meeting and what was in the document was greatly different from what was actually discussed. Most significantly he reminded all of comments he made at the end of the Seminar that were not recorded in the Summary. For the benefit of all, Beck repeated his comments stating that there were few substantive differences among CT, RI and MA. The state entities that deal with dredging issues might be organized slightly different but the one major difference was that RI and MA get federal funding through earmarks for dredging projects every year. It's the ear marks that cover the costs of the CURRITUCK's annual dredging tour of the smaller ports in RI and MA. He repeated the challenge to all to bring pressure to bear on the CT Congressional delegation and the CT State Legislators to fund long overdue maintenance dredging projects.

Commissioner Miller state that the Milford Power Plant is being sold. Commissioner Johnson asked about deregulation of the power generating system. Bill Spicer brought the discussion back to dredging stating that Beck was right, the CT Congressional delegation and the state legislators have done little to nothing to facilitate dredging in CT. He stated that the elected officials needed to advocate for dredging on behalf of CT like the RI and MA delegations do. He used the USN dredging project as an example of how the CT officials fail to stand up against NY. Commissioner Gunther questioned Beck as to why he had distributed a CHMA dredging document dated 2003 with the meeting package. Beck asked Joel Severance to respond since it was Joel who had asked Beck to distribute the document for the October CTMC meeting that was not held due to a lack of a quorum. Commissioner Gunther then asked how many of the dredge

disposal sites in LIS were in CT waters. George Wisker stated that there were 2; Central Long Island Sound (CLIS) and Western Long Island Sound (WLIS), disposal sites in CT waters. Commissioner Gunther stated that somebody needed to stand up for CT's rights relative to use of Long Island Sound. He was reminded that the CTMC had sent two letters to the CT Attorney General (now Senator elect) requesting a legal opinion on NY's power to veto CT dredging projects, neither of which have ever been answered.

IV Old Business:

A. Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore provided an update on the status of the LIS DMMP. He reminded all of the working groups created by the ACOE to review various aspects of the LIS DMMP. Joe Salvatore informed all that the ACOE was working with Westbrook officials on a Low Use Navigation Program project in the Patchogue River. The Grove Point Association has already contracted with the Woods Hole Institute to conduct studies (now in phase 2). There is an opportunity for the ACOE to fund some if not all of the remaining study. The plan would include a private/public partnership to fund the return of the CURRITUCK to conduct the dredging and deposit the material at the desired near shore disposal site to replenish the beach. Joe provided information on a meeting with officials from Wethersfield on the dredging of Wethersfield Cove. He stated that there had been a 3rd public meeting concerning the Bridgeport DMMP. Commissioner Gunther inquired about input from the shell fish industry. Salvatore stated that representatives from the shell fish industry as well as a representative from the CT Dept of Agriculture were present at all three public meetings.

B Connecticut Economic Strategic Plan (ESP) Statewide Port Authority (SWPA) Update – On behalf Peter Simmons, Chuck Beck stated that DECD had not yet responded to the CTMC 17 Sept 2010 letter that requested no legislative action be taken during the 2011 legislative session by DECD on a statewide port authority. He added that given the results of the gubernatorial election, the request was probably moot. Governor Elect Malloy had made port development and formation of a statewide port authority part of his campaign. Commissioner Gunther stated that the CTMC letter was impracticable. The Chairman stated that the letter was sent because the CTMC could not come to a consensus on the need for or against a statewide port authority thus, was seeking more time. A question was raised about the results of the working group that had been organized under former Commissioner Krause's leadership. Chuck Beck stated that he would reach out to Linda Krause and obtain the information.

C. OPSAIL 2012 – Vice Chair Johnson provided information on an invitation by the national OPSAIL organization for New London to participate in OPSAIL 2012. He indicated that the 2012 event would most likely not be as large as the 2000 OPSAIL event. He added that a Norwegian Tall Ship had visited New London over the previous weekend. The general theme of OPSAIL 2012 is to commemorate the bicentennial of War of 1812. The Governor through DECD has provided \$50K for the planning phase of the event. George Wisker recommended that the local planners contact DEP very early in the process if it is anticipated that piles or dolphins will be required along the New London waterfront to moor vessels during the event. Vin Cashin asked if there would be any pier problems related to permits. Vice Chairman Johnson stated that George Wisker and the CTDEP had been very helpful on the permit issues. The Chairman reminded all of the very positive economic impact to the SWCT area associated with a Tall Ship event.

D. Maritime Highway Grant (MHG) – The Chairman reported that the application to retro fit three Cross Sound Ferry vessels did not make the final cut. Chuck Beck stated that he had reviewed the winning applications and all had a better cost benefit ratio than the CSF application. Commissioner Gunther asked why the Bridgeport-Port Jefferson Ferry had not been considered for the grant. He was told that it was up to the Bridgeport Port Jefferson Ferry Company to apply and they did not. Plus being a NY based company, the Ferry Company does everything through NY not CT.

E. Cruise Ship Update – Due to the absence of George Cassidy, Commissioner Johnson

summarized the two visits (Sept and Oct) by the m/s CROWN PRINCESS and the positive economic impact on the new London area. He also stated that contact had been made with a Holland America official concerning cruise ship visits. He also stated that the Thames Americas Cup Committee was thinking of joining the Cruise Ship Association to be better positioned to market the Port of New London as a port of call.

D. Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Council (LIS AMSC) Update – LT Jud Coleman stated that the Final Rule on the anchorage areas off of New London, New Haven and Bridgeport should be published soon.

E. Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Committee (LIS HSC) Update. – LT Coleman stated that the next Harbor Safety Committee meeting would take place in January 2011.

V New Business:

A. 2011 CTMC Meeting Schedule – The draft 2011 CTMC meeting schedule had been distributed as part of the meeting package. The draft plan was approved by acclimation. The Chairman asked Chuck Beck to inform the TSB to try and avoid conflicts in the two entities meeting schedule.

Appointments – The Chairman reminded all that an outfall from the recent elections could cause a change in membership to the CTMC. He suggested that all appointed members reach out to their appointing authority.

VI Executive Session – none held

VII Date of Next Meeting: It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at **0930 Wednesday December 15, 2010 at the CTDOT HQ building in Newington, CT.**

VII Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Dubno and approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM.