

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)  
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #06-12)  
December 21, 2006**

**Location of Meeting:** Connecticut DOT Headquarters  
2800 Berlin Turnpike  
Newington, CT Conference Room B

**Attendance:**

**Commissioners**

***Present***

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Carpenter)  
Tom Dubno  
Ginne-Rae Gilmore (for Comm Abromaitis)  
Judy Gott  
G.L. "Doc" Gunther  
John Johnson  
Joseph P. Maco (for TSB Chair Kelleher)  
Joseph Riccio  
David Shuda  
Martin Toyen  
George Wisker (for Comm McCarthy)  
Kaye Williams  
Jon Wronowski

***Absent***

Vincent Cashin  
Phil Smith (for Secretary Genaurio)

**Guests**

John Crowther	David Head	Rich Jaworski	David Lis	Ed O'Donnell
Dave Rossiter	Joel Severance	Bill Spicer	Alan Stevens	Brian Thompson
Kurt Walton				

**I. Call to Order:**

- Chairman Marty Toyen opened the meeting at 09:32. A quorum of 13 was present.

**II. Review of Meeting Minutes:**

- The draft minutes of the 16 November 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously after a motion by John Johnson and second by Tom Dubno.

**III Discussion Open to Public**

- George Wisker introduced Brian Thompson, Director of The Office of Long Island Sound Programs within the CT Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Thompson stated that he planned on getting more involved in dredging issues and the business of the CTMC.
- Bill Spicer provided a detailed update on the move to repeal the Ambro Amendment. He reported that 49 of the 53 coastal municipalities in CT are on board. Stratford, Fairfield, Norwalk and Stamford have yet to pass resolutions of support. He reported that he had met with Congressman elect Courtney and his District Director to solicit support to repeal the Ambro Amendment. He also reported that he had been in contact with someone in excellent contact with the Rhode Island Congressional delegation who felt that they all support the repeal. Mr. Spicer recommended that the CTMC or a member of the CTMC host a meeting of the CT Congressional Delegation as a means of obtaining their support. Chairman Toyen reported that he had signed and mailed letters approved by the CTMC in November to the CT Congressional delegation seeking their support for Federal funds for CT dredging projects.

#### IV Old Business:

- Status of the Dredge Material Management Plan (DMMP) – George Wisker reported that there has been little change since the November CTMC meeting. The report in recent news articles that the \$1.7M in the FY 2007 budget would be lost as Congress stripped earmarks from the budget was inaccurate. The \$1.7M for the Long Island Sound DMMP is not an earmark but an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Operations and Maintenance (O&M) budget item. George further reported that as long as the DMMP is considered an O&M expense as opposed to a planning expense, it would remain 100% Federal funded. Ed O'Donnell confirmed. There was additional discussion about the state of the Federal FY 2007 budget and how it might affect dredging projects that had earmarks in one chamber or the other.
- Status of the Maritime Policy Statement/Meeting with the Governor's Office – There has been no change in the status of the Maritime Policy. Based on discussion with the Governor's staff in October it is safe to assume that the Maritime Policy is an approved public document. Chuck Beck suggested that the status of the Maritime Policy document be removed from future agenda. After some discussion it was decided that the Maritime Policy would be reviewed and adjustments made as necessary at the CTMC Annual Public Meeting each November.
- Dredge Coordinator Position – Chuck Beck reported that seven applications were submitted for the TE 2 Dredging Project Coordinator position. Six of the seven candidates were interviewed on 13 December (one withdrew the application upon being called to schedule the interview). The interview report has been prepared and submitted to the DOT Human Resources unit for approval. The position could be filled by mid-January 2007. Doc Gunther asked if DOT had the authority to fill the position or if legislative action would be needed. It was explained that the position had been approved by OPM as one of many to meet the goals of the Transportation Bill passed last legislative session. The discussion turned to historical issues related to the need for the project person, the dredging of the Housatonic River for environmental and flood control reasons and the mining of sand.
- CT Maritime Cluster (CMC)/DECD Development of Commercial/Recreational Data - Tom Dubno (member of both the CTMC and the CMC) stated that the Bill Gash (CMC) has been instructed to meet with the CTMC. The goal is to update a commercial/recreational waterway use report created in 2002. He further stated that the CMC Board of Directors authorized funds to be expended for the 50% match to DECD funds for the work related to the report. The Chairman organized a meeting with Bill Gash and a CTMC sub-committee consisting of Judy Gott, Ginne-Rae Gilmore (or her representative) and himself. The exact day and time will be provided by the end of the week. The location will be the Seaworthy Inc office in Centerbrook.
- Revenue Sources for Maritime Projects/Proposed Draft Legislation - Chuck Beck reported that he had learned that the DRAFT legislation intended to create a State dredging fund had been made public at the 11 December 2006 TSB meeting in Danbury. Judy Gott confirmed. There was a discussion on the next step to be taken by the CTMC. It was decided that the Chairman would ask for a meeting with the new co-chairs of the Transportation Committee to seek their support/sponsorship. There was some discussion about the pending TSB report/update to the State Transportation Strategy. Judy Gott stated that she will share a copy of the draft with the other members of the CTMC.

## **V New Business:**

- List of Pending Dredging Projects - Ed O'Donnell (ACOE) provided and discussed the list of CT dredging projects. He emphasized that the ACOE FY 2007 O & E Budget had not yet been approved and in fact it appeared that all of FY 2007 would be under a Continuing Resolution which would limit funding and action on projects. There was some additional discussion on the LIS DMMP. An analogy was made to the NY Harbor DMMP which started in the early 1990s and has not yet been adopted. The recent movement of the USS INTREPID in NY harbor was discussed as an example of what political clout can accomplish.

A lengthy discussion ensued about dredging the CT River. The discussion centered on decreasing commercial use of the waterway, future plans for using the River as a transportation mode, the need to reach out to other organization to acquire data and potential homeland security concerns. The CT River use to have considerable barge traffic carrying fuels to power plants and storage tanks along the River. The barge traffic has diminished considerably. The question is did the traffic decrease due to less demand or did the demand decrease because the barges encountered additional shoaling in the channel? It was decided that the CTMC would reach out to utility companies, fuel brokers and others who used to have petroleum products delivered to facilities along the CT River. It was also decided to keep the CT River on the agenda for future meetings until a presentation can be arranged. The use of barges could be a backup delivery system to existing pipelines damaged by accident or overt act.

George Wisker provided an update on the Housatonic River dredging project. There is the potential to use the sand from the Housatonic to nourish the beach at Hammonasset State Park. Some additional testing of the dredge material is needed and funds (\$30-40K) are being sought. Dredge material from the Clinton dredging project may also be used for beach nourishment.

The need to dredge Bridgeport initiated a lively discussion relative to the need to prioritize the channels within the harbor. This discussion lead to a discussion on the need to prioritize the dredging needs of all of CT's waterways relative to each other. All were reminded that the CTMC membership had agreed previously that the CTMC could/would serve as the body to set parameters and prioritize CT dredging projects.

- A draft Annual Report was provided to the members present. All were asked to review and make recommended edits the draft report prior to the January 2007 meeting. An electronic copy of the draft will be provided when the draft minutes are distributed.

## **VI Date of Next Meeting:**

- Next meeting is scheduled at 0930 **Wednesday** 17 January 2007 at the CONNDOT HQ building in Newington, CT.
- Chairman Toyen wished everybody a safe holiday and a prosperous New Year.

## **VII. Adjournment:**

- A motion was made by George Wisker, seconded by John Johnson and approved unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 1149.