

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #12-11)
December 21, 2011**

Location of Meeting: ConnDOT HQ Building Conference Room A
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

DOT Commissioner Redeker
DECD Commissioner Smith
DEP Commissioner Esty
Chairman Joe Riccio
Vice Chairman John Johnson
Dave LeVasseur (for OPM Secretary)
Tom Dubno
Michael Griffin
Bob Ross
Parker Wise

Absent

Vincent Cashin
Larry Miller
David Shuda

Guests

Chuck Beck	CDR Beach	John Crowther	William Dronin	Ned Farman
Charles Forsdick	Martha Klimas	Craig Martin	Ed O'Donnell	Brent Pounds
Joe Salvatore	Joel Severance	Bill Spicer	Brian Thompson	Capt Vojvodich
Grant Westerson	George Wisker			

I. Call to Order:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 0934. A quorum of 10 was present. Commissioners present introduced themselves followed by introductions of the audience. The Chairman welcomed all particularly the State Agency Commissioners to the 2011 Annual CTMC meeting.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

The summary report of the November 16, 2011 meeting was reviewed. A motion was made by the Vice Chairman to approve the summary report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dubno. Commissioner Ross asked for one minor edit to the last sentence of paragraph V.C. The motion to accept the summary report with the edit was approved by a unanimous vote.

III Discussion Open to Public Ned Farman of the Old Lyme Harbor Management Commission expressed his gratitude to CTDOT Commissioner Redeker, Chuck Beck and Joe Salvatore for the assistance rendered to Old Lyme relative to securing state funding to initiate a dredging project of two waterways in the Old Lyme area. A State Bond was recently approved to allow Old Lyme to conduct testing and design work for the project.

IV Old Business:

A. Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore advised that the CTDOT had successfully obtained a \$1.8M state bond to be applied for the initial work related to the Eastern Long Island Sound Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (ELIS SEIS). A workgroup consisting of representatives from CTDEEP, CTDOT and EPA Region 1 have been crafting an RFP to solicit a consultant to perform Phase 1 of the ELIS SEIS. Commissioner Esty reported that the WRDA Bill with the SEIS related language inserted by Congressman Courtney and Senator Lieberman passed both the House and the Senate last Saturday and now awaits the Presidents signature. The language that would keep the New London and Cornfield Shoals Disposal Sites open for 5

years following the bill being signed into law, to give time for the SEIS to be completed. The language also requested a report from EPA in 90 days on how they plan to resolve the dredging issue in eastern LIS, and directs them to work with the state and the Corps to find a solution. He then stated that the state \$1.8M being applied towards the ELIS SEIS is a very good start. There was some discussion on how the language would or would not affect the current restrictions for using the New London Disposal Site. It was stated that a conference call on the legislation would affect the use of the disposal sites was to take place in the afternoon. Commissioner Esty stated that he had talked with his counterpart at NYDEC but had not reached out to NY DOS as yet but planned to in January 2012. Ed O'Donnell of the New England District of the Army Corps of Engineers stated that notice had been given that the Corps intended to use the RI disposal site Eastern CT dredging projects which got RI Senator Reed engaged. He also provided information on some "partnership projects" (jointly funded with state/local/Federal funds) that were working through the planning process such as Westbrook, Clinton, Housatonic River. In response to a question from the Chairman, Ed stated that the ACOE did receive a small increase in its O&M budget this FY but none for CT projects. He also stated that efforts, such as a Congressman Courtney sponsored Bill, to open up the HMTF continued. In anticipation of more funding being made available from the HMTF for maintenance dredging, the ACOE HQ has asked for a list of dredging projects that are ready to go with short notice. The discussion ended with the Chairman thanking the ACOE, Grant Westerson, Bill Spicer and everyone else for their assistance on getting the ELIS SEIS moving.

B OPSAIL2012CT Update–Vice Chairman Johnson provided an update on OPSAIL2012CT event taking place Friday July 6, 2012 through Monday July 9, 2012. He reported that the Planning Committee had recently hired a Director of Communications as well as opened an office at 239 Bank Street Rear in New London. The list of tall ships planning on participating is slowing growing though most are the smaller B and C Class at this time. Two Class A tall ships have committed and another two are expected to commit to New London very shortly. Due to the link with the War of 1812 Commemoration event, several military vessels have committed including a USN LSD, a Canadian AOR, a Portuguese submarine and 4 USNA YPs. The City of New London has made a \$50K advance available to the OPSAIL2012CT committee to be paid back from the revenue and/or state grants. The list of sponsor is growing at both the local and national level. Two national sponsors of significance are Capital One and Pepsi. OPSAIL2012CT will get a percentage of the national sponsorship funds. It is expected that 750K to 1 million people will visit New London during the 4 day OPSAIL2012CT event. The current working plan is for the tall ships to arrive and anchor in Niantic Bay on Friday July 6, 2012. East Lyme will host a reception ashore for the visiting ship and dignitaries. The ships will weigh anchor and parade into New London harbor on Saturday morning July 7th. Once moored, an open house on most if not all visiting ships will be held for the public on Saturday afternoon. The Mashantucket-Pequot Tribal Nation will provide a fireworks display in New London Harbor Saturday night. Open house will be held again on Sunday along with a concert by the CG Band. A Governor's Ball will be held Sunday evening. The OPSAIL2012CT Public Safety Committee headed by Waterford Police Chief Pendleton and New London Fire Chief Samul is working on the traffic and parking plan along with emergency response plans. The traffic plan will include water shuttles, trolley service and AMTRAK service to keep vehicles out of the immediate waterfront and downtown area. Johnson thanked Commissioner Redeker for the assistance already provide by CTDOT Rails, Gene Colonese. Commissioner Esty offered the State Parks in the SECT are as remote parking facilities. He and Commissioner Smith stated that tourism dollars might be available for the event since OPSAIL2012CT is a regional if not state event. That will bring tourism dollars into the area/state.

C. Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Council (LIS AMSC) Update –CDR Amy Beach of CG Sector LIS provided a brief update. The First CG District has declared the opening of the 2011-2012 Ice Season. CG Sector LIS will have the lead as OPERATIONS in the OPSAIL2012CT ICS/USC cell. CDR Beach also reminded everybody of the "See something, say something" campaign as related to the maritime environment.

D. Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Committee (LIS HSC) Update –.See paragraph C.

E. Study of the Strategy for the Economic Development of CT's Ports (Port Study) – Commissioner Smith advised that the consultant selection process is very close to being completed. She had hoped to be able to announce the selected consultant today but the contract is not quite complete. Additional comments were added with respect to the market analysis focus of the study.

F. State Pier Needs and Deficiency Study and RFP Update – Chuck Beck advised that the deadline for submittals to the RFP for the Management, Marketing and Operational Services for the State Pier Facility has passed. Submittals received are under review.

V New Business:

A. American Feeder Line (AFL) – Commissioner Wise led a discussion on the American Feeder Lines. AFL's plan is to focus on a short sea shipping service that will meet all Jones Act requirements. AFL plans on having vessel built at US boat yards. The vessel would be crewed by U.S. Merchant Marine sailors. AFL has been in touch with Gulf and East Coast port authorities including Portland, ME, Boston MA and the PANYNJ. AFL is presently operating a service between Halifax, Portland and Boston. The AFL service could be a good fit for CT ports. The AFL and short sea service is more than a highway traffic mitigation tool. It is also a job creation tool at the port of calls. MASSPORT is actively marketing AFL services. The question asked is what steps if any should the State of CT be taking to reach out to AFL? MASSPORT and the State Of Maine are financially assisting AFL with costs. There was a discussion related to the use of tugs and barges vs building new vessels to mitigate costs. There was recognition that the key to bring AFL service into a CT port would be competitive pricing. There was some discussion about the hub and spoke concept (meg size ships calling on deep draft ports then cargo moving to shallower ports via smaller ships or barges) that would most likely be driven by the post Panama Canal expansion project. Commissioner Esty and Smith cautioned that any short sea shipping plans needed to look to the future not the past. Martha Klimas stated that the AFL met with the North Atlantic Port Authority at the NAPA meeting in June. AFL presented its coastal (Halifax, New Bedford, NJ and Florida) shipping lane concept. AFL expressed that they have a specific vessel design in mind for the service. Most of the CT representatives present concluded that that AFL was looking for CT to make a deal. The need to conduct a cost benefit analysis was raised. Commissioner Smith offered to meet with AFL representatives. She also restated the need to complete the Port Study previously discussed as it will assist in identifying the market and transportation needs. The discussion ended with a comment by Commissioner Griffin about the need for maintenance dredging of CT's ports to attract more shipping traffic.

B. Cruise Ship Task Force (CSTF) - George Cassidy was unable to attend. The Chairman deferred discussion to another CTMC meeting.

C. Long Island Sound Assembly (LISA) – Commissioner Mike Griffin provided information on the LISA (<http://lisassembly.org/>). LISA was created by the CT State Legislature several decades ago. Public Act 89-344 established the Long Island Sound Assembly (LISA) that is comprised of 3 regional Councils with a mandate to advise the Connecticut General Assembly on the use and preservation of Long Island Sound and its resources. LISA receives funding through a grant from UConn. LISA is required to submit an annual report to the CT Legislature. Commissioner Griffin stated that on page 18 of the 2010 report, a recommendation is made to create CAD cell to be used for dredge material disposal. He then expanded the concept recommending that a workgroup of representatives from LISA, CHMA, CTMC and other interested organizations should take 60-90 days to craft a plan to create a State CAD Cell. The conversation got a bit off topic on the CHMA, Harbor Management Act and Plans, the Norwalk dredging project, the LIS DMMP due date and other issues before ending with Commissioner Esty expressing his appreciation for the work done by the various organization.

VI Executive Session – none held.

VII Date of Next Meeting: It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at the ConnDOT HQ building in Newington, CT at 0930 on Wednesday January 18,

2012.

VIII Adjournment: - A motion to adjourn was made by the Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Dubno and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 10:37 AM.