

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)  
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #08-2)  
20 February 2008**

**Location of Meeting:** Fort Trumbull Conference Center  
New London, CT

**Attendance:**

**Commissioners**

***Present***

Sue Decina (for Commissioner McDonald)  
Tom Dubno  
Judy Gott  
G.L. "Doc" Gunther  
Joseph P. Maco (for TSB Chair Kelleher)  
Joe Riccio  
Martin Toyen  
George Wisker (for Commissioner McCarthy)  
John Wronowski

***Absent***

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Frankel)  
Vincent Cashin  
John Johnson  
David Shuda  
Phil Smith (for Secretary Genuario)

**Guests**

George Cassidy	Deborah Donovan	Bill Gash	Karla Gunther	Ned Hammond
David Lis	Ed O'Donnell	Capt Dan Ronan	Dave Rossiter	Joe Salvatore
Joel Severance	Alan Stevens	Nora Venne		

**I. Call to Order:**

- The Chair, Martin Toyen, opened the meeting at 9:36. A quorum of 9 was present though after the meeting commenced.

**II. Review of Meeting Minutes:**

- Once a quorum was established (during the dredging update), the draft minutes of the 16 January 2008 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept was made by Judy Gott, seconded by Tom Dubno and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**III Discussion Open to Public**

- None were offered

**IV Old Business:**

- Dredging Update - The Chairman reported that the Commission's letter requesting support of the proposed harbor improvement legislation (Raised Bill SB 302) was mailed to various legislative committee members and all CT state legislators whose districts border Long Island Sound or a major CT river. Doc Gunther applauded the letter but asked for confirmation that the Stratford representatives received the letter. Joe Salvatore confirmed. The Chairman stated that he would also check to be certain. Alan Stevens asked for similar confirmation concerning the Stonington representatives which was also confirmed.

The Chairman encouraged those in attendance to contact their respective state legislators and ask them to support Raised Bill 302 "An Act Concerning Harbor Improvement Projects. He also noted the enactment of the Federal Energy and Water Appropriations Act and the need to allocate more funding for the development of the Long Island Sound Dredge Material Management Plan (LIS DMMP). The importance of requesting funding through the CT Congressional delegation for specific projects was discussed. Although Congress provided funding for both North Cove (\$4.33M) and Norwalk (\$5.609M), the amount provided for the Norwalk Phase 2 project is less than the ACOE estimate of cost by approximately \$ 5.721M.

Doc Gunther noted the importance of efforts to persuade the Governor's Office to include harbor Improvement funding in her list of budgetary priorities. He also recommended that CTMC letters requesting legislative support be as concise as possible.

- DMMP Update - The Chairman informed the Commission that he had written AG Blumenthal requesting a legal determination with respect to the geographic boundary of Long Island Sound. The issue raised during the January meeting is whether or not the New London disposal site is within the boundaries of Long Island Sound, thus subject to the Ambro Amendment.
- DECD State Economic Strategic Plan – The Chair reported that the letter to the DECD Commissioner stating the importance of including the maritime interests in the development of the State Economic Strategic Plan had been sent. Bill Gash reminded all that the CT Maritime Coalition (CMC) has initiated a study to update the impact of the maritime industry on the state's economy. The study once completed will also be provided to DECD to be included in the State Economic Strategic Plan.
- LIS LNG Task Force Update – FERC has published the Final Environmental Impact Study (FEIS) on the Broadwater application and is expected to announce approval of the application shortly. The LISLNG TF is trying to determine the accuracy of the final EIS and possible courses of action. The State of NY is expected to announce their coastal management consistency determination in April 2008. Doc Gunther provided considerable background information on the Broadwater project and opined that the CTMC should take a position. It was decided that the CTMC should stay mute and follow the lead of the LIS LNG TF and the Governor's office.
- CMA Conference Update: A sign-up sheet for CTMC members to assist staffing the CMC booth at the CMA Conference being held at the Hilton Hotel (formerly the Westin) in Stamford 17-19 March 2008 was circulated. There was some discussion on the particulars of the CMA Conference.

#### **V New Business:**

- CSTF presentation: George Cassidy, Executive Director of the CT Cruise Ship Task Force made an informative presentation on the history and future of cruise ships making port calls in the Port of New London. Questions were asked and answered relative to the bus transportation for the arriving passengers to local tourist attractions and other ground operations. Joe Maco raised State Pier dredging issues relative to allowing both sides of the pier to be used simultaneously. A motion was made by Joe Riccio that the CTMC send a letter to the appropriate authorities at the U.S. Customs and Boarder Patrol to not adopt the proposed rule change that would change the port call regime (number of days required at a foreign port) of cruise ships in that it would have a very negative impact on the industry relative to port calls in New London and New England. The motion was seconded by Judy Gott and passed unanimously.

The Chair circulated a letter from Congressman Courtney's office concerning the proposed rule change on cruise ship port calls.

- CTMC 2008 Goals and Objectives – The Chair asked for all CTMC member to think about issues that need to be focused upon by the CTMC during 2008 and be prepared to discuss at the March meeting.
- Errata – Captain Ronan, Commander CG Sector Long Island Sound, was introduced and provided information about the current round of port security grants (PSG) being offered by DHS. He explained the changes in the process from the FY 2007 PSG to the FY 2008 PSG. There was some discussion and answers to questions raised. Capt Ronan also provided some additional information on the Broadwater decision making process and the TWIC program.

George Wisker provided an update on the Housatonic River dredging project and the Hammonasset State Park beach nourishment project. Delays have been incurred due to the economic cost benefit analysis process. There is still a possibility that the Housatonic dredge material could be a solution to the nourishment of the beach.

The Chair raised the issue of the rail road bridge across the Housatonic being an impediment to bringing fuel to the Devon power plant just up river. Apparently, the bridge has mechanical problems, thus raising and lowering is unreliable. Delivery of fuel to the power plant by barge would provide a better cost benefit justification for dredging the Housatonic. CONNDOT was asked to determine the facts related to the rail road bridge.

**VI Date of Next Meeting:**

- All were reminded that the next meeting of the CTMC is scheduled at 9:30 AM **Wednesday** 19 March 2008 at the South Central Region Council of Governments office in North Haven, CT.

**VII. Adjournment:**

- A motion was made by Joe Riccio, seconded by Tom Dubno and approved unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 11:05 AM.