

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #09-02)
18 February 2009**

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

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Marie)
Sue Decina (for Commissioner McDonald)
John Johnson
Joseph P. Maco (for Chairman Kelleher)
John Opie
Joe Riccio
George Wisker (for Commissioner McCarthy)
John Wronowski

Absent

Vincent Cashin
Tom Dubno
Robert Genuario
G.L. "Doc" Gunther
Larry Miller
David Shuda

Guests

John Crowther Bill Gash Mark Habel Jon Kachmar David Lis Ed O'Donnell
CDR Kevin Oditt Joe Salvatore Dave Rossiter Joel Severance Alan Stevens Fred Walters

I. Call to Order:

A. The Vice-Chair, Joe Riccio, opened the meeting at 9:37 AM. A quorum of 8 was present. The CTMC members were asked to introduce themselves.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

A. The summary report of the 21 January 2009 meeting was reviewed. A motion was made by John Johnson seconded by John Opie to approve with minor typo corrections. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

III Discussion Open to Public

- A. Joe Riccio advised all present of the recent passing of Ms Jan Williams, daughter of former CT Maritime Commissioner Kaye Williams. An article from the CT POST was distributed. It was agreed that a letter of condolence would be sent to Kaye by the Vice Chair on behalf of the Commission.
- B. Bill Gash brought to the attention of the Commission a proposed Bill before the CT Legislature that would add a \$1 per bushel tax on shellfish landed by commercial fishermen. The tax would be in addition to increases on license fees and taxes on marine fuels. He wondered if the CTMC should consider taking a stand on the issue. A brief discussion ended with the decision to have Bill Gash forward the proposed Bill to the CTMC for review/consideration.
- C. Jon Kachmar introduced himself as a representative of the Nature Conservancy organization. He stated that he would be the CTMC's contact with the Conservancy relative to the management of Long Island Sound, CT ports infrastructure and dredging issues. Mr. Kachmar stated he has a long history of dredging issues while working for the State of Maine.

IV Old Business:

A. Dredging Update - Joe Salvatore

1. North Cove Dredging Project – As of 1/31/09, approximately 82K cubic yards of material had been removed and transported to Cornfield Shoal Disposal Site (CSDS). Dredging of the remaining 75K cubic yards has been temporarily suspended until 3/1/09 to be used as capping material for the Norwalk and other projects at Central Long Island Sound Disposal (CLIS) area.
2. Norwalk Dredging Project – As of 1/20/09, all but the last 40K cubic yards of material near the entrance had been removed and deposited at CLIS. The remainder has to be removed by 2/28/09.
3. The Rocky Hill-Glastonbury Ferry dredging has been completed. The ramp improvement work remains. Just under 4K cubic yards of material was removed and stockpiled for testing before disposal at an upland landfill.
4. Of the 21 private and municipal dredging projects permitted but needing capping material, 19 were completed within the recent winter dredging window. The capping material made available was primarily from the North Cove and Norwalk projects.
5. LIS DMMP – The official end date for receiving questionnaires was 1 January 2009. The return rate of the questionnaires was 60.2%. A draft report is expected by the end of February 2009. There was additional discussion on the various steps/chapters of the LIS DMMP. Joe Maco asked if the Dredging Project Coordinator's position was in jeopardy with the pending state budget cuts. The position creation timeline and information on the recent success of the person holding the position in coordinating dredging projects was provided. Bottom line was given that there is absolutely no indication that the dredging project coordinator's position is in jeopardy.
6. Bill Gash asked if the CTMC had submitted any dredging projects as part of the effort to generate "shovel ready" projects for the Economic Stimulus Bill. Chuck Beck responded stating that the CONNDOT had indeed included "clamshell ready" dredging projects previously vetted by the CTMC as part of the Department's list to the Governor's office.

B. Economic Stimulus Package Update – Chuck Beck brought to the attention of the Commission an article from the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) dated 16 Feb 2009 that was included in the handouts. The article provided some details on the breakdown of the stimulus package as approved by Congress and signed on 17 Feb by the President. There was a short discussion on the breakdown led by Joe Riccio. In response to a question directed to him, Ed O'Donnell stated that the ACOE had not received any details on the distribution of the money in the Stimulus Package aimed at ACOE maintenance dredging. The New England District had submitted a list of shovel ready projects and was awaiting word from higher command. During a short discussion, Ed stated that overall workforce issues could be solved via temporary hires. He further stated that the demand for dredge companies could exceed the available resources.

C. LIS AMSC Update – CDR Oditt from Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound (CGSECLIS) provided an update on the Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Committee (LIS AMSC). He stated that an LIS AMSC Executive Steering Committee meeting was scheduled for 3/4/2009. He also provided an update on the Port-Wide Risk Mitigation and Management Plan (PRMP)/ Trade Resumption and Resiliency Plan (TRRP) project being lead by a consultant. The Plans are a requirement to receive the Tier II FY 2008 and 2009 Port Security Grant (PSG) funds earmarked for CT's three deep draft ports. CDR Oditt also stated that Facility Security Official (FSO) meeting was scheduled for 2/23/09.

D. LIS HSC Update – CDR Oditt provided an update on the Block Island Sound Port Access Route Study (PARS) being conducted. A draft report should be available soon. Steps after the draft would include a public notice via the NPRM process. He reminded all that an

Annual Small Passenger Industry Day would be held on Long Island on 25 February 2009. CDR Oditt provided a brief description of the icebreaking operations the CGC BOLLARD has been conducting in the CT River.

V New Business:

- A. Eastern Boundary of LIS – George Wisker stated that he knew the EPA was working on a letter reply to Bill Spicer’s question on the location of the eastern boundary of LIS raised during the LIS DMMP Public Scoping meetings held last year. Joe Riccio asked what would happen if the EPA’s reply differed from the reply the CTMC received from CT AG. Chuck Beck reminded all that the AG cited several legal cases that each made reference to different lines that could be considered the eastern boundary of LIS. The western most line was well east of the New London Disposal Site.
- B. HB 5206 Establishing an Inland Waters Commercial Vessel Operators License – (see C.)
- C. HB 5471 An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Dredging – Joe Riccio noted that via an electronic vote prior to the CTMC meeting, the Commission had approved draft letters concerning both Bills. The respective letters indicated CTMC opposition to HB 5206 as written and support for HB 5471. Final versions of the letters were brought to the meeting for the Vice Chair’s signature. There was a brief discussion on whether it was appropriate or not to add the list of Commissioner’s names to the CTMC letterhead for future correspondence. Chuck Beck will research.
- D. Army Corps of Engineers New England District (ACOE) Navigation Program Brief – Mark Habel provided a power point brief on the various types of navigational projects that fall under the purview of the ACOE. Specific information was provided on some improvement projects as well as operation and maintenance projects that are on the ACOE’s “to do list” pending funding. A copy of the power point will be provided to Chuck Beck for distribution to the CTMC and interested parties.
- E. New London Port Authority – Ned Hammond of the City’s Office of Development and Planning provided a brief overview on the New London Port Authority. He provided a description of the New London waterfront and its facilities. He stated that the NLPA was established in 1996, consisted of 5 members but had no revenue generating property to manage and no budget. Ned also provided information on the Free Trade Zone established in New London as well as the South Eastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer). There was a follow-on discussion that centered on the idea/potential to establish a regional port authority for the “Port of the Thames River”.
- F. Attendance and Membership – Chuck Beck reminded those present that during the September and October 2008 meetings there had been a discussion on the desire for the CTMC to take steps to improve the attendance of all of its members. A question was raised as to how the CTMC might go about moving the desire to an action plan. The CTMC Commissioner’s present agreed to provide ideas on the topic to Chuck Beck who would then summarize for further discussion at the March CTMC meeting. The topic will be carried over to the March agenda.
- G. Errata – Prior to entertaining a motion to adjourn and on behalf of the CTMC, the Vice Chair expressed sympathies to George Wisker on the loss of his mother.

VI Date of Next Meeting:

- A. It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be at CG Sector Long Island Sound office in New Haven, CT at 0930 on Wednesday March 18, 2009.

VII Adjournment:

A motion was made by John Johnson, seconded by George Wisker and approved unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 11:29 AM.