

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING (Mtg. #02-11)
February 16, 2011**

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

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner)
John Johnson
Peter Simmons (for DECD Commissioner)
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for DEP Commissioner)

Absent

Ronald Angelo
Benjamin Barnes
Vincent Cashin
Tom Dubno
Michael Griffin
Larry Miller
Joseph P. Maco (for TSB Chairman)
John Opie
Joe Riccio
David Shuda

Guests

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Lou Allyn | George Cassidy | Dan Coleman | Kevin Cozzolino | Bill Gash |
| Ned Farman | Jack Karalius | Martha Klimas | Chris Long | Dave Rossiter |
| Joe Salvatore | Grant Westerson | | | |

I. Call to Order:

The Vice Chairman John Johnson called the meeting to order at 0930. However, there was no quorum. Thus, the gathering became an informational session as opposed to a formal meeting. Commissioners/designees present introduced themselves followed by introductions of the audience.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

No action taken due to lack of a quorum.

III. Discussion Open to Public None offered.

IV. Old Business:

A. Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore provided an update on the status of the LIS DMMP working groups being created by the ACOE. The first meeting is scheduled for 03/29/2011 at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport, CT between 4 and 7 PM. Joe also reported on, the USEPA Annual Report for the period 07/06/2009 to 07/05/2010, a dredging coordination meeting held in Westbrook on 02/07/2011, the Norwalk Phase III dredging project, the LIS DMMP Steering Committee meeting held on 02/10/2011, the ACOE renewal process for the Statewide General Permit and the ACOE test results of the New Haven Harbor sediment. He requested that a review of the two letters sent to AG Blumenthal but never answered be revised and sent to newly elected AG Jepsen. The matter will be added to the March CTMC meeting agenda.

B. Connecticut Economic Strategic Plan (ESP) Statewide Port Authority (SWPA) Update – Peter Simmons stated that there was nothing new to report. DECD did submit a place holder piece of legislation for the 2011 CT Legislative Session. Peter didn't expect much action on the creation of a SWPA until the budget and possible state agency re-alignments were completed.

C. OPSAIL 2012 – Vice Chairman Johnson provided an update on New London participation in OPSAIL 2012 now known as OPSAIL2012CT. He stated that 4 applicants for the

event planner position had been interviewed. Three of the four had submitted an outline of a master plan. It is expected that a selection for the event planner position will be made on or about 02/22/2011.

D. Cruise Ship Task Force Update – George Cassidy, Executive Director of the CSTF, provided an update on the funding issues. He profusely thanked the CTMC for its support of the CSTF in general and in particular the CTMC 20 December 2010 letter to the OPM Secretary. He provided a summary of a meeting held between the CSTF leadership and Secretary of OPM on December 28th that resulted in OPM not rescinding unspent funds previously provided to the CSTF. Written confirmation was provided in January 2011. George then provided a summary of information he had gathered on a recent trend by the cruise ship industry to schedule stops in Canadian Maritime vs US ports in New England. Canada has been providing money to various ports to upgrade pier facilities to accommodate cruise ships. Canada has also been providing funding incentives to attract cruise ships. George stated that he would be attending a cruise ship planning meeting in NYC. He stated that the City of New London had recently provided a \$12K grant. He brought to the attention of all that the Commerce Committee of the CT Legislature was holding a hearing on Thursday morning 02/17/2011. One of the Bills under consideration is HB 6317 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE CONNECTICUT CRUISE SHIP TASK FORCE. If passed the Bill would provide \$75K to the CSTF for the next fiscal year. He invited all to attend and if so moved submit testimony in support.

E. NY Ballast Water Regulations – Chuck Beck provided an update on regulations recently passed by the State of NY concerning the treatment of ballast water. The regulation is primarily aimed at curtailing the introduction of invasive species into the Great Lakes system via the discharging of ballast water of vessel entering the St Lawrence Seaway into NY waters. A possibly unintended consequence is that the regulations also apply to vessel entering Long Island Sound and the Port of NY and NJ. The NY regulations which apply to all commercial ships and recreational vessels over 79 feet even just transiting NY waters are stricter than those adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) or the U.S. EPA. The regulation was created under the Vessel General Permit authority of the Federal Clean Water Act which allows states to add to the baseline federal standard. NY's special conditions that take effect in 2012 will be 100 times stricter than the EPA standards. In 2013 the standard becomes 1,000 times stricter. Due to compliance issues such as a lack of technology raised by a host of maritime entities, NY has delayed January 2012 implementation of the regulation until August 2013.

F. Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Council (LIS AMSC) Update – (See G.)

G. Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Committee (LIS HSC) Update –

Due to the absence of a representative from CG Sector LIS, Chuck Beck provided a summary of information sent to him by the CG to be presented. The update included information on the 2011 Port Security Grants (PSG), the 2008 PSG and the Group II Marine Group CONOP briefed at the January CTMC meeting. Information was also provided on the USN's Port Folder for New London Harbor, the replacement of the Department of Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS color codes), with the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS), MARAD's notice of funding available for credit assistance under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) and the expanded eligibility to private rail facilities providing direct access to port terminals under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act; A Legacy for Users (SAFETE-LU). All were reminded of the Enforcement of Tank Vessel and Facility Response Plan requirements and advised on the USCG EPA Memorandum of Understanding outlining steps to be taken to coordinate compliance with the Vessel General Permit provisions of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Two notable events were announced; the U.S. Maritime Coalition 2011 "Sail-In event taking place on Capitol Hill on 05/04/2011 and the CT Maritime Association Conference in Stamford, CT 03/21 through 03/25/2011.

V New Business:

A. Letter of Appreciation – A letter of appreciation from the CTMC to former Commissioner George (Doc) Gunther was signed by the Vice Chairman who encouraged others to add personal notes.

B. Connecticut Marine Trade Association Presentation – Grant Westerson, President of the CT Marine Trade Association, informed all on the purpose, mission and accomplishments of the CMTA. Handouts were distributed. Membership includes about 300 companies with a workforce of approximately 4,500 from a wide variety of maritime related business such as marinas, boat yards, dealers, insurance companies, repair facilities, etc. The CMTA sponsors the annual Hartford Boat Show, the most recent being the 47th. CMTA sponsors local and is networked with other state and national organizations promoting safe boating programs. The CMTA works with the CT Legislature and state regulatory agencies to keep the maritime trades competitive with similar services offered in neighboring states. Grant stated that if the proposed tax increased are implemented, CT marine service business will be at a 10% cost disadvantage to similar services offered in RI.

C. Connecticut Maritime Association Conference – The Vice Chairman announced that the Connecticut Maritime Association annual conference (Shipping 2011) was being held in Stamford, CT on March 23-25, 2011. He made a handout available for review. Information can be found at www.shipping2011.com

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 March 16, 2011 at CG Sector Long Island Sound in New Haven, CT.**

VII Adjournment: -. The informational meeting ended at 10:43 AM.