

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING (Mtg. #03-11)
March 16, 2011**

Location of Meeting: USCG Sector Long Island Sound
120 Woodward Avenue
New Haven, CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner)
Vincent Cashin
Tom Dubno
John Johnson
Joseph P. Maco (for TSB Chairman)
John Opie
Joe Riccio
David Shuda
Peter Simmons (for DECD Commissioner)
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for DEP Commissioner)

Absent

Ronald Angelo
Benjamin Barnes
Michael Griffin
Larry Miller

Guests

Scot Graham	Rick Huntley	Martha Klimas	Dave Rossiter	Joe Salvatore
Joel Severance		Judi Sheiffele	Bill Spicer	Grant Westerson

I. Call to Order:

The Chairman Joe Riccio called the meeting to order at 0933. A quorum of 10 was initially present with an 11th arriving a few minutes late. Commissioners/designees present introduced themselves followed by introductions of the audience.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

The summary report of the January 19, 2011 meeting was reviewed. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Johnson to approve the summary report. The motion was seconded by George Wisker and approved by unanimous vote.

III Discussion Open to Public None offered.

IV Old Business:

A. Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore reminded all of the LIS DMMP working group meeting on 03/29/2011 at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport, CT between 4 and 7 PM. The Chairman advised all that anybody interested in participating should call/e-mail the meeting coordinator Paula Winchell at (508) 457-7900 or paula.winchell@aecom.com

B Connecticut Economic Strategic Plan (ESP) Statewide Port Authority (SWPA) Update – Peter Simmons stated that there was nothing new to report. He advised all of a Bill (HB 1067) submitted by the Commerce Committee that would establish a statewide port authority as a quasi-state agency. The Bill is not related to what DECD submitted as a place holder for the 2011 CT Legislative Session. Chuck Beck stated that the Commerce Committee held a hearing on the Bill on 03/01/2011. Judi Sheiffele stated that she had attended the hearing and that no one testified on the Bill. She further stated that three written letters had been submitted and posted on the Bills web site. All three letters supported the concept of a statewide port authority. One recommended changes to the language of the Bill to address operating funding issues. Chairman

Riccio stated that he thought the size of the proposed board of directors was too large. In response to a question from Commissioner Cashin about the CTMC writing a letter of support for a statewide port authority, Chuck Beck reminded all that the CTMC had attempted such an effort last year but failed to come to a consensus. Joe Maco asked if the CTMC should revisit the question given the pending Bill. After some discussion on whether to defer the issue to the April meeting or take a stand now, Commissioner Cashin moved that the CTMC defer the matter until the April meeting. The motion as seconded by Commissioner Wise. Further discussion pointed out that given the fact that a hearing had already been held, waiting until April might be too late. Commissioners Cashin and Parker withdrew the motion and second respectively for deferring and amended the motion and second to send a letter now. Further discussion laid out an outline of a CTMC letter of support for a statewide port authority: support the concept; coordinated effort with local port authorities needed; express concerns with size and make-up of the BOD as proposed; concerns with lack of details on funding for the quasi-state agency and lastly offer the assistance of the expertise of the CTMC. The amended motion was approved by unanimous vote. Staff was asked to draft a letter, distribute it to the Commissioners for review/edits then provide to the Chairman for signature and submission. It was also decided to put item on the April agenda.

C. OPSAIL 2012 – Vice Chairman Johnson provided an update on New London participation in OPSAIL2012CT. He stated that 4 applicants for the event planner position had been interviewed. Lewis Siris of Public Works had been hired. He noted that President Obama and Governor Malloy had sent letters to the 37 nations with tall ship inviting them to participate in the OPSAIL 2012 events. He also offered that the Mayor of New London would be sending a letter as well.

D. Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Council (LIS AMSC) Update – Scot Graham of CG Sector Long Island Sound advised that there will be a meeting of the LIS AMSC Executive Steering Committee in Bridgeport, CT on 3/22/2011. He also stated that the Port Area Maritime Coordinating Committees were up and running for each of the three deep draft ports. Scot provided an update on the FY 2011 Port Security Grants stating that due to the lack of a federal budget at this time, all could expect a very sort turn around requirement if and when the grant guidance is provided. He recommended that anybody planning on submitting a request should use the FY 2010 guidance to get the bulk of the material prepared. He also anticipated a significant reduction in the total funding to be made available. Lastly Scot provided information on the USN's Port Folder project in the Thames River. The project is basically a channel condition survey. A planning meeting was held in January. Baseline bottom surveys will be conducted this spring. The USN is receptive to expanding the sweeps to approaches to privately owned port facilities. If any facility is interested they should contact Chuck Beck who will pass the information to Scot. Scot then addressed handouts that he provided: one on Seafare Access changes to the MTSA; two on the voluntary use of TWIC readers; and one on proposed legislation to force the ACOE to address national priorities without earmarks. Lastly, Scot advised all of the Department of Homeland Security plan to implement Small Vessel Security Strategy being proposed. The public can find information at <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/dhs-uscg-small-vessel-security-strategy-report-to-public-012011.pdf>

E. Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Committee (LIS HSC) Update – In preparation for the upcoming 2011 hurricane season, Scot Graham solicited feedback on the system used last year to keep the maritime public informed about approaching storms. Kudos on last year was given by Grant Westerson. Joe Maco asked about the HSC meeting scheduled for 4/5/2011 in Port Jefferson, NY. LT Coleman (Judson.A.Coleman@uscg.mil) is the point of contact. He is working on the ability for members to call into the meeting and/or shuttle vans from the Port Jefferson Ferry Terminal to the meeting location.

V New Business:

A. Letter to CT Attorney General – The Chairman introduced a draft letter to the new CT AG asking for assistance in determining the legality of NY's routine change to the Coastal Zone Management Program. The letter is very similar to one sent twice to the former CT AG but a response was never received. The Vice Chairman moved that the letter be approved with one minor change. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cashin and approved by unanimous vote.

B. Port Infrastructure Funding Coordination Meeting – Chuck Beck provided details on a high level meeting being held at CTDOT HQ on Monday morning 3/21/2011. Attendees invited include the Governor, the CT Congressional delegation, state agency Commissioners, the head of the ACOE New England District and representatives from the major stakeholders: New London Port Authority, New Haven Port Authority, Bridgeport Port Authority, CHMA, CMC, CMTA and CTMC. The Governor, Senator Lieberman and Congressmen Courtney and Himes have committed to attend thus far. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss port infrastructure/dredging issues at the 10,000 foot level. It is anticipated that the Governor's proposed \$50M capital budget for port infrastructure projects will be discussed seeking the best way to leverage state funds with federal funds. Bill Spicer stated that he had attended the March 9 Town Meeting in Norwich and had the opportunity to ask the Governor about the ports and their collective needs. He reported that the Governor's reply was very supportive of the infrastructure needs of the ports. Rick Huntley of CTDEP OLISP asked if any of the \$50M would be used for infrastructure projects related to waste management in the port areas. Chuck Beck stated that there were no specific plans on how the funding would be used at this time. However, his sense was that waste management projects would fall under another program. An offer by the Chairman to Mr. Huntley to make a presentation on the topic at the CTMC April meeting was declined. Mr Huntley is retiring. Bill Spicer raised the issue of NY's proposed vessel ballast water treatment regulation. Bill was advised that the topic had been covered in depth at the January meeting. He was also advised that NY had backed off on the deadlines.

VI Executive Session – none held

VII Date of Next Meeting: Prior to adjourning, the Chairman asked what the CTMC should do if it is known in advance that there would not be a quorum for a meeting: hold an informational meeting or cancel the meeting. Grant Westerson inquired about the attendance policy. After further discussion, it was decided that if known in advance that there would not be a quorum, the meeting should be cancelled. The Vice Chairman emphasized the need for Commissioners to reply to the meeting package distribution e-mail in a timely manner.

It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at the **Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture School 60 St Stephens Road Bridgeport, CT at 0930 on Wednesday April 20, 2011.**

VII Adjournment: - A motion was made to adjourn by the Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Cashin and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 10:43 AM.

