

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #04-10)
April 21, 2010**

Location of Meeting:

Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture
School 60 St Stephens Road
Bridgeport, CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Marie)
Tom Dubno
G.L. "Doc" Gunther
Linda Krause
John Johnson
Joseph P. Maco (for TSB Chairman)
Larry Miller
John Opie
Peter Simmons (for Commissioner McDonald)
David Shuda
George Wisker (for Commissioner Marrella)

Absent

Vincent Cashin
Robert Genuario
Joe Riccio
John Wronowski

Guests

John Burgeson John Crowther Andrew Davis Ned Farman Don Frost Martha Klimas
David Lis Andrew Nunn Dave Rossiter Joe Salvatore Bob Scinto Joel Severance
Alan Stevens Chris Tymniak Grant Westerson

I. Call to Order:

The Vice Chair, Commissioner John Johnson opened the meeting at 9:34 AM. A quorum of 11 was present. The CTMC members were asked to introduce themselves. The audience was asked to introduce themselves.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

The summary report of the March 17, 2010 meeting was reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Dubno to approve the summary report with one minor type-o correction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Opie and approved by unanimous vote.

III Discussion Open to Public

Chris Tymniak from Governor Rell's Southwest Regional Office stated that the Governor's office had been receiving numerous telephone calls concerning the Bridgeport dredging project. He was not able to characterize the calls.

IV Old Business:

A. Dredging Update— Joe Salvatore stated that the ACOE Dredge CURRITUCK is scheduled to arrive at Westbrook/Clinton around May 6th. The CURRITUCK will remove a total of approximately 30,000 cu yds of sediment from the entrance channels and dispose the materials near shore adjacent to the Hammonasset State Park Beach. On April 7, 2010, Westbrook approved \$100k to go towards dredging the Patchogue River entrance if ACOE plan falls through. CTDEP issued a Public Notice relative to the Water Quality Certificate (permit) for the dredging project. The comment period ends 4/25/2010. The ACOE might entertain tours of the CURRITUCK during its stay in CT.

Joe Salvatore stated that work on the LIS DMMP by the ACOE continues. The ACOE will most likely form a workgroup of interested parties to review the LIS DMMP in the near future. The ACOE hopes to receive another \$1-3M appropriation for the LIS DMMP work in FY 2011.

Joe Salvatore provided an update on the Public Information Meeting held in New Haven by the ACOE on the Bridgeport Dredge Material Management Plan. The meeting was intended to inform all concerned on the proposed disposal plan for the Bridgeport materials. One of the proposed disposal plans includes creating a Contained Aquatic Disposal (CAD) cell within Bridgeport Harbor as well as use of the "borrow pit" in New Haven Harbor's Morris Cove area. Commissioner Gunther asked if the Department of Agriculture's aquaculture unit was in attendance but there was no way to tell. He then produced a chart that identified the location of shellfish beds in New Haven Harbor. George Wisker offered that Dave Carry of the CT Dept of Agriculture as well as the shellfish lease holders have been involved in the planning process from the start.

Joe Salvatore provided information on the Niantic River Railroad Bridge replacement project. The CG has issued a draft NPRM that would establish a Regulated Navigation Area during the construction of the new bridge. Planned closure periods were announced: Mon-Thurs 6:00am to 11:59pm and Friday 6:00am to 4:00pm from April 5 to May 7. Joe stated that a public meeting had been held on 4/15/2010. Grant Westerson provided some details about the meeting which was held at Camp Rell. He stated that during the preliminary planning the boating public was told that there would not be a need to close the waterway during the project. Thus, the more recent information provided by the contractor was alarming. Grant stated that an apparent compromise was struck limiting the closure to take place between the hours of 8 PM to 8 AM 3-4 days a week and only on weekdays.

Lastly, Joe Salvatore advised that he and George Wisker had attended the Regional Dredging Team (a.k.a. the Sudbury Group) meeting on 4/16/2010.

Chuck Beck read an e-mail response from Congressman Courtney's staff to the CT Maritime Coalitions letter of 3/9/2010 requesting the Congressman's support to get EPA to fund and conduct the Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (SEIS) for Eastern LIS. The e-mail stated that the Congressman had requested funding for the SEIS in his FY 2011 requests and that it was among his top priorities as is the LIS DMMP. The e-mail also stated that the Congressman is working with Senator Lieberman's office to push EPA to move on the SEIS as well.

B LIS AMC Update – In the absence of a CG representative, Chuck Beck reported information CDR Oditt of CG Sector Long Island Sound had provided at the CT Pilot Commission the day before. Beck reported that there would be a Port Security related Table Top Exercise next Tuesday April 27, 2010 at Camp Rell. The focus of the exercise would be the affect of an attack on port operations relative to the flow of commerce.

C. LIS HSC Update – In the absence of a CG representative, Chuck Beck reported information CDR Oditt of CG Sector Long Island Sound had provided at the CT Pilot Commission the day before. Beck reported that the final adjustments to the proposed anchorage areas for the CT deep draft ports had been made. It was the intent of the CG to go straight to the Final Rule phase of the regulatory process.

D. Connecticut Economic Strategic Plan (ESP) Update – Peter Simmons stated that various Bills related to the ESP were working their way through the legislative process. However, none of the Bills had anything to do with maritime issues. He stated that the recommendation in the ESP to create a development account for maritime had been dropped in favor of the existing Harbor Improvement Account previously created by the CT Legislature. Peter Simmons stated that any work on the statewide port authority concept contained in the ESP would not start any earlier than late summer 2010 as preparation for the 2011 legislative session.

E. America's Cup Update – Commissioner Johnson provided an update on the initial planning efforts of a group of people to bring some of the America's Cup Challenge Races to the New London area. He stated that the New London City Council had committed to some financial support and that the Mashantucket-Pequot Tribal Nation might do the same. In response to questions from Joe Maco and Joel Severance, Commissioner Johnson stated that the New London group had met recently with representatives from Newport and New Bedford. He further stated that the effort to bring the America's Cup races to the area is intended to be a joint effort by people from New London, New Bedford, MA and Newport, RI. The concept would be that the tri-state/tri city areas would host parts of the run-up or challenge races with Newport most likely host the final race between the current holder of the Cup and the foreign challengers.

Commissioner Gunther utilized a momentary pause to ask if anybody had been following the plans by Transmission Developers, Inc. to run high voltage power transmission lines from Canada down the Hudson River and into Long Island Sound terminating in CT ports. He stated that the planning had been going on for years but that he had not seen any official notice or plan. George Wisker stated that CTDEP was aware of the concept but there had as yet been no application submitted so that there was no action to be taken. The discussion started to expand but the Vice Chair ended the discussion since the topic was not on the agenda.

V New Business:

A. Statewide Port Authority (SWPA) – Commissioner Krause reminded all that DECD was relying on the CTMC to provide a recommendation on the SWPA issue. She also reminded all that the Vice Chairman had asked her to chair a concept alternative development committee relative to the SWPA issue. She stated that due to the diversity of opinions within the CTMC on the need for a SWPA, a survey/questionnaire had been drafted to attempt to capture the various opinions. She stated that the survey would electronically distributed and asked for the CTMC Commissioners and the interested parties to complete the survey and return it to her as soon as practicable. Upon collecting the completed survey's, her committee (a small group of volunteers) will review and attempt to organize the replies into options that should be considered as an alternative to DECD's quest to form a SWPA as part of the ESP. Commissioner Johnson thanked Commissioner Krause for taking the lead and encouraged all to complete and return the survey to her once it is received.

Don Frost stated that there was going to be an International Forum in Greece in 2011 on Port Governance. Joe Maco asked a question about the CT legislation that created the port authorities and what the status of the 3 existing port authorities was. Chuck Beck stated that the existing port authorities for the states 3 deep draft ports were not created by state statute. State Statute allows a municipality to create a port district and authority through a local ordinance and by-laws. With respect to the current status of the 3 port authorities, Beck stated that Bridgeport, New Haven and New London had all created port authorities as authorized by the state statutes. The port authorities of Bridgeport and New Haven were active, holding regularly scheduled monthly meetings. New London's port authority has been dormant for a number of years. Commissioner Krause stated that she had learned that the New London City Council had recently "re-activated" the New London Port Authority and was considering expanding it to a regional port authority. After some additional discussion the Vice Chair stated that the item would be kept on the agenda to allow for monthly updates.

Commissioner Gunther stated that the SWPA legislation drafted by DECD for the current legislative session was awful and inquired about its status. When told by several people that it was dead, withdrawn, not being considered he commented that he feared it would be reintroduced as a Trojan horse and recounted the legislative attempt to insert the CTDOT Commissioner over the local port authorities last session.

B. May 19, 2010 CTMC meeting – Chuck Beck advised all that there was a conflict between the Transportation Strategy Board's (TSB) 2010 meeting schedule and that of the CTMC. The TSB had decided to hold its 2010 meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 1000 apparently unaware that the CTMC has been holding its meetings on the same morning starting at 0930 since at least July of 2005. As it turns out both meetings are scheduled to take place in adjoining conference rooms A & B on Wednesday May 19, 2010. As many know there are five state agency heads (DECD, DEP, DOT, OPM and TSB) that serve on both the TSB and the CTMC. Beck indicated that he had made the CTDOT leadership and Chairman Riccio aware of the conflict. Chairman Riccio sent a letter to the Chairman of the TSB, Bruce Alexander. Chairman Alexander replied immediately via e-mail and committed to de-conflict the meetings at the first opportunity. Beck stated that he had proposed through the CTDOT chain of command that the TSB delay the start of its meeting on 19 May from 1000 to 1030. He proposed that the CTMC start its 19 May meeting a half hour earlier at 0900 vs 0930. Adjusting the two meetings' start times by 30 minutes as proposed would allow the CTMC meeting to conclude about the time that the TSB meeting would be starting. Thus, anybody who desired or needed to attend both meetings would be able to do so. **All agreed to change the start time of the 19 May, 2010 CTMC meeting to 0900.**

Before adjourning, the Vice Chairman brought to the attention the e-mail that had been distributed that contained an article about the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF). According to the article Senator Levin (D-MI) and Senator Stabenow (D-MI) are co-sponsors on a Bill that if enacted would ensure that all of the revenue collected by the HMTF would be used for its intended purpose: to properly maintain and operate the nation's harbors and ports. The HMTF has collected a surplus of \$5B over what has been spent. Since 2003 the gap between what has been collected and what has been distributed has steadily increased. At the same time, Administration requests for appropriations to support harbor maintenance needs have also lagged behind the revenues available. A motion was made by Commissioner Dubno for the CTMC to send a letter to the CT Congressional delegation asking for their collective support for the Levin-Stabenow Bill. The motion was seconded by George Wisker and passed by unanimous vote. Don Frost stated that an organization called RAMP had been working the very same issue for quite some time and was holding a meeting on May 12, 2010.

VI Date of Next Meeting:

It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at **0900 Wednesday May 19, 2010 in Conference Room B of the Connecticut Department of Transportation Headquarters building located at 2800 Berlin Turnpike in Newington, CT**

(Note the time change)

VII Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Opie seconded by George Wisker and approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM.