

CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #04-11)
April 20, 2011

Location of Meeting: Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture School
60 St Stephens Road
Bridgeport, CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner)
Tom Dubno
Michael Griffin
John Johnson
Dave LeVasseur (for OPM Secretary)
Larry Miller
Peter Simmons (for DECD Commissioner)
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for DEP Commissioner)

Absent

Ronald Angelo
Vincent Cashin
Joseph P. Maco (for TSB Chairman)
Joe Riccio
David Shuda

Guests

Nancy Hadley Martha Klimas Albert Martin Dave Rossiter Joe Salvatore
Alan Stevens Bob Scinto Judi Sheiffele Grant Westerson

I. **Call to Order:**

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman John Johnson called the meeting to order at 0930. A quorum of 9 was present. Commissioners/designees present introduced themselves followed by introductions of the audience. Dave LeVasseur was welcomed as the newly designated representative of OPM Secretary Barnes.

II. **Review of Meeting Minutes:**

The summary report of the March 16, 2011 meeting was reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Dubno to approve the summary report. The motion was seconded by George Wisker and approved by 8 affirmative votes with 1 abstention.

III **Discussion Open to Public None offered.**

IV **Old Business:**

A. Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore advised that the anticipated arrival of the Army Corps Dredge CURRITUCK to the Patchogue River would be on or about May 15. CURRITUCK would spend a couple of weeks working in the Patchogue River then depart for work in MA and return to CT in late June. It is anticipated that an additional 20K cubic yards of material will be removed from the Patchogue River and deposited off of Hammonasset Beach. No work is scheduled for Clinton Harbor by the CURRITUCK due to a lack of funding. In response to a question from Grant Westerson, George Wisker stated that post disposal surveys of the material moved from the Patchogue/Clinton area to Hammonasset Beach last year indicate positive beach nourishment results. In response to a question he also stated that the CURRITUCK is only effective in removing sand vs mud type material. Joe Salvatore provided an update on the LIS DMMP Working Group meeting held on 03/29/2011 at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport, CT. He pointed out that fact sheets distributed at the work group meeting were part of the CTMC meeting package. Some significant statistics contained in the material are that the maintenance dredging needs in CT over the next 30 years is estimated to be 38.5 million cubic yards. In comparison, the NY ports and harbors on Long Island Sound have an estimated maintenance dredging need of 7.8

million cubic yards. Economic data showing the loss of jobs and tax revenue if maintenance dredging did not occur was part of the meeting LIS DMMP Working Group material. The next LIS DMMP Working Group is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 04/26/2011 in Port Jefferson, NY.

In response to a question from the Vice Chairman about the Niantic Railroad Bridge project, Joe Salvatore stated that attempts were made to coordinate the use of clean dredge material to restore the disturbed adjacent beach. The idea was to mine material from a near by dredging project as part of the Bridge project. Amtrak was not interested in making the use of dredge material part of the contract. The selected contractor was not familiar enough with dredging projects thus sited economics as his basis for trucking sand to the beach. In response to a question from Commissioner Griffin, George Wisker stated that the material being trucked in is coming from a known quarry and has been tested as clean with the appropriate grain size for use on a beach. Joe Salvatore concluded his remarks by stating that he is working with Cross Sound Ferry in finding capping material needed for the proposed CSF and the Thames Ship Yard dredging projects.

B Connecticut Economic Strategic Plan (ESP) Statewide Port Authority (SWPA) Update – Peter Simmons stated that there was nothing new to report.

C. OPSAIL2012CT – Vice Chairman Johnson provided an update on New London participation in OPSAIL2012CT. He stated the recently hired event planner, Lewis Siris of Public Works, was working on the master plan for the event which is scheduled to take place from Friday July 6, 2012 through Monday July 9, 2012. The Parade of Sail is planned for Saturday July 7 with Coast Guard Barque EAGLE leading an international parade of Tall Ships into New London Harbor. New London is not a designated War of 1812 Bicentennial port. However, some of the U.S. and International Navy vessels might join the Tall Ships in New London.

D. Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Council (LIS AMSC) Update – In the absence of a representative from CG Sector LIS, Chuck Beck related information that LT Jud Coleman had provided at the CT Pilot Commission meeting on Tuesday 04/19/2011. A meeting of the LIS AMSC Executive Steering Committee was held in Bridgeport, CT on 3/22/2011. The main item discussed was TWIC Card validation issues and pending changes to Seafarer Access in the MTSA.

E. Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Committee (LIS HSC) Update – In the absence of a representative from CG Sector LIS, Chuck Beck related information that LT Jud Coleman had provided at the CT Pilot Commission meeting on Tuesday 04/19/2011. A LIS HSC meeting was held on 04/05/2011 in Port Jefferson, NY. The main topic discussed centered on abandoned boats. NY has noticed a decrease in boat registration and feels that the trend might foretell more boats being abandoned. A Waterway Analysis Management System (WAMS) review is underway for Block Island Sound. The CG will be soliciting comments from the public, stakeholders and users on the aids to navigation within the Sound.

F. Letter to CT Attorney General – A copy of the CTMC letter sent to the new CT AG asking for assistance in determining the legality of NY's routine change to the Coastal Zone Management Program was in the meeting package. In response to a question as to whether or not any response had been received, Chuck Beck reported that the original letter apparently had not been received at the AG's office. It appears to have been lost in the mail. Once known, an electronic copy as well as a hard copy had been re-sent to the AG's office.

G. Port Infrastructure Funding Coordination Meeting –Update: Chuck Beck provided a summary of the Port Infrastructure and Dredging meeting held at CTDOT HQ on 03/21/2011. Participants included Governor Malloy, Senators Lieberman and Blumenthal, Congressmen Courtney and Himes, staffers from Congresspersons DeLauro, Larson and Murphy offices, Col Feir of the New England District of the ACOE, representatives from the Bridgeport, New Haven and New London Port Authorities, representatives from the CTMC, CMC, CHMA and CMTA and state agency Commissioners from DEP, DECD and DOT. The purpose of the meeting was to

discuss port infrastructure/dredging issues at the 10,000 foot level centered on how best to use/leverage the \$50M in the Governor's proposed biennial budget against Federal funding. The ACOE provided a presentation on the dredging project process as well as the current maintenance dredging and port infrastructure projects in CT. All participants were given an opportunity to express how the lack of maintenance dredging could/would affect their organization/business. The meeting concluded with comments by some of the CODEL members stating that such a meeting needs to be held more often, at least once a year. Grant Westerson complimented CTDOT on pulling the meeting together. He had never seen so many high level officials gathered to discuss maritime issues in CT before. Commissioner Dubno agreed adding that a take away from the meeting was that all concerned understood CT's dredging needs and disposal problems. He added that remarks made by CTDEP Commissioner about his discussions with and commitment by his NY counter part cooperate were most encouraging. In response to a question, George Wisker stated that the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund was discussed during the meeting. In fact, copies of legislation co-sponsored by Congressman Courtney in the House and a similar Bill in the Senate co-sponsored by Senator Lieberman were part of the 03/21 meeting material made available to the participants.

V New Business:

A. State Port Authority Letter – Chuck Beck pointed out that the previously approved CTMC letter to the co-chairs of the Legislative Commerce Committee had been signed and sent. A copy was in the meeting package.

B. New York Yacht Club Event – Vice Chairman Johnson provided an overview of an event taking place in New London the weekend of July 29, 2011. The NYYC has decided to make New London its first port of call on this year's annual cruise. Boats will begin to arrive on Friday 07/29/2011. A race will take place on Saturday 07/30 as will a reception dinner at the CG Academy that evening. The visiting boats will depart New London on Sunday 07/31. The City of New London is working with the NYCC to enhance event for the visiting participants.

Commissioner Wise asked a question related to the MARAD Marine Highway (MH) press release distributed prior to the meeting. He inquired as to whether or not the CTMC had taken/ should take a position on CT's inclusion. Chuck Beck stated that solicitations for inclusion in MARAD's MH and Marine Corridor (MC) program had been made about a year ago. The CTMC had not replied but CTDOT had replied to the solicitation requesting that the CT ports be part of the Marine Corridor along the Northeast coast. Commissioner Wise then asked if a statewide port authority (SWPA) would have been better positioned to submit projects for consideration of the NH grant funds that were made available. He also asked if a SWPA would have bonding authority. Chuck Beck stated that a Bill introduced to the CT Legislature forming a SWPA did contain language that would give the SWPA bonding authority. However, at last report, the Bill had not yet made it out of Committee. Beck then provided a summary of the last year's MH/MC grant program. Only \$7M was made available nationwide. Cross Sound Ferry submitted an application that was supported by the CTDOT. The CSF application made it to the finals but ultimately did not receive a grant. Beck stated that he had reviewed the approved projects. Each had a better cost benefit ratio than the CSF project. He also stated that due to the lack of a federal budget this year the MH/MC program has been dormant.

VI Executive Session – none held.

VII Date of Next Meeting: It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at the ConnDOT HQ building located a 2800 Berlin Turnpike Newington, CT at 0930 on Wednesday May 18, 2011.

VIII Adjournment: - A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Dubno, seconded by George Wisker and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 10:13 AM.