

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #08-5)
21 May 2008**

Location of Meeting: Department of Transportation Building
Newington, CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Boice)
Vincent Cashin
John Johnson
Judy Gott
Joe Riccio
George Wisker (for Commissioner McCarthy)

Absent

Sue Decina (for Commissioner McDonald)
Tom Dubno
G.L. "Doc" Gunther
Joseph P. Maco (for TSB Chair Kelleher)
David Shuda
Phil Smith (for Secretary Genuario)
Martin Toyen
John Wronowski

Guests

Jim Bajek	John Crowther	Mike Curely	Rob Everich	Bill Gash
David Head	Jack Karalius	Mike Ludwig	Tony Mobillia	Dave Rossiter
Joe Salvatore	Kristen Schroeder	Judi Sheiffele	Joel Severance	Bill Spicer
Geoff Steadman	Alan Stevens	Brian Thompson	Fred Walters	Kurt Walton

I. Call to Order:

- The Vice Chair, Joe Riccio, opened the meeting at 9:37. A quorum was not present. The agenda was followed as an informational meeting.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

- There was no quorum obtained thus, no action was taken on the minutes of the 16 April 2008 CTMC meeting.

III Discussion Open to Public

- Rob Everich of Village Creek in Norwalk provided on his organizations 25 slip marina and its dredging needs.
- Jim Bajek, a dredging consultant, provided information on the continued coordination that has been ongoing among consultants and principals involved in a number of private dredging projects along the CT shoreline. He stated that a number of dredgers have been identified and are interested in participating.
- Mike Curley Commodore of the Greenwich Boat and Yacht Club stated that work was being done on a capping plan for the Greenwich Boat and Yacht Club dredging project. Judy Gott inquired as to whether or not Joe Salvatore, Dredging Project Coordinator, was aware of the previously mentioned private dredging projects. Joe indicated that he was aware of the private projects totaling approximately 150K cubic yards of material to be dredged. Judy then asked George Wisker about DEP involvement in the aforementioned private projects. George stated that many of the projects have had permits (water quality certificates) for awhile, some on extensions. The delay in conducting the projects has been the capping requirement.
- Fred Walters of Greenwich stated that Greenwich was on its 3rd extension for its 24K cubic yard dredging project, 19K cubic yards of which need to be capped with the remainder to be disposed upland. Greenwich plans on advertising a Request For Proposals in a week or so.

- Mike Ludwig, a consultant, stated that Rye, NY was in the middle of renewing its permit as well as a 3rd attempt to find capping material. He expressed concerns on the various definitions/determinations of what is or isn't contaminated material.
- Bill Spicer, Spicer Marina in Groton, provided information on the US Navy's plan to dredge in October 2009. He stated that the last time the USN dredged they created a Contained Aquatic Disposal (CAD) cell for disposal of the materials. However, other local projects were "shut out" from participating/using the CAD cell.

IV Old Business:

- Dredging Update – Jack Karalius of the ACOE provided an update on two CT dredging projects; North Cove and Norwalk. He indicated that the specifications for each were underway. Each project has a potential start date of 1 October 2008. The Norwalk project has an end date of 31 January which is driven by environmental issues (spawning season of indigenous fish). The North Cove project has an end date of 31 May 2008. The federal funds provided for the Norwalk project will not cover the cost of the entire project. Meetings have been held between the ACOE and Norwalk representative relative to prioritizing which parts of the project would be completed with the known available funding. The project will be bid as a base item (available money) plus options (if additional money is provided). The RFP for bids on the Norwalk project needs to be out by 9 June 2008. Jack stressed the need for the MOA between Norwalk and the ACOE to be in place as well as any additional funding to be identified/in hand ASAP. The drop dead date for the solicitation of the North Cove project is a bit behind the Norwalk project. However, since the Norwalk project is dependent on the North Cove material as capping material, Jack stated that if the North Cove project fails to materialize the Norwalk project will not be possible. He then mentioned two new potential problems related to the North Cove Project. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has raised one issue; short nose sturgeon spawning. The CT State Archeological Commission has raised an issue related to an historic ship wreck located at the Cornfield Shoal disposal area.

Chuck Beck commented on the potential hurdles identified by Jack. He stated that the North Cove project had been in the works for years, only delayed by a lack of federal funding. He then asked why NMFS had not previously identified the short nose sturgeon issue. Jack responded that NMFS had commented previously that the short nose sturgeon issue was not a problem. Chuck then stated that it has been the desire of CT to have all of the North Cove material disposed at Central Long Island Sound disposal area vs Cornfield Shoal and in fact state funding was being sought to pay for the difference in transportation cost. Thus, the possible historic wreck at Cornfield will only be a problem if the ACOE insists upon using Corn Field Shoal.

The topic changed to the need for the CTMC to create a method to prioritize future dredging projects. A draft list of criteria to be used had been provided as a handout. However, since there was no quorum no decision could be made/voted/approved. All present were asked to study the topic for action at the next CTMC meeting.

- Legislative/Funding Update – Chuck Beck provided an update on the request for bonded funds from the Urban Act to be used to cover the gap between the estimated cost of the Norwalk dredging project and the federal money provided. The agenda for the May Bond Commission meeting will be posted tomorrow (Thursday 22 May). The Bond Commission is scheduled to meet on Friday 30 May. CONNDOT increased the original amount requested to cover not only the gap in dredging but transportation based updated ACOE data.

Chuck Beck stated that that the language of SB 302 had been absorbed in the Transportation Bill (HB 5746). HB 5746 was passed by both chambers of the Legislature and recently signed by the Governor as PA 08-101. He further reported that the \$5M that was proposed by the Finance Committee during the session did not materialize due to the decision of the Governor and legislative leaders to make no changes to the two year budget.

Kudos were expressed by several members of the CTMC for the work done by the CONNDOT staff to make the Harbor Improvement legislation a reality. The CONNDOT staff expressed their appreciation for the behind the scenes efforts made by other members of the CTMC, the interested members of the public and the organizations that they represented.

- DMMP Update - Joe Salvatore and George Wisker provided an update on the LIS DMMP. A quick summary of the meeting of the LIS DMMP PDT on 29 April 2008 was provided. Information was also provided on the status of the questionnaire that to be sent out by the ACOE as part of the LIS DMMP development process. The purpose and a time line was provided. The purpose of the questionnaire is to determine the dredging needs (quantity) for the CT ports over the next 30 years. The questionnaire should be distributed on or about 30 June 2008. A representative from the contractor (Battelle) hired by the ACOE had already contact CONNDOT requesting assistance in identifying a questionnaire distribution list. A copy of the correspondence from Battelle was distributed as a handout. All were encouraged to generate a contact list for their specific organization and provide it to Battelle. CONNDOT intends on providing contact information for "umbrella" organizations such as the CT Harbor Management Association, the Harbor Masters, the CT Council of Municipalities, the Regional Planning Organizations, the CT Maritime Coalition, the CT Maritime Trade associations, etc. Past response information was provided. It was explained that the dredge project coordinator would track replies and reach out to those delinquent.

It was stated that there is currently \$1M in the Presidents version of the FY 2009 federal budget for the LIS DMMP. There is presently \$6M in the House version.

It was stated that Joe Salvatore and George Wisker would be attending the next meeting of the Interagency Technical Work Group (aka the Sudbury Group) in a couple of weeks.

- Container Feeder Barge Project Update – Joe Riccio provided an update on the status of the Container Feeder Barge project. He stated that the Bridgeport Port Authority had recently (28 March 2008) requested and received (CONNDOT letter dated 23 April 2008) a one year extension to the performance period of the Agreement between the BPA and the CONNDOT. A project management plan is being updated. A meeting is to be held with terminals in New Jersey, MARAD and the BPA in the near future to assist in generating business/users of the proposed service. The BPA pilot project is one of two being promoted by MARAD, the other being in Portsmouth, VA.

V New Business:

- Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Committee (LIS AMSC) – LT Kristen Schroeder of CG SECTOR LIS provided a general overview and purpose of the LIS AMSC. Joe Riccio and Chuck Beck, who have participated in the LIS AMSC over the past couple of years, provided some additional detail. The LIS AMSC has a lead role in creating a coordinated security plan for the "Port of Long Island Sound". A recent change to the DHS Port Security Grant process has elevated the three major ports in CT (Bridgeport, New Haven and New London) to a Tier II status. PSG applications from facilities in Tier II ports must be coordinated and support the overall Area Maritime Security Plan.
- Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Advisory Committee (LIS HSAC) LT Kristen Schroeder of CG SECTOR LIS provided a general overview and purpose of the LIS HSAC. An initial meeting of the HSAC was held at the Fort Trumbull Conference Center in New London on 01 May 2008. An organization of the HSAC was discussed as well as a proposed schedule of meetings.
- ERRATA – All were reminded that tomorrow, 22 May 2008 was Maritime Day and that a celebration was being held at Fort Trumbull in the morning.

VI Date of Next Meeting:

- All were reminded that the next meeting of the CTMC is scheduled at 9:30 AM **Wednesday** 18 June 2008 at the Fort Trumbull Conference Center in New London, CT.

VII. Adjournment:

- In the absence of a quorum, the meeting ended at 10:20 AM.