

CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #05-13)
May 15, 2013

Location of Meeting: ConnDOT Headquarters
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Joe Riccio
Dave LeVasseur (for OPM Secretary)
Tom Dubno
Larry Miller
Bob Ross
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for DEEP Commissioner)
Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner)

Absent

Michael Griffin
John Johnson
Stan Mickus
Catherine Smith/Ron Angelo
David Shuda

Guests

Ned Farman Scot Graham Martha Klimas Dave Rossiter Joe Salvatore
Joel Severance Alan Stevens Grant Westerson

I. Call to Order:

The Chairman, Joe Riccio, called the meeting to order at 0930. A quorum was present. The Chairman asked for all present to introduce themselves starting with the Commissioners.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

The summary report of the April 17, 2013 meeting was reviewed. A motion to approve the summary report was made by Dave LeVasseur. Commissioner Dubno provided a second and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

III Discussion Open to Public:

Joel Severance reminded all about the upcoming CHMA Annual Banquet being held on June 6, 2013 at Woodwinds in Branford. There will be a tribute to former State Senator George "Doc" Gunther who is considered the father of the CT Harbor Management program. When asked for contact information Chuck Beck stated he had and would provide when the minutes of the meeting were distributed.

IV Old Business:

Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore reported that work on the Eastern Long Island Sound (ELIS) Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (SEIS) continues. UCONN Avery Point has the lead. A Cooperating Agency meeting is scheduled to take place on May 20th at UConn Avery Point. Another public meeting will most likely take place in June or July. Joe provided an update on dredging projects. Next dredging season (winter of 2013-2014) it is anticipated that maintenance dredging projects will be conducted in New Haven harbor (810K cu yds) and Norwalk harbor Phase III (150K cu yds). In recent talks with the New England District of the Army Corps of Engineers it appears that federal funds (\$10M) will be appropriated for the New Haven project. Actually \$2M has been provided by the Storm Sandy relief legislation. The remaining \$8.6M is in the Presidents FY 2014 budget and is expected to be available even if there is another Continuing Resolution (CR). The State Bond commission recently approved a CTDOT request for \$10M to dredge New Haven Harbor. Thus in the unlikelihood of the Federal money not materializing, the project can go forward. The Norwalk project will be funded by a combination of federal (\$3.3M) and state (\$1.75M) funds. The New Haven material will provide the required cap material for the Norwalk project. Joe solicited for any other project that might be ready to

execute this coming dredge season (2013-2014) that requires capping material. Wethersfield Cove (\$1.1M) which is an ACOE pilot program is expected to be completed this winter. The ACOE Dredge MURDEN might come to do additional work in the Housatonic River. Lastly, Joe stated that NAPA had sent a letter of Senator Barbara Boxer, Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, in support of the Senator's work to pass a Water Resources Development Act in 2013. In response to a question, Joe stated that the controlling depth in the New Haven harbor channel is 35 feet and that approximately 810K cu yds will be removed. He also commented on the feasibility study necessary before any improvement dredging can be considered. Hopefully there will be language in WRDA 2013 that will allow the ACOE to accept non-Federal funding for such studies. George Wisker advised that the Coastal States recently held discussions on the language of the proposed WRDA 2013 Bill, trying to insure that smaller ports' needs were considered. Martha Klimas asked if there was any new information on or funding in WRDA for the repairs of the CT breakwater damaged. Joe Salvatore replied other than the funding provided in the Sandy Relief Bill there wasn't. There was some additional discussion about language in WRDA 2013 that might limit the amount of funding provided to smaller ports, the logic being that the larger ports had a higher priority need and generated the majority of funds for the HMTF.

LIS HSC/AMSC Update – In the HSC arena, Scott Graham reminded all that the 2013 hurricane season was fast approaching (June 1-November 30). He also advised that the annual meeting with the commercial towers had been held. The focus of discussion was boats being purchased with port security grants being used for non-emergent SAR cases, thus infringing on the commercial towers' business.

In the AMSC arena, Scot announced that a series of maritime mass rescue/casualty workshops leading to a 2015 full scale exercise in the New London area have been scheduled. Other related exercises with a maritime element have been scheduled such as an AMSC Exercise on June 17, 2013 in Bridgeport, a combined COTP Pollution Exercise in Western LIS in September 2013, and a Millstone Exercise in Sept 2014. Scot reminded all that a schedule of marine events is available on the non-secure side of the Homeport web page. Scot provided a summary of the LIS AMSC Executive Steering Committee recently held. The meeting was held on May 2nd as a virtual meeting. Cyber Security and the Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) were main topics covered. He also advised that the 2013 Port Security Grants should be announced any day. The FY 2013 PSG process is expected to mirror the FY 2012 PSG process. Once again there is a rumor that the 2014 PSG will be consolidated with all other FEMA readiness type grants. THIRA will be the basis for all awards. Lastly Scot reported that the CG Sector LIS Change of Command will take place on June 28, 2013. Capt Vojvodich will be relieved by Capt Cubanski. Upon relief, Capt Vojvodich will be frocked to Rear Admiral Lower Half (RDML) and transferred to CGHQ.

Connecticut Statewide Port Authority Legislation – In response to a question from the Chairman, Commissioner Ross stated that the language of the two Bills (1043 & 5569) had been changed to mirror each other but edits were still being done. Some of the requirements had been scaled back. He felt that the changes being made were positive. Commissioner Dubno added that he concurred and that the CMC was concerned that the Board of Directors as originally established by the legislation was too large and was being changed.

V New Business:

National Freight Advisory Committee – Commissioner Wise provided a brief overview of the purpose of the National Freight Advisory Committee established by the USDOT. Nominations to the 25 person Committee had been solicited with a due date of March but it seems to have been extended. The goal is to establish a National Freight Network Plan through recommended changes to federal and state legislation. Commissioner Wise offered to monitor and report to the CTMC as necessary.

New London Schooner Fest – Chuck Beck provided information on behalf of the absent Vice Chairman. He brought to the attention of all the material on the Schooner Festival that had been included in the meeting package. The Schooner Fest will be taking place in Mystic and New

London on September 11-15, 2013. A list of activities both on the water and ashore was provided. Beck read a short description of the event. Commissioner Ross added that it is hoped to expand the event over the next couple of years to include more CT communities, including those outside of SECT.

National Maritime Day – Chuck Beck again brought to the attention of all material that had been included in the meeting package related to the celebration of National Maritime Day on May 22, 2013. The ceremony will take place at 1200 in the vicinity of the Merchant Marine Memorial located near Fort Trumbull. Grant Westerson added that National Marina Day will be celebrated on June 8th, 2013.

VI Executive Session – none held.

VII Date of Next Meeting: All were reminded that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at **the Fort Trumbull Conference Center located at Fort Trumbull in New London, CT at 0930 on Wednesday June 19, 2013.**

VIII Adjournment: - Prior to adjournment Commissioner Miller as about the article that had been distributed electronically concerning the success of short sea shipping in Europe. He asked if such a system could work in the US. The Chairman summarized the Bridgeport Feeder Barge initiative of several years ago that was terminated before the demonstration phase. In response to comments made by Commissioner Dubno about why the initiative failed, the Chairman provided additional details on what had been established and the fact that the initiative was terminated for political not feasibility reasons. There was some additional discussion on what it would take to establish a short sea shipping service to a CT port: public policy, funding, establishing a demand, etc. Subsidizing such a service with state funds was compared to state subsidies to other modes of transportation such as Fast Track, Shore Line East, Metro North, etc. Scot Graham referenced a chart that was used in a previous presentation to the TMC that should the relative cost per mile of moving freight by truck vs. train vs. ship.

As the discussion ended, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ross to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wise and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting ended at 10:13 AM.