

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)  
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #06-06)  
For  
June 15, 2006**

**Location of Meeting:** South Central Region Council of Governments  
127 Washington Street  
North Haven, CT

**Attendance:**  
**Commissioners**

***Present***

Vincent Cashin  
Tom Dubno  
Ginne-Rae Gilmore (for Commissioner Abromaitis)  
Judy Gott  
G.L. "Doc" Gunther  
David Shuda  
Martin Toyen  
Kaye Williams

***Absent***

Carl Bard (for Commissioner Korta)  
John Johnson  
Joseph P. Maco  
Joseph Riccio  
Phil Smith (for Secretary Genaurio)  
George Wisker (for Comm McCarthy)  
Jon Wronowski

**Guests**

Chuck Beck    Jay Borkland    John Crowther    David Lis    Ed O'Donnell  
Omar Roucher    Mike Piscitelli    Dave Rossiter    Joel Severance    Bill Spicer    Alan Stevens

**I.      Call to Order:**

- Marty Toyen called the meeting to order at 09:45. However, a quorum of 8 was not present until 1010.

**II.     Review of Meeting Minutes:**

- Once a quorum was obtained, the draft minutes of the 18 May 2006 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept was made by Mr. Dubno, a second by Mr. Cashin and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**III     Discussion Open to Public**

- Joel Severance (HMA) announced that EPA had designated CT waters from Groton to Guilford as a no discharge zone. A ceremony is scheduled to take place at 4 PM on 12 July 2006 at Steamboat dock in Essex. CT. He also made a request that Dredge Material Maintenance Plan (DMMP) progress reports be a standard item on the agenda of future CTMC meetings.
- Bill Spicer (LISA) reported on the progress of the action to repeal the Ambro Amendment to the Marine Protection, Research & Sanctuary Act (MPRSA) also known as the Ocean Dumping Act. He thanked the CTMC for the letters sent to the Governor, legislative leaders and the CT Congressional delegation seeking their support. He stated that Congressman Simmons had promised to raise the issue of repealing the Ambro Amendment during the next session of Congress.
- Mike Piscitelli (New Haven Port Authority) reported that the NHPA had commissioned two planning initiatives: a coastal land use study and a port land use study. The fledgling NHPA is attempting to organize approximately 400 acres of land within the port district most of which is privately owned. A consultant (Parsons-Brinckerhoff) is conducting the initial studies.

- Senator Gunther summarized a Bridgeport Post article on the direct delivery of steel coils from a ship to a rail car in New Haven on 14 June. There was a discussion on the details of the event, the history of the establishment of the rail service to the port, the present and potential benefits to jobs and road traffic. The discussion lead to several other topics such as deepening New Haven Harbor and the associated problems (the cable), a request for the CTMC to keep members abreast of the Transportation Strategy Board schedule and a recommendation to ask the NHPA to make a presentation at the July meeting.
- Mr. Cashin asked that the CTMC send a letter to U. S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound requesting that the Captain of the Port designate anchorages near the entrance to New Haven and Bridgeport harbors. Designated anchorages would provide a margin of safety to all mariners as well as disallow the fouling of the areas by cables and pipelines. There was some discussion about protecting areas of the Sound for one group of people over another as well as discussion about the potential to use the Sound for an intercontinental spaceport. Upon arrival of the quorum, Mr. Cashin moved the letter be sent. Mr. Dubno provided a second and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **IV Old Business:**

- Status of the Maritime Policy Statement-The Chair reported that there was nothing new to report. Letters to the legislative leaders and the Governor asking them to review and support/provide feedback to the Maritime Policy Statement submitted to them in December 2005 have been sent on two occasions. No responses have been received. The Chair stated that there was a requirement to hold an annual meeting. Barring any opposition, he designated the November 2006 meeting of the CTMC as the “annual meeting”.
- Data Development-At the 20 April meeting, Marty Toyen expressed a need for the CTMC to collect data relative to commercial and recreational use of CT’s waters and harbors. Ms. Gilmore stated that DECD is in the process of developing the information requested. She already collected information on the recreational boating ports and some commercial port information and provided handouts. DECD is working on additional commercial information particularly for New London through the Maritime Cluster and Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC).
- Revenue Sources for Maritime Projects- Mr. Toyen opened a discussion on the need for the CTMC to identify and recommend to the elected leaders sources of revenue to be dedicated to maritime projects aimed at keeping CT’s ports viable. Boat registration fees, mooring fees, sales tax on fuels sold at marinas were mentioned as some possibilities. Bond money was another source discussed. Ms Gilmore stated that the co-chairs of the Maritime Cluster are scheduled to present a draft business plan to the Governor’s Competitive Council on 6 July at Trinity College. The presentation would include information on governance, infrastructure maintenance and improvements and human resources. Revenue sources would be part of that presentation.

#### **V New Business:**

- Mr. Toyen read a letter that he received from the Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments that included a copy of a resolution to support repealing the Ambro Amendment. The Chair also stated that he had invited the Bridgeport-Port Jefferson Ferry Company to make a presentation at the July CTMC meeting.
- Representatives from Apex Companies, LLC (Mr. Borkland, Mr. Crowther and Mr. Lis) made a presentation on dredging. The presentation centered on the innovative funding and dredge material management of a project in New Bedford, MA harbor. Apex is the lead contractor conducting dredging in New Bedford, MA using non-federal funds. There were several key developments that moved the New Bedford project along:

- The establishment of a Seaport Bond Bill by the Massachusetts legislature
- The development of a State Enhanced Remedy (SER) under the Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site which streamlined the permit process
- The establishment of Performance Standards
- The development and approval of a DMMP for five MA ports
- The use of “Portfields Partners” as a forum for stakeholders

The presentation generated questions and a discussion. Mr. Cashin emphasized the need for a commitment by the State government to move dredging along in CT. He inquired about the “dredging advocate” position that was attempted to be established by statute during the last legislative session. Mr. Beck informed the members that the DOT had received a tentative approval to add project management positions to be able to execute the funds provided in the Transportation Bill. The DOT Commissioner has committed to earmarking one of the first 25 positions as a dredging advocate/ombudsman/coordinator. A job description, classification information and justification has been provided to DOT human resources. The next step will be to obtain final approval to hire from OPM, solicit for the position and hire. Mr. Spicer opined that the position needed to be a coordinator not an advocate and that there might be a need for changes to existing statues to provide sufficient “power” to the position. It was suggested that a letter be sent thanking the DOT Commissioner for the Department’s support in creating the dredge advocate/ombudsman/coordinator position.

Mr. O’Donnell cautioned that the CAD cell disposal process used in New Bedford was not a “slam dunk” solution in all locations. Mr. Toyen inquired about the timeline for the Bridgeport Innovative Dredge Material project. The CT Bond Commission has provided \$750K to be used as the local match for the project. Mr. O’Donnell stated that the ACOE had not received any official notification that the local match was available. Mr. Toyen also inquired about the legislative earmarks for the Long Island Sound DMMP as well as the North Cove, Mystic and Bridgeport dredging projects. Mr. O’Donnell stated that the earmarks were only in the House version of the budget. They were not in the President’s budget nor has the Senate approved them at this time. He also stated that the earmark for North Cove was not enough to complete the job as designed. When asked about the \$1.7M in the President’s budget Request for the CT DMMP, Mr. O’Donnell indicated that it is still tracking through the federal budgetary process.

- Norwalk letter. The chair reported that the CTMC had received a letter from the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission. The letter provided a summary of the history and current status of the Norwalk Harbor dredging project. The Norwalk Harbor Management Commission requested the assistance of the CTMC to facilitate resolution of the issues concerning the cap requirement and pending expiration of the DPE project approval. Mr. Spicer commented that perhaps the Norwalk dredge materials could be taken to the New London disposal site and capped by materials the U.S. Navy is dredging near the sub base project which is scheduled to start in Feb 2007. Mr. Beck asked Mr. O’Donnell if it would be possible to coordinate the Norwalk and Housatonic projects to use the “clean” materials from the Housatonic to cap the Norwalk materials. Mr. O’Donnell responded that theoretically it would be possible but funding and limited dredging windows could be problematic. All were reminded that even if the location of the Norwalk disposal materials was settled, the project is not funded at this time. Mr. Cashin stated that CT should expect a notice from Turbanna for the need to bring deeper draft vessel into Bridgeport as part of their operation. Reportedly Turbanna is disillusioned by the lack of dredging in CT ports and may seek to terminate their business in Bridgeport. Mr. Shuda opined that business and perhaps elected representatives from NY and NJ would block any attempts CT might take to facilitate “cost effective” dredging of CT ports.
- Housatonic River Dredging Project Action Plan – Mr. Beck reported that his efforts to call a meeting of the stakeholders relative to the Housatonic River dredging project had been thus far unsuccessful. He will make more attempts during the next month.

**VI Date of Next Meeting:**

- Next meeting is scheduled at 0930 Thursday 20 July 2006 at the CONNDOT HQ building in Newington, CT. There was a discussion concerning the cancellation of the August meeting for summer vacation. There was also a discussion to hold future meetings at the South Central Regional Council of Governments office due to the more central location for the majority of the CTMC members and stakeholders.

**VII. Adjournment:**

- The meeting adjourned at 1145.