

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #07-06)
20 June 2007**

Location of Meeting: Fort Trumbull Conference Center New London, CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Carpenter)
Vincent Cashin
Susan Decina (for Acting Comm McDonald)
Judy Gott
G.L. "Doc" Gunther
Joseph P. Maco (for TSB Chair Kelleher)
David Shuda
Kaye Williams
George Wisker (for Comm McCarthy)
John Wronowski

Absent

Tom Dubno
Joseph Riccio
Phil Smith (for Secretary Genaurio)
Martin Toyen
Robert Virgulak

Guests

John Crowther	Bill Gash	Mark Habel	Jack Hopley	Lee Howard
Dave Lis	Ian McMillan	Ed O'Donnell	Captain Dan Ronan	Dave Rossiter
Ed Sailer	Joe Salvatore	Joel Severance	Jeff Snyder	Bill Spangler
Bill Spicer	Geoff Steadman	Alan Stevens	Brian Thompson	Kurt Walton
Joe Weiss	Grant Westerson			

I. Call to Order:

- In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, CTMC Secretary Judy Gott opened the meeting at 9:37. A quorum of 9 was initially present with 1 late arrival boosting the number present to 10.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

- The draft minutes of the 16 May 2007 meeting were reviewed. A motion by Chuck Beck and second by Vincent Cashin to approve the minutes was made. Prior to a vote, Doc Gunther raised questions about whether or not the CTMC meetings should be recorded verbatim; i.e. a transcript. Judy Gott reminded all that there was no statutory requirement for a verbatim record of the CTMC meetings and that the meetings were recorded. Joe Maco stated that the CTMC was only empowered to make recommendations thus no verbatim transcript was necessary. Doc Gunther further argued the point and ultimately made a motion that a transcript of the CTMC meetings should be kept. His motion was seconded by Vince Cashin. but voted down 3-5 with one abstention. A vote was taken on approving the 16 May minutes and carried 8-0 with 1 abstention.

III Discussion Open to Public

- Ian MacMillan requested the assistance of the CTMC on a dredging issue in Greenwich. There is a federally designated harbor of refuge in Greenwich which is badly in need of dredging. However, Mr. MacMillan has not been able to get the attention of the Greenwich harbor master or the town council to address the matter. Doc Gunther asked if Mr. MacMillan had requested assistance from his State Senator and/or Representative. Mr. MacMillan responded yes and that he had also requested assistance from Congressman Shays. Congressman Shays' office advised that the request would have more weight if it came from the harbor master or town council. Doc Gunther inquired about the Greenwich Harbor Management Plan. Mr. MacMillan stated that Greenwich did not have a Harbor Management

Plan because the town refuses to address the issue. Joe Maco and Doc Gunther asked a couple of questions related to other issues that might be standing in the way such as private/public access. Ed O'Donnell stated that the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) requires public access to federally designated harbors of refuge. Mr. Mac Milan stated that public access was not an issue but rather the issue was a neglect of duty matter on the part of the harbor master. He questioned how CT could allow the Governor to appoint someone as a harbor master who does not execute the assigned duties. Judy Gott stated that from her experience as a former 1st Selectperson from a coastal community the best course of action would be for Mr. MacMillan to work through the Greenwich 1st Selectman. Vince Cashin added that support from peers would be beneficial as well.

IV Old Business:

- Dredging Update:
 - Projects - Joe Salvatore provided information on some pending dredging project, specifically at the Rocky Hill-Glastonbury ferry terminal on the CT River and a need for some minor dredging at the State Pier in New London. The State Pier need is based on a recently conducted bathymetric survey of the facility. He also stated that there were several other projects pending funding. He has recently received calls from private entities that have dredging needs, some of which have obtained permits and funding. However, the projects require the dredged materials to be capped. As the dredging project coordinator Joe is working with the private entities, CT DEP and the ACOE in an attempt to marry federally funded projects that might have an excess of "clean" material with projects that have a need for clean material for capping. Joe stated that he and Chuck Beck had recently attended a meeting in Bridgeport on the use of innovative technology as a possible solution to dredge material disposal.
 - Letter to CEOs - Judy Gott asked about the status of the draft "dredging" letter intended to be sent by the Chairman of the CTMC to all of the municipal Chief Elected Officials. A copy of the dredging "introductory" letter was provided to the CTMC Commissioners as part of the handouts. Doc Gunther opined that the letter is another opportunity to emphasize the environmental benefits of dredging and that such language should be added. George Wisker reminded all that the purpose of the letter was to serve as an introduction. Follow-on correspondence will provide additional details and solicit dredging related information from the municipal leaders. Chuck Beck concurred and asked all to review the first paragraph of the letter which clearly states the purpose. Judy Gott, Vince Cashin and Joe Maco added comments of support for the letter. Doc Gunter reiterated his concern. Joe Maco inquired about dredging projects conducted for restoration purposes vs navigational purposes. George Wisker and Ed O'Donnell provided information. The point being made was that environmental projects have a different funding stream than navigational projects. Joe Maco moved that the CTMC authorize the Chairman to sign and send the letter as intended. Chuck Beck seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Legislation - Chuck Beck offered a few comments about the demise of HB 7070 AN ACT CONCERNING HARBOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS and the unknown status of SB 983 AN ACT FUNDING CERTAIN DREDGING PROJECTS (\$5M for dredging projects in Bridgeport Harbor). Doc Gunther opined that it may still be possible for both Bills to be passed/funded because the budget has not yet been passed (it ain't over until it's over).
 - DMMP - George Wisker provided an update on the Long Island Sound Dredge Material Management Plan (LIS DMMP) Project Development Team (PDT). The PDT is part of the LIS DMMP process tasked with developing a Project Management Plan (PMP). The ACOE has been [presented an outline of the PMP. Input from other agencies has been solicited.
 - The discussion returned to project updates. Ed O'Donnell offered information on several projects including Norwalk, Clinton and Mystic. Joe Maco asked what percentage of ACOE projects were restoration projects. Ed replied approximately 1% but that his office dealt with navigational projects. George Wisker stated that the Regional Sediment Management approach being undertaken may help coordinate

restoration and navigational projects since the materials from one could be beneficially used for the other. He gave examples (Clinton and or Housatonic materials being used to nourish Hammonaset Beach. Ed O'Donnell confirmed that CT DEP had sent a letter to the ACOE requesting the beneficial use of the two navigational projects to nourish Hammonaset. With respect to funding for the LIS DMMP, nothing new had occurred. The \$1.74M in the FY 07 federal budget has yet to materialize and probably won't. The FY 08 Federal budget proposes \$2.8M for the LIS DMMP. There was considerable discussion not directly related to the DMMP about the need to keep the CT CODEL informed about the potential loss of TURBANA, how the loss would increase truck traffic on I-95, the need to not only engage the CODEL on funding for the DMMP but also on Ambro, etc.

- CT Maritime Cluster (CMC)/DECD Development of Commercial/Recreational Data - Bill Gash stated that the CMC had a draft RFP prepared. Solicitations for a consultant to conduct the study should go out this summer.

V New Business:

- Status of CTMC Appointed Commissioners - Chuck Beck reaffirmed the need to obtain copies of each CTMC member's letter of appointment. Only two were still outstanding. He drew attention to material that was in the handouts that summarized who the appointing officials were and some possible expiration dates of terms of current CTMC members. He also suggested that the CTMC might want to consider amending the current legislation (CGS 15b-51(a) and (b) to ensure newly appointed members have the desired background. The CTMC took no action at this time.
- Problems Facing Recreational Marine Industry – Mr. Ted Sailer and Mr. Grant Westerson presented information on the economic plight of those involved in various parts of the Marine Industry in CT. A handout was provided that summarized their concerns. The issues of concern included: the cost of private dredging projects, the fuel tax, overzealous enforcement of sales tax on boats by the Department of Revenue Services, waste water disposal restrictions, a lack of representation on the CTMC, and other related boards/commissions and more. The cost effect of Cadmium being found as a contaminant in dredge materials was offered as a specific example. It was stated that the source is unknown for the most part but an issue in several if not all CT waterways. Judy Gott asked what they expected the CTMC to be able to do. Grant Westerson replied that recognition of the economic impact that the Marine Industry has in CT would be helpful. He offered that there are approximately 600 such businesses that employ an estimated 10,000 people as an example. Kaye Williams stated that the problem is much deeper. CT tends to follow California with respect to tighter environmental laws that have caused marina operators to close shop and sell their properties to condo developers. Maine and Massachusetts have a program where the State buys waterfront properties to preserve them. Judy Gott offered that the CTMC has been aware of the dredging needs of the "recreational" harbors. She asked that DEP and DECD provide a presentation at a future meeting on what CT is doing to help the Marine Industry. Joe Maco pointed out that the Maritime Policy generated by the CTMC focused on two issues: dredging and economic development. He further stated that the Marine Industry issues were certainly an economic development item. Grant Westerson stated that they needed coordination assistance. Chuck Beck reminded all that the purpose of creating and filling the dredging coordinator position within CONDOT was to provide just such assistance. The discussion closed with Grant Westerson reminding all that recreational boating is commerce. Joel Severance made a comment concerning the Harbor Management Association's attempts to get the State to better use the boat registration fees; return more of the money to support the harbors and recreational boating industry.

- Presentation on Navigational Improvement Program - Mark Habel (ACOE) provided an insightful power point presentation on the ACOE Navigational Improvement Program. The presentation included cost sharing formula, some historic project data and process information. An electronic copy of the presentation will be obtained and distributed at a later date. Grant Westerson asked what it would take to change North Cove from a recreational to a commercial anchorage. Mark Habel responded somewhat tongue in cheek the recreational boats would need to be replaced with fishing vessels. Mr. MacMillan asked if private funds could be given to the ACOE to conduct a dredging project. Mark Habel stated that the ACOE could only accept funds from public sources. Chuck Beck reminded everybody that the intent of HB 7070 was to assist municipal and possibly private dredging projects with cost share matters. Mr. Jeff Snyder asked about the possibility of expanding the proposed CAD cell in Bridgeport Harbor to accommodate other local dredging projects. Mark Habel stated the ACOE practice was to design a CAD cell large enough for the federal project plus any additional private projects that might take place during the same mobilization effort but that the planning window in Bridgeport was closing. Vince Cashin asked if expanding the Bridgeport CAD cell might delay the dredging of the harbor channel. Mark Habel opined that it could.
- Errata – Chuck Beck introduced Captain Dan Ronan USCG who was in attendance. Captain Ronan recently relieved Captain Peter Boynton as the Commander, USCG Sector Long Island Sound. Captain Ronan made some remarks relative to his new job.

Vince Cashin made all aware of a recent news release from NOAA stating that NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), are partnering to produce an updated survey of Long Island's coastal shorelines to help officials develop hazardous spill response plans for areas at high risk. A question was raised as to why the State of Connecticut is not involved since a spill in Long Island Sound would have potential impact on the CT coastline.

VI Date of Next Meeting:

- Judy Gott reminded all that the next meeting of the CTMC is scheduled at 9:30 AM **Wednesday** 18 July 2007 at the South Central Region Council of Governments office in North Haven, CT.

VII. Adjournment:

- A motion was made by Chuck Beck, seconded by Vince Cashin and approved unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 11:18 PM.