

CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #08-6)
18 June 2008

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

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Marie)
Vincent Cashin
Sue Decina (for Commissioner McDonald)
Tom Dubno
Judy Gott
G.L. "Doc" Gunther
Joseph P. Maco (for TSB Chair Kelleher)
Larry Miller
Martin Toyen
George Wisker (for Commissioner McCarthy)
John Wronowski

Absent

John Johnson
David Shuda
Phil Smith (for Secretary Genuario)
Joe Riccio

Guests

John Crowther	Rob Everich	Bill Gash	Bob Hammersley	Tony Mobillia
Jeff Nelson	Ed O'Donnell	Dave Rossiter	Joe Salvatore	Judi Sheiffle
Bill Spicer	Geoff Steadman	Alan Stevens	Brian Thompson	Fred Walters
Grant Westerson				

I. Call to Order:

- The Chair, Marty Toyen, opened the meeting at 9:37. A quorum was present.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

- The minutes of the 16 April 2008 and the 21 May 2008 were reviewed. A motion was made by Judy Gott to approve both which was seconded by Vin Cashin and approved by unanimous vote.

III Discussion Open to Public

- No comments were offered.

IV Old Business:

- Dredging Update
 - DMMP - Joe Salvatore provided and update on the Long Island Sound Dredge Material Management Plan (LIS DMMP). The associated questionnaire will be distributed the week after the 4th of July holiday. He also reported that the Rocky Hill-Glastonbury ferry dredge project solicitation for bids, was due to be released today (6/18/2008). Joe mentioned that the "Sudbury Group" had meet on May 29. Doc Gunther expressed some concerns about the questionnaire relative to the State's inputs and the availability of the information collected by the previous questionnaire.
 - Norwalk/North Cove Dredging Projects - Ed O'Donnell provided and update on the Norwalk and North Cove dredging projects. Adequate funding is becoming and issue

again mainly due to increased fuel costs driving up transportation costs. The new estimate for delivering the 75K cu yds of North Cove Material to Central LIS (CLIS) disposal area to cap the Norwalk material has increased from \$1M to \$1.5M. ACOE has met with the Norwalk Mayor and representatives about the increased cost. Tony Mobilia (Norwalk Harbor Management Commission) indicated that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) needed to be executed between Norwalk and the ACOE as well as the additional costs are making their way through the approval process; the City Planning Committee, Taxation Committee, City Council, etc. In response to a question about options, Ed O'Donnell stated that the Norwalk Phase II project would have to be reduced in scope to fit the money available. The MOA between ACOE and Norwalk is needed NLT mid July so that the bids for the work can be solicited to allow work to begin in the fall. Ed further stated that the original Phase II project was approximately 400K cu yds of material. The original estimated cost was \$10.33M. Based on the \$5.609M provided by Congress for the project the scope was already being reduced to approximately 200K cu yds. Due to the increased costs the quantity may be reduced to 170K cu yds. Geoff Steadman reiterated that the Norwalk representatives are working hard to get the MOA in place as well as a commitment by the City to cover the \$500K cost increase. In an answer to a question about what if the \$500K does not materialize, the answer was the project would have to be postponed. Joe Maco inquired about Norwalk obtaining help from Congressman Shays. Doc Gunther inquired about the sturgeon problem reported at the last meeting. Ed O'Donnell stated that it did not appear that the sturgeon issue would be a problem. Doc Gunther then stated that he did not understand why material had to be transported from North Cove to CLIS to cap Norwalk material when there was plenty of clean material available out of the Housatonic. Ed O'Donnell stated that the Housatonic dredging project does not have any of the necessary approvals or funding. There was a discussion on the impact that the reduced scope of work might have on the commercial traffic in Norwalk harbor. Geoff Steadman mentioned a sequential dredging operation to minimize the amount of external capping material needed and reiterated that Norwalk and the ACOE had been meeting to determine the best bang for the buck with respect to prioritizing what will actually get dredged. He further stated that the reduced scope of work would not improve or detract from the current ability of barges to transit Norwalk Harbor. Marty Toyen then inquired about the status of the Urban Act fund request intended to make up the difference in the total estimated cost for Norwalk \$10.33M and the \$5.609M appropriated by Congress. Chuck Beck provided a summary of actions taken by CONNDOT starting with a request for \$3.871M to the April Bond Commission which did not meet. A revised \$5.871M request was submitted to the May Bond Commission but did not appear on the agenda. CONNDOT has resubmitted the \$5.871M request to the June Bond Commission. There was a round of questions and answers on the MOA process, particularly what would be required should the Urban Act funding materialize. Ed O'Donnell was not sure if the MOA being worked on could cover an increase in funding or whether a new MOA would be needed but will check into the answer. George Wisker advised that the shut down of the CORE-CT system at the end of the State's fiscal year could cause a minor delay in getting the \$1M bonded to DEP for Norwalk dredging until at least mid-July possibly 21 July. Ed O'Donnell reiterated that the drop dead date to have the MOA in place. Geoff Steadman stated that the MOA commits Norwalk to providing the \$1M (now \$1.5M) within 30 days actually obtaining the \$1M on or about the end of July should not be a problem.

Grant Westerson inquired about the status of the North Cove Project. Ed O'Donnell stated that the project was on track and would take place regardless of the Norwalk project. It is possible that the scope of work would need to be reduced due to cost increases previously discussed. Chuck Beck stated that it would be a shame if the North Cove project could not be coordinated with Norwalk as well as a host of privately funded project waiting for capping material. It would be a waste of resources

as well as being counter to a regional approach to dredging issues. Ed O'Donnell questioned why the State wants to pay for capping material. Chuck Beck responded that it was the intent of the State, should money be made available, to front the money for capping and recover some if not all of the expense by charging for the material and/or transportation.

Doc Gunther inquired about the quality of the Norwalk dredge material questioning why it had to be capped. The Chair curtailed further discussion on the capping requirements stating that that issue had been discussed at lengths at previous CTMC meetings.

Joe Maco recognized Bob Hammersley as being from OPM/TSB and inquired as to what OPM or the TSB was doing relative to the dredging needs/issues in the State. Bob indicated that he did not have any recollection of the TSB recently discussing dredging at any of their meetings within the last six months. Joe Maco suggested that the CTMC make an appeal to OPM to have their designee attend the CTMC meetings. The Chair indicated that letters asking for better participation had already been sent to OPM without impact.

Doc Gunther introduced Jeff Nelson from Governor Rell's Norwich Office.

- Prioritization of Projects – Discussion was deferred to the next meeting.
- Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Committee (LIS AMSC) – There was no CG representative present to provide a report. Chuck Beck stated that there had not been an AMSC meeting since the last CTMC meeting thus there was nothing to report.
- Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Advisory Committee (LIS HSAC) - There was no CG representative present to provide a report. Chuck Beck stated that there had not been an HSAC meeting since the last CTMC meeting thus there was little to report. Joe Maco stated that there will be a HSAC conference call meeting on July 9th at 1400. A review of the heavy weather plan and the anchorage plan will be on the agenda in addition to routine items.

V New Business:

- State Representative Larry Miller was introduced as the newest member of the CTMC having recently been appointed by House Minority Leader Cafero to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Bob Virgulak.
- ERRATA
 - Doc Gunther provided information from an article in a past issue of the Professional Mariner magazine. The article reported the engine casualty of an LNG carrier off the east coast (Cape Cod). Doc was concerned about the length of time before assist tugs arrived on scene, potential impact such a casualty would have should LNG carriers be allowed to transit Long Island Sound and the fact that the CT press did not report on the matter. Both Joe Maco and Marty Toyen attempted to explain that a disabled vessel out at sea is not the same immediate concern as a vessel transiting more restricted waters. Additionally, should LNG carriers be allowed to transit Long Island Sound they would be under tug escort prior to approaching The Race.
 - Marty Toyen asked Tom Dubno to report on the meeting recently held between the Co-Chairs of the CT Legislature's Transportation Committee and the leadership of the CT Maritime Coalition (CMC). Tom reported that only State Senator DeFronzo was able to attend but that he was very inquisitive of the maritime industry and maritime issues. Senator DeFronzo had backed \$5M being attached to the Harbor

Improvement Project bill and will support funding for maritime improvement projects in the future. Bill Gash provided additional details on the one hour meeting. Items discussed included; dredging needs/priorities, CTMC actions, port infrastructure needs (particularly in New London, New Haven and Bridgeport), subsidies offered by other states to entice maritime business away from CT, the cruise ship business, short sea shipping and the need to establish a pilot training fund. The CMC representatives provided information on the Economic Impact Study they (with the help of DECD) have contracted to be conducted. Marty Toyen, who was present at the meeting added that the meeting was very good and covered both the large commercial and recreational business interests/needs. In response to a question as to whether the Port of Bridgeport issues were discussed, it was stated that the issues were touched upon in general but since Dave Shuda (Coastline) was not present details were not discussed. Joe Maco asked if the Feeder Barge project was discussed. Tom Dubno stated that it was covered under the discussion on short sea shipping.

- o The conversation moved to a Q & A on the container feeder barge project. However, due to the absence of Joe Riccio the discussion was limited. Marty Toyen provided some information since his company (Seaworthy) had been a consultant to the Bridgeport Port Authority on the container feeder barge project planning.
- o Larry Miller suggested that the minutes of CTMC meetings be e-mailed to the leadership and other key members of the CT legislature. He stated that in general many of the legislators are not aware of the maritime issues. It was agreed that the best method to provide CTMC material to the legislators would be through the respective caucus offices.
- o A question was raised as to whether or not the CTMC should engage on the delays being experienced on AMTRAK's Thames River Rail Road Bridge project. Chuck Beck opined that the project, problems and potential solutions were too far along for the CTMC to have any effect. He further stated that a meeting of the Thames River Harbor Safety Committee Work Group was meeting later in the day (1 PM) in the Fort Trumbull Conference Center. The purpose of the meeting was for AMTRAK and its contractors to explain the reason for the latest delay and next steps.

Judy Gott disagreed and pushed for a resolution to have the CTMC send a strongly worded letter to the CT Congressional delegation. The letter should press the delegation not to fund AMTRAK until they become more responsive to the transportation needs of the State and its citizens. John Markowicz (seCTer) Provided details on the Thames River Bridge issue and the effects on the river traffic. He also provided information on the effects of the delays on the Northeast Corridor rail service. As a result of a question, Jeff Nelson (Governor's Office) stated that the Governor was fully aware of the issue but was limited by the fact that it is a federal project. Judy Gott moved that a letter to the CODEL be drafted/sent asking them to become educated if they are not on what the situation is and to get the Thames River Rail Road Bridge fixed as it is an urgent matter. The motion was seconded by Tom Dubno and passed unanimously. It was further decided that since Chuck Beck was going to attend the HSCWG in the afternoon that he express the CTMC's concerns and advise the AMTRAK officials of the action being taken by the CTMC.

VI Date of Next Meeting:

- All were reminded that the next meeting of the CTMC is scheduled at 9:30 AM **Wednesday** 16 July 2008 at the South Central Region Council of Governments (SCRCOG) office in North Haven, CT.

VII. Adjournment:

- A motion was made by Tom Dubno seconded by Judy Gott and approved unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:47 AM.