

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #09-06)
17 June 2009**

Location of Meeting: Connecticut Department of Transportation Building
Newington, CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Marie)
Sue Decina (for Commissioner McDonald)
Tom Dubno
G.L. "Doc" Gunther
Larry Miller
Linda Krause
Joseph P. Maco (for Chairman Kelleher)
Joe Riccio
David Shuda
George Wisker (for Acting Commissioner Marrella)

Absent

Vincent Cashin
Robert Genuario
John Johnson
John Opie
John Wronowski

Guests

Lou Allyn Bill Gash David Lis Kevin Oditt Ed O'Donnell James Phyfer
Dave Rossiter Joe Salvatore Joel Severance Judi Sheiffefe Bill Spicer Brian Thompson
Grant Westerson

I. Call to Order:

The Chair, Commissioner Joe Riccio, opened the meeting at 9:37 AM. A quorum of 10 was present. The CTMC members were asked to introduce themselves. The audience was asked to introduce themselves.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

The summary report of the 20 May 2009 meeting was reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Dubno and seconded by George Wisker to approve. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

III Discussion Open to Public

Bill Gash, Executive Director of the CT Maritime Coalition, made note that the CT Transportation Strategy Board (TSB) had created sub-committee working groups including a Maritime Waterways sub-committee. He stated that Groton Mayor Popp was the chairman of the maritime subcommittee. He reported that other subcommittees had been holding meetings over the past year but not a single meeting of the maritime subcommittee had been called. Mr. Gash stated that he had sent notes to Mayor Popp but had not heard back. He asked if it would be appropriate for the CTMC to write a letter to the Chairman of the TSB on the issue. Joe Maco, the TSB Chairman's designee to the CTMC, stated that he would look into the matter with the TSB Chairman. It was decided to wait until Joe Maco had an opportunity to resolve the matter before any action by the CTMC.

Bill Spicer raised two issues: (1) He referenced the USN's proposed dredging project. He stated that the last time the USN had a dredging project in the area the dredging window was adjusted by the CTDEP to accommodate the project. A similar expansion of the dredging window is being granted for the proposed dredging project. Mr. Spicer asked if the expansion of the dredging

window (early start date) could be applied to all of the other dredging projects in the area to assist the dredging coordinator match capping needs to material anticipated to be made available from the USN project. (2) Mr. Spicer made reference to the long awaited response recently provided by the EPA on the question about the location of eastern boundary of the Long Island Sound. He cited two quotes from two different pages that he believes indicate that EPA does not have the proper authority to interpret the location of the boundary. Mr. Spicer expressed his feelings about the legal opinion/maneuvers. He solicited advice from other but received none as part of the meeting.

IV Old Business:

A. Dredging Update - Joe Salvatore

1. LIS DMMP – ACOE reviewing the dredging needs study. The CMC needs the data from the LIS DMMP study as input to an Economic Impact Study (EIS) being conducted. Bill Gash stated that the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) had recently advised him that the LIS DMMP data could be available as early as 10 July, 2009.
2. Joe Salvatore reported that as reported under public comments, the USN has publicly advertised their intent to commence construction of a CAD cell in the Thames River on September 15th as part of their dredging project at the USN Base Groton. In response to a question, it was stated that the CAD was designed and funded only for the USN project. However, some clean CAD cell material will be disposed of at the New London disposal site thus with coordination could be used as capping material for other projects in the area. Others who might be interested in extending the dredging window or to use USN material for capping their projects need to write to the CT DEP and ACOE as detailed in the notice. It was stated that a dredging project on Fishers Island had expressed interest in using the USN material as cap.
3. Joe Maco asked a question related to the difficulty of obtaining a permit to remove old piles in conjunction with a renovation project. George Wisker stated that the process involving replacement of old a pile is a simple process, usually only requiring a Certificate of Permission vs a permit. Grant Westerson concurred. George Wisker advised that the best thing to do is to contact CTDEP
4. Economic Stimulus Package Update – Ed O'Donnell stated that there is a slight chance that some stimulus funding will be directed towards the Patchogue River dredging project. If timely, the funds could be added to the \$68K appropriated for the project out of the FY 2009 budget and completed this winter,

B. LIS AMSC Update – CDR Kevin Oditt from Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound (CGSECLIS) stated that an LIS AMSC meeting was held in Port Jefferson on Wednesday June 10, 2009. The meeting covered the update to the Area Maritime Security Plan. The meeting also covered the development of a Maritime Transportation System Recovery Plan as a result of lessons learned from past hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico. He also provided information on a Facility Security Officers training opportunity being held in New London, CT in August 2009. Information can be obtained at the following link: (<https://www.seebald.com/fsoregister.php>).

C. LIS HSC Update – CDR Oditt that he had recently attended a National Harbor Safety Council meeting in Tampa, FL. Topics of interest discussed were dredging, short sea shipping, navigational safety for pilots and lessons learned from recent investigations of marine casualties. CDR Oditt also reported that the Long Island Sound Anchorages Notice to Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) had been published. He will provide a link via e-mail. He also advised that a cargo vessel had anchored in the New Haven anchorage area and planned on staying for an extended period of time awaiting a cargo assignment. Commissioner Gunther inquired about the ownership of navigation beacons on the Housatonic River. CDR Oditt

stated that he had investigated and that none of the structures were the property of the CG. Upon further comment by Commissioner Gunther, CDR Oditt stated that he will try and determine ownership of the structures and report back.

V New Business:

- A. Maritime Highway – The Chair pointed out the draft letter to the Maritime Administration that would indicate CT's interest in being included in the planning process of the MARAD proposed Maritime Highway Corridors. There is no cost to expressing interest nor is there any funding attached at this time. Joe Maco stated that other ports in the Northeast are doing the same thing. A motion to approve the draft letter and have the Chair sign and send was made by George Wisker, seconded by Commissioner Miller and approved by unanimous vote.
- B. Movement of Freight-Inland Ports – Chuck Beck brought to the attention of the CTMC articles on "inland port areas" that had been created in other states to accommodate a shortage of property on the waterfront. The suggestion was made that the CTMC track and make recommendations concerning the establishment of an inland port area in CT.
- C. Cruise Ship Task Force Presentation – George Cassidy was unable to attend due to illness and hospitalization. Attempt will be made to reschedule the presentation. All wished George well and a speedy recovery.
- D. NRG Presentation – Despite previous arrangements, there were no representatives from NRG present at the meeting. Commissioner Miller asked that the presentation be scheduled for the next CTMC meeting, again.
- E. Commissioner Gunther raised the issue covered recently in the press concerning a move to dissolve the Bridgeport Port Authority Presentation. He was most concerned about an insert to legislation (PA 09 –186) that would protect adverse actions such as dissolution, reorganization, property takes, etc from being taken by municipal officials against a chartered port authority. Such action would require the approval of the Commissioner of DOT. Commissioner Gunther stated that giving the CTDOT control of the port authorities was unbelievable. It was suggested that to further discuss the matter it should be added to the agenda. The process to add the topic to the agenda would be a motion, second and a two thirds affirmative vote of those present. Commissioner Krause so moved and Commissioner Dubno provided a second. There were 6 affirmative votes and 4 abstentions. Since there were 10 members present, the vote fell short of the 2/3rds required. There was further discussion on how the 2/3rds should be determined. It was asked that clarification on how to calculate the vote be provided at the next meeting. There was some continued discussion.

VI Date of Next Meeting:

It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be at **U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island sound in New Haven, CT at 0930 on Wednesday July 15, 2009.**

VII Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Chuck Beck, seconded by George Wisker and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:23 AM.