

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #06-11)
June 15, 2011**

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

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner)
Vincent Cashin
Tom Dubno
Joseph P. Maco (for TSB Chairman)
Larry Miller
Peter Simmons (for DECD Commissioner)
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for DEP Commissioner)

Absent

Ronald Angelo
Michael Griffin
John Johnson
Dave LeVasseur (for OPM Secretary)
Joe Riccio
David Shuda

Guests

Andy Davis	Ned Farman	Martha Klimas	Albert Martin	Frank McLaughlin
Molly Parsons	Brent Pounds	Bob Ross	Dave Rossiter	Greg Roth
Joe Salvatore	Joel Severance	Bill Spicer	Grant Westerson	David Wrinn

I. Call to Order:

Due to the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, Commissioner Tom Dubno called the meeting to order at 0935. A quorum of 8 was present. Commissioners/designees present introduced themselves followed by introductions of the audience. Commissioner Dubno welcomed LT Brent Pounds of NOAA to his first CTMC meeting.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

The summary report of the May 18, 2011 meeting was reviewed. A motion was made by George Wisker to approve the summary report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cashin and approved by a unanimous vote.

III Discussion Open to Public Bill Spicer stated that he had attended the recent LIS DMMP Work Group meeting in Bridgeport. He suggested that some of the details of the Work Group meeting might be better discussed in Executive Session. Joel Severance stated that former Commissioner Doc Gunther was very ill. Commissioner Larry Miller provided an update. He reported that Doc had fallen, hurt his shoulder and had been in a recover facility for a period of time. Doc is presently at home, on the telephone a lot and accepting visitors.

IV Old Business:

A. Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore advised that the Army Corps Dredge CURRITUCK had removed about 10.8K cubic yards of material from the Patchogue River in Westbrook during its first visit earlier in May. The dredged material was relocated to a near shore location adjacent the Hammonasset State Park Beach. After working dredging projects in other states, the CURRITUCK returned to the Westbrook area this week to dredge additional material from the Patchogue River and Clinton Harbor. It is anticipated that approximately 30K cubic yards of material will be relocated to the near shore disposal site adjacent to Hammonasset State Park Beach. Joe Salvatore advised that the 3rd LIS DMMP Working Group meeting was held on 06/07/2011 in Bridgeport, CT but that there was nothing of substance to report. The Work Group continues to compile information from the stakeholders. He stated that the original cost of the LIS DMMP had been estimated at \$13M. Congress has provided approximately \$9.5M to date with \$1M being the FY 2012 installment. The ACOE has indicated that there is sufficient funding to

continue the project at this time. Commissioner Dubno asked Bill Spicer if he had anything to add relative to the LIS DMMP Work Group report. Bill stated that so far the meetings had been friendly but he had concerns mostly centered on the Ambro Amendment. When asked if he had any suggestions he stated yes at which time Commissioner Dubno asked Joe Salvatore to obtain the suggestions from Bill.

Joe Salvatore stated that a Low Use Navigation meeting had recently been held with CTDEP, CTDOT and the ACOE among the participants. He reported that two areas have been identified by the ACOE as potential near shore disposal sites adjacent to the mouth of the Housatonic River as well as one adjacent to the Patchogue River. George Wisker provided details on the Low Use Navigation program stating that the ACOE was trying to wean itself from small harbor dredging projects by identifying near shore disposal sites and shifting the cost of the actual dredging project to the locals. Joe stated that he had recently participated in a New England Region Dredge Team web based meeting. The minutes of the meeting were expected soon and would be distributed to the CTMC. Joe concluded his remarks by advising all that there were no dredging earmarks in the FY 2012 Congressional budget.

B OPSAIL2012CT Update– In the absence of Vice Chairman Johnson, Frank McLaughlin provided an update on OPSAIL2012CT taking place Friday July 6, 2012 through Monday July 9, 2012. Frank stated that the OPSAIL2012CT Committee was in the process of finalizing the agreement with OPSAIL2012 National. The Committee had also applied for a Maritime Event of National Significance (MENS) designation and permit from the Coast Guard. He reported that the state was making \$40K available to the Committee for planning but receipt was dependent upon completing some paperwork. Frank also stated that the Committee was working with State Senator Stillman on securing an additional \$500K from the state for the event. The state had provided \$6M to the OPSAIL 2000 Committee of which \$1.5 was returned. Lastly, Frank reported that Lewis Sirius had been hired by the Committee to develop the event management plan.

C. NYYC Event update –In the absence of Vice Chairman Johnson, Frank McLaughlin provided an update on the NYYC event. The NYTC has decided to center the 2011 annual cruise out of New London and will be arriving on Friday 07/29/2011. A reception at the Coast Guard Academy is scheduled for Friday evening. A race will take place just off shore on Saturday. A formal dinner will be hosted at the Coast Guard Academy Saturday evening. The Thames America's Cup Committee (TACC) has developed a port information pamphlet to be distributed to the NYYC participants and other boaters. The pamphlet is self funded through advertisements and will have a 2 year shelf-life. Copies were handed out. In response to a question, Frank stated that the event will not impede commercial traffic in or around the Port of New London.

D. Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Council (LIS AMSC) Update – Not being able to attend, Scot Graham from CG Sector LIS provided information to Chuck Beck to report, specifically on the FY 2011 Port Security Grants for Group II ports. The Group II ports within CG Sector LIS (Bridgeport, New Haven and New London) had been allocated \$1,402,443 in FY 2011. There is no cost share for the FY 2011 grants. There were 19 projects (14 municipal, 2 state and 3 private sector) submitted totaling a \$4,824,109 request. A review and evaluation of the Group II projects was conducted. As a result of the review process, the New London port area projects will be allocated \$549,650 for 5 projects. The New Haven port area will be allocated \$602,793 for 3 projects. The Bridgeport port area will be allocated \$250,000 for 2 projects. The review committee recommended that 7 of the applications be re-submitted as FY 2011 Group IV projects. The total request of the 7 projects is \$2,160,434 for 5 municipal, 1 state and 1 private sector projects. There is \$11.7M available nationwide for Group IV ports.

E. Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Committee (LIS HSC) Update – Scot Graham provided information to be passed on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) offshore renewable energy installation (OREI) sites project. Commander, Coast Guard Atlantic Area (LANTAREA) is sponsoring an Atlantic Coast Port Access Routes Study (ACPARS) for the entire Atlantic coast (Maine to Florida), to examine the potential impacts, identify mitigation measures, and facilitate balancing multiple, and possibly

competing, uses of the waters along the Atlantic coast. More can be found in the Federal Register at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-05-11/pdf/2011-11483.pdf>. Lastly, all were reminded about the Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) regarding the start of the 2011 hurricane season. The MSIB as well as CG Sector LIS' Maritime Heavy Weather Plan has been posted on CG's Homeport web site (<http://homeport.uscg.mil/lis>).

F. Letter to CT Attorney General – Assistant Attorney General David Wrinn delivered a detailed account of the issues raised by the CTMC in previous correspondence to the AG's office. The specific question was whether or not NYDOS had over stepped its authority relative to the coastal zone management consistency determinations on CT dredging projects. AAG Wrinn addressed the Ambro Amendment as well as the CZM consistency process. After citing federal and state statutes and regulations AAG Wrinn advised that the new listings (project areas) adjacent to the CT shoreline were considered routine changes to the NY CZM thus, did not trigger any requirements for CT public participation. Bill Spicer made comments regarding his different interpretation of the legislation that created Ambro and others cited by Mr. Wrinn.

V New Business:

A. Cruise Ship Task Force – In the absence of George Cassidy, Chuck Beck advised that George was in NYC attending a cruise ship related conference. He showed and passed around a copy of a newly created marketing pamphlet provided to him by George. The marketing pamphlet will be distributed at the aforementioned conference.

B. Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Legislation – Chuck Beck referenced a draft letter contained in the meeting package addressed to Congressman Mica. As Chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Congressman Mica has been pushing for changes in the way that the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) is distributed to the Army Corps of Engineers. The change would require all of the funds collected to be used vs a reduced amount as is presently the case. Congressman Courtney is a co-sponsor of a Bill in the House and Senator Lieberman is a co-sponsor of a Bill in the Senate. The draft letter is intended to be forwarded to Governor Malloy to sign thus weigh in on behalf of the State. There was some discussion on word changes to the draft letter. A motion was made by Commissioner Cashin to approve the concept of the letter with edits. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miller and approved by unanimous vote. It was decided that recommended edits should be sent to Chuck Beck who would electronically distribute the final draft before forwarding to the Governor's office via a letter to be signed by Chairman Riccio.

C. CT Harbor Improvement Fund - Chuck Beck provided information on a change to the Governor's proposed FY 2012 Capital budget for improvements to ports and marinas infrastructure including dredging. The proposed budget provided \$25M. It has recently come to light that the \$25M has been reduced to \$6M with a requirement for \$1M to be spent on a study of strategy for economic development in CT's three deep draft ports. Beck had no idea who initiated the reduction or why. Regardless of the amount, the capital funds are slated to be administered by the CTDOT. Commissioner Miller provided some insight on the maritime related Bills that did not make it through the legislative session, specifically the Bill to create a Statewide Port Authority (SWPA) and the Bill that would have provided funding for the Cruise Ship Task Force. Commissioner Dubno stated that the CT Maritime Coalition (CMC) is still trying to meet with the Governor on maritime issues. He also stated that the CMC intends to pursue the creation of the SWPA during the recently announced special session starting in September.

VI Executive Session – none held.

VII Date of Next Meeting: It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at the **CG Sector Long Island Sound office in New Haven, CT at 0930 on Wednesday July 20, 2011.**

VIII Adjournment: - A motion to adjourn was made by George Wisker, seconded by Peter Simmons and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 10:48 AM.