

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #06-13)
June 19, 2013**

Location of Meeting: Fort Trumbull Conference Center
90 Walbach Street
New London, CT 06320

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Joe Riccio
John Johnson
Dave LeVasseur (for OPM Secretary)
Tom Dubno
Mike Griffin
Larry Miller
Bob Ross
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for DEEP Commissioner)
Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner)

Absent

Stan Mickus
David Shuda
Catherine Smith/Ron Angelo

Guests

Ned Farman Bill Gash Scot Graham Larry Hample Martha Klimas
Jennifer McDermott Joe Salvatore Alan Stevens Joel Severance Bill Spicer

I. Call to Order:

The Chairman, Joe Riccio, called the meeting to order at 0938. A quorum was present. The Chairman asked for all present to introduce themselves starting with the Commissioners.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

The summary report of the May 15, 2013 meeting was reviewed. A motion to approve the summary report was made by Commissioner Ross. George Wisker provided a second and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

III Discussion Open to Public:

Martha Klimas reported on a recent North Atlantic Port Association (NAPA) meeting held in Albany, NY which featured a representative from MARAD that announced that Long Island Sound was being designated as M-295 in the marine highway initiative. Although this is not an official designation at this time, it is recommended. The M-95 designation has been used for a different parallel waterway south of LIS. Martha reminded all of the efforts of the State Maritime Office and the CTMC to get LIS designated as part of M-95. Martha also stated that Chuck Beck had previously provided a handout with details on the auction of equipment located at the former Derecktor Shipyard. The auction is scheduled to take place next Wednesday and Thursday (June 25-26, 2013). Martha distributed a handout on the auction. Lastly, Martha stated and handed out a flyer on an EPA sponsored Northeast Diesel Collaborative (NEDC) event has been scheduled in Mystic on Sept 11-13, 2013. The event has previously been held in Boston and New York. The event will focus mainly on air quality. The Bridgeport Port Authority is a member of the NEDC and participates in quarterly telephone meetings which focus on topics that affect the entire port community. The CTMC and any and all were welcomed to pre-register and attend this free conference.

Joel Severance offered thanks to the members of the CTMC that attended the annual CHMA meeting which honored the late Senator Doc Gunther. The CHMA also presented Chuck Beck with the annual Ron D. Aliano Leadership Award.

IV Old Business:

Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore reported that work on the Eastern Long Island Sound (ELIS) Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (SEIS) continues. The second wave of informational public meetings will take place from 2:30 – 4:30 pm next Tuesday June 25, 2013 in Riverhead Long Island NY and Wednesday June 26, 2013 at UConn Avery Point. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Joe provided an update on dredging projects scheduled for next dredging season (winter of 2013-2014). It is anticipated that maintenance dredging projects will be conducted in New Haven harbor and Norwalk harbor Phase III, Wethersfield Cove and Housatonic River. MOAs to allow the Army Corps to accept state funding for the projects are being processed. There was a New England Regional Dredge Team (NRDT) meeting held on June 11, 2013 at UConn Avery Point which included a discussion on WRDA '13 and the continued attempt to get language included that would allow for a locally funded study on improvement dredging for New Haven. Commissioner Dubno was encouraged by the Chairman to contact Congresswoman DeLauro's office and seek assistance.

LIS HSC/AMSC Update - Scot Graham reminded the CTMC that the CG Sector LIS Change of Command will take place on June 28, 2013. Capt Vojvodich will be relieved by Capt Cubanski. Upon relief, Rear Admiral Selected Capt Vojvodich will be transferred to CGHQ. The Sector Long Island Sound (LIS) Area Maritime Security Plan (AMSP) is up for the required five year review. Contact will be made within the port community to update the risk assessment which underlies the requirements of the plan. CG Sector LIS will provide an overview of the existing risk assessment at a future CTMC meeting. Graham thanked the Bridgeport-Port Jefferson Steamboat Company and the Cross Sound Ferry Company for supporting regional drills/exercises held recently. He reported that the USN would be conducting a condition survey of the Thames River channel between June 20 and July 5, 2013. Questions can be addressed to CG Station New London. CG Sector LIS and CG Sector NY will be conducting a combined exercise in Western Long Island Sound (WLIS) on or about September 17, 2013. The exercise will focus on a barge accident.

National Freight Advisory Committee – Commissioner Wise reported that the outgoing Transportation Secretary has made the forty-seven (47) appointments to the National Freight Advisory Committee established by the USDOT. There are few representatives from the maritime community among the 47. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as well as the Port Authority of Houston are two exceptions. The appointment term is for two years. Commissioner Wise stated that perhaps a representative from the new Connecticut Port Authority, if legislatively formed, should seek an appointment in the future.

V New Business:

New London Schooner Fest – John Johnson brought to the attention of all the material on the Schooner Festival that had been included in the meeting package. The Schooner Fest will be taking place in both Mystic and New London September 11-15, 2013. A list of activities both on the water and ashore was provided. Commissioner Johnson added that the expected funding from state government is not yet in place and he is disappointed that state tourism is unable to provide any of the \$75K funding sought by the committee. The Schooner Fest planning committee (aka OPSAIL Connecticut) has already raised approximately \$200K on its own for what is hoped to be an annual event for at least 5 years. After a short discussion on what the CTMC might be able to do in way of support for the event, Commissioner Griffin made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Wise that the CTMC send a letter from the Chairman to the DECD recommending that funding from the DECD be made available for the Schooner Festival. After some discussion on language for the letter that would tie the success of OPSAIL CT 2012 to the event, it passed by unanimous voice vote. The Chairman was authorized to send the letter without further review by the CTMC.

Connecticut Port Authority Legislation – The CTMC discussed the recent legislation session that if passed would have created the Connecticut Port Authority. A revised HB 1043 was unanimously passed by the State Senate but was not brought before the House for a vote thus failed to pass. The Chairman expressed concern that the proposed Bill that passed the Senate 35–0 didn't make it through the House because of a delay caused by the need to clarify the fiscal impact of language added at the last minute that would provide tax relief on the sale of marine fuels. The fiscal impact was initially and incorrectly reported by the Office of Fiscal Analysis to be a negative \$5M. The actual fiscal impact was \$50K. The time it took to obtain clarification during the Senate review put the Bill before the House too late for action. There was a discussion as to who and why the fuel tax language was inserted in the Port Authority Bill. Commissioner Miller stated that the State Senate knows more about business impacts than the House. He further stated that the Bill was not a priority with the Speaker. The discussion concluded with a general belief that this Connecticut Port Authority Bill will be introduced with the same language and passed early in the next legislative session.

VI Executive Session – none held.

VII Date of Next Meeting: All were reminded that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at **the USCG Sector Long Island Sound located at 120 Woodward Ave. in New Haven, CT at 0930 on Wednesday July 17, 2013.**

Before adjourning, Commissioner Ross advised that there would be a Public Scoping Meeting on July 8, 2013 at 5 PM at the New London City Hall on the proposed Coast Guard Museum. Vice Chairman Johnson suggested that the CG Museum be carried as an agenda item so the CTMC could follow the progress of the project

VIII Adjournment: - A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Johnson to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wise and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting ended at 10:24 am.