

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)  
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #06-07)  
For  
July 20, 2006**

**Location of Meeting:** Connecticut DOT Headquarters  
2800 Berlin Turnpike  
Newington, CT Conference Room G-328

**Attendance:**

**Commissioners**

***Present***

Tom Dubno  
Ginne-Rae Gilmore (for Comm Abromaitis)  
Joseph P. Maco  
Judy Gott  
Joseph Riccio  
Martin Toyen  
George Wisker (for Comm McCarthy)

***Absent***

Carl Bard (for Commissioner Korta)  
Vincent Cashin  
John Johnson  
G.L. "Doc" Gunther  
David Shuda  
Phil Smith (for Secretary Genaurio)  
Kaye Williams  
Jon Wronowski

**Guests**

Chuck Beck      David Head      Mike Piscitelli      Dave Rossiter      Joel Severance  
Bill Spicer      Alan Stevens

**I. Call to Order:**

- Marty Toyen opened the meeting at 09:52. However, a quorum of 8 was not present.

**II. Review of Meeting Minutes:**

- The draft minutes of the 15 June 2006 meeting were not acted upon; no quorum.

**III Discussion Open to Public**

- Joel Severance (HMA) provided information about the Groton to Guilford no discharge zone ceremony that was held at 4 PM on 12 July 2006 at Steamboat dock in Essex. CT. He also reported that the paperwork to designate the waters between Groton and Greenwich was in process. Lastly he reported that the Federal EPA presented a check in the amount of \$223,370 to Connecticut to help pay for public health monitoring of the State's beaches.
- Bill Spicer (LISA) reported on the progress of the action to repeal the Ambro Amendment to the Marine Protection, Research & Sanctuary Act (MPRSA) also known as the Ocean Dumping Act. He stated that the campaign was going well and beyond "critical mass". He stated that 36 of the 47 coastal CT municipalities have signed on to the effort most through a resolution. He solicited assistance in getting some of the western most coastal towns onboard (Stratford, Bridgeport, Fairfield, Westport, Norwalk and Stamford) A recommendation was made for him to work with the Regional Planning Organizations (like SWRPA). Mr. Spicer stated that he had already received support form the South Central Connecticut Council of Governments). Another suggestion was made that he solicit support from the Mayor of Stamford, a contender for the Democratic Party nomination for Governor. He stated that Congressman Simmons had promised to raise the issue of repealing the Ambro Amendment during the next session of Congress and that he is working on support from Senator Lieberman. No comments were made about level of support from other members of Congress (Shays, DeLauro, Dodd).

#### IV Old Business:

- Status of the Dredge Material Management Plan (DMMP) - Mr. Beck pointed out that there was some correspondence related to the DMMP in the handouts. One item was a copy of a Research Needs Statement. DOT Manager of Research had solicited potential projects for graduate students to complete as part of an ongoing program between DOT and UCONN. The program is fully funded. Mr. Beck submitted a request for a project that would result in a completed DMMP for CT. Acceptance pending.

Mr. Beck also brought attention to an e-mail exchange with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) regarding the status of funding for the DMMP and CT dredging projects within the FY 2007 federal budget. The good news is that both the House and the Senate versions of the FY 2007 budget have \$1,742,000 in the proposed budget. The Senate and House version of the FY 2007 budget have differing dollar values for CT dredging projects (North Cove, Norwalk, Mystic River).

- Status of the Maritime Policy Statement-The Chair reported that there was nothing new to report. He did mention the commitment made by DOT to create a dredge coordinator/ombudsman position.
- Data Development- Marty Toyen emphasized the need for the CTMC to collect data relative to commercial and recreational use of CT's waters and harbors. Mr. Maco stated that the Transportation Strategy Board (TSB) has requested that the CTMC update the Maritime Section of the 2003 TSB Strategy document. Ms. Gott made note of the short fuse to get the information collected, drafted and provided to the TSB. Mr. Dubno suggested that the "staff" members of the TSB, CTMC and the CT Maritime Coalition (CMC) be tasked with gathering the data. The information could then be handed over to a paid consultant/contractor to develop the report. There was considerable discussion about the lack of time, a consultant and funding for such a venture. Mr. Maco inquired about whether or not obtaining proprietary cargo data from the private facilities would be a problem. Several people stated no because the general information needed is already reported to the ACOE for their annual reports. Mr. Toyen stated that he recently had met a retired ACOE employee responsible for the ACOE annual report for the New England area. She stated that data collecting funding was at risk.

Discussion turned to previous studies that have been done over the years. Mr. Toyen inquired if DECD funding could be sought by the CTMC to review and consolidate the past reports as well as the commercial cargo data. Ms. Gilmore stated that any request for funding for such a venture would have to come from the CMC through the Governor's Competitive Council. An inquiry was made as to whether or not DECD had any "on call" contractors that could collect the data/write the report. Ms. Gilmore answered in the negative. Mr. Toyen stated that he will write a letter to the DECD Commissioner requesting funding.

- There was a brief discussion about the DOT presentation made to the TSB earlier in the week. Concern was voiced that the Bureau of Aviation and Ports presentation was too heavily focused on aviation and weak on maritime. Mr. Beck explained that the focus of the presentation was on the responsibilities of the Bureau. The only port in which the Bureau has a property interest is New London (the State Pier). The bureau does not have a controlling interest in any of the other CT ports which is why they were not mentioned.
- Revenue Sources for Maritime Projects- Discussion was deferred due to the lack of a quorum and for time considerations.

**V New Business:**

- New Haven Port Authority Presentation - Mike Piscitelli made a presentation on the developments of the New Haven Port Authority (NHPA). The fledgling NHPA is attempting to organize approximately 366 acres of land within the port district most of which is privately owned. A consultant (Parsons-Brinckerhoff) is conducting the initial land use and port use studies. Some of the port property has recently been taken b the DOT for the I-95 construction project. The NHPA intends to request any unused property be returned to the NHPA.

The discussion turned to the dredging needs/plans for New Haven Harbor.

- Mr. Toyen pointed out that the Town of Stratford and submitted a letter to the CTMC concerning the Housatonic River dredging project. Mr. Beck reported that his efforts to call a meeting of the stakeholders relative to the Housatonic River dredging project continued to be difficult to arrange.

**VI Date of Next Meeting:**

- Next meeting is scheduled at 0930 Thursday 17 August 2006 at the CONNDOT HQ building in Newington, CT. It was decided to cancel the August meeting for summer vacation purposes. Electronic correspondence would take place as previously discussed. Thus, the next meeting will be Thursday 21 September 2006 and be held at the CONNDOT HQ facility in Newington.

**VII. Adjournment:**

- The meeting ended at 1125.