

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING (Mtg. #07-12)
July 18, 2012**

Location of Meeting: CG Sector Long Island Sound
120 Woodward Ave
New Haven CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner)
Tom Dubno
Michael Griffin
John Johnson
Dave LeVasseur (for Sec Barnes)
Stan Mickus
Larry Miller
Joe Riccio
Bob Ross
David Shuda
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for DEP Commissioner)

Absent

Commissioner Smith/Ronald Angelo

Guests

Jeff Flumignan Don Frost Scot Graham Martha Klimas Greg Roth
Dave Rossiter Joe Salvatore Judi Sheiffele Joel Severance Grant Westerson

I. Call to Order:

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Vice Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 0931. The Chairman arrived and Commissioners/designees present introduced themselves followed by introductions of the public present.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

With a quorum present, Dave LeVasseur moved that summary report of the June 20, 2012 meeting be approved. Commissioner Griffin provided a second and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

III Discussion Open to Public No comments were offered.

IV Old Business:

A. Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore provided an update. There has been not activity related to the LIS DMMP workgroup. It is anticipated that the next meeting will be in September/October. The Scope of Work has been drafted and contract negotiations started with the consultant for the Eastern Long Island Sound (ELIS) Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (SEIS). In a response to a question from the Vice Chairman about ongoing dredging projects, Joe reported on three projects that should be completed this coming winter. The MOA to transfer funding from the state to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) for the Clinton dredging project was in the final stages of review. The project will remove approximately 45k cy of material from the channel. The material will be hydraulically relocated on Hammonasset Beach. Approximately 45k cy of material will be removed from the Patchogue River and relocated to the Cornfield Shoals Disposal Site. The MOA to transfer funding from the state to the ACOE has been drafted. Approximately 80k cy of material will be moved by an ACOE dredge (CURRITUCK or MRDEN) and relocated near shore off Point No Point as a pilot project. The MOA to transfer funding to the ACOE is being drafted. George Wisker added that there are some preliminary items that still need to be addressed on the Housatonic project such as a public notice but everything seems to be

falling into place. In response to a question, Joe stated that the locals at each location have been involved in the project process. In a response on the closing of the New London Disposal Site (NLDS) George Wisker stated that Congress included language in the Energy and Appropriations Bill that prevents the closing of NLDS for five (05) years. In response to a question about dredging needs of the USN in Groton, Joe stated that there are no known immediate USN dredging project disposal needs. Grant Westerson stated that there was an article in the Pro Mariner magazine about the ACOE vessels CURRITUCK and MURDEN.

B OPSAIL 2012 – As an introduction, the Chairman stated that he attend OPSAIL2012CT including the parade of sail and the reception on the CGC EAGLE. He complemented Vice Chairman Johnson, who served at the Chairman of OPSAIL2012CT, for organizing such an outstanding event and remarked that he had a fabulous time. Vice Chairman Johnson provided a summary of OPSAIL2012CT, touching upon a few hick-ups but mostly the many highlights, including CGC EAGLE leading the parade. An official after action report (AAR) will be shared when completed. He stated that the cooperation and working relationships among all concerned including all levels of government, businesses, non-profits and private citizens was unbelievable and the true reason behind the success of the event. He reported that the members of the OPSAIL2012CT Board of Directors and others are already looking forward to 2014/2015 for the next OPSAIL event. They are also looking to leverage the success of OPSAIL2012CT to attract similar events such as a schooner festival in September 2013. The possibility of building a schooner locally to participate is also being investigated. In response to a question, Vice Chairman Johnson stated that the OPSAIL2012CT BOD was "in the black" having raised approximately \$900K for the event; \$600K raised and \$300K matched by the state. Captain Scot Graham USCG (ret) and principle planner for CG Sector LIS added information and compliments. He reminded all that the OPSAIL2012CT had been designated a Marine Event of National Significance (MENS) mainly due to the early application of the local planning committee. He complemented all involved for executing a safe and secure event. He recommended that steps should be taken by the City or perhaps the New London Port authority to obtain a "public access facility" designation for the New London waterfront around and adjacent to City Pier. Doing so could make the area eligible for federal security grants. The same would apply for the Fort Trumbull piers and waterfront area. Commissioner Ross stated that as the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Military Affairs Committee, he has asked the Committee to consider initiating action to get New London designated a Coast Guard City.

C. Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Council (LIS AMSC) Update – Scot Graham provided a handout and information on the FY2012 Port security Grants recently awarded. The overall dollars made available for the grants has decreased over the years. The CG Sector/COPT LIS area realized a total \$3.235M in FY2012 PSG funding. The Group II port areas (Bridgeport, New Haven and New London) obtained a total of \$2.221M. The Group IV other port areas received a total of \$1.014M. The formation within the LIS AOR of Marine Groups assisted in the justification of some of the grants for support activities and has been recognized as an Emergency Support Function (ESF-20). There was some additional discussion on some specific projects such as the New Haven Wireless Connectivity project that will allow video surveillance pictures to be shared. Scot also provided some history on the evolution of the PSG program and some in site on the future of the program.

D. Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Committee (LIS HSC) Update – Scot Graham reminded everybody that hurricane season had started. He recommended that all present get familiar with the CG Sector LIS Homeport website which contains severe weather updates as needed.

E. Study of a Strategy for the Economic Development of CT's Ports – Commissioner Ross stated that a revised draft executive summary of the Port Study was under review by the OPM Secretary and three State Agency Commissioners (DECD, DEEP, DOT).

V New Business:

A. M-95 - Chuck Beck provided a quick summary of the Maritime Administration's Marine Highway program. He recounted actions that the CTDOT and the CTMC had taken in 2009, providing letters of support to the I-95 Coalition who was recommending an M-95 corridor be established. Chuck then introduced Jeff Flumignan, Executive Director of MARAD's North Atlantic Gateway. Jeff provide a quick background of his career stating that he had been in his current position for about 1 year. He recounted some maritime related infrastructure projects that had been successful in obtaining TIGER grants. He advised that he participated in one of several intermodal review committees associated with TIGER grant applications. He has also been involved on the National Marine Transportation System Advisory Council working towards establishing a national freight movement policy that will include use of the Marine Highway system. Work is being done to expand the catalogue of designated marine "corridors", "crossings" and "connectors". An issue recently discovered is that the present description of the M-95 Corridor does not include Long Island sound as had been requested by the CTDOT and the CTMC in 2009. Nor are the ferry routes between CT and Long Island designated as "crossings" as requested. Jeff stated that he had recently discussed the matter with Chuck Beck and a corrective course of action had been charted. The CTDOT has prepared and will send a letter to the MARAD Administrator requesting that the description of the M-95 Corridor be amended to include Long Island Sound. It was decided to treat the request for re-describing the M-95 Corridor separately from the request to designate the two ferry routes as "crossings". CTDOT has requested letters of support from the Bridgeport, New Haven and New London port authorities as well as the CT Maritime Coalition (CMC) and the CT Pilot Commission (CPC). The three port authorities have agreed. The CT Pilot Commission failed to discuss the topic at the CPC meeting held on 7/27/2012. Nothing has been heard from the CMC. A draft letter of support from the CTMC was presented for approval and signature. After a short discussion to clarify the process as well as address other questions on seeking support from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Vice Chairman Johnson made a motion to approve and send the drafted letter. The motion was seconded by Dave LeVasseur and approved by unanimous vote.

VI Executive Session – none held

VII Date of Next Meeting: Prior to adjourning, the Chairman reminded everybody that there is no CTMC meeting in August. He then announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at the **ConnDOT HQ Building located at 2800 Berlin Turnpike in Newington CT at 0930 on Wednesday September 19, 2012.**

VII Adjournment: - A motion to adjourn was made by Dave LeVasseur, seconded by the Vice Chairman and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 10:34 AM.