

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)  
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #07-13)  
July 17, 2013**

**Location of Meeting:**                    **USCG Sector Long Island Sound  
120 Woodward Ave.  
New Haven, CT**

**Attendance:**

**Commissioners**

***Present***

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

***Absent***

David Shuda  
Catherine Smith/Ron Angelo  
Parker Wise

**Guests**

CDR Amy Beach	Capt Ed Cubanski	Ned Farman	Jeff Flumignan
Don Frost	Scot Graham	Judi Sheffele	LTJG Steven Loy
Dave Rossiter	Joe Salvatore	Alan Stevens	Grant Westerson

**I.        Call to Order:**

Chairman Joe Riccio called the meeting to order at 0930. 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 June 19, 2013 meeting was reviewed. A motion to approve the summary report was made by Vice Chairman Johnson. George Wisker provided a second and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**III      Discussion Open to Public:    No comments offered.**

**IV      Old Business:**

Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore reported that work on the Eastern Long Island Sound (ELIS) Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (SEIS) continues. UConn Avery Point has retrieved the first set of meters and is evaluating the data. The meters will be redeployed for data collection over the winter. The second wave of informational public meetings took place on June 25, 2013 in Riverhead Long Island NY and Wednesday June 26, 2013 at UConn Avery Point. In response to a question about the timeline for the project, George Wisker indicated that a draft of the ELIS SEIS is expected by the fall of 2014. In response to a question by Commissioner Ross, Salvatore reminded all that the state is funding the ELIS SEIS through an agreement with EPA Region 1. He also stated that at the appropriate time, the efforts of UConn Avery Point will be publicized. UConn Avery Point's involvement will have benefits to the state in the future as well as improve the reputation of UConn's maritime related curriculum. Commissioner Ross stated that the efforts of UConn Avery Point need to be celebrated in anticipation of investments to be made by the Administration into UConn.

Joe Salvatore reported that the closure dates for the Central and Western Long Island Sound Disposal sites has been extended by EPA from June 2013 to April 30, 2015. He also reported that the ACOE had put the New Haven Harbor and Norwalk Harbor Phase III dredging projects

out to bid and that Wethersfield Cove water quality certification was to be completed soon. It is anticipated that the ACOE Dredge CURRITUCK or sister ship MURDEN will return to the Housatonic for additional dredging work during this winter. Norwalk, Wethersfield Cove and the Housatonic River projects still need MOAs to allow the Army Corps to accept state funding for the projects. New Haven does not since federal funds will be used. The Chairman commented that it is nice to see plans that were created several years ago coming to fruition. Joe Salvatore concluded his remarks by stating that WRDA 2013 still does not contain language that would allow the ACOE to accept non-federal funds for harbor improvement feasibility studies. Thus, the deepening of the New Haven channel pends.

In response to a question from the Vice Chairman, Salvatore stated that the ACOE submitted a water quality certification request to CT DEEP for the dredging of Bridgeport Harbor even though no funding for the project has been identified. The least cost environmentally acceptable disposal method includes the use of Morris Cove in New Haven Harbor. An alternative disposal plan includes the creation of a second CAD cell in Bridgeport Harbor at an additional cost and additional problems with aquaculture issues.

LIS HSC/AMSC Update – CDR Amy Beach advised that the new CG Sector Commander, Captain Ed Cubanski planned on stopping in during the meeting as time allowed. She also stated that the Public Comment Period on the Port Ambrose LNG Terminal had been extended to August 8, 2013. A contentious public meeting was held in Long Beach, NY. It has been determined that the Port Ambrose project is completely within the CG Sector NY AOR. Scot Graham added that the Port Ambrose floating platform concept is being adopted worldwide.

Scot Graham advised the CG will be increasing the screening of vessels arriving from foreign ports due to the outbreak the Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), the SARS-like disease first seen in 2012. Graham provided some statistical information on the recently submitted 2013 PSG applications within the LIS AOR based on the first level CG Sector LIS review process. There were 17 applications submitted that contained 28 Investment Justifications (IJs). Of the 28 IJs, 2 were from a state agency, 3 were from LIS AMSC Region 4, 6 were from Region 2, 13 were from Region 1 and 4 were from Long Island. Only 1 was from a private entity, the rest coming from a public entity. CG Sector LIS would be uploading the results by COB today (Wed 7/17) to FEMA for the next level review. It is anticipated that the grant awards will be announced in September 2013. Lastly, Scot Graham reminded all that 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 over the next 5-6 months to update the risk assessment which underlies the requirements of the plan.

NOAA LTJG Loy provided information on the release of a new edition of U.S. Chart No. 1, the availability of a beta test of a chart and Coast Pilot viewing App (MyNOAACharts). He also gave an update on NRT-5's work along the CT coast, specifically the Old Saybrook and Falkner's Island area. LTJG Loy stated that NOAA was seeking comments on the Right Whale areas.

National Freight Advisory Committee – No report offered.

New London Schooner Fest – Vice Chairman John Johnson brought to the attention of all that the name of the event was actually the Connecticut Schooner Fest. The Schooner Fest will be taking place in both Mystic and New London September 11-15, 2013. Commissioner Johnson thanked the Commission for the letter of support written to the Governor. He added that he expected the requested \$75K from the state to be provided any day. The Schooner Fest Committee is working towards having 20 schooners participate with 13 already committed. The Committee is now on a bi-weekly schedule since the event is less than 60 days away.

## **V New Business:**

Coast Guard Museum – Vice Chairman Johnson provided an update on the fund raising activities for the CG Museum to be built on the New London waterfront. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the fund raising campaign (the Barque EAGLE Society) has started. The first 200 people to donate \$1K will be given 16x24 inch print of the Barque EAGLE. The first 40 people to donate \$5K will be given a 20x30 inch print. The first 10 people to donate \$15K will be given a framed 36x48 inch print. The goal is to raise \$300K by September 1<sup>st</sup> and \$100M overall. The State has committed to provide \$20M reportedly to be addressed by the Bond commission on July 19<sup>th</sup>. A meeting is scheduled to be held in Newport, RI on August 2<sup>nd</sup> to hire a professional fund raiser. Commissioner Ross advised that there was a Public Scoping Meeting on July 8, 2013. One of the main issues discussed at the public meeting was the pedestrian bridge. There was some additional discussion about creating a tunnel vs. bridge, the capacity of a bridge and security issues due to the proximity of the waterfront, rail station and ferry terminals.

Maritime Highway – Jeff Flumignan, MARAD's Executive Director of the North Atlantic Gateway, provided an update on the Marine Highway project. Action has been initiated to designate Long Island Sound as M-295. The designation is in the interagency review stage with expected completion by October 2013. There are two NPRMs expected this fall dealing with the Marine Highway. Currently there are no funds available for Marine Highway related projects for FY 2014. It is anticipated that \$7M will be made available in FY 2015. TIGER 2013 experienced \$1.2B in requests for the \$474M available. The Senate has provided \$550M in the budget for TIGER 2014 but the House has provided zero. MARAD has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Maine Port Authority for the development of an articulated tug and barge for the coastal movement of containers. Congress mandated the vessel be capable of carrying 850 TEU. The East Coast Marine Highway Initiative Study had been released then retracted and is now expected to be re-released in the October-November 2013 timeframe. A Port Showcase was held in Rhode Island on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Tours of PROVPORT and Davisville were provided to elected officials such as the RI Governor, US Senators and Representatives as well as carriers and shippers. The tour included a short power point presentation as well as an on sight visit. It was stated that MARAD has the authority to transfer federal port properties such as decommissioned naval bases to state agencies and municipal port authorities. It was also stated in conversation that Davisville is approximately 4K acres formerly a USN Naval Air Station. Davisville received a TIGER Grant for a crane that is presently not being used. Jeff stated that he would like hold a Port Tour in CT. Chairman Riccio offered the assistance of the CTMC. In response to a question from the Chairman, Flumignan stated that there is presently \$2M in the Strong Ports program for planning grants.

**VI Executive Session** – none held.

**VII Date of Next Meeting:** All were reminded that there is NO meeting in August. Thus, the next meeting of the CTMC will be held at the ConnDOT HQ building in Newington, CT at 0930 on Wednesday September 18, 2013.

**VIII Adjournment:** - A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ross. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Johnson and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting ended at 10:28 am.

Just after adjournment Capt Ed Cubanski entered the room, introduced himself, provided background on his career and invited all to contact him on any matter but specifically matters related to the safe movement of commerce within his AOR.