

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #09-10)
September 15, 2010**

Location of Meeting: ConnDOT HQ Building
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Parker)
Tom Dubno
G.L. Gunther
John Johnson
Maya Loewenberg (for Commissioner McDonald)
Joseph P. Maco (for TSB Chairman)
Larry Miller
John Opie
David Shuda
George Wisker (for Commissioner Marrella)

Absent

Brenda Sisco
Joe Riccio
Vincent Cashin

Guests

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| CDR Amy Beach | Andy Davis | Ned Farman | Bill Gash | Fred Hall |
| Jon Kachmar | Martha Klimas | Dave Rossiter | Joe Salvatore | Joel Severance |
| Judi Sheffele | Bill Spicer | Alan Stevens | Brian Thompson | Capt J Vojvodich |
| Grant Westerson | | | | |

I. Call to Order:

In the absence of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman John Johnson opened the meeting at 0932. A quorum of 8 was initially present with two others arriving moments later for a total of 10. The CTMC Commissioners, designees and the audience were asked to introduce themselves.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

The summary report of the July 21, 2010 meeting was reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Dubno to approve the summary report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Opie and approved by unanimous vote.

III Discussion Open to Public No comments were offered.

IV Old Business:

A. Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore provided an update on the status of the LIS DMMP. He reminded all of the working groups created by the ACOE to review various aspects of the LIS DMMP. He stated that the 5 contracted reports are due the end of September, first part of October. The results of the studies can be found on the ACOE's LIS DMMP web site (<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ri/LISDMMP/LISDMMP.htm>). Joe Salvatore informed all that the Appropriations Committee had approved \$2.0M in the FY 2011 budget for the LIS DMMP, another \$918K for the dredging of the Patchogue River and \$582K for the Norwalk Phase 3 project. In response to a question, Joe stated that nothing had been done yet with regards to dredging Old Lyme due to no funding (approx \$20K needed) being made available.

B Connecticut Economic Strategic Plan (ESP) Update – On behalf of DECD Commissioner McDonald, Maya Loewenberg stated that no action had been taken on the Statewide Port Authority issue that was part of the ESP. The discussion immediately morphed in the next item on the agenda.

C. Statewide Port Authority (SWPA) – It was reported that Commissioner Linda Krause had resigned from the CTMC thus she was not present to provide an update. Maya Loewenberg reported that DECD was still waiting for input on the SWPA concept from the CTMC. The CTMC's SWPA committee that was chaired by Linda Krause had not provided any new information or recommendations. In response to a question by the Vice Chairman, May stated that DECD could not indefinitely postpone the SWPA concept due to the 20 Sept 2010 deadline to submit legislation recommendations to the Governor's office. In response to a statement by Commissioner Gunther that apparently the CTMC won't have anything to offer on the SWPA issue, Commissioner Dubno stated that he had been asked for by and provided input to DECD on the SWPA concept. He stated that DECD has not pushed anything forward as yet. He felt that CTMC could wait until DECD makes a legislative proposal and then comment at that time. Commissioner Opie asked about the results of the survey distributed to stakeholders by the CTMC SWPA committee. Chuck Beck stated that none had been submitted and reportedly the response rate had been poor. Commissioner Dubno stated that we do have an opportunity to speak up on the topic but challenged why it has to come from a bureaucracy like the CTMC. Chuck Beck agreed with the ability for individuals, private facilities, local port authorities, etc to provide input to DECD on the SWPA concept but the CTMC had been specifically asked by DECD to provide recommendation. Commissioner Opie reminded all that a legislative change drafted but then withdrawn by DECD would have replaced the CTMC with a SWPA and placed it under DECD. Commissioner Gunther stated that nobody likes the CTMC being replaced but added his opinion that the CTMC hadn't accomplished anything in 7 years of existence. Vice Chairman Johnson stated that CT used to have a state port authority that was replaced by the CTMC. Chuck Beck reminded all that the previous CT Port Authority was an advisory body, and like the CTMC had no authority which would be quite different from the SWPA being proposed by DECD.

Joe Maco stated that CT needed a strategy for its ports and that the strategy should be collaboratively developed among the stakeholders (state, local, private, etc). He further stated that a statewide port authority is a political issue that pits local control against coordination of the ports. He stated that he worries that without coordination among the ports, local governments will "gentrify" the port areas as a way to improve the grand list. Commissioner Johnson stated that what the state needs is to elevate maritime matters by creating a Department of Maritime and that he plans on discussing such matters with candidates running for statewide offices. He emphasized the need for attention to matters maritime by reciting the economic impact statistics of the maritime industries as determined by the CMC commissioned Economic Impact Study (which can be found at http://www.ctmaritime.com/final_conn_maritime_report_051810.pdf). Commissioner Johnson stated that he felt that any state level port authority should not be under a state agency like the CTDOT. Commissioner Gunther agreed claiming that the state agencies that are part of the CTMC dominate the issues and control the discussions. The state needs separate port authorities. He referenced articles that had been included as part of the meeting package about the success of central port authorities in other states to make his point. Martha Klimas stated that former Commissioner Krause, who had chaired the SWPA committee, did hold some meetings but that she did not know of any minutes taken. Her recollection was that the conclusion of the meetings and the surveys was to organize to be able to tap the available funding sources. In response to a question from Joe Maco, Bill Gash stated that the CMC had not had a discussion on a SWPA. Bill Spicer reminded all of the RI dredging problems that were solved through stakeholders at all levels uniting to solve a crisis and obtaining federal funding. Commissioner Johnson stated that CT did not have a maritime policy and until it did nothing would move forward. Chuck Beck corrected the Vice Chairman pointing out that CT did have a Maritime Policy that was drafted by the CTMC, approved by the Governor's office and posted on the CTMC web page. Commissioner Shuda agreed that CT had a policy but did not have a state

maritime strategy or appropriate backing by elected officials for the maritime policy. In response to a comment made by Commissioner Dubno that we needed to move on, Commissioner Opie made a motion that the CTMC draft and send a letter to the Commissioner of DECD requesting that DECD take no action on a SWPA during the next legislative session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miller and passed by unanimous vote. Joe Maco suggested that the new Governor be invited to a CTMC meeting as soon as possible after the elections.

D. Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Council (LIS AMSC) Update – Captain Joe Vojvodich provided a summary of the LIS AMSC meeting that was held on 9 Sept 2010 in West Haven. He stated that the new First Coast Guard District Commander (RADM Neptun) and the Director of Northeast Operations Interagency and First Responder Programs (Mitchell Erickson) both spoke at the meeting. He added that RADM Neptun took the time to travel around the CG Sector LIS area of responsibility on a familiarization tour. .

E. Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Committee (LIS HSC) Update. – CDR Amy Beech stated that there was nothing new to report. Grant Westerson took time to thank the CG for the timely and frequent weather and port condition updates that had been distributed as Hurricane Earl approached.

Before moving to New Business, the Vice Chairman returned to the Statewide Economic Strategy topic to discuss a letter to the CTMC from the TSB and a draft reply. Both had been [provided to the CTMC Commissioners and designees prior to the meeting. The form, format and content of the letter were generally like by all. The Vice Chairman asked for two minor edits to be made. Commissioner Dubno moved that the letter of response to the TSB with edits be approved, signed and sent. His motion was seconded by George Wisker and passed by unanimous vote.

V New Business:

A. Maritime Highway Grant (MHG) – Chuck Beck provided a summary of the Marine Highway program, a grant being offered by MARAD and the success thus far of an application for part of the grant on a CT project. An application to retrofit three Cross Sound Ferry vessels was submitted. The application made the first cut to be one of eight in contention for part or all of a \$7M grant. MARAD is to make the final selections by the end of Sept. There was some discussion comparing the project to the former feeder barge project in Bridgeport and questions concerning why Bridgeport had not applied for the MH grant. Chuck Beck stated that the feeder barge project was a different operation from the CSF application to retrofit vessels. Nothing was offered as to why the Bridgeport Port Jefferson Ferry didn't submit an application.

Returning to the CTMC response letter to the TSB, Commissioner Gunther asked about information contained in the enclosure to the letter; a summary of dredging projects that need Federal funding. His specific questions revolved around the Housatonic River dredging needs. He asked why the project numbers in the enclosure were for a full dredge as opposed to Stratford's more recent proposal. The recent proposal is to reduce the scope from 600K cubic yards to 49 cubic yards of material thus considerably reduce the cost of the project. Joe Salvatore and George Wisker provided the answers to Commissioner Gunther's questions. The bottom line is that regardless of the size of the project, a disposal plan needs to be approved and most importantly the ACOE needs to receive funding from Congress specifically for the project.

B. OPSAIL 2012 – Vice Chairman Johnson provided information on an invitation by the national OPSAIL organization for New London to participate in OPSAIL 2012. The general theme of OPSAIL 2012 is to commemorate the bicentennial of War of 1812. The Governor through DECD has provided \$50K for the planning phase of the event. George Wisker recommended that the local planners contact DEP very early in the process if it is anticipated that piles or dolphins will need to be added/constructed along the New London waterfront to moor vessels during the event.

C. Membership Changes – Chuck Beck advised that two CTMC Commissioners had recently resigned; John Wronowski and Linda Krause. In response to questions, Chuck Beck stated

D. m/s CROWN PRINCESS – Chuck Beck stated that the m/s CROWN PRINCESS would be sailing into New London harbor early Saturday morning 18 Sept 2010 and moor at the State Pier facility. The ship will spend the day at the Pier while the crew and passengers tour around New London and other SECT sites. The vessel will make a return visit in early October.

VI Executive Session – none held

VII Date of Next Meeting: * Note the Time Change *

It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at **0900 Wednesday October 20, 2010 at the Fort Trumbull Conference Center in New London, CT**

* To accommodate a request made subsequent to the CTMC meeting, the start time is being changed to **0900**

VII Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Shuda, seconded by George Wisker and approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM.

DRAFT