

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #06-10)
October 19, 2006**

Location of Meeting: Connecticut DOT Headquarters
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT Conference Room B

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for Commissioner Carpenter)
Vincent Cashin
Tom Dubno
Ginne-Rae Gilmore (for Comm Abromaitis)
Judy Gott
G.L. "Doc" Gunther
Joseph P. Maco
Joseph Riccio
David Shuda
Martin Toyen
Kaye Williams
George Wisker (for Comm McCarthy)

Absent

John Johnson
Phil Smith (for Secretary Genaurio)
Jon Wronowski

Guests

LCDR Alan Blume	CAPT Peter Boynton	John Crowther	David Head
Ed O'Donnell	Dave Rossiter	Joel Severance	Bill Spicer
Alan Stevens	Kurt Walton		

I. Call to Order:

- Chairman Marty Toyen opened the meeting at 09:35. A quorum of 12 was present.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

- The draft minutes of the 21 September 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously after a motion by Vincent Cashin and second by George Wisker.

III Discussion Open to Public

- Joel Severance provided information about the Connecticut Harbor Master Association (CHMA) Annual Dinner being held later in the evening (Oct 19th) at the Woodwinds. The guest speaker will be the New England Division of the Army Corps of Engineers District Commander Col. Curtis L. Thalken. Other notables attending will be Dan Goulet (RI DEM) and Brian Thompson (CT DEP).

IV Old Business:

- Status of the Dredge Material Management Plan (DMMP) – It was reported that \$1.74M has been approved in both the House and the Senate version of the FY 2007 for the Long Island Sound DMMP. However, the Bill still needs to go through the conference committee process and be approved by the President. Should the FY 2007 budget go into a “continuing resolution” status, the ACOE will be allowed a portion of funding to at least start the DMMP. Scoping meetings could take place as early as Spring 2007.

There was a discussion on the establishment of a Regional Dredging Team (RDT) for dredging projects that would be subject to the requirements of the EPA Site Designation Rule for the Central Long Island Sound (CLIS) and Western Long Island Sound (WLIS) disposal sites. The charter for the RDT has been drafted. Membership to the RDT includes representatives from CT DEP, NY DOS, NY DOC, the ACOE, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). It was explained that the RDT is a non-binding "advisory board" charged with reviewing applications for dredging projects. Meetings will be called as needed depending on the number of projects. Alternatives Analysis of disposal options before testing of sediment is the goal as to not interfere with the planning process or to add delays. Private project applications not necessarily part of the RDT review process.

A summary of the ACOE sponsored Regional Sediment Management (RSM) meeting held on Thursday 28 Sept 2006 was provided. The purpose of establishing an RSM in New England is to coordinate dredging projects, nourishment projects and others to obtain lower overall costs and efficiencies. An example was provided to the concept. As a result of individuals who attended the meeting, there is a strong possibility that sand from an unfunded/inadequate funded CT dredging project will be provided to a beach nourishment need at Hammonasset Beach State Park that has funding. Senator Gunther provided information on tests done a decade ago on the sediments of the Housatonic River that proved they could be used for a CT Department of Agriculture "cultch" project for oyster beds. However nothing has been accomplished.

Questions were raised again about the value vs potential added delays of the RDT process. It was once again stated that the RDT process is advisory. The Federal Rule established for disposal of dredged materials in Long Island sound (LIS) requires an RDT as an interim measure until completion and adoption of the LIS DMMP. It was felt that the focus, scope and authority of the RDT was successfully limited compared to what NY had desired. The RDT process is required to fit into not add to the dredging planning and permitting timeline. A guide for project applicants to assist with preparation of the alternatives analysis will be developed. A question was raised about the consistency (or lack thereof) relative to NY being able to interject their interests in CT dredging projects but not allowing CT to interject its concerns in the Broadwater project. It was explained that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) can override a State's objections with regards to energy related projects. A statement was made concerning the "Constitutionality" of NY being able to impose its State rights over CT State rights. The discussion was closed with a comment from the Chair that the RDT needs to establish a set of "rules of engagement" to prevent dueling state and federal standards relative to sediment testing requirements and disposal methods.

- Status of the Maritime Policy Statement- It was reported that a letter signed by the Chair (copy in the handouts) had been sent to the Governor asking for a meeting to discuss the Maritime Policy Statement. A meeting has been arranged to take place later in the day (1 PM 19 October 2006) with a member of the Governor's staff, Phil Dukes.
- Dredge Coordinator Position – Chuck Beck reported that the CT DOT had distributed a solicitation to fill a transportation engineer 2 position established to be the dredging project coordinator within the Bureau of Aviation and Ports. The closing date for responses 1 27 October 2006. Should there not be any respondents the solicitation would be forwarded to the Dept of Administrative Services for a general solicitation to the public. Senator Gunther stated that there is still a need for legislation to establish the position and funding for dredging.

The discussion turned to the report and counter-report of the depth of water available in the Bridgeport Harbor channel and approach to the Coastline terminal as related to the Turbanna solicitation to move their operation to other ports. There seems to be a difference between what the marine pilots say is available depth of water and what a recent sounding survey indicates. The soundings indicate a greater depth than believed present by the pilots.

- DECD Development of Commercial/Recreational Data - The Chairman restated the need for the CTMC to collect data relative to commercial and recreational use of CT's waters and harbors still exists. Joe Maco provided information contained in a recent Wall Street Journal report that linked tons of cargo to inches of draft. Senator Gunther made statements about the lost opportunity to have cruise ships make port call in Bridgeport. Marty Toyen reviewed the letter previously sent to Commissioner Abromaitis and the Commissioner's reply concerning obtaining data. Commissioner Abromaitis stated that the Connecticut Maritime Coalition (CMC) is presently working with DECD staff to develop a proposal for state assistance in developing an action plan relative to the needs of the marine industry. Tom Dubno (member of both the CTMC and the CMC) provided information and a copy of a report that collected commercial data dated 2000. He further stated that the Connecticut Maritime Cluster is seeking funding from DECD to update the report. A copy of the July 2000 report is available on the CMC web site (<http://www.ctmaritime.com/>) under Stats and Studies. Ginne-Rae Gilmore asked that future agenda link the data project to CMC vs DECD.
- Revenue Sources for Maritime Projects/Proposed Draft Legislation - Chuck Beck provided comments on the DRAFT legislation crafted at the request of the CTMC members at the 21 Sept meeting. Despite the fact that the DRAFT had been provided electronically to the CTMC members in advance, there was little discussion. Chuck Beck offered that perhaps the use of the "bonded funding" should be more narrowly focused to only dredging. The Chair asked that the CTMC members review the draft document and provide comments before the next meeting. The discussion ended with another plea from Doc Gunther for a legislative package to be drafted for consideration during the next session of the CT legislature.
- Draft letter to CT Attorney General on CT rights – Chuck Beck provided opening comments on the letter drafted as the result of an approved motion at the Sept 2006 CTMC meeting. He stated that perhaps references to the Ambro Amendment should be deleted to keep the letter focused on the CZM process issue; NY being able to interject itself into CT dredging projects up to the 20 foot depth line of the CT shore. After some discussion it was decided to keep the Ambro reference in the letter. It was also decided to "**bold**" a line in the third paragraph to highlight the issue. George Wisker offered a correction of fact to the letter which was agreed upon. Tom Dubno moved to send the letter with the corrections noted in the discussion. Vin Cashin provided a second and the motion carried unanimously.
- The Chair asked for permission to make a change to the agenda to allow Captain Peter Boynton, Commander Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound, to provide a summary of the Coast Guard's Waterway Suitability Report on the Broadwater project proposed for Long Island Sound. Captain Boynton summarized the methodology, tools used, options for the findings and the results: the proposed Broadwater project could be done provided identified mitigation is taken. The Captain responded to several questions related to the Broadwater project as well some unrelated questions about the CG's role on dredging projects.
- Bridgeport Feeder Barge Project – As requested at the 21 Sept 2006 meeting, the Bridgeport Feeder Barge Project was added to the agenda. Joe Riccio provided an update. A copy of the last monthly report was part of the handouts. It was reported that negotiations continue with the New York and New Jersey Port Authority (NYNJPA). There are meetings scheduled with the ILA in the near future. Joe Riccio also provided information on the recent visit to Bridgeport by the newly appointed MARAD Administrator, Sean Connaughton. Administrator Connaughton stated his support for the feeder barge project. Judy Gott stated that the I-91 TIA group is requesting a change to the language of the Bond authorization that limited a feeder barge project to Bridgeport.

V New Business:

- Annual Meeting – The November meeting of the CTMC will be the “annual meeting”.
- List of Pending Dredging Projects- Ed O'Donnell stated that he was working on providing the information request by the CTMC The information was requested so that the dredging projects could prioritized as part of the funding request process. Ed stated that he will provide the information to Chuck Beck prior to the next CTMC meeting.
- Change of Venue/Dates for CTMC Meetings – Chuck Beck reported that he had not heard back from people that were to reach out to POCs at the venues that had been discussed at the 21 Sept 2006 meeting (Aquaculture School, Fort Trumbull Conference Center, SCRCOG offices). Judy Gott confirmed the SCRCOG office availability. There was a discussion about the need to set the calendar year meeting schedule as soon as possible so that it could be presented to the Secretary of State in November. All seemed to like moving the meetings to the third Wednesday of each month as proposed. Chuck Beck reported that Conference Room A at CONNDOT HQ in Newington had been reserved for the dates indicated on the draft schedule. A motion was made by Judy Gott, seconded by George Wisker and approved unanimously to make the draft schedule official and forward to the Secretary of State once the venues were confirmed.

VI Date of Next Meeting:

- Next meeting is scheduled at 0930 Thursday 16 November 2006 at the CONNDOT HQ building in Newington, CT.

VII. Adjournment:

- A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 1142.