

SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAYS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Southeast Texas Waterways Advisory Council was held on July 26, 2012 at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, TX. The current SETWAC Charter is dated July 21, 2011. Printed materials presented at the meeting are available for copying at the office of the Council's Executive Secretary, Mrs. Jackie Grayless, at the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Office, 2901 Turtle Creek Drive, Port Arthur, TX 77642. The meeting information is also available electronically through the SETWAC website www.setwac.org.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 am.

Remarks by the Chairman:

Randy Reese welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Steve Kelly and Moran Towing for providing the refreshments for the meeting.

Mr. Reese passed on to the committee about the recent article in the Port Arthur News that was written about the Southeast Texas Advisory Council.

2. Remarks by the Captain of the Port:

CAPT Joe Paitl introduced the new Executive Officer, CDR Jacqueline Twomey. CDR Twomey transferred from Sector New Orleans.

CAPT Paitl also recognized the Port of Port Arthur for sponsoring Camp SeaPort, a weeklong maritime camp for high school students.

3. Approval of the April 26, 2012 minutes:

A motion was made and passed to approve the previous meetings minutes.

4. Committee Reports:

Navigation Sub-Committee Report

No report to pass.

Port Welfare Sub-Committee Report

Fr. Sinclair thanked Bob Stegall and Jeremy Hansen for their assistance in the grant process. He also thanked Gene Bouillon and Phyllis Yates from the Port of Orange for the purchase of the 15 passenger van.

Waterway Maintenance and Improvement Sub-Committee Report

USACE Waterway Maintenance Report

Paula Wise with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers gave an operations and maintenance update on the following:

FY12 Outer Bar and Bank Channel

- awarded April 18, 2012
- contracted to Manson Construction
- work started on June 28, 2012
- estimated completion is end of August 2012

FY12 Port Arthur Canal, Turning Basin, Junction Area, and Taylors Bayou

- estimated award date is September 13, 2012
- Options: Sabine River (1,600 ft)
- S-N Canal (Eyeball)
- Port of Port Arthur Docks
- Taylors East & West Turning Basins
- Entrance channel to Taylors Turning Basin
- Removal of sunken vessels
- PA No. 11 Erosion Protection

Sabine River - Channel to Orange (Current Issues)

- shoaling – 18' draft restrictions in portions of channel
- option to Port Arthur contract; dependent on real estate agreements and funding
- need to resolve PA issued before channel can be dredged to full depth in FY 13.
- working with the Port of Orange

FY13 – Anticipated Work

- award options to FY12 Port Arthur Canal job to help ensure execution of all of the FY13 funding.
- Outer Bar and Bank Channel (annual job)
- Lower Neches River (base job)
- Options:
 - Levee work at PA 29A, 29B, PA 30 and PA 31
 - dredge Sabine River to full depth 32'
 - dredge Adams Bayou
- SNWW Jetties - signage and potentially light to reduce safety issues. Still in discussion with Coast Guard, Pilots, and Army Corps of Engineers.

Ms. Wise also announced the upcoming Galveston District 2012 Dredging Conference to be held 23-24 October at the Galveston Convention Center. The conference will discuss the current and upcoming operations and maintenance jobs, planning study updates, new technology affecting the dredging program and other special presentations.

Waterway Security Sub-Committee Report

CAPT Paitl reported on the grants. He stated that 100% of the grant money that was requested was received. The CAPT noted also that we are currently a Tier 2 Port, but are pushing for a Tier 1 Port status with FEMA.

Bob Stegall gave a report on the 2012 Grants. He reported that they received more funding than the Houston/Galveston area.

The following Port Security Grants were reported on:

Applicant	Description of IJ	Federal \$ Requested
City of Nederland Fire & Rescue	Emergency Operations Center	\$2,100,168.00
Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission	Black Board Connect	\$349,287.00
Jefferson County SO	Spare engines/lower units, generators, VHS encrypted Radios	\$121,500.00
Port of Port Arthur IJ # 1	Water Side Surveillance - pan/tilt/zoom cameras, hardware, infrastructure	\$256,647.00
Port of Port Arthur IJ # 2	Interior Surveillance and Access Control	\$66,351.00
Port of Beaumont IJ #1	Portable TWIC Readers	\$31,875.00
Port of Beaumont IJ # 2	2 Portable Guard Booths	\$26,301.00
Beaumont Police Department IJ # 1	Enhancement of Towers for P-25 Compliance	\$1,324,875.00
City of Beaumont Police Departments IJ # 2	CBRNE Tactical Personal Protection Equipment	\$127,650.00
Port Neches Police Department	Emergency Operations Center/Response Command Center	\$1,900,280.00
		\$6,304,934.00

ATON Status/Projects Report

No report to pass.

5. New Business:

Black Board Connect

Bob Stegall reported that the Coast Guard purchased Black Board Connect 5 and will use the system to pass on information to industry. A contact information sheet was given out to SETWAC members to fill out in order to be added to the CG Black Board list.

Environmental Disposal Committee

Fr. Sinclair addressed the committee about the environmental concerns of waste oil, expired flare, and garbage disposal from fishing. A recommendation was brought to the committee about finding alternative way of removing the environmental waste from fishing vessels. A motion was made and passed to create an Ad-Hoc committee to handle environmental issues. Fr. Sinclair and JT Ewing were nominated to Co-Chair the committee.

Vessel Traffic Service Review Committee

Mr. Mike Measells gave a presentation to board recommending to reestablishing the SETWAC VTS Working Group as an Ad-Hoc Committee for the purposes of reviewing procedures, customer feedback, and historical documentation in order to recommend improvements or validate existing procedures of VTS Port Arthur.

A motion was made to the board and passed.

6. Announcements

2012 Harbor Safety Committee and Area Maritime Security Committee Conference

Chairman Randy Reese announced the upcoming conference that will be held in Pittsburgh on 28-30 August.

Mr. Reese also announced that SETWAC was nominated along with five other Harbor Safety Committees for the Harbor Safety Committee of the Year. The winner will be recognized at the conference at the evening social on August 28th.

7. Next Meeting

The working group meeting will be held at the Sabine-Neches Navigation District office on Thursday, October 11, 2012 at 10:00 am.

The full committee meeting will be held at MSU Port Arthur on Thursday, July 26, 2011 at 10:00 am.

8. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.