

SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAYS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Southeast Texas Waterways Advisory Council was held on April 26, 2012 at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit in 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 10:03 am.

2. Remarks by the Chairman:

Randy Reese welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Captain Duane Bennett and the Sabine Pilots for providing the refreshments for the meeting.

3. Remarks by the Captain of the Port:

CAPT Joe Paitl expressed his appreciation to everyone for attending the meeting. He introduced the Senior Reserve Officer CDR Mike Evanish, Acting Executive Officer filling in for the Executive Officer, CDR Zack Pickett. CDR Pickett will be transferring to the Officer Candidate School in New London, Connecticut effective June 8th. CAPT Paitl announced that the new Executive Officer, CDR Jacqueline Twomey would be reporting to Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur in early June.

The CAPT announced that hurricane season would be effective June 1st and reminded everyone to be prepared. He recommended for everyone to start reviewing their Hurricane Plans. He stated that the Coast Guard would be participating in various exercises with the various ports.

4. Approval of the January 26, 2012 minutes:

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

5. Committee Reports:

Navigation Sub-Committee Report

CAPT Duane Bennett reported on outbound and shift orders. He requested on behalf of the Sabine Pilots that agents and terminals report actual drafts.

Port Welfare Sub-Committee Report

Fr. Sinclair reported on the following upcoming events:

- May 22 – National Maritime Day
- May 24-27 – Visit of the T/S General Rudder @ Port of Port Arthur
- May 25 – Local Observance of National Maritime Day
- July 8 – Sea Sunday @ St. John Evangelist Catholic Church
- July 9-13 – Camp Seaport sponsored by the Port of Port Arthur
- July 9-12 – Visit of the T/S General Rudder @ Port of Port Arthur
- September 27 – International Maritime Organization’s World Time Maritime Day
- November 21– World Fisheries Day
- Vessel General Permit & Small Vessel General Permit
 - Until July 2, 2012 - States reviewing the proposed VGP & SVGP rules for possible state required additions
 - December 2012 - EPA will finalize the rule
 - December 2013 - All vessels over 79’ must have a VGP or SVGP permit

Waterway Maintenance and Improvement Sub-Committee Report

USACE Waterway Maintenance Report

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

FY11 Sabine Neches Canal

-awarded September 16, 2011

-contracted to Mike Hooks, Inc

- SN Canal: Dredge Mike Hooks is dredging in Section No. 5 and discharging into PA No. 11

-estimated completion June 12, 2012

FY12 Outer Bar and Bank Channel

-awarded April 18, 2012

-contracted to Manson Construction

-estimated start will be mid May 2012

-estimated completion August 2012

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

-estimated award date is September 2012

-Options: Sabine River (1,600 ft)

S-N Canal (Eyeball)

Port of Port Arthur

East & West Turning Basins

PA No. 8 levee construction

PA No. 11 Erosion Protection

Sabine River – Channel to Orange

- shoaling, 18' draft restrictions in portions of channel
- preparing plans and specifications for option to Port Arthur contract; dependent on real estate agreements and funding
- need to resolve PA issues before channel can be dredged to full depth
- working with the Port of Orange

FY13 O&M Budget

- FY13, Presidents Budget of \$19,591.00
- adding options to FY12 Port Arthur Canal job to help ensure they execute all of the FY13 funding

FY14 O&M Budget

- developing work packaged with field and non-federal sponsor

Deepening and Widening Update

Clayton Henderson with the Sabine Neches Navigation District gave an update on the deepening and widening project. He discussed the deepening project timeline below:

1999-2011 - Feasibility Study

May 2011 – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approval

Nov 2011 - OMB approval

2012-2014 - Preliminary Engineer and Design

2014 - Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA Bill)

Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund

Milam Mabry with Mabry Public Affairs, the Government Consultant for Sabine Neches Navigation District reported to the committee on the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund was established to fund the operation and maintenance of Federal ports and harbors. Appropriations from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are primarily used for maintenance dredging, dredged material disposal areas, jetties and breakwaters.

Waterway Security Sub-Committee Report

CAPT Paitl reported on security incidents that have occurred along the waterway. He passed on to report any suspicious activities and to keep a watchful eye on our waterway.

He also reported that the Port Readiness Committee Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on April 5th.

The CAPT also stated that Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur will be conducting vertical delivery training.

ATON Status/Projects Update

BM1 Jennifer Guidroz with Station Sabine reported that they have received complaints from the waterway users that the lamps on Mike Front and Rear range were too bright. She stated that they would be replacing them and requested that if they are still too bright to please contact ATON.

6. New Business:

Re-Election of Officers

Morris Albright, Chairman of the Nominating Committee made a recommendation to the Managing Board on the re-election of the Chairman, Randy Reese and Vice-Chairman Steve Kelly to serve an additional two year term. A motion was made and approved.

Need More Project

Doug Canant with Jefferson County Drainage District 6 gave a presentation on the Need More Diversion Project. The project was permitted in 2007 to build a salt water barrier. The project was not started until 2008 due to set backs from Hurricane Ike. It is 12 mile long drainage basin averaging 300 feet wide and 14 feet deep. The Need More Diversion Project is a flood control channel that will only operate when there's a flood.

2012 Hurricane Plan

LTJG Kyle Kichner gave a hurricane planning presentation on preparedness, port conditions, Port Coordination Team (PCT) and Marine Transportation System Recovery Unit (MSTRU). He also stated that hurricane season begins June 1st and requested that all vessel owners and operator review their hurricane plans and check list. He passed on that Industry Hurricane Plan is located on the Vessel Traffic website.

MARAD Facility at the Reserve Fleet

Billy Greer with MARAD gave a presentation on the new MARAD Facility. They will be dredging to increase the depth to and around the berths to 34 feet. Mooring and breasting structures to be constructed to sufficiently moor 1,000 foot vessels. They will be have four berths and will have two vessels moored at each berth. There will be 3.6 miles of roadway to be constructed from Highway 105 to the facility with parking for 160 vessels. The design and permitting scheduled from April 2012 to August 2012. The construction is scheduled to begin September 2012 to September 2013.

7. Announcements

Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee

Todd Behlke from Kirby Inland Marine reported on Houston/Galveston's new Harbor Safety Committee. Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee will be taking the place of Houston-Galveston Navigation Safety Advisory Committee (HOGANSAC). He also announced the upcoming meeting to be held on May 18th at 10:00 am.

2012 Joint Conference of Harbor Safety Committees & Area Maritime Security Committees

Randy Reese announced the upcoming conference that will be held in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania on August 28-30. He also announced that Southeast Texas Advisory Council (SETWAC) would be submitting a nomination for the 2011 Harbor Safety Committee of the Year.

8. Next Meeting

The working group meeting will be held at the Sabine-Neches Navigation District office on Thursday, July 12, 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.

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:41 am.