

# **SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the Southeast Texas Waterways Advisory Council (SETWAC) was held on January 23, 2014, 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 U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Unit at 2901 Turtle Creek Drive, Port Arthur, TX 77642. The meeting information and power point presentations are also available electronically through the SETWAC website [www.setwac.org](http://www.setwac.org).

### **1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Randall Reese at 10:05am.

### **Remarks by the Chairman:**

- Mr. Randall Reese welcomed everyone to the meeting and started the meeting by having everyone present introduce themselves. Twenty-five board members and thirty-five audience participants were present – a total of 60 participants.
- Chairman Reese thanked Paul Beard and the Sabine-Neches Navigation District for providing refreshments for the meeting.
- He mentioned that this was his final SETWAC meeting as Chairman.
- He asked Board Members to review the list of recommendations from the nominating committee included in their meeting packets.
- He said that there would be a vote of new officers and board members at the end of the meeting.
- He introduced Captain Joe Paitl, COTP.

### **2. Remarks by the Captain of the Port:**

- Captain Paitl wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- He acknowledged that this is the first SETWAC meeting held in over six months since the last quarter 2013 SETWAC meeting was cancelled because of the government shutdown.
- He thanked the members of the sub-committees for continuing the work of SETWAC during the last six months.
- He mentioned upcoming events and projects for 2014.
- He thanked outgoing Chairman and Vice-Chairman Randall Reese and Steve Kelly for their service and success.
- He thanked all SETWAC board members for their service.
- He announced that his replacement as COTP had been named – Captain Randall Ogrydziak to arrive in June-August time frame.
- He announced that his Change of Command and retirement ceremony would be June-August.

### **3. Approval of the July 25, 2013 minutes:**

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

### **4. Committee Reports:**

#### ***Navigation Sub-Committee Report***

- A. Captain Mark Taylor commented on two items of concern:
1. He reported that Pilots were becoming concerned about water depths and under keel clearances in the Outer Bar Channel – between Bouys 29/30 and 33/34.
  2. He announced that the Sabine Pilots would recommend a 250’ setback policy (from the bottom of the slope to the face of the dock) for and new dock proposals for the Sabine-Neches Waterway. After some discussion, it was agreed that Captain Taylor would form a sub-committee to consider whether SETWAC should endorse the 250’ setback proposal to the ACOE.
- B. Mike Measells reported on the progress of two ad hoc sub-committees:
1. Inland Anchorages and Turning Basin sub-committee:  
The sub-committee met on September 5, 2013, to consolidate information from the ACOE, TGLO, USCG, and Sabine-Neches Navigation District about each entities authority to regulate or direct vessels in the inshore anchorage areas. He reported that work was on-going – especially as it relates to the Sabine-Neches Navigation District authorities. The end goal of the committee is to educate the members about the authorities and to refine a process to work together to insure that the anchorages were available for the intended purposes.
  2. Neches River Intersection Congestion Sub-Committee:  
The sub-committee met December 5, 2013, with representatives from the Inland Towing Industry, Ship Pilots, Sabine-Neches Navigation District, VTS, and Thousand Foot Cut Marine management to discuss congestion issues at the Neches River Intersection and the Sabine-Neches Canal. The consensus was that VTS should take more pro-active and wider spread measures to provide traffic updates and traffic spacing to vessels transiting the area. VTS is working to develop a modified traffic management plan and will report back through SETWAC or the sub-committee at the next meeting.
- C. Scott Whalen announced two new, upcoming Waterway Suitability Assessments (WSA’s) for proposed Liquefied Gas facilities and solicited interested participants to contact Captain Mark Taylor if they wanted to participate in the process.
1. Enterprise Marine: - facility on the Neches River - date TBA.
  2. Invista Chemical: - facility on the Sabine River - first meeting scheduled for Feb 6.

#### ***Port Welfare Sub-Committee Report***

Ms. Doreen Badeaux reported a case history for the ship ISIS – where the Seaman’s Center and the Apostleship of the Sea had worked together to provide for the welfare of the Philippine crew of the vessel who had not been paid in months and were becoming desperate along with their families. Through their on-going efforts, some pay has been received and the ship continues to be monitored.

### ***Waterway Maintenance and Improvement Sub-Committee Report***

Mr. Randy Reese reported on the status of the Sabine-Neches Deepening and Widening Project. The Water bill has passed the Senate and the House and is now in Conference Committee. SNND continues to lobby and work the issue, and optimism is still high that the project will get funding approval soon.

### ***USACE Waterway Maintenance Report***

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

- Neches River Channel:
  - o On-going.
  - o Expected Completion Date July 2014..
- Outer Bar and Bank Channel:
  - o Project bid solicitation May 2014.
  - o Estimated start date is December 2014.
- Port Arthur Canal:
  - o Planned advertise date: Sep 2014
  - o Planned start date: Oct 2014
  - o Planned completion date: Aug 2015
- Sabine Jetties radar reflector project:
  - o Project bid solicitation March 2014.
  - o Working with SNND to provide maintenance funding.
  - o Construction scheduled for May 2014.

### ***Waterway Security Sub-Committee Report***

1. Jefferson County Deputy Ron Hobbs reported on the status and near-completion of the Jefferson County Marine Patrol Headquarters facility at Sabine Pass. He also gave an impressive list of statistics for activities of the Jefferson County Marine Patrol for 2013.
2. Captain Paitl spoke on Cyber-Security.
  - o Cyber attacks are a growing threat.
  - o POTUS signed EO & PPD-21 on Feb 12, 2013, naming Cyber Security as top issue and directing action.
  - o Two PSIB's related to cyber security issued by MSU PA in past 3 months to port stakeholders.
  - o Cyber Security Subcommittee recently created as part of AMSC.
  - o Admiral Cook, D8 Commander sent letter to all AMSC chairs:
    - Announced Phoneconf w/CGHQ on Monday Jan 27<sup>th</sup>.
    - Mentioned CG Cyber Security Plan Development.
    - Discussed Resource proposal development for FY14 and beyond.
    - Discussed Cyber Security incident reporting and response.
    - Cyber Security Regs – do we need them?
  - o Looking to Larger Picture:
    - US lagging in Cyber Security preparedness and playing catch-up.
    - Need legal framework: Current posture is defensive.
    - Eleven National Offensive Cyber Security Teams to form CY 15/17.

## ***ATON Status/Projects Report***

- Mr. Chris Evans from USCG Station Sabine/ANT reported that they were working to restore Range M from its leaning and distorted position.

### **5. New Business:**

1. VTS Director Mike Measells gave the annual State of the Waterway Presentation for 2013. He reported that ship transits had increased 16% from 2012 to 2013 and that overall traffic had increased 4%. He also reported that transit to incident ratios had continued to decline. A copy of the Power Point presentation will be available on both the VTS Port Arthur and the SETWAC websites ([www.SETWAC.org](http://www.SETWAC.org)).
2. Four votes were taken by the SETWAC Board, based on recommendations from the SETWAC nominating committee. A copy of the nominating committee recommendations is attached. All nominations were accepted with discussion in accordance with the nominating committee recommendations.
  - All four amendments to the SETWAC charter were approved.
  - Larry Kelley and Clayton Henderson were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
  - New board members were elected to replace term-limited members. (see attachment)
  - Existing board members were extended to a second term, if applicable. (see attachment)

### **6. Next Meeting**

The working group meeting will be held at the Sabine-Neches Navigation District office on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 10:00 am.

The full committee meeting will be held at MSU Port Arthur on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 10:00 am.

### **7. Adjourn**

Chairman Randall Reese thanked Captain Paitl for his support of SETWAC. He also thanked Steve Kelly, Mike Measells, and John Gardiner for their contributions to SETWAC during his term of office.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.