

SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for October 30, 2014, Full-Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Southeast Texas Waterways Advisory Council (SETWAC) was held on October 30, 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.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Kelley at 10:00am.

Remarks by the Chairman:

- Chairman Larry Kelley welcomed guests and members
- He asked all SETWAC members and guests to introduce themselves in turn. Approximately 55 people were present (22 members and 33 guests).
- Mr. Kelley noted that the SETWAC website had been recently updated to reflect new officers and members and thanked Mr. Scott Whalen for his work.
- Mr. Kelley called on Captain Randal Ogrydziak, COTP, for his remarks.

2. Remarks by the Captain of the Port:

- Captain Ogrydziak welcomed all to the last SETWAC meeting scheduled for 2014 and thanked all for their participation during the year.
- He spoke about the recent Ebola concerns and mentioned that Ebola was an agenda item to be addressed later in the program.
- He spoke about the Energy Renaissance on-going and forthcoming for the Sabine-Neches Waterway and Port Arthur COTP zone and mentioned Clayton Henderson will have further comments and details later in the program.
- He reported on the recent visit of the Commandant of the U. S. Coast Guard to Port Arthur and the Cheniere LNG facility.

3. Approval of the July 24, 2014 minutes:

A motion was made and seconded and the committee approved the previous meetings minutes.

4. Committee Reports:

Navigation Sub-Committee Report

- Captain Mark Taylor acknowledged his recent participation on behalf of the Navigation Sub-Committee in the newly formed Dredge Operations Sub-Committee and reported that the coordination of the two committees had been a successful and valuable endeavor.
- Captain Taylor reported no new, significant waterway navigation issues.

Port Welfare Sub-Committee Report

- Fr. Sinclair Oubre reported on the recently reinvigorated Port Welfare Sub-Committee and on the meeting, attended by 15 SETWAC members, that was held in early October at the Sabine Neches Navigation District offices. He reminded SETWAC members and guests that providing seafarer access to come and go from docked vessels was a requirement for terminals. The minutes of that meeting were provided and will be posted on the SETWAC website.
- Ms. Terri Looney spoke about Small Vessel General permits and Ballast Water regulations and reported that fishing vessel operators had received an extension of the General permit requirement until December 18, 2014.

Waterway Maintenance and Improvement Sub-Committee Report

- Mr. Randy Reese reported on the status of the Sabine-Neches Deepening project and summarized the next steps for funding and implementation. Mr. Reese said that the earliest that funding could be in place would be late 2015-2016, and that the earliest that dredging could begin would probably be 2016.

USACE Waterway Maintenance Report

Paula Wise with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers gave an operations and maintenance update on projects and planned bid solicitations scheduled for 2015 and beyond. Her presentation and a listing of projects are provided and are posted on the SETWAC web site.

Dredging Operations Sub-Committee Report - Ed Morgan

- Mr. Ed Morgan reported on the recent activities of the newly formed Dredging Operations Sub-Committee.
- He provided a list of objectives and procedures for the committee.
- He reported on the status of the on-going Sabine Jetty reflector project and said that the project would be completed in November, as soon as tide/water levels permitted access to the jetties.
- In discussion, Clayton Henderson of the Sabine Neches Navigation District (SNND) confirmed that SNND had arranged for maintenance and funding of the reflectors through their contract with James Rizzo of Texas A&M.
- Mr. Morgan demonstrated through a Google Earth slide presentation where dredging activity was presently being conducted on the Sabine-Neches Waterway and highlighted the coordination of the sub-committee with the dredgers (Manson Dredging) prior to the beginning of the project(s).
- Mr. Morgan provided detail and graphic display of an on-going concern about multiple clusters of pipelines of unknown depths across the Neches River that prevented contract dredgers from digging as deep as their contracts called for on the outer edges of the channel. Mr. Morgan reported that this concern would be added as an agenda item to the dredging sub-committee.
- Copies of Mr. Morgan's presentation are posted on the SETWAC web site.

Waterway Security Sub-Committee Report

- Mr. Jeremy Hansen reported no new, significant events for the AMSC.
- Mr. Jeremy Hansen provided the audience with a complete listing of recent Port Security Grants. The list is posted on the SETWAC web site along with the other SETWAC presentations.

ATON Status/Projects Report

- Because of a conflict of schedules with ANT and Station Sabine, no ATON report was provided for this meeting.

5. Old Business:

- Mr. Bob Stegall provided an update and detailed presentation on preparations and procedures for dealing with possible Infectious Disease cases affecting the Port Arthur COTP zone. The details of his presentation are posted on-line on the SETWAC website.
- During a question and answer and comment session after the initial presentation, Captain Ogrydziak took the floor to further explain USCG policies and plans and to answer questions from the audience.
- Highlights of the discussion are as follows:
 - o Diagnosed Ebola patients will not be treated at local hospitals. They will be transported to UTMB Galveston.
 - o Land transportation of Ebola patients has been arranged with Acadian ambulance in designated ambulances.
 - o Vessels arriving from offshore that require quarantine will be directed to the Galveston quarantine anchorage.
 - o A unified command with full stakeholder and agency participation will be established to address any specific Ebola case that arise – especially if the case is discovered or reported after the vessel arrives in our Port.

6. New Business:

- Mr. Clayton Henderson, SETWAC Vice-Chair, gave a five-year projection of announced and on-going Sabine-Neches Waterway new projects and planned expansions with the following highlights:
 - o At least twelve new construction projects are in the works for the Sabine-Neches Waterway.
 - o Estimated private industry investment on the Sabine-Neches Waterway over the next five years is at least \$39 billion and could run much higher.
 - o Projected waterway impacts include an increase in deep draft ships from the present 2500 ships per year to as many as 3684 ships per year by 2019.
 - o Pilot, harbor tug, stevedore, service, and security resources will be strained.
 - o Collaboration and cooperation in SETWAC and other waterway focused participatory organizations will be critical to the process.
- SETWAC Chairman Larry Kelley called for a motion, second, and vote of the membership to confirm new SETWAC member Stephen Mills, replacing departed member Bruce Graham, as LNG terminal representative on the SETWAC board. The motion was passed unanimously.

7. Next Meetings:

- The next working group meeting will be held at the Sabine-Neches Navigation District offices on Thursday, January 8, 2015, at 10:00 am.
- The next full committee meeting will be held at MSU Port Arthur on Thursday, January 22, 2014 at 10:00 am.

8. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.