

## **SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Meeting Minutes for May 5, 2015, Full-Committee Meeting**

A meeting of the Southeast Texas Waterways Advisory Council (SETWAC) was held on May 5, 2015, 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 SETWAC 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 60 people were present (22 members and 40 guests).
- Mr. Kelley called on former SETWAC Chairman Randy Reese to read and present a Texas Legislature recognition for SETWAC Board Member Paul Beard.
- Mr. Kelley called on Captain Randal Ogrydziak, COTP, for his remarks.

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

- Captain Ogrydziak welcomed all.
- He recognized the soon-to-be departing CDR Jackie Twomey for her service to SETWAC and the Port Arthur maritime community.
- He highlighted upcoming presentations later in the program.

#### **3. Approval of the January 22, 2015 minutes:**

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

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

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

- Captain Brian Thibodeaux, Secretary/Treasurer of the Sabine Pilots Association represented Captain Ellen Warner.
- Captain Thibodeaux reported no new, significant waterway navigation issues.

***Port Welfare Sub-Committee Report - Fr. Sinclair Oubre***

- He briefed on the Sea Saturday schedule for May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- He briefed on National Maritime Festivities scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- He reported on the previously held Rotary Club Avenue of Flags.
- Presentation slides are posted on the SETWAC web site.

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

- ***USACE Waterway Maintenance Report***

- Mr. Clayton Henderson gave an update on the Sabine-Neches Deepening project.
- Mr. Ed Morgan, on behalf of Paul 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. Mr. Clayton Henderson reported on the status of the NOAA PORTS system and requested input or comment for any changes that need to be made to the system prior to renewal of contract.
- All three presentations are posted on the SETWAC web site.

***Dredging Operations Sub-Committee Report - Ed Morgan***

- Mr. Ed Morgan reported on-going dredging activities on the Sabine-Neches.
- Mr. Ed Morgan reported on the issue of locating and properly marking of existing pipeline crossings on the Sabine-Neches Waterway. He reported that dredging operations were often affected by the uncertainty of the location of pipelines.
- Details of his presentation are posted on the SETWAC Web site.

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

- Mr. Jeremy Hansen reported on the ATAC/AMSC Annual Meeting
- Mr. Jeremy Hansen gave a presentation on the status of new Port Security Grants.

***ATON Status/Projects Report***

- BMC Craig Hayes reported on the status of ATON for the Sabine-Neches Waterway.
- He reported on the status of Range "K" on the Sabine-Neches Canal. A copy of BMC Hayes presentation is included with the SETWAC presentations.
- A copy of his presentation is posted on the SETWAC web site.

**5. Old Business:**

- There was no Old Business on the agenda.

**6. New Business:**

- Mr. Scott Whalen, USCG VTS, provided a 2015 Hurricane Season update for the SETWAC membership. His presentation covered the following topics:
  - Safe Havens
  - Pre-Storm Surveys
  - Port Conditions
  - Hurricane Forecasts
- Mr. Whalen's presentation and power point slides are posted on the SETWAC web site.

**7. Next Meetings:**

- The next working group meeting will be held at the Sabine-Neches Navigation District office on Thursday, July 9, at 10:00 am.
- The next full committee meeting will be held at MSU Port Arthur on Thursday, July 23, 2015, at 10:00 am.

**8. Adjourn**

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.