

SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for July 23, 2015, Full-Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Southeast Texas Waterways Advisory Council (SETWAC) was held on July 23, 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.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by SETWAC Chairman Larry Kelley at 10:05am.

2. 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 (24 members and 36 guests).
- Mr. Kelley reported on the success of the recently held, Port of Port Arthur sponsored Camp Seaport. He thanked all who participated in providing tours, presentations, and educational programs.
- Mr. Kelley recognized SETWAC Board Member Greg Fountain, wished him Happy Birthday, and congratulated him on turning forty.
- Mr. Kelley called on Captain Randal Ogrydziak, COTP, for his remarks.

3. Remarks by the Captain of the Port:

- Captain Ogrydziak welcomed all.
- He highlighted upcoming presentations later in the program.

4. Approval of the May 5, 2015 minutes:

A motion was made by Morris Albright and seconded by John Owens, and the committee approved the previous meetings minutes.

5. Committee Reports:

Navigation Sub-Committee Report

- Captain Ellen Warner, President of the Sabine Pilots Association reported on the Sempra LNG WSA process and the meeting of the SETWAC Navigation Sub-Committee to discuss waterway congestion and navigation related issues for the Sempra LNG project. She recommended to the SETWAC board, on behalf of the Navigation Sub-Committee, that the SETWAC board writes a letter of no objection to the Captain of the Port of Port Arthur as it pertains to navigation and congestion issues anticipated as a result of the proposed new facility. A copy of the motion is included in the SETWAC presentation posted on the SETWAC web-site.

- Morris Albright made a motion to endorse the report and write the letter. Wayne Turner seconded the motion. The SETWAC board voted in favor of the motion.
- Captain Warner reported no other waterway navigation issues.

Port Welfare Sub-Committee Report:

- Ms. Doreen Badeaux reported on behalf of Fr. Sinclair Oubre.
- She reported on the recently held Port Welfare Sub-Committee meeting to discuss a safe haven in the port for commercial fishing vessel operators during Hurricane evacuations and called on Captain Randal Ogrydziak.
- Captain Ogrydziak stated that the Port of Beaumont had graciously agreed to provide safe haven and mooring space for commercial fishing vessels during Hurricane evacuations, and that further instructions and specific procedures would be forthcoming.
- Ms. Terri Looney reported that Class B AIS units, and the upcoming March 16, 2016 installation deadline, were discussed at the last Port Welfare Sub-Committee meeting and that a list of approved Class B AIS units had been provided to local commercial fishing fleet operators.
- Ms. Badeaux reported that the comment period for the new Shore Leave regulations was scheduled to close on July 27.
- Ms. Badeaux reported on World Maritime Day.
- Ms. Badeaux reported that Lamar State University Orange was in the process of setting up a Merchant Mariner Basic Course. More info to follow on a later date.
- Mr. Badeaux reported on the latest advisories for Piracy and stow-a-ways.
- Captain Ogrydziak reported that Lamar University Beaumont was establishing a Masters degree program for Port Management and the first classes would begin in the fall of this year. He recognized several SETWAC members who were actively participating as an advisory committee to Lamar University establish the course curricula.

Waterway Maintenance and Improvement Sub-Committee Report

➤ USACE Waterway Maintenance Report

- Mr. Randall Reese 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 2016.
- His presentation is 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 again on the issue of surveying and verifying the location of existing pipeline crossings on the Sabine-Neches Waterway. He reported that dredging operations had been hampered uncertainty of the location of pipelines.
- He reported that ACOE calls to pipeline owners to request surveys had begun.

- Mr. Morgan reported that the dredge Leonard J had approximately two more weeks work to finish his project on the lower Sabine-Neches Waterway, near Sabine Pass.
- Captain Ogrydziak also weighed in on the urgency and importance of verifying the location and accounting for all of the 113 pipelines that cross the Sabine- Neches waterway. He highlighted that immediate surveys were needed for 16 of these lines that have been identified as questionable.
- Details of Mr. Morgan’s presentation are posted on the SETWAC Web site.

Waterway Security Sub-Committee Report

- Mr. Jeremy Hansen reported on the following AMSC initiatives:
 - Maritime Domain Awareness – semi annual exercise.
 - Marine Firefighting Committee/Exercise – quarterly meeting.
 - Cyber Sub-Committee meeting.
 - Status of Port Security Grants
 - announcement due July 23rd but delayed.
 - Total of 25 separate grants submitted for the Sabine-Neches Waterway.
 - Total of all grant submissions - \$10.2 million.
- Mr. Scott Whalen reported on the establishment and purpose of Permanent and Moving Security Zones on the Sabine-Neches Waterway. A copy of his presentation is posted on the SETWAC web site.

ATON Status/Projects Report

- BM2 Matthew Montgomery reported on the status of ATON.
- He reported that Range “K” was repaired on the Sabine-Neches Canal.
- A copy of his presentation is posted on the SETWAC web site.

6. Old Business:

- There was no Old Business on the agenda.

7. New Business:

- Mr. Ed Morgan reported on a recently identified and on-going problem with derelict facilities operating, or beginning operations under old ACOE permits. He emphasized that all material changes, whether purposeful or accidental, at a facility are subject to ACOE approval or review. He reported that permits can be withdrawn for facilities that are not in compliance with their existing permit.
- Mr. Aaron Heniger reported on the recently identified Gulf Coast issue with ship strainers becoming clogged with Menhaden Fish (pogy fish) and causing overheating and/or reduced power with propulsion engines. He urged members and guests to participate in an on-going study and data gathering effort to further identify the problems and work to provide solutions or relief. A questionnaire will be mailed to SETWAC participants, agents, and Pilots to assist in the data gathering.

8. Next Meetings:

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

9. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.