

## **SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Meeting Minutes for April 26, 2017, Full-Committee Meeting**

A meeting of the Southeast Texas Waterways Advisory Council (SETWAC) was held on April 26, 2017 at Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, TX. The current SETWAC Charter is dated January 23, 2014. 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. 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 at 10:10 by SETWAC Chairman Larry Kelly.

#### **2. Remarks by the Chairman:**

- Vice Chairman Chris Fisher welcomed guests and members.
- SETWAC members and guests were asked to introduce themselves in turn. Approximately 70 people were present (20 members and 50 guests).

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

- Captain Randal Ogrydziak declined due to length of the committee agenda

#### **4. Approval of the January 26, 2017 Minutes:**

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the previous meeting's minutes. A unanimous vote to accept the minutes was passed.

#### **5. Executive Board Member Vote:**

- A motion was made and seconded approving Mr. Bryan Markland as an Alternate – Chemical/Oil Refining Docks Board member.

#### **5. Committee Reports:**

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

- Sabine Pilot Vice President, Captain Charles Lahaye, reported no updates to the Anchorage survey's, reminding facilities to have these completed.
- MSIB

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

- Fr. Sinclair Oubre deferred reporting on Tariffs Invoices.
- He reported on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary Recognition event of Operation Drumbeat held on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- He also reported on the upcoming Maritime Days events.

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

- Mr. Paul Beard, Sabine-Neches Navigation District, provided an update on WRRDA progress. An update to the BCR was provided to OMB. A letter was sent to the new Director of OMB soliciting support of our ports and the deepening project.
- Mr. Ed Morgan, USACE, reported on anticipated dredging projects and efforts to fix erosion on Pleasure Island.
- He reported on the status of Mooring Buoy replacement on the Intracoastal Waterway.

### ***USACE Waterway Maintenance Report/Dredge Operations Sub-Committee***

- Mr. Steve Sherrill gave an update on funding for the waterway deepening project.
- He reported on upcoming dredge projects.
- He also reported on the replacement mooring buoys project at the West Port Arthur Bridge. .

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

- Mr. Jeremy Hansen reported on port security activities occurring with local stakeholders. He reported on vessel and facility security activities including meetings, reporting suspicious activity and the final rule on TWIC Readers.
- He then reported on the status of port security grants – 25 projects / 11 applicants totaling \$4.8M in requests.
- Mr. Hansen presented efforts to improve Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), address increasing Cyber-Security concerns and local efforts at improving marine firefighting capabilities including fire boats and a task force.
- Mr. Hansen discussed the establishment of Waterway Security Sub-Committees and the coordination of security assets at all MARSEC levels.
- Chief Clay Woodward addressed the committee as the new representative of the Jefferson County Sheriff. He noted that escort efforts are projected to double.

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

- Chief Hayes, Officer in Charge, Aids to Navigation Team Sabine, reported that Sabine Neches Canal Range “N” Rear tower will discontinued from 03 Apr 2017 through 06 May 2017 due to new tower construction.

### **6. New Business:**

- Mr. Andrew Patrick, NWS Lake Charles, conducted a 2017 Hurricane season presentation covering map tracking products that will be available as well as the upcoming season’s predictions.
- Captain Randal Ogrydziak reviewed the Hurricane Port Condition checklist
- Mr. Steve Hogan, Vessel Traffic Service, reported on an upcoming change to a new Email distribution system. In addition he also discussed the upcoming Riverfest event and it’s Marine Safety Information Bulletin.
- Mr. Aaron Heniger, MSU Port Arthur Chief, Investigations Division, discussed a 2017 Menhaden Fish Alert and the implementation of vessel questionnaire on the cooling water impacts caused by the Menhaden Fish.
- Mr. Larry Kelly, Committee Chairman thanked Captain Randal Ogrydziak for his many years of service with the Coast Guard and the Sabine-Neches waterways.

### **7. Next Meetings:**

- The next working group meeting will be held at the Sabine-Neches Navigation District offices on Thursday, July 13, 2017, 10:00 a.m..
- The next full committee meeting will be held at MSU Port Arthur on Wednesday, July 27, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

### **8. Adjourn**

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.