

SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for October 26, 2017, Full-Committee Meeting

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

1. Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 10:03 by SETWAC Chairman Larry Kelly. He welcomed guests and members.

2. Remarks by the Captain of the Port:

- Captain Jacqueline Twomey gave welcoming remarks thanking members and stakeholders for their continued strong support of the Harbor Safety Committee. Further, she thanked the entire SETWAC membership, facilities representatives, and the surrounding community, for their professionalism and dedicated efforts during rescue operations and port recovery initiatives during and after Hurricane Harvey.

3. Remarks by the Chairman:

- Chairman Larry Kelly asked SETWAC members and guests to introduce themselves in turn. Approximately 55 people were present.
- Vice Chairman Chris Fischer thanked the U.S. Coast Guard, the Sabine Pilots, and the USACE for their concerted efforts during rescue operations and the subsequent facilitation of port recovery following Hurricane Harvey.

4. Approval of the July 27, 2017 Minutes:

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 27, 2017 meeting minutes. A unanimous vote to accept the minutes was passed.

5. Approval of WSA-LYNX Terminal LHG Ship Loading Project:

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the WSA-Lynx project. With one abstention, the vote passed unanimously.

6. Committee Reports:

Navigation Sub-Committee Report:

- Captain Charles LaHaye, reported the SETWAC Navigation Sub-Committee met and reviewed the Waterways Suitability Assessment-LYNX Terminals. After meeting with Lynx Terminals, the Sub-Committee concluded it has no objection to the work proposal but submitted the following recommendations to the Executive Board for consideration:
 - (1) Ocean-going vessels calling on the Featherwood LPG Ship Loading Project either engage a Texas State Pilot or, if operated by a properly licensed mariner, that the vessel comply with the “Ship Traffic Operating Protocol” by coordinating their transit, inbound or outbound, with the Sabine Pilots Association.
 - (2) Port Arthur VTS establishes a no meeting or overtaking zone around the terminal whenever there is an LHG vessel at Port of Port Arthur Berth #1.
- Captain LaHaye stressed the importance of a solid Port Coordination Team (PCT), encouraging those already involved in the Port Arthur PCT to continue to be active members of the group. Moreover, he recognized Mr. Scott Whalen of VTS Port

Port Welfare Sub-Committee Report:

- Fr. Sinclair Oubre reported on a Greek 3rd Engineer who was severely injured by a pressurized object in an engine room accident on December 21, 2016. Mariner spent 10 days in Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital in critical condition before transferring to a Houston hospital for recovery. The Mariner recovered and returned to Greece in September 2017.
- He spoke to the condition and continued operation of the Seafarer Center of Beaumont and the Port Arthur International Seafarers Center following Hurricane Harvey.
- He informed the group of the SeafarerHelp Annual Review: <http://seafarerswelfare.org>
- He addressed new resources toward eliminating shipboard Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment (SASH) and Harassment/Bullying: <http://www.socp.us/article.html?aid=120>

USACE Waterway Maintenance Report/Dredge Operations Sub-Committee:

- Mr. Randy Reese reported on the Sabine-Neches Navigation District’s upcoming November meeting with the Senate Appropriations Committee to appeal for \$10 Billion to fund channel improvements on the Sabine-Neches Waterway.
- Mr. Steve Sherrill reported on upcoming dredge projects including the Lower Neches River, the Outer Bar and Bank Channel, Placement Area No. 8 improvements, and the recently awarded the Pipeline Dredge contract (Inland Marine).
- He also gave updates on the pipeline crossing, the PA 11 shoreline stabilization initiative and the Taylor Bayou project.

Waterway Security Sub-Committee Report:

- Mr. Jeremy Hanson spoke to the recent awarding of \$4,263,600 in Port Security grants across the COTP area.
- He also reported the AMSC Executive Steering Committee will meet to discuss direction for the upcoming year, and that Cyber-Security will be a topic of focus.

Waterway Security Sub-Committee Report (Continued):

- Mr. Don Burns announced the upcoming Port Readiness Meeting to be held at the 842nd Conference Room on November 14, 2017 at 1:15 pm.
- Clay Woodward commented on Jefferson County Marine Patrol operations during Hurricane Harvey. He thanked MSU Port Arthur and the SNND for their help in sponsoring and employing the Jefferson County Marine Division.

ATON Status/Projects Report:

- Chief Hayes, Officer in Charge, Aids to Navigation Team Sabine did not report on Aids to Navigation (ATON).

7. New Business:

- LT. Dixon Whitley, USCG, briefed on highlights of operations involving the Marine Transport Recovery Unit during and after Hurricane Harvey.
- Mr. Larry Kelly inquired as to an all-inclusive monetary loss estimate resulting from Hurricane Harvey. He further informed the group that the Governor's office is setting up a Recovery Fund to aid in economic/infrastructure recovery across the area.
- Mr. James Prazak, Lone State Harbor Safety Committee, presented his group's initiative to host the National Harbor Safety Committee in June 2019. Mr. Prazak proposed that the various area HSC's join and co-host the National Harbor safety Committee. Upon conclusion of his presentation, Chairman Kelly suggested the SETWAC steering committee vote on joining Lone Star as a co-host for the National HSC during the next meeting in January 2018.
- Mr. Chris Ransome informed those present about the upcoming "Dredge Your Docks" seminar scheduled for November 14, 2017 at the Holiday Inn (Walden Road & I-10).
- Chairman Kelly notified the group of the "Hurricane Harvey Debrief" to be presented by Lamar University on December 14, 2017 8am-1:30pm.

8. Next Meetings:

- The next working group meeting will be held at the Sabine-Neches Navigation District offices on Thursday, January 11, 2018, 10:00 a.m.
- The next full committee meeting will be held at MSU Port Arthur on Thursday, January 25, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

9. Adjourn:

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

