

# **SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **Meeting Minutes for January 24, 2019, Full-Committee Meeting**

A meeting of the Southeast Texas Waterway Advisory Council (SETWAC) was held on January 24, 2019 at Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, TX. The current SETWAC Charter is dated April 26, 2018. 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 10:07 am by SETWAC Committee Chair Larry Kelley. Mr. Kelley welcomed all participants and observers. 47 people were present. After all committee members introduced themselves, Mr. Kelley proceeded with the agenda.

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

- None.

### **3. Approval of the October 25, 2018 Minutes and SETWAC Charter Revision:**

- A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the October 25, 2018 minutes.
- A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the SETWAC charter revision changing the membership of the managing board, specifically the addition of the Port Welfare Sub-Committee.

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

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

- CAPT Charles Tweedel announced himself as the new Presiding Officer of the Sabine Pilot's Association. He further commented on the outstanding leadership and efforts of the outgoing Presiding Officer, CAPT Charles LaHaye. Job well done!!
- CAPT Tweedel addressed the progress of the discontinuation of the Sabine Federal Anchorage, indicating the public comment period ended on 22 January 2019. He indicated that the Pilot's support the building of a new berth at Chenier, which is the primary reason the old "quarantine anchorage" was discontinued.
- CAPT Tweedel briefly commented on what he sees as continued waterways growth, indicating the port will see continued increase in vessel traffic year over year. After more than 6500 ship movements in 2019, he expects that to grow by 200 year-over-year.

***Port Education, Research, Port Welfare & Workforce Development Sub-committee Report:***

- Mr. Erik Stromberg, addressed the Education, Research and Workforce Development Program (ERWD) at Lamar. He commented on the program's agenda and proposed first-year initiatives including the success of the previously held Workforce Development Workshop on December 6, 2018. He commented on ongoing initiatives to include the Student Bus Tour between Houston and New Orleans during the summer of 2019 and the SNWW System Resiliency Study.
- Ms. Doreen Badeaux informed membership of recent events taking place at the Seafarer Center including their work raising money and donations for Coast Guard members effected by the government shutdown. The Seafarer's center raised \$24,000 in 48 hours, all of which will be donated to local Coast Guard units via the Coast Guard Foundation.
- Ms. Badeaux notified membership of the shrimper's meeting taking place on 31 January

***Waterway Maintenance and Improvement Sub-committee:***

- Mr. Paul Beard commented on the Deeping and Widening Project: Thus far \$18 Million has been awarded and a contract is anticipated later this year. Two anchorages and 2 turning basis will be constructed in addition to the deepening/widening of the waterway.

***Dredge Operations Sub-committee:***

- Mr. Time White, P.E., PMP introduced as the new Resident Engineer in replacement of Steve Sherrill.
- Ms. Belynda Kinman, USACE, spoke to ongoing and upcoming dredge contracts including the completion of the PA-11 shoreline stabilization project; SNWW maintenance dredging, and upcoming FY-19 contracts for maintenance dredging in the Port Arthur Ship Canal, Ready Reserve Fleet and the Sabine Neches Outer Bar and Bank Channels.
- Ms. Kinman gave a pipeline crossing update for the Kinder Morgan and Colonial-Neches River pipelines, and she addressed the current traffic restriction at Taylors Bayou.
- Ms. Kinman commented on the ongoing buoy replacement project at the USACE moorings, stating that the M/V Snell was currently engaged in hurricane recovery operations on the east coast thus forcing a delay in completing the buoy project. M/V SNELL is expected to arrive in the area in March 2019.

***Waterway Security Sub-Committee Report: None***

***ATON Status/Projects Report: None***

**5. New Business:**

- Mr. Kelley informed membership that SETWAC supports the addition of a permanent Marine Firefighting Committee rather than leaving it as an Ad-Hoc committee.
- Mr. Beard indicated that they are efforts underway to obtain grants to fund the purchase of two fireboats for the port. Each boat costs \$5-6 Million. Fireboats are to be positioned in the Port of Port Arthur and Port Neches Park.

- Mr. Randall Ogrydziak (Port of Beaumont) was announced as the new SETWAC Chairman.
- Mr. Bryan Markland (Lucite) was announced as the new SETWAC Vice Chairman.

**6. Next Meetings:**

- The next working group meeting will be held at the Sabine-Neches Navigation District offices on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.
- The next full committee meeting will be held at MSU Port Arthur on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

**7. Adjourn:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

