

SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for July 23, 2020, Full-Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Southeast Texas Waterway Advisory Council (SETWAC) was held via teleconference on July 23, 2020 at Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, TX. The current SETWAC Charter is dated January 29, 2019. 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:

- SETWAC Chairman, Mr. Randall Ogrydziak, called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. Mr. Ogrydziak welcomed those attending via teleconference, and 5 members in physical attendance. Mr. Ogrydziak introduced CAPT Wike, the new MSU Commanding Officer, to the group and immediately proceeded with the agenda.

2. Remarks by the Captain of the Port:

- CAPT Wike thanked the group for attending the meeting while braving the “new norm” of video teleconferencing. CAPT Wike presented a brief run-down of her Coast Guard career to date while expressing enthusiasm for her assignment as Captain of the Port.
- Although unable to present the awards, CAPT Wike brought attention to Coast Guard Public Service awards bestowed on all who were involved in the restoration of the Texas Point Road. The awards will be physically presented when SETWAC is again permitted to gather as a group.
- CAPT Wike notified the group that the MSU is watching Tropical Depression 8, and will promptly notify stakeholders of any change in port conditions.

3. Approval of the October 24, 2019 Minutes:

- The January 24, 2020 minutes will be approved upon the next SETWAC meeting.
- Mr. Ogrydziak notified the group of the need to vote on addition to the the Managing Board’s membership. A motion to vote was initiated by CAPT Tweedel and seconded by Erik Stromberg. The motion passed.

4. Committee Reports:

Navigation Sub-Committee Report:

- CAPT Tweedel, Sabine Pilots, addressed the Martin Midstream WSA, indicating that it will take another SETWAC cycle to complete it.
- CAPT Tweedel informed the group that the Sabine Pilots are sensitive toward avoiding introducing COVID aboard ship. Twelve employees have been tested; all returned negative for COVID. He asked that ships or facilities with questions or issues call the Pilot office.

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

- Mr. Erik Stromberg, Lamar University, addressed past and upcoming webinars including “Hurricane Panning in a Pandemic.” Mr. Stromberg offered ideas for several other future webinars based on industry input.
- Mr. Stromberg spoke on industry certifications including four-course CAPM certificates, CAMP-planned certifications, Midstream Center-planned certifications and AAPA certificates.
- Mr. Stromberg reiterated Lamar’s Research Centers to include the Center for Port Management; the Center for Commercialization, Innovation and Entrepreneurship; the Center for Midstream Management and Science; the development of a Center for Flood Resiliency, and the Southeast Texas Flood Coordination Study – Ports Connection.

Waterways Awareness Sub-committee Report:

- Ms. Sade Chick, Port of Beaumont, gave a brief synopsis of workforce development with an emphasis on stakeholder involvement in determining what is needed from a workforce perspective.
- Dr. Haselback, Lamar University discussed the vision, mission and first steps toward executing a prototype for regional flood mitigation and response via the Southeast Texas Flood Coordination Study.
- Mr. Tom Kalb, Lamar University introduced Lamar’s new Midstream Center.

Port Welfare Sub-Committee Report:

- Fr. Sinclair Oubre addressed Seafarer ship-to-shore access as an international issue negatively affecting crew changes of up to 300,000 mariners per month.
- Ms. Doreen Badeaux commented on the issue of Filipino mariners being stranded because of COVID-induced travel restrictions that inhibit normal crew turnover.

Waterway Maintenance and Improvement Sub-committee:

- Mr. Larry Fountain, SNND, provided an update on the SNWW Deeping Project indicating Contract #1 is underway; the specifications for Contract #2 are 95% complete and should be awarded by August; the specifications for Contract #3 are 95% complete, and the specifications for Contract #4 are complete and will be put out as early as November 2020, if not the first quarter of 2021.
- Mr. Fountain addressed ongoing work toward port firefighting plans. The boat specifications are 95% complete. Sight visits need to be undertaken to determine facility capabilities/needs. Build time for the fireboats: 12 months for Boat #1 and Boat #2 could be delivered 8 months later. While waiting for delivery of the boats, the subcommittee will determine fireboat operations, stationing requirements, staffing etc.

Dredge Operations Sub-committee:

- Ms. Belynda Kinman, USACE, spoke to ongoing dredge operations including SNWW maintenance dredging and dredging of Anchorage Basing No. 1. Future dredge contracts for FY-2020 and 2021 were addressed as well.

Waterway Security Sub-Committee Report:

- Mr. Jeremy Hanson, USCG, commented on the fruitful FY-2020 awards from the Port Security Grant Program totaling \$3.4 million to 8 applicants undertaking 15 projects.
- Mr. Brian Shagari informed the group of NVIC 01-20 (01-20), “*Guidelines for Addressing Cyber Risks at Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) Regulated Facilities.*” and the “*Facility Inspector’s Cyber Job Aid.*” Both are to be posted on the Homeport website.

ATON Status/Projects Report:

- There was no ATON report from ANT Sabine.

5. New Business:

- Mr. Scott Whalen, USCG, spoke to the events of Tropical Storm Cristobal (near miss), indicating that then, as with the current storm Tropical Depression 8, stakeholders should closely read Coast Guard issued MSIB’s as the progress/conduct of all storms are not the same, thus certain ports and waterways actions will not always “follow a script.”
- Mr. Whalen informed the group that the pending PAWSA Report has not yet been completed. It is his intent to distribute the report to all concerned as soon as it becomes available.

6. Next Meetings:

- The next working group meeting will be held at the Sabine-Neches Navigation District offices on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- The next full committee meeting will be held at MSU Port Arthur on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

7. Adjourn:

- Mr. Ogrydziak adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am.