

# **SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **Meeting Minutes for July 22, 2021, Full-Committee Meeting**

A meeting of the Southeast Texas Waterway Advisory Council (SETWAC) was held on July 22, 2021 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](http://www.setwac.org).

### **1. Call to Order:**

- SETWAC Chairman, Mr. Randall Ogrydziak, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Mr. Ogrydziak welcomed those attendance. 45 members and guests were in attendance. Mr. Ogrydziak opened the floor to CAPT Wike, MSU Port Arthur Commanding Officer.

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

- CAPT Wike welcomed those in attendance. She commented on hopes for a slow hurricane season while informing the group that 90+ letters regarding COTP expectations during hurricane operations were mailed to waterways users. She reminded the group of the completed PAWSA (posted on SETWAC and NAVCEN websites), and thanked the Port of Beaumont for funding the SETWAC website for the next two years.

### **3. Approval of the January 28, 2021 Minutes:**

- A motion was made (Bruce Guyote) and seconded (Jim Robertson) to vote to approve the April 22, 2021 SETWAC minutes. A vote was conducted; the minutes were approved.

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

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

- CAPT Tweedel informed the group that the FY-2024 timeframe for rebuilding ALFA range is unacceptable as it remains one of the most important ATON in the SNWW array. CAPT Tweedel appealed to Committee members and guests to advocate for a quicker solution at the August 10, 2021 meeting of the SNND Board of Commissioners.
- CAPT Tweedel offered comments on the Martin Midstream WSA indicating the WSA had gone through a shift from VLEC vessels to smaller pressurized gas ships; therefore, there isn't going to be as much impact on vessel traffic as originally planned. CAPT Tweedel said the required infrastructure to facilitate these vessels should be in place by 2023.
- Mr. Ross Jones, Jefferson and Orange County Board of Pilot Commissioners, commented on a letter submitted by the Board of Commissioners to SETWAC proposing the creation of a new Sub-committee to address safety issues arising from interactions between the local fishing fleet and commercial vessel traffic.

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

- Mrs. Sade Chick presented for Mr. Erik Stromberg of Lamar University. Mrs. Chick discussed maritime education available through Lamar including the “Dash Degree.” She stressed the importance of developing a Pre-K to post-graduate maritime training pipeline. (Slides on SETWAC website). She also described efforts to utilize Lamar Orange for Jefferson County initiatives.
- Mrs. Chick addressed upcoming Webinars and the 2021 CAPM Research Agenda. (Slides on SETWAC website).

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

- Mrs. Doreen Badeaux presented for Fr. Sinclair Oubre. Mrs. Badeaux addressed continuing issues with Mariner crew change and access to facilities (rules do not change because of pandemic). She reported on successes in providing vaccinations to mariners on board vessels.

***Commercial Fisheries Report:***

- Ms. Nikki Fitzgerald, Texas A&M AgriLife, reported on the Port Arthur Shrimper’s Association meeting; recent efforts toward hurricane safety for the fishing fleet; and the pursuit of sea grants for hurricane recovery operations for the fishing industry.

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

- Mr. Kyle Reed (SNND) presented for Mr. Larry Fountain. Mr. Reed gave a brief update on the SNWW Deeping Project, indicating Anchorage Area No.1 is complete and in use; offshore dredging of the channel extension is to begin in October, and Anchorages No. 4 and No. 8 are likely to be awarded first quarter of FY-22.

***Dredge Operations Report:***

- Ms. Paige Duhon, USACE, presented for Mr. Tim White. Ms. Duhon spoke to ongoing and future dredge projects including SNWW PA-11 Training Dike rehabilitation; PA-8 improvements; Neches River improvements; SNWW entrance to Sabine Pass deepening, and the Orange County and Port Arthur & Vicinity Coastal Storm Risk management Projects. (Slides on SETWAC website).

***Area Maritime Security Report:***

- Mr. Jeremy Hanson, USCG, informed the group that 100% of all port security grants in the COTP zone were awarded for a total of \$6.7 Million.

***ATON Status/Projects Report:***

- BMC Harold Zurlo, ANT Sabine, provided a list of 11 current discrepant aids to navigation that are to be rebuilt by Coast Guard Cutter HATCHET during the first week of August 2021.

**5. New Business:**

- There was no new business presented.

**6. Next Meetings:**

- The next working group meeting will be held at the Sabine-Neches Navigation District offices on Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
- The next full committee meeting will be held at Sabine Pilots Office on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

**7. Adjourn:**

- Mr. Ogrydziak adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.