

# **SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **Meeting Minutes for January 23, 2020, Full-Committee Meeting**

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

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

- SETWAC Chairman, Mr. Randall Ogrydziak, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Mr. Ogrydziak welcomed all participants and observers. 83 people were present. Mr. Ogrydziak immediately proceeded with the agenda.

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

- CAPT Twomey thanked the group for attending the meeting. She briefly touched on the TPC explosion and thanked all in attendance for working collectively to realize minimal disruption to the waterway throughout the event. CAPT Twomey briefed SETWAC on the continuing salvage operation of the sunken FV Miss Judy, stating pollutants have been contained and salvage ops may or may not require additional waterways measures to facilitate refloating the vessel. Commenting on the Cybersecurity exercise, CAPT Twomey stated one of the major takeaways in the final report of the exercise indicated the need for the continued education of our stakeholders in regards to the cybersecurity.

### **3. Approval of the October 24, 2019 Minutes:**

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the October 24, 2019 minutes.

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

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

- CAPT Tweedel, Sabine Pilots, addressed the Orbit NGL WSA Report, recommending approval of the WSA that will ultimately lead to a retrofit of Sun Energy Transfer docks #1 and #2 to accommodate ethane and other liquefied gas carrying ships. SETWAC conducted a vote to approve the recommendation (Morris Albright, seconded by Clay Woodward).
- CAPT Tweedel informed the group that the review of the Martin Midstream WSA was to commence shortly.

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

- Mr. Erik Stromberg, Lamar University, addressed past and upcoming industry workshops and seminars being hosted by Lamar University including the Lamar university Research Showcase (April 1, 2020); the Resiliency Symposium (April 17, 2020); Hurricane Planning

(April 26, 2020); Freight-based Port-Centric Economic Development (June 2020); Covey's "Seven Habits or highly Effective People" (July 2020); the Cyber Security Workshop (October 2020); Workforce Development (October 2020), and the Risk Analysis and Decision-Making Seminar (November 2020).

- Mr. Stromberg reiterated current four-course graduate-level certifications offered through Lamar University, and stressed that the college is seeking input from SETWAC for additional course topics.

***Waterways Awareness Sub-committee Report:***

- Ms. Sade Chick, Port of Beaumont, commented on the SETWAC website. She asked stakeholders to verify that their company logos work correctly. Ms. Chick asked that stakeholders review currently listed "resources" to ascertain if there are additional resources they would like to see on the SETWAC website. Last – Ms. Chick commented on the "Industrial Projects" portion of the website.

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

- Ms. Doreen Baduex, Port Welfare Public Ad-Hoc, reported on the reestablishment of the "Propeller Club," and the meeting to take place immediately following SETWAC.
- Ms. Badeaux commented on the success of the USTRANSCOM "Turbo Activation" of the MARAD Fleet and the shortfall of 1,800 mariners necessary to maintain a prolonged sealift effort.

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

- Mr. Matthew Coffman, SNND, provided a brief update on the Deeping Project.
- Mr. Larry Fountain addressed ongoing work toward firefighting plans. As of now, the plan is to purchase two 70-ft firefighting boats requiring a 12-15-month lead-time. One boat is to be ported near Port Neches Park. The decision as to where the second boat will be placed has not yet been made.

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

- Mr. Tim White, USACE, spoke to ongoing dredge contracts including current maintenance dredging at the Texas island intersection and Taylor's Bayou, and future dredging of Sabine Pass, the Outer Bar and Bank Channels and Anchorage Basin #1.

***Waterway Security Sub-Committee Report:***

- Mr. Jeremy Hanson, USCG, commented on the AMSC's plan to populate Coast Guard Homeport with pertinent information relevant to the Port's security endeavors. Informed the group of the of the "South Texas Alerting Network" (<http://www.thestan.com/>) and the "CISA" Cyber Security website (<https://www.cisa.gov/>).

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

- BM1 Richard, ANT Sabine, reported 13 outstanding aids to navigation discrepancies. Neches River “Uniform” RRL remains unsafe to climb and will require rebuild. Neches River LT 40 will be relocated and 2 lights will be added at the Sun Oil Turning Basin. A Coast Guard Construction Tender is to visit the waterway in February.

### **5. New Business:**

- LCDR Joel Ferguson reviewed the TPC Explosion.
- Mr. Mic Cowart, Sabine Port Authority, discussed repairs to the Texas Point Road
- LCDR William Winner, NOAA, addressed charting concerns, requesting stakeholders to notify the local representative (Mr. Quentin Stubbs) for concerns.
- Chief Petty Officer Greg Baily, USCG, commented on updates to the Port State Control program and Notice of Arrival Screening.
- Mr. Whalen, USCG, presented the 2019 State of the Waterway.
- Mr. Whalen, USCG, updated SETWAC on the upcoming Ports and Waterway Safety Assessment on 12-13 February 2020.

### **6. Next Meetings:**

- The next working group meeting will be held at the Sabine-Neches Navigation District offices on Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- The next full committee meeting will be held at MSU Port Arthur on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

### **7. Adjourn:**

- Mr. Ogrydziak adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.