

SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for July 25, 2019, Full-Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Southeast Texas Waterway Advisory Council (SETWAC) was held on July 25, 2019 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:

- The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by SETWAC Vice-chair Bryan Markland. Mr. Markland welcomed all participants and observers. 63 people were present. Mr. Markland immediately proceeded with the agenda.

2. Remarks by the Captain of the Port:

- CAPT Twomey thanked the group for attending the meeting. She informed the audience of the new Coast Guard District EIGHT Commander, Rear Admiral John P. Nadeau, and introduced Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Vincent as the new Commanding Officer of the 842nd Transportation Command.
- CAPT Twomey presented the U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Merit to Mr. Bill Carpenter.

3. Approval of the April 25, 2019 Minutes:

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 25, 2019 minutes.

4. Committee Reports:

Navigation Sub-Committee Report:

- CAPT Wes Moore briefed those in attendance that both the “Proposed Traffic Study” and the “Channel Improvement Study” was postponed to allow SNND and USACE more time to finalize their partnership agreement.

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

- Ms. Candice Moore, Lamar University, addressed the Resiliency Study goals and deliverables including a prioritized list of projects and process improvements, estimates of time-line and cost, lead agencies/organizations and implementation strategies for near-term (1-5 years) and longer (6-10 years). Ms. Moore indicated the next steps in the process are to finalize membership in the SNWW Transportation System Resiliency Working Group and to set a preliminary meeting to review the draft study before presenting the initiative to SETWAC for review and determination on whether and how to proceed.

- Ms. Sade Chick, Port of Beaumont, spoke to workforce development indicating steps are being taken to have the program listed on the “State Preferred Industry List.” Ms. Chick further stated they are working on a follow-up to the initial Work Force Development Workshop held in November 2018.

Waterways Awareness Sub-committee Report:

- Ms. Sade Chick, Port of Beaumont, commented on the status of the website transfer indicating the website is approximately 95% complete and awaiting transfer to the new domain.

Port Welfare Sub-Committee Report:

- Ms. Doreen Badeaux, Port Welfare Public Ad-Hoc, addressed recent mariner assistance initiatives aboard the M/V NILAFURE SULPHUR. Working with the International Transport Worker’s Federation (ITF) and the USCG, a 30-day back pay issue, as well a problem with foul drinking water was rectified. A second incident involving a Rome-based vessel is currently being investigated.

Waterway Maintenance and Improvement Sub-committee:

- Mr. Randy Reese, SNND, announced that USACE and SNND would be signing their partnership agreement to kick off the Deeping/Widening project. The project has been 19 years in the making and is expected to be completed in 7-8 years.

Dredge Operations Sub-committee:

- Mr. Tim White, USACE, spoke to ongoing and upcoming dredge contracts including the pending contract to dredge the Port Arthur Ship Canal. He also addressed 2020 dredge contracts including the Sabine Bank and Outer Bar Channels.
- Mr. White commented on the buoy replacement project at the USACE moorings currently being undertaken by the M/V Snell.

Waterway Security Sub-Committee Report:

- Mr. Jeremy Hanson, USCG, commented on the pending update to the Area Maritime Security Plan and the creation of a distribution list for the AMSC in GovDelivery.

ATON Status/Projects Report:

- Mr. Scott Whalen, USCG, delivered the list of current Aids to navigation discrepancies in the SNWW. He also addressed current proposed changes to area aids to navigation.

5. New Business:

- Mr. Thomas Netzel, Port Arthur LNG, briefed the audience on Port Arthur LNG's Highway 87 Relocation Project and construction plans (slides available on SETWAC website).
- Mr. Whalen, USCG, commented on current cyber security issues that tend to bottleneck the MSIB address list. Mr. Whalen informed the group if anyone desires to receive MSIB's/PCT/SETWAC info to let him know.
- Mr. Whalen, USCG, informed the group of the NPRM being submitted to create a permanent "Hurricane Safety Zone" on the waterway.
- Mr. Whalen, USCG, addressed the progression of events as it related to Port Conditions during Tropical Storm Barry. The goal was to utilize due diligence while keeping the waterway open and functioning as long as the weather remained conducive to operations. There were no comments or questions.

6. Next Meetings:

- The next working group meeting will be held at the Sabine-Neches Navigation District offices on Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.
- The next full committee meeting will be held at MSU Port Arthur on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

7. Adjourn:

- The Vice-chair adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.