

SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for April 25, 2024, Full-Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Southeast Texas Waterway Advisory Council (SETWAC) was held on April 25th, 2024, at MSU Port Arthur in Port Arthur, TX. The current SETWAC Charter is dated January 29th, 2019. Meeting information and power point presentations are available electronically through the SETWAC website www.setwac.org.

1. Call to Order:

- SETWAC Chair, Daniel Plumley, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Plumley welcomed those in attendance. 57 members and guests attended in person at MSU Port Arthur. Mr. Plumley opened the floor to Capt Migliorini, CO, MSU Port Arthur.

2. Remarks by the Captain of the Port:

- Capt Migliorini, CO, MSU Port Arthur, welcomed those in attendance. He introduced himself and expressed his gratitude to be there. He addressed the recent collapse of Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, MD. At this time, he said that at this time he is not aware of any changes, and all would need to wait to see if any new regulations are proposed or created. He then proceeded to provide a positive take away, which is how important SETWAC is, and how important it is to have the collaboration.
- He moved to discuss the Cyber Security Proposed Rulemaking and stated that the comment period is still open, he strongly encouraged involvement in the process and comments, as it is a collaborative process. The end of the comment period is May 22nd.
- Last, he thanked Mr. Plumley for his attendance at the National Harbor Safety Conference. A big take away was how great SETWAC is, especially when viewed at the national level. The next National Harbor Safety Conference will be held in Corpus Christi.
- Mr. Plumley spoke to how humbled he was to go and see how the challenges this local area faces, compared to other areas.

3. Approval of the October 26th, 2024, Minutes:

- A motion was made (Mr. Sean Marchant) and seconded (Mr. Rob Dubois) to vote to approve the January 25th, 2024, minutes without edit. A vote was conducted; the minutes were approved.

4. Committee Reports:

Navigation Sub-Committee Report:

- Capt. Moore, Sabine Pilots, started with a presentation on the East Jetty Light. He discussed that the problem was that the ladder to service the light is not serviceable and it cannot be checked or replaced. There was no funding in this cycle for it to be replaced. The light is intermittent and does not always operate as designed and required. Industry was able to step in to assisted, Cheniere contracted with BOMAC to have the replacement done the week after this SETWAC Meeting. He took a moment to thank Cheniere. Mr. Plumley

then explained that this normally would have gone through the SETWAC committee, but things had lined up and they had to move quick since they had a solution.

- Mr. Robert Hawn suggested that they should draft a letter addressing the situation and explaining how it impacts the local area. A letter asking why local industry has to step up to repair this light.
- Capt Moore, proceeded with an overview of the Helicopter Trial conducted by the Sabine Pilots. It was a very positive trial, there were 220 training hoists. Each pilots had to complete 1.5 hours of training; he gave a brief explanation of the training. During the trial (3 months) 572 ships were touched, either a pilot going on, off, or both. There was a total of 744 total transferred, and 575 hours total. In normal operations for a pilot to board a vessel is approximately 90 minutes, this evolution reduced that to 16 minutes. He stated that those pilots who previously opposed had a change of heart, due to a reduction in pilot fatigue. Their contract and service provided 2 helicopters, which taught them that they need the two, due to the unforeseen maintenance that is required. They would not operate on a single vessel platform and helicopters are no different. They estimate 900+ pilot hours were saved during this trial. He believes helicopters are in their future, as it is safer. They received feedback from vessel masters that they liked the safety aspect, which is there was no longer a need to use the pilot ladder. More information will follow.
 - Mr. Robert Haven asked how many pilots could be transferred at a time, Capt Moore responded with “3” could fit in a helicopter.
 - Mr. Haven then stated that the Columbia River Pilots are successful with this tool.
 - Mr. Sean Marchant asked if an outbound Pilot was able to be shifted to and inbound vessel. To which Capt Moore responded that it was not done for this trial.
 - Mr. Tad Collier asked if the 900 hours change rest period, Capt Moore responded that the mandatory rest is 9 hours.
- Capt Moore then proceeded and explained that there is a need to establish a “Deepening and Dredging Coordination Committee”. The goal will be to shepherd the waterways resources throughout the Channel Improvement Projects, and to reduce delays through improved coordination.
 - Mr. Plumley motioned and voted to have this Ad-Hoc established and headed by the Sabine-Neches Navigation District (SNND). Sean Marchant seconded, a vote was conducted, the motion passed. Members will get an invite to discuss the first pipeline removal in mid-July, with anticipated traffic impacts.
- Capt Moore ended with a shoutout to Phillips 66, he said they deserve an applause for the most improved dock and the pilots are thankful.

- Mr. Sean Marchant, Valero, stated that there will be three Tug Utilization presentation on this day, at 1300, located at the Sabine Pilots Office. Invitation is extended to all SETWAC.

Education, Research & Workforce Development Sub-Committee Report:

- Rob Dubois, Lamar University, spoke to the Summer Camp for STEM that will be held for high school students. They will be taking 200 students for 3 weeks to go to an 18-wheeler trailer training center, which will be at the university. This training center will teach the importance and plant the seed for future opportunities.

Port Welfare Public Ad-Hoc:

- Fr. Sinclair Oubre, Seafarer's Center, had four items to discuss, see slides. He stated that the Seafarer's Center received a monthly grant of \$2500 and are looking for an intern. This is an opportunity to learn about seafarer welfare.
- He then spoke to being asked to talk at the MARAD Worklife Balance Symposium last week. The Naval Institute releasing an article of how short the US Coast Guard is down 2,500 bodies in recruitment and Seafarers Union is short 150 A/Bs to crew up the ships. He emphasized that there is a critical need for mariners across the entire industry.

Commercial Fisheries Report:

- Nikki Fitzgerald, Texas A&M AgriLife, discussed the January Shrimpers Meeting that hosted approximately 80 shrimpers. They discussed legislation, there have been new tariffs placed on foreign shrimp, with no price change on domestic shrimp.
- She is headed to Baton Rouge to meet with fishermen from across the country, the USDA, and NOAA to discuss legislation as well as waterway safety. There will be two fishermen from the area to represent this area.
- The Shrimpers Meeting for Hurricane Preparedness will be on July 2nd. They will discuss where they will be allowed to dock during a hurricane.
- Last, she discussed that she is offering Boaters Education on May 31st and June 7th for \$30. Those interested may sign up through TPWD website.
- Larry Kelley, Port of Port Arthur, spoke to Camp Seaport which is beginning July 1st through July 12th. They are working to make the schedule and arrange tours.

Waterway Maintenance and Improvement Sub-committee:

- Kyle Reed, SNND, provided an update on the Deepening Project. Currently, Great Lakes has the PADRE ISLAND dredging right now, throughout this dredging contract there will be multiple dredges coming in to meet the goal of completing the project in December of this year.
- He then spoke to Contract 3, which they plan to advertise next month, and award in June. This contract would get them past the Texaco Island Area.
- Mr. Reed moved to talking about pipeline removal. He recently met with Kinetica to discuss the removal of their 16" line that will be removed in the next few weeks. They also have a 30" line that needs to be removed; they are in the process of receiving FERC approval. Targa has two

pipelines that need to be removed and they do have USACE approval for removal, they are now working with BSSE for the next steps. Once they get that approval, there will be another coordination meeting for their removal. The Renaissance Pipeline had approximately 250' cut from each side of the channel and it was determined to be deeper than anticipated. SNND will be making a determination soon on whether the pipeline is deep enough for the first contact. This is important because all pipelines need to be removed in order for the improved waterway to be utilized and allow USACE to assume Maintenance Dredging.

Dredge Operations Report:

- Mr. Tim White, USACE, spoke to ongoing and future dredge projects, including deepening and widening plans, SNWW Maintenance, the offshore channel extension, Coastal Storm Risk Management Projects, and the Taylor's Bayou Channel improvement (Slides on SETWAC website).

Area Maritime Security Report:

- Michael Hiatt, USCG Port Security, spoke to a couple of meetings coming up Area Maritime Security Committee and the Anti-Terrorism Taskforce will be on July 24th at 0930 at the Orange County EOC. The FSO Subcommittee will be on June 20th from 1000 to 1200 at the ISTC in Beaumont. He introduced Mr. Scott Young as the new head of the FSO Subcommittee. He encourages all facilities to encourage their FSOs to attend the committee meetings.
- The next SETX Maritime Committee Meeting is on May 9th for local and federal law enforcement. There will be an exercise of the AMSTEP exercise on June 27th in Lake Charles. Location is TBD.
- The Port Security Grant for FY2024 was announced on April 16th providing \$90M, with the goal of enhancing Cyber Security and enhancing the protection of soft targets in crowded places. He wants to ensure we get as much of this grant to our area as possible. He anticipates the area will have approximately \$15M in projects. June 24th is the last day to apply, he recommends reaching out prior to this date. Slides on SETWAC website has the contact information needed.

ATON Status/Projects Report:

- BMC Dru Sistrunk, ANT Sabine, thanked Cheniere for the Jetty work. The CGC HARRY CLAIBORNE will be underway next week. Slides from the SETWAC website has a list of the current ATON Discrepancies. He also spoke to an area approximately 9 miles south of the current Sea Bouy, which has two obstructions charted. According to the lasted USACE shows are not present. They are working to see what there a multi-beam survey can be to send to NOAA showing the obstructions are not there. Mr. Quinten Stubbs responded and said that what NOAA needs to remove an obstruction they need a multi-beam survey and a statement verifying that the obstruction has been removed or is not there. There was a discussion regarding who is responsible for surveying that area. Depending on the area, this may be a USACE responsibility.

5. New Business:

- LT Sean Yanez, MSU Port Arthur, provided presentation on Hurricane Preparedness. He stated that there will be an MSIB release in the next month to address much of what covered in this presentation (Slides on SETWAC Website).
- Mr. Plumly then talked to a new role that SETWAC is looking to fill. The Managing Board is soliciting for a secretary. They prefer someone who is technically savvy, is organize, and will be around for a long time. This would be a great networking

opportunity and a way for someone to get exposure to many parts of the industry. Those who are interested should discuss the opportunity with Mr. Plumley.

6. Next Meetings:

- The next working group meeting will be held at the Sabine-Neches Navigation District offices on Thursday, July 11th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
- The next full committee meeting will be held at MSU Port Arthur on Thursday, July 25th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

7. Adjourn:

- Mr. Plumley adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.