

**MARINERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
BAY AND RIVER DELAWARE
MEETING – September 14th, 2006 MINUTES**

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay and River Delaware was held September 14th, 2006 at Ristornate LaVeranda, Philadelphia. Captain John Cuff called the meeting to order at 1030 hours. The meeting was attended by 55 Members, Associate Members, and interested parties.

I. Welcome

Captain Cuff welcomed all members and guests.

II. Reading of the Minutes

Dennis Rochford moved that the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting be approved, Tom Johnston seconded. All approved

III. Report of the Treasurer

Dennis Rochford reported a balance of \$5,616.39. John Walters moved that the report be accepted. H. Hickman Rowland seconded.

The report includes:

1. Duck Island Range Front Light
2. Enterprise Lower Range
3. Cherry Island Range Front Light
4. Enterprise Upper Range
5. Bristol Range
6. Brandywine Shoal Light
7. Acquisition Construction and Improvement funds
8. Upper Delaware River Buoys 52 and 54
9. Delaware River and Bay Deepening Project

Mr. Walters reported that new LED's will be installed on some ice hulls.

V. NOAA

David Enabnit reported the following:

There is a House Bill and Senate Bill in place for the FY 2007 budget for Coast Survey. The bills differ. The Senate Bill is close to what the President requested, the House Bill is significantly less. The House Bill eliminates scheduled trawling and mapping, eliminated a \$2 million increase for ENC; vector navigation chart collection, and took out \$4 million in base money. The House Bill also "zeroed out" Joint Hydrographic Center at the University of New Hampshire that we rely on to bring forth new technology that impacts getting 100% bottom coverage. The bill also reduced base funding that supports cartographers and surveyors.

David Enabnit also distributed a Public Comment Period on Research Priorities for the next decade and a copy of a NOAA Responders Chart for MAC testing, future review and discussion.

Howard Manley thanked the MAC for Coast Pilot revisions. He added that there was an open comment period in place through October 5th on the Right Whale issue. He also distributed a copy of the projected chart printing dates to each MAC member.

Dennis Rochford added that we'll be impacted by the Right Whale issue and our time frame is in April or May and he encouraged everyone to submit their comments.

VI. Marine Safety Office USCG- Captain of the Port

Cmdr. Kyle McAvoy reported on some staffing changes on behalf of COTP Scott.

VII. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)

Tom Groff reported the following:

On the Philadelphia to Sea project, the McFarland will be working DeepWater Range through December; 2 weeks on and 2 weeks off.

A contract was awarded to Norfolk Dredging for Marcus Hook and New Castle ranges.

The Deepening project remains on hold due to lack of funding.

Weeks Marine was the low bidder for the C&D Canal for an October start.

The Salem River low bid was for 1.9 million but there is no money to award the contract. We are working to get the extra funding.

The USCG is having one month of dredging done in the Schuylkill River, on the Delaware River side between the Girard Point Bridge and the Vane Brothers dock.

It was also reported that, thanks to Captain Linton, there is an emergency dredging contract for the Delaware River; Philadelphia to Trenton Project to be awarded today. Norfolk Dredging is using their new dredge, Charleston, for the 30 to 40 day job which will include the turning basin, Duck Island Range and other areas.

VIII. Old Business

DUES

As a follow up to last meeting's announcement, Captain Cuff reported that MAC annual membership dues have increased from \$250 to \$300 to help offset increased meeting costs.

HURRICANE PLAN- tug accommodations

Captain Cuff asked that we follow up on this discussions on this at the next MAC meeting.

IX. New Business

BARCOC PRESENTATION

The MAC presented Chief Michael Baroco with a plaque commemorating his services to the MAC and to the maritime community.

COAST PILOT

Captain Cuff announced that the final changes to the Coast Pilot have been distributed and will appear in the next Coast Pilot.

NAVIGATION/ANCHORAGES

Captain Cuff reported that he has been working with BP, UCSG and some MAC members for a navigation plans for vessels coming to the Logan Township BP facility. He added since we seem to always have some issues and problems with anchorage congestion, we are going to form a committee to attempt to resolve and better regulate the anchoring problems. We are working with Chris from American Waterways to help get some of the big tug operators like Bourchard, Reinauer and others to participate in the committee to move this forward.

FISHING PIER PRESENTATION/PROPOSAL

State of Delaware representative, Mike Fasnack, on behalf of Hudson Engineers, reported on the proposed fishing pier at Fox Point State Park in 2007. Mike announced that the pier is just south of Marcus Hook, North of the Edgemore Plant, and is 215 feet into the river. The pier is 526 feet from the west channel line and is a pedestrian-only pier; no boats, and wanted to see if the MAC has any reservations in the project. There are no lights planned for the pier unless the MAC or USCG request it.

Captain Broadley commented that it should be lit.

Captain Tom Sharp noted that ships going by the pier will create significant suction and recommended that sufficient footers are in place.

X. Adjournment

John Gazzola moved that the meeting be adjourned. John Reynolds seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1120

Captain Cuff announced that the next MAC meeting is scheduled for December 14th 2006 at the Ristorante La Verandain Philadelphia.