

**MARINERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
BAY AND RIVER DELAWARE
MEETING – September 13th, 2007 MINUTES**

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay and River Delaware was held June 14th 2007 at Ristorante LaVeranda, Philadelphia. Captain John Cuff, called the meeting to order at 1100 hours. The meeting was attended by 51 Members, Associate Members, and interested parties.

I. Welcome

Captain Cuff welcomed all members and guests.

II. Reading of the Minutes

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

III. Report of the Treasurer

On behalf of Dennis Rochford, Captain Cuff reported a balance of \$9,606.87. John Reynolds moved that the report be accepted. Steve Nutter seconded.

IV. Aids to Navigation USCG

John Walters distributed a report and discussed the following lights and projects:

1. Duck Island Range Front Light
2. Horseshoe Read Range Light
3. Cherry Island Range Front Light
4. Bristol Range
5. Mud Island Upper Range
6. Baker Range
7. Ship John Shoal Light
8. Acquisition Construction and Improvement funds
9. Delaware River and Bay Deepening Project
10. GPS Interference tests
11. ICE Buoy placement

Mr. Walter asked that mariners report any A to N discrepancies.

Mr. Walters reported that various lighthouses are for sale via auction.

Captain Cuff reported that Captain Broadley is preparing a questionnaire for A to N users for recommendations for lights, buoys, ranges lights over the next 5 years.

V. NOAA

Howard Danley briefly spoke about the distributed report.

VI. Marine Safety Office USCG- Captain of the Port

COTP David Scott reported that a fiduciary entity is now required for handling Port Security grants. He went on to say that the Maritime Exchange has stepped up to act as the Fiduciary Agent for the USCG here on the Delaware.

Jason Aleksak wanted to remind mariners that anchorage time restrictions are 48 hours for ships, tugs and barges except at Big Stone Beach. He added that it is not acceptable for ships, tugs and barges to transit to another anchorage just because they have reached 48 hours. He went on to say that extensions may be considered if the request is made by fax to the Command Center of the USCG. Lt. Aleksak added that a co-sector Ice Conference for Sector Baltimore and Sector Delaware Bay is scheduled for November 28th. He also reminded mariners that if your ship, tug or barge has AIS, to please keep it on at all times.

In conclusion Lt. Aleksak reported on and distributed a brochure called the American Waterway Watch Program to promote awareness of suspicious activity you may come across and who to call to report it.

Captain Cuff added that the Anchorage Plan that the MAC came up with is not something that will improve operations overnight but is an ongoing process and that positive changes are already noticeable.

VII. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)

ACOE – On behalf of the Corps, Captain Cuff commented and distributed a report on the following projects:

Deepening Project Tom Groff reported that the deepening project has a new sponsor, the PRPA. No dredging is schedule for FY 08 but the expected start is for FY 09.

Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Norfolk Dredging was awarded a contract for Nov 1st.

Mud Island Range. The McFarland is working in the Mud Island Range and then to Deep Water Point Range (Oct-Nov) once finished.

Schuylkill River no funding for FY 08.

Captain Broadley inquired in the Charleston will be equipped with AIS. Reps said that they would try to have that available with this contract and if that fails they'll shoot for the next contract.

Mr. Groff added that he is leaving the Corps on October 15th and thanked the MAC for such a good working relationship with the Corps.

VIII. Old Business

Captain Cuff reported that we are working with representatives from the Delair Railroad Bridge to improve communications. Lt. Jason Aleksak added that the USCG maintains complaints logged at their command center and asked that report be made to them as soon as possible after an incident.

IX. New Business

Captain Cuff announced that due notices will be mailed out shortly and would appreciate a prompt reply.

John Walters reported that the Bellevue Range was turned off for possible demolition. He added that they were unable to action it off.

X. Adjournment

John Reynolds moved that the meeting be adjourned. Tom Johnston seconded. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Captain Cuff announced that the next MAC meeting is scheduled for December 13th 2007 at 1100 at the Ristorante La Veranda, Philadelphia.