

**MARINERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
BAY AND RIVER DELAWARE
MEETING – December 11th, 2008 MINUTES**

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay and River Delaware was held December, 11th, 2008 at Ristorante LaVeranda Philadelphia. Captain Tom Sharp called the meeting to order at 1100 hours. The meeting was attended by 53 Members, Associate Members, and interested parties.

I. Welcome

MAC Chairman, Captain Tom Sharp wished everyone happy holidays and welcomed all members and guests.

II. Reading of the Minutes

Captain Wayne Bailey moved that the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting be approved, Tom Johnston seconded. All approved

III. Report of the Treasurer

MAC Treasurer; Jim Lombardo reported a balance of \$18,643.70 and added that there were 13 outstanding membership dues yet to be collected

Rob Herb moved to approve the report. Rich Venuti seconded.

IV. Aids to Navigation USCG

John Walters reported on the following lights and projects:

1. Florence Lower Rear Range Light
2. Horseshoe Rear Range Light
3. Mud Island Upper Range
4. Baker Range
5. Ship John Shoal Light
6. Acquisition, Construction and Improvement funds
7. Delaware River and Bay Deepening Project
8. GPS Interference tests
9. Lighted Ice Buoy.

Mr. Walters also reported on the shifting of Bellevue Rear Range Light.

V. NOAA

Howard Danley reported on the following:

Hurricane activities from the last meeting,
Right Whale speed restrictions being in effect as of December 10th.
New survey vessel ship delivered to us in Fort Lauderdale which is a catamaran design with increased speed mobility and endurance.

VI. Marine Safety Office USCG- Captain of the Port

Representing the Coast Guard today was Mike Antonellis and he reported on the following:

USCG conducting a Right Whale education outreach program with vessels moving in and out of the port to make sure they are aware of the new speed regulations and requirements; November 2008–April 2009.

Lt Ann Wickham advised the MAC of the distributed materials on Right Whale activities, Ice Conference Synopsis, the 2008-2009 ICE GUIDE,

VII. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)

Mike Landis reported the following:

1. Delaware River, Philadelphia to Trenton
2. Delaware River, Philadelphia to Sea
3. Schuylkill River
4. Wilmington Harbor
5. Chesapeake and Delaware Canal
6. Mispillion River
7. Delaware River, Main Channel Deepening
8. Dredge McFarland
9. District WebSite information

In addition to the above Mr.Landis discussed Norfolk Dredging contract for dredging the Fairless Turning Basin in August and September and as a follow up on a MAC request from the last meeting, Mr.Landis reported that on dredging activity for Marcus Hook Anchorage and Marcus Hook Range. He added that the Schuylkill River dredging has moved from a 2-year cycle to a 3-year cycle due to funding.

VIII. Old Business

MAC EMAILS

Captain Tom Sharp reported that the MAC is sending out numerous emails that are of interest to mariners and recently some emails about the ICE CONFERENCE. He added that if you have not received these, please contact Jim Lombardo to have your email address added or updated.

ANCHORAGES

Captain Sharp asked queried the committee as to why Thompson Point remains under utilized as an anchorage for tugs. He added that there is room for one tug there at a time. He reported that there is a long standing restriction at the Navy Yard Anchorage (#10) that is in place to allow only navy vessels and asked that the anchorage restriction be reviewed for other traffic. Ann Wickham replied that she'd look into that and report back.

IX. New Business

Captain Sharp opened the floor to Kate Zaidan of the Clean Air Council for a brief presentation on the subject of “green ports”. Her website is www.cleanair.org

X OPEN DISCUSSION

NOAA, Port Manager, Dan Right reported on a number of new NOAA products including TEXT DISPLAY with the NOAA port sensors for PDA’s and an interactive website for users to create their own personal “page” of information from NOAA. He added that NOAA signed a 5-year agreement with the PRPA to keep the PORTS project funded for the next 5 years.

XI. Adjournment

Captain Sharp announced the availability of MAC shirts for the committee members as a token of appreciate and dedication from its members.

With no further agenda items or discussion, Jean Curetan moved that the meeting be adjourned. Steve Nutter seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1147 hours. Captain Sharp announced that the next MAC meeting is scheduled for 1100 hours, March 12, 2009 at the Ristorante LaVeranda in Philadelphia.