

**MARINERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
BAY AND RIVER DELAWARE
MEETING – March 12, 2009 MINUTES**

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay and River Delaware was held March 12, 2009 at Ristorante LaVeranda Philadelphia. Captain Tom Sharp called the meeting to order at 1100 hours. The meeting was attended by 65 members, Associate Members, and interested parties.

I. Welcome

MAC Chairman, Captain Tom Sharp welcomed all members and guests.

II. Reading of the Minutes

John Gazzola moved that the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting be approved, Captain Ward Guilday seconded. All approved

III. Report of the Treasurer

MAC Treasurer; Jim Lombardo reported a balance of \$17,967.35
John Gazzola moved to approve the report. Ray Heinzelmann seconded.

IV. Aids to Navigation USCG

On behalf of John Walters, Brian Dunn, Chief Waterways Mtg. reported on the following lights and projects and distributed a detailed report on these lights:

1. Florence Lower Range Rear Light
2. Horseshoe Range Rear Light (Front Range to become directional light)
3. Mud Island Upper Light
4. Baker Range
5. Ship John Shoal Light (boarding platform)
6. Misc Projects
7. Bellevue Rear Range Light
8. C&D Canal Light (new LED lens)
9. Rebuilding 15 range structures over summer
10. Other range Light projects (pending contracts)
11. Pending \$3.7million ATON projects associated with the Delaware Bay and River Deepening Project
12. GPS interference-testing in progress. (Conducted by U.S. Navy)
13. Ice Season: concludes

Captain Tom Sharp requested a meeting next year concerning the changing-out of lighted ice buoys for non lighted ones.

V. NOAA

Howard Danley reported on the following:

In August there will be a NOAA field unit operating in the river surveying to update charts and asked the MAC if there were any special requests for surveys. Mr. Danley prepared a chart for the MAC that indicates the current survey area.

VI. Marine Safety Office USCG- Captain of the Port

Representing the Coast Guard today was CDR Michael S. Antonellis, Chief of the Prevention Department, Sector Delaware Bay.

CDR Michael S. Antonellis reported on the following:

Captain Scott is in Wilmington this morning reviewing the spill situation. He added that there will be a Change of Command ceremony June 12th.

There followed discussion between Captain Sharp and CDR Michael S. Antonellis regarding the offshore wind energy project. Specifically related to the need for contingency plans that the wind energy project people have with the USCG as it relates to the safety and navigation of deep draft vessels in the proposed areas.

Larry Slavitter Philadelphia District Engineers reported that he is the one going to reviewing the offshore wind turbine projects and is in contact with Walters regarding an application for one tower 2.8 miles off of Atlantic City. He reported that Mr. Walters submitted a series of special conditions that he wanted added to any Department of the Army permit issued. He added that the application has been currently withdrawn pending additional information on more specific details on what type of tower it would be constructed. Mr. Slavitter added that he will remain in contact with the USCG throughout the entire permitting process with regard to geo-technical data, acquisition, tower installation, and turbine installation over the next few years.

Captain Sharp advised that there are members of this committee concerned with placing structures offshore in close proximity of the sea lanes and asked that the MAC, also, be kept in the loop for meetings and information, as well.

Mr. Slavitter offered to be contacted and added that he has a "sheet" for distribution detailing proposed wind turbine tower projects and wave generating machines for both the New Jersey and Delaware coasts.

These followed some discussion of the wind farm off Boston called Cape Winds as it related to marine traffic and safety. Mr. Slavitter reported that, based upon the energy bill of 2005, Mineral Management Service became the lead federal agency with regard to offshore wind turbine projects. He added that Mineral Management Service has just finalized the EIS for that project. The ACOE has developed the EIS, drafted EIS, then in 2005, the energy bill came due and everything was transferred down to Mineral Management. He went on to suggest that the MAC check the Mineral Management Service Alternative Energy webpage also the ACOE New England District webpage that details Cape Winds and noted ACOE contact there as Karen Adams.

USCG rep CDR Michael S. Antonellis reminded the MAC that Ann Wickman is our point contact for the USCG as it related to the projects progress offshore here.

Captain Broadley asked about the status of the proposed towers here. Mr. Slavitter replied that there is a proposal for 5 MET towers off of New Jersey; east to south east of Atlantic City, and one

additional due east of Rehoboth Beach between the two sea lanes. Permits are scheduled to be issued mid-year with installation by the end of the year.

Captain Sharp introduced representatives for brief introductory presentations from the following companies: Bluewater Wind, and Fisherman's Energy who detailed their work and progress on their respective wind turbine projects. Presentations are available from the representatives by email.

Discussion followed and Captain Sharp opted to form a MAC sub-committee for the purpose of the wind tower project and progress. Mr. Slavitter then asked that any emails that he gets from MAC members should then be coordinated with the MAC sub-committee and issued from the MAC.

VII. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)

Mike Landis discussed these points from a distributed report.

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. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
7. Delaware River, Main Channel Deepening
8. Dredge McFarland
9. District Website information

VIII. Old Business

VRS

Lisa Hember (Maritime Exchange) reported on the VRS project where the Exchange would increase it's reporting through our 24-hour vessel reporting service; how to implement the recommendations adopted by the MAC in what phases and over what period of time. She added that there was a meeting this week with a small working group to outline our recommendation and implementation plan. She added that the Exchange will be meeting with the tug/barge operators as part of this process.

IX. New Business

Port of Paulsboro Redevelopment

Chris Lawrence of CH2M Hill gave a presentation that will be available by email for the MAC on request.

X OPEN DISCUSSION

DOCKING PILTOS ACCESS TO PACKER AVENUE

Captains Nick Warmouth and William P. Southard of the Docking Pilots Association reported an issue of getting access to the tugs at Packer Avenue because of security. They went on to say there are significant and frequent delays of up to 30 minutes getting transportation within the facility to the tug. The coking pilots are is seeking support from the MAC that would allow them to drive directly to the tug. He added that they have written a letter to Packer Avenue. He also noted that Moran Tugs and McAllister Brothers have both contacted them as well. They went on to say the agents, line runners, pilots all get to drive down but not the docking pilots.

There followed a brief discussion with Captain Tom Sharp, CDR Michael S. Antonellis and David Pilitowski about what assistance they can offer.

MAC COMMUNICATIONS EMAILS

Captain Sharp announced that any emails you sent to the MAC for distribution needs to include all contact information so that any questions regarding such a communication can go back directly to the originator and or the source of the information.

XI. Adjournment

Captain Sharp announced the next meeting of the MAC is scheduled for June 4th 2009 to accommodate COTP Change in Command.

With no further agenda items or discussion, John Gazzola moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ward Guilday seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1215 hours.

Captain Sharp announced that the next MAC meeting is scheduled for 1030 or 1100 hours and will advise accordingly.