

**MARINERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
BAY AND RIVER DELAWARE
MEETING – June 4, 2009 MINUTES**

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay and River Delaware was held June 4th, 2009 at Ristorante LaVeranda Philadelphia. Captain Tom Sharp called the meeting to order at 1100 hours. The meeting was attended by 59 Members, Associate Members, and interested parties.

I. Welcome

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

II. Reading of the Minutes

Father Von Dreele moved that the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting be approved, John Cuff seconded. All approved

III. Report of the Treasurer

MAC Treasurer; Jim Lombardo reported a balance of \$14,062.56. John Cuff moved to approve the report. Steve Roberts seconded.

IV. Aids to Navigation USCG

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

Maintenance and Improvements projects

1. Horseshoe Range Rear Light
2. Mud Island Upper Light
3. Baker Range
3. Ship John Shoal Light (boarding platform)

C&D Canal Light (new LED lens)

Acquisition, Construction and Improvement (AC&I) funds

Future AtoN Improvements

1. Delaware River and Bay Deepening Project

Navigation Items of Interest

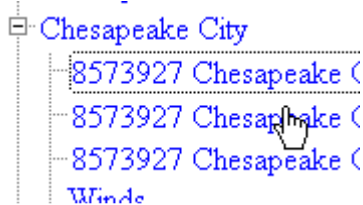
1. GPS interference tests

V. NOAA

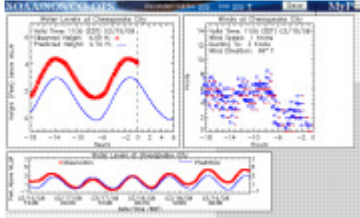
Darren Wright reported new funding for equipment upgrades for the following areas: Newbold (Mid-June start date), Point Palmyra, Burlington Bridge, Marcus Hook, Delaware City and Brandywine Shoal

He also reported on the "MyPorts" service available through NOAA. MyPORTS is an application designed to let you create your own customized PORTS pages. By following the simple steps listed below, you'll be able to create a custom view of the data from any of our PORTS stations. Here is a screen shot from the website: <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/myports/>

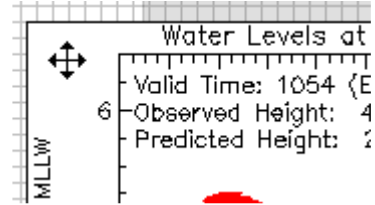
Step 1: Select a plot from the list on the right by clicking on the desired name



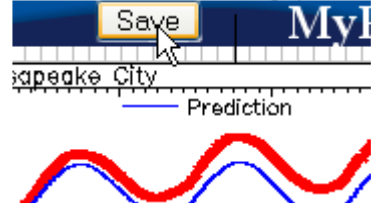
Step 3: Repeat steps 1 and 2 until the page looks the way you want it



Step 2: Move the plot into its desired location by clicking and dragging



Step 4: Click Save, and bookmark the final page!



Howard Danley briefly discussed and handed out a new colored guide indicating chart availability and release dates. (see distribution)

VI. Marine Safety Office USCG- Captain of the Port

Representing the Coast Guard today was COTP David Scott who reported on the following:

The Captain thanked the MAC for the last 4 years, for making his job much easier with your willingness to work with the Coast Guard. He went on to remark about our collective cooperation making this port much more safe, more secure, more environmentally responsible operation.

Captain Sharp presented the COTP with a plaque thanking him for the support he has given to the MAC and to the port community.

Lt Wickham commented on a meeting held April 27th regarding “*offshore renewable energy installation- the development of meteorological data collection facilities in support of offshore wind farms*”. See hand-out that includes background, minutes and questions.

Lt Rebecca Walthour introduced herself. She reported that the hurricane season has begun and information has been distributed with check lists and contact information.

Captain Broadley spoke on the subject of the wind farms and the 2-way traffic zone, Lt Walthour replied that the request be in writing to the Sector Delaware Bay office. Captain Sharp welcomed others to meet with Captain Broadley to draft a letter.

John Walters reported the following on the wind farm project:

In correspondence with the ACOE, regarding permits and lighting requirements:

The MET towers are to be installed first. Four months prior to beginning of construction activity an application to Aids to Navigation will be submitted. The owner is required to operate navigation and fog lights with sufficient back up power. The structures, waterline to the base of the tower, are to be yellow. Three weeks prior to the construction of the MET towers, for publication in the Local Notice to

Mariners; the start date of construction, the names and IDs of vessels, all VHF radio channels in use, hours of operation.

Captain Broadley asked if announcement in the Local Notice to Mariners can be 6 or 7 weeks prior to construction rather than 3 weeks.

VII. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)

Mike Landis reported the following:

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

VIII. Old Business

WIND FARM

Captain Sharp reported on a draft letter to Mineral Management Service (MMS). The letter was available to MAC member for comments. None were submitted. Now the letter is to be reviewed by MAC Attorney James Young for content and clarity and commented on if necessary. Once cleared, it is to be sent to MMS. Captain Ward Guilday moved that the letter be reviewed, Captain Stephen Roberts seconded.

IX. New Business

Trained escorts for non-TWIC individuals

Father Van Dreele reported on the TWIC procedures on transporting non-TWIC individuals on and off the terminals. He noted that requirements call for trained escorts. Father Von Dreele further reported the creation of a USCG letter to facility officers indicating the Seamen's Church Institute in-house training program as it related to escorting non-TWIC personnel on and off terminals. A copy of the letter was distributed to the MAC.

Burlington Bristol Bridge/MAC meeting

Captain Sharp reported on a joint BBB/MAC meeting from May 6th, 2009 and a subsequent creation of written recommendation addressed to the Burlington County Bridge Commission regarding repairs and closures that will impact ship traffic. A copy was read and distributed. The recommendation calls for (1) a 90 day notice prior to any extended closure, (2) a late spring/early summer start date, (3) the closure be limited to one 2-week period, (4) contractors are expected to work 24/7 to minimize the closure period.

Captain Cuff moved to submit the recommendation. Captain Roberts seconded.

Enhanced Communications to be conducted in a timely manner

Captain Sharp reported the creation of a proposed recommendation to promote the safety of navigation through enhanced communications. He noted that the MAC is supposed to set the safety precedence in the port community and noted that all too often reports of reduced air drafts, under keel clearances, or request for a slow wake are not becoming available in a timely manner. The recommendations call for the MAC, USCG and the Maritime Exchange to receive advanced information for dissemination to their respective members and interested parties. The draft was distributed to the MAC and he asked that the Maritime Exchange (Paul Myhre), USCG (Lt. Rebecca Walthour), the MAC (Jim Lombardo), and a representative from the Pilots Association to discuss the wording in the proposal, formalize it and bring it up for a vote at the next MAC meeting.

Captain Roberts moved that we review and formalize the document, Greg Adams seconded.

X OPEN DISCUSSION

Captain Sharp announced that Captain Jim Roche has been elected as the new President of the Pilots Association.

Captain Tom Sharp told the MAC that while it is a privilege and honor to serve as Chairman of the MAC he announced his decision to step down as Chairman of the MAC effective at the end of this meeting. He thanked everyone for allowing him to service as MAC Chairman.

Captain Roche thanked Captain Sharp for serving.

XI. Adjournment

Captain Sharp announced the next meeting of the MAC is scheduled for September 10^h 2009 at 1100 hours.

With no further agenda items or discussion, Captain Guilday moved that the meeting be adjourned. Captain Cuff seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1210 hours.