

**MARINERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE  
BAY AND RIVER DELAWARE  
MEETING –September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 MINUTES**

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay and River Delaware was held September 8<sup>th</sup> 2011 at Ristorante LaVeranda Philadelphia. Captain Stephen Roberts presided over the meeting. Captain Roberts called the meeting to order at 1115 hours. The meeting was attended by 57 Members, Associate Members and interested parties.

**I. Welcome**

Captain Roberts welcomed members, new members and guests.

**II. Reading of the Minutes**

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

**III. Report of the Treasurer**

MAC Treasurer Rick Iuliucci read the report and reported a balance of \$8,443.11

**IV. Aids to Navigation USCG**

John Walters reported on the following

**Maintenance and Improvements projects**

Maintenance and Improvements projects

1. Baker Range
2. Miah Maull Shoal Light
3. Delaware Bay East Icebreaker Light

Future AtoN Improvements

1. Delaware River and Bay Deepening Project
2. Liston Range, Reedy Is. Range, New Castle Range

Navigation Items of Interest

1. Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREIs)

**Additional comments are as follows:**

Boemere has been very aggressive in their requirements and inquiries. Captain Roberts added that it is their intention for numerous windmill farms to be built.

Ownership of Harbor Refuge Light was transferred about 5 or 6 years ago and the light sits on ground owned by the ACOE. Efforts are underway to fix the jetty in the area of the lighthouse. The estimated completion date is the end of November.

2. Offshore Anchorages

3. Sound signals- 6-year project to replace all LEDs and optics.
4. Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study
5. GPS Interference tests
6. Aids to Navigation Leadership- introductions- see distribution

Further discussion included the following:

Almost every range from this port, north, has been upgraded to meet the operational requirements, which are now as good and/or better than before. In use are Bullet- LED optics which consume a lot less energy, smaller batteries with fewer solar panels and fewer claims for service.

Captain Roche reported that some are turned down and asked that it be reviewed.

In addition:

Two lights (32 and 42) were displaced by tows over the summer. Since one incident was with a USNS tow, they “cannot” contribute to repairs or rebuild due to the anti-deficiency act prohibiting federal agencies to do so leaving the USCG with the \$1.5 million costs. We are working with the other privately owned company in resolving the other incident.

#### **V. NOAA**

NOAA Ports representative Jon Swallow:

Mr. Swallow offered an introduction about himself and his staff in light of the recently retired Howard Danley. His staff includes: Darren Wright, Scott Sherman, and Steve Soherr.

It was requested that a NOAA/MAC subgroup be formed.

#### **VI. Marine Safety Office USCG- Captain of the Port**

USCG representative Corrina Ott reported on the following:

Staff introductions

Aids to Navigations

Ice Season Conference scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup>.

A Safety Zone/fireworks display for the one-year casino anniversary will be announced.

Hurricane Irene – “thank you” for all those that were involved

9/11 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary alert for extra awareness in the port.

9/11 Awareness Memorial Swim event between Cape May and Lewes is planned.

Mass rescue operation Exercise is planned for October 21st

#### **VII. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)**

Tim Rooney distributed his report and commented on the following:

See distribution.

1. Delaware River, Philadelphia to Sea maintenance

2. Dredge McFarland
3. Wilmington Harbor
4. C&D Canal
5. Fairless Turning Basin Deepening (40 plus 1)
6. Port storm survey progress of Hurricane Irene (distributed)

### **VIII Old Business**

Captain Roberts reported on the following:

#### **DRAFT**

Restriction for the upper river draft is down to 37.6 inches from 38.6 inches and he expects that to be resolved once the Dredge McFarland finishes up in the Bridesburg area.

#### **DEEPWATER**

An outfall is being constructed at Deepwater Point Anchorage that is marked by a buoy and will be charted once work has been completed.

#### **HIGHER TIDES**

Tides are running higher for the upper river, 6 feet higher than normal. Ship traffic is being scheduled accordingly.

#### **ANCHORAGE USE**

Please use the anchorages responsibly and report to the Maritime Exchange on channel 14 when you anchor up and down.

#### **PARS**

John Reynolds chaired meetings for the MACs Port Access Route Study (PARS) which resulted in ideas that represent the MACs overall opinion and will respond accordingly to the next opening of the comment period.

#### **GROWS FACILITY**

Sailing times for ships departing Grows Waste Mgt facility has been working out well.

### **IX. New Business**

Greg Blumenthal of RIDE THE DUCKS reported on their new operations. Highlights included:

1. 10-minute route begins at the Race Street Park (Pier 11) south to the Pier 5 Marina.
2. A Marine Coordinator on their Dispatch Boat at Pier 5 for emergency towing and for clearance for the duck boat to enter the Delaware River.
3. Only 3 Duck Boats on the river at any one time.
4. AIS is being tested on one boat with consideration for more.
5. Weekend-only runs between Thanksgiving to the end of December.

John Reynolds reported the inclusion of canister life rafts on duck boats being used in Montreal. He asked about using them here. Mr. Blumenthal replied that they have two Viking Rafts on order for the Dispatch-Boat, which would accommodate the rescue of the 37 passengers/crew from the Pier 5 Marina.

Key components of a RIDE THE DUCKS 29-page document (boundary, route, etc...) was to be made available to the MAC for review.

## **X. OPEN DISCUSSION**

none

## **XI. Adjournment**

Captain Roberts announced the next meeting of the MAC is scheduled for December 8th at 1100 hours at the LaVeranda Restaurant in Penn's Landing.

With no further agenda items or discussion, Captain Roche moved that the meeting be adjourned. John Gazzola seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1223 hours.