

**MARINERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE  
BAY AND RIVER DELAWARE  
MEETING –March 8<sup>th</sup> , 2012 MINUTES**

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay and River Delaware was held March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Ristorante LaVeranda Philadelphia. Captain Stephen Roberts presided over the meeting. Captain Roberts called the meeting to order at 1100 hours. The meeting was attended by 72 Members, Associate Members, and interested parties.

**I. Welcome**

Captain Roberts welcomed members and guests.

**II. Reading of the Minutes**

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

**III. Report of the Treasurer**

MAC Treasurer Rick Luliucci read the report and reported a balance of \$12,706.67 and noted nine memberships are still outstanding for renewal.

**IV. Aids to Navigation USCG**

John Walters reported on the following lights and projects and distributed a detailed report on the following:

Maintenance and Improvements projects

1. Miah Maull Shoal Light
2. Delaware Bay Light 32
3. Delaware Bay Light 42
4. Fisher Point Range Front Light
5. Keystone Range
6. LED optics

Future AtoN Improvements

1. Baker Range
2. Delaware River and Bay Deepening Projects

Navigation Items of Interest

1. Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREIs)
2. Offshore Anchorages
3. Sound Signals
4. Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study- **a new presentation to be added to the June MAC meeting Agenda.**
5. GPS Interference tests

Mr. Walters requested a meeting with key MAC members to further identify the area for the proposed anchorages to directly follow this MAC meeting. Charts of the proposed area were on hand for review and consideration.

## V. NOAA

NOAA: Captain Roberts introduced Jon Swallow and noted that he is now Captain Jon Swallow.

Captain Swallow reported on budget issues, 2 dedicated hydrographic vessels for 2013 and the proposed elimination of Navigation Response Team. If Congress approves the elimination in October, he added that "we may not be able to respond like we used to."

Steve Soherr distributed some informational handouts and advised the group on the newest charts. He also reminded the MAC to reach out to him for any concerns or errors that need to be addressed for this region.

Darren Wright updated the MAC on their budget concerns and addressed the MAC on the PORTS program. He then advised the MAC on the following recent sensor updates: (1) Brown Shoal will be offline for awhile, (2) the one on a Philadelphia barge will be offline for about 5 weeks, and (3) a salinity meter in Burlington will be removed due to the fresh water there.

Captain Roberts added that letters need to be written to legislators regarding monetary support for PORTS, the National Response Team, and the survey vessels. He added that there is an abandoned anchor at Breakwater Anchorage that needs to be added to the chart and that there's a graphic on the MAC website.

## VI. Sector Delaware Bay

USCG COTP Meredith Austin proudly reported on letters signed by the District Commander for the successful completion of the Safety Examination of your vessel; Towing Vessel Bridging Program (TVBP)

*"A TVBP has been initiated by the Office of Vessel Activities to ease the transition and ensure that both the Coast Guard and the towing vessel industry are informed and prepared to meet the new requirements to be finalized in Subchapter M. This goal will be accomplished by enhancing, improving, and increasing Coast Guard interactions with the towing vessel industry, and by acclimating all involved with the procedures, policy, requirements and administration of existing and, as implementation draws closer, new Subchapter M regulations."*

Those acknowledged are: Moran Towing, OSG, McAllister Brothers, Vane Brothers, Express Marine, and Wilmington Tug.

The following items were also noted:

The Mid-Atlantic Waterways Conference. Captain Austin recommended registration and participation in both the conference and the exercise mentioned below. Topics are of interest to all ports in the 5<sup>th</sup> District.

There will be a full scale exercise from April 24-26<sup>th</sup> to provide an opportunity to test and improve the effectiveness of the region's two contingency plans; ACP and AMSP. During the exercise period, there will be coordination with the Pilots and Maritime Exchange so that vessel traffic is not affected.

The Change of Command will be in May.

LCDR Kevin McCormack prepared a slide show for the MAC.

## **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. Schuylkill River and Salem River
3. Wilmington Harbor
4. Delaware River: Philadelphia to Trenton
5. C&D Canal

Stephen Farrell showed an interesting presentation to the MAC about how to best use their website.

Also reported was a failed bulkhead, debris field and progress updates.

Captain Roberts added the following items:

- a. Buoy IC (Cherry Island) has been moved to the edge of the new widener.
- b. There was a cave-in a Sun Girard Point.

## **VIII. Old Business**

Captain Roberts reported the following:

Last year's MAC / Wind Energy meetings were effecting in having the wind farm moved from blocking the sea lanes. We have successfully altered the proposed area and it no longer blocks us. We are going to go by the proposed wind farm area and not through it. The comment period is still open.

At this point, Captain Roberts introduced the MAC to their new interactive website allowing members to post important information that gets emailed to the MAC members. A live presentation was shown.

MAC members are encouraged to visit their new site. [www.macdelriv.org](http://www.macdelriv.org)

## **IX. New Business**

Captain Roberts reported that his new email address is [Chairman@macdelriv.org](mailto:Chairman@macdelriv.org)

He then introduced 2 FAA representatives as it relates to ship traffic for a brief presentation. Discussion included: The history of the problem, changes in runway designation, and the development of a system to divert (and or "re-sequence") air traffic when ships are approaching Fort Mifflin Range and or anchored at Mantua Creek. Members of the MAC were then invited to visit the Airport Traffic Control tower to see the *river-watcher* person in action. Captain Roberts added that he'd be working with the *river-watchers* to better educate them the about ship traffic.

Captain Roberts recognized the following people with a presentation plaque from the MAC for their dedication to safe navigation and support to the MAC's mission.

COTP Meredith Austin  
The Captain and the Crew of the Dredge McFarland  
LCDR Thomas W. Flynn (Ret.)

## **X OPEN DISCUSSION**

It was noted that Captain Broadley is retiring in December.

## **XI. Adjournment**

Captain Roberts announced the next meeting of the MAC is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> at 1100 hours at the LaVeranda Restaurant in Penn's Landing.

With no further agenda items or discussion, John Reynolds moved that the meeting be adjourned. Brian McEwing seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1237 hours.