

Mariner's Advisory Committee Minutes

December 8, 2022

Chairman Captain Drew Hodgens welcomed members and guests in the room to the 4th Quarterly Meeting

Following the Posted Agenda

NOTE: Presentation summaries are below, presentation detail can be found in the attached pdf here:



MAC Packet
12-8-2022.pdf

I. Approval of the Minutes

Drew Hodgens MAC Chairman opens the meeting: thank you everyone for coming. The first order of business is the approval of the minutes from the September Meeting. Those were posted on the MAC website; I don't know if everyone has had a chance to take a look at that. If anyone would like to make a motion to accept those minutes.

Motion to approve minutes- Michael Cureton and seconded by Lynn Cointot.

Captain Hodgens then requested we go around the room for participants to introduce themselves.

II. Reports

- A. **Treasurer's Report** - John Gazzola – If you have not gotten your 2023 dues in, please do.
- B. **Membership Report** - John Gazzola – We have lost a few members in the last few months. If you know of anyone who may benefit from signing up, please send them my way. Have a great lunch everyone.
- C. **USCG Report** – Commander Jodi Min – Good morning everyone. Thanks to everyone who attended the annual ice meeting, we had a great turnout. It sounds like the conditions this year will be similar to last so we will continue to keep an eye out. In wrapping up 2022, I want to reflect on what has happened this year in the port, the successful dead ship tow after 16 months almost and a thank you to all of port partners for all of your hard work on that. Second, the barge fire which could have been far worse. Thank you to the firefighters for all their hard work and to Resolve and Nordstar for getting the vessel safely to Camden. The cutter head that the Charleston lost, a big thank you to Army Corps for removing the cutter head as quick as possible and a thank you to the Pilots' for their patience.

LT Jordan Marshall – Good morning everyone. Just a few things to touch on. Thanks to all for attending the ice meeting. We have received a few reports of bridges not opening when they should. If anyone experiences any issues, please reach out, we can definitely help with that. Port State issued a detention for an ISM related deficiency in November – this is the 4th detention related to immersion suits over the past year. This seems to be a trend so any agents in the room, please encourage these inspections. We have also had so reports of issues with Ballast Water Treatment Systems that use UV. The turbidity in the water is causing the ships to have to divert offshore to do a full ballast exchange prior to discharge. If you hear of any ships having this issue, please reach out.

Details in Meeting Packet pages 3

BOSN Isaac St. John could not be here today neither could Lt Engle from the CGC Tate. They are both underway at the moment. The Tate is finishing up seasonal maintenance hoping to be done by beginning of January. Pea Patch light E has been rebuilt. Delaware Bay Harbor Refuge light is new and the first rotating LED light. Lastly, the Consolidated Port Approaches Study has been released. If you haven't had a chance to review, I highly recommend doing so.

Details in meeting packet 4-6

D. ACOE Report – Michael Landis – Thank you for having us at the MAC, Pilots, thank you. Good morning everyone. I'm going to keep this brief and say all is good. This past year we started a pretty aggressive dredge maintenance program to do annual and back log. Good news is all of the back log is done. The new contract started in November and should be wrapping up mid-year 2023. The rock removal contract was awarded in June and completed in September. The McFarland is still in the shipyard and expected in Spring 2023. The work being done in Miah Maul and Brandywine Ranges is on course and should be done late December. We do channel exam surveys a couple of times of year to look from debris. We have discovered some objects probably from some of the storms we have had. We anticipate awarding a contract in the next few days to have those objects removed. Some other projects for Philadelphia to Trenton – hydraulic cutterhead dredging completed in October. We will be doing 2 solicitations in FY23 for bucket dredging between Tacony and Newbold and Fairless Turning Basin. Wilmington Harbor dredging began in November and scheduled to be completed in December. We received infrastructure funding for Salem River. We hope to make the contract award in the spring and begin dredging in July 2023. We have a maintenance dredging project going on in the upper Chesapeake. The ongoing bridge work is still occurring.

Details in meeting packet 24 through 29

NOAA – Mr. Chris DiVeglio – Performance stats for the 3-month period ending 11/30/2022. Air Gap sensors for Delaware Memorial Bridge was at about 80% due to the construction. Ben Franklin near 100%, and Reedy Point near 100% data returns. For the Chesapeake City one, with the construction, there data hasn't been accessible, but just before Thanksgiving we were able to turn it back on. For the 2 current meters over at Penns Landing returned data at 100%. Same for buoy 10 at Brown Shoal Light there was a data outage. Everything is back up and running. All 11 water level stations report 98% or higher. We have a good amount of water temperature measurements for potential ice development. We are replacing the sensor at Delaware City. Lastly, the PORTS agreement expires in the spring, and we will begin working on the new agreement for the next 5 years.

Details in meeting packet 30

E. Mr. Ryan Wartick – Good morning, a pretty quick update. As everyone knows, we are in the middle of the paper chart sunset process. We are at about 50% of our charts either canceled or on their last edition. We are getting ready to start charting the data we've received from the offshore wind companies.

I also wanted to provide a quick update from the NOAA fisheries. Alicia Schuler was unable to attend today. We are currently in the seasonal management for Right Whales and in is active until April 30th. This applies 65' and greater vessels.

Details in meeting packet 31

F. Organization of Black Maritime Graduates – Captain Howard Wyche – Good morning. Thank you to Captain Hodgens and the MAC for allowing me to speak. First let me tell you a little about myself. I graduated Suny Maritime College in 1979. I stated working for the USACE right here on the Delaware River. In 1980 I was taken as an apprentice for the Pilots' Association for the Bay and River Delaware. I have worked on Delaware for the past 42 years. The Organization of Black Maritime Grads was formed in 1994 by 6 Suny Maritime College graduates; Robert Cook, myself, Mark Bodden, Joe Lewis, Dave Holman, and Eugene Monroe. The goal is to open up educational opportunities for African American students in the Engineering and Maritime industries. The OBMG is the oldest organization of this type. The first scholarships were presented in 1995. To date, the OBMG has awarded over \$330,000.00 to underrepresented students and cadets. These awards are not just given to black students, they are awarded to all students. The scholarships are awarded every year on the last Thursday in February. Please visit our website to see our past honorees and some of the other missions of the OBMG. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of OBMG and our mission.

Captain Drew Hodgens – Thank you Howard. One of the traditions of the MAC is to give out a Christmas gift. I have spoken with the members of the board and instead of giving out a gift, the MAC will provide a donation to the OBMG. Thank you to Lisa Hember and the Maritime Exchange, Captain Cuff and the Pilots', the Holt Family, and to Captain Chris Rowland and Wilmington Tug. Howard, these donations are for your scholarships. Great work and thank you.

III. Unfinished Business / New Business

Captain Drew Hodgens – This is something that has been going on for a very long time and there has been countless people involved. We are going to increase our draft as of this meeting, we are going to be 43' inbound and 41' outbound. This has taken a tremendous amount of work and we are extremely grateful for the ACOE. The plan is to make several inbound trips up to 43' and outbound up to 41' and for Captain Cuff and I to review with the Pilots' and get there feedback and if all is a go, we will continue to increase the draft.

Leo Holt – Good afternoon everyone and congratulations. I spent last night in New York with the owners of MSC christening their new cruise ship and it was a truly amazing experience. A few weeks ago, I had an opportunity and I wanted to take this time to honor all of the Pilots'. The thing that I came across that I am going to present to Captain Cuff and the Pilots' is the John H. Ferrell Congressional Medal of Honor Sword, recognizing the decades of leadership and stalwart support for the project to deepen the navigational depth of the Delaware River. John H. Ferrell was one of only eight civilians to ever receive the Congressional Medal of Honor and was a Pilot.

IV. Adjournment

Captain Drew Hodgens asked for a motion to adjourn: Michael Cureton motioned, and Roy Denmark seconded.

Next meeting Thursday, March 9th at Popi's 1030 for coffee and 1100 start.