

## Mariner's Advisory Committee Minutes

March 9, 2023

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  
3-9-2023.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 December Meeting. If anyone would like to make a motion to accept those minutes.

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

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

#### II. Reports

A. **Treasurer's Report** – Captain Drew Hodgens – Captain Rick Iuliucci is traveling. Thank you to everyone here who has paid their dues.

B. **Membership Report** - Captain Drew Hodgens – Captain John Gazzola is traveling. Thank you for being members.

C. **USCG Report** – Captain Jonathan Theel - Good morning everyone. I know I've stood up here before saying I was looking forward to an ice season – and this year, we had no ice. Now we are just weeks away from hurricane season and I will say I am not looking forward to any hurricanes. I am retiring come this June and I will be heading back west to South Dakota where I will freeze – which is payback for always asking for the ice. If you did not know, Captain Kate Higgins-Bloom is taking over and if you have not had a chance to speak with her, please do. Invitations will be coming out soon. We are gearing up for a busy season. The Coast Guard is short people, about 17%. Shortages will mostly be at the Sector level. I am asking for some patience, but if you have any issues or problems, please reach out. I'd like to reflect back to the beginning of COVID. Other ports were shutting down and we chose to come together and have a discussion on what works best for all of us to keep commerce going. We worked together and kept things running and that is a testament to how this port works. I would like to say thank you, to everyone here that I have had the opportunity to work with throughout my time here.

LT Jordan Marshall – Good morning everyone. Just a few things to touch on. There was a MAC blast that went out regarding MSIB 01-23. In short, there have been some recent changes to law that now require the owner, master, or managing operator of a U.S. flagged vessel to report any complaint or incident of harassment, sexual harassment, or sexual assault to the Coast Guard. There have been changes to the reporting procedure that are trying to make easier to report. If you have not had a chance to look at that MSIB, please do. Marcus Hook Range dredging wrapped up in February. We are now posting the Marcus Hook reservation list on the MAC website. Things seem to be going well but if there are any improvements we could make, please reach out. There has been an upward trend in Pilot Ladder deficiencies. This has been a recurring issue over the years. The new observation is crew jumping from the accommodation ladder to the pier, which is a fairly large jump. We will be keeping an eye on this and reaching out.

Details in meeting packet 3-4

BOSN Isaac St. John – Good morning everyone. A few quick updates. CGC William Tate is finishing up seasonals. They have a dry dock coming up from May to early August. They will not be here, but we have a vessel coming up from Baltimore in their absence. Eagle Point Rear Range has just been relit, thank you for your patience with this.

Details in meeting packet 5-6

**D.** **ACOE Report - Timothy Rooney** – Good morning everyone. Status update on the current contract that we are on – Marcus Hook Range is complete and slated to go to New Castle Range in May. Hopper Dredge McFarland is expected out in the Spring. Recent contract awarded to Northstar Marine – they removed several objects identified on surveys. The work was completed in January. Construction has begun on the St. Georges Bridge. This is not expected to reduce air gap. A barge will be placed and will be in the federal channel during work hours. Salem River – we have been working with the Dredge Murden in the bend with sand placement near Oakwood Beach. Advertisement of contract will be April 2023. Dredging to maintain channel between Cape May Lewis Ferry facility and the Rutgers facility to begin in March 2023.

Details in meeting packet 23 through 29

**E.** **NOAA - Mr. Ryan Wartick** – Good morning everyone. Small update, we had one project in the Delaware River at Cherry Flats. The Bay Hydro II will be down in Baltimore and another project on the approaches to New York. The Bay Hydro II will also be in the Delaware off of Wilmington and while they are there, we can have them do some additional work if needed so please let me know. The second big release has just come out to the NOAA Custom Chart Tool. In this release, the user can create a personal chart portfolio. If you need any information on this, just email me. Now an update on the current chart cancellation process – we are on track for the cancellation.

Details in meeting packet 30 through 39

Mr. Chris DiVeglio – Good afternoon, just some real time data updates for you. For a three-month period ending February 2023, all of the air gap systems that pertain to this room were operating at or above 98.8%. All water level readings return at 94% or above for the three-month period. The project at Delaware City to upgrade the water level sensor technology was completed in January and is operational.

Details in meeting packet 40

Ms. Katie Kirk – Good afternoon everyone. Just a quick overview – we deployed temporary meter stations to collect data on the tides to update current tidal predictions. In 2019, we deployed 1 station and in 2021, we deployed 35. 31 stations collected good data and 4 did not. Those areas will need to be redone. We did lose some equipment, an anchor at the Delaware Bay Entrance and a Clamparatus mount at Edgewater Range. The new predictions are available online at:

<https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/noaacurrents/Stations?g=450>

If you go to our website, you can see the update history showing the older stations that were removed and the new ones added. Stations have new ID's and may have new names so you may want to take a look.

[https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/current\\_pred\\_stn\\_history.html](https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/current_pred_stn_history.html)

Details in meeting packet 41-48

### III. Unfinished Business / New Business

Captain Drew Hodgens – I would like to ask Captain Cuff to come up and Lisa Himber. There is one bit of unfinished business that was just brought up. We have been extremely fortunate to have had Captain Jonathan Theel serve this port and community and we cannot thank him enough for his leadership. Captain Theel, if you could come up and join us. We have a nice remembrance for him when he heads home, a wood carving of the Delaware Bay – but no ice! No burning barge either! We thank you so much and you will be missed, and we wish you all the best.

### IV. Adjournment

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

Next meeting Thursday, June 8th at Popi's 1030 for coffee and 1100 start.