

## Mariner's Advisory Committee Minutes

June 8, 2023

Chairman Captain Drew Hodgens welcomed members and guests in the room to the 2nd Quarterly Meeting

### Following the Posted Agenda

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



MAC Packet  
2023-06-08.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 March 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** – If you have not gotten your 2023 dues in, please do.

**B. Membership Report** - Thank you for being members.

**C. ACOE Report - Timothy Rooney** – Good morning everyone. I'll start with the Delaware River, Philadelphia to Sea. Norfolk Dredging completed the New Castle Range. They will be starting the Deepwater Range in about a week. There is a change to the Mifflin Range that we are working with the contractor on. The Hopper Dredge McFarland is due to come out of the yard this week. We will put together orders for Liston Range and Miah Maul Range to start July 7<sup>th</sup>. This past week there were some objects in Cherry Island Range, and we are looking to get them removed by the end of June. Moving upriver, dredging between Tacony-Palmyra Bridge and Newbold Island is set to begin in August. The Wilmington Harbor contract will be consolidated with the Philadelphia contract as it has been done in past years. The deck replacement for the St. Georges Bridge is still going on. There is a barge that potentially could be in the channel during work hours but can be moved with 2 hours' notice. The Upper Chesapeake is scheduled to be advertised in September 2023. Salem River, the contract will be advertised by the end of June. Lastly, the Cape May Ferry, the contract will be advertised by last 2023 for dredging in 2024. Also, Maurice River dredging will be advertised by July 2023.

Details in meeting packet 23 through 28

**D. NOAA - Mr. Chris DiVeglio** – Good morning everyone. I have a bunch of updates on the PORTS Program. There is a new wave buoy off of Bethany Beach and this is because of our partnership with the Coastal Data Information Program. The last quarter has given us good air gap data. There were a couple of outages at the meter at Brown Shoal but that is all resolved. Delaware City has had the water level sensor upgraded. As for Brandywine Shoal, the dock is being rebuilt this summer.

The PORTS Program is going through an assessment. We are trying to determine the requirements for a fully built-out system. We are going to be holding 11 virtual workshops this summer. The workshop for this region is in August. I encourage all of you to participate and provide your input and wish list so to speak. The workshop is August 24, 2023, from 9am-11am EDT.

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscuGuqD8qEtFX0nNAOjThr5s6lPytcI0>

Next, there are some plans in the works to absolve some of the existing parts of the Northeast Coastal Operational Forecast System and create a new much higher resolution Northeast Coastal Operational Forecast System. This is in the works to happen in the next couple of years.

Details in meeting packet 29 through 40

**Mr. Ryan Wartick** – There is a big chart update for this area of Delaware River. It is a combination of shorelines and soundings. It should be coming out in mid-June. The NOAA Custom Chart Tool is an evolving tool to replace paper charts. The last update allows users to create their own profile and custom charts. We are moving forward with the chart cancellation process. We currently have 418 charts cancelled and 165 are in their last edition. There are 424

left to go and they will be canceled by January of 2025. There is a website where you can see what is changing with the charts.

[https:// distribution.charts.noaa.gov/weekly\\_updates/](https://distribution.charts.noaa.gov/weekly_updates/)

Details in meeting packet 41-61

**E. USCG Report – LT Jordan Marshall** – Good morning everyone. Captain Theel and Captain Kate Higgins-Bloom both send their regrets, they could not be here. I know I sound like a broken record but it's Hurricane Season! We did post the MSIB on homeport as well as the Port Hurricane Contingency Plan. Hurricane season is set to expire on 12/1/2023. There is a high volume of marine events this time of year, mainly fireworks. I would also like to bring up an issue with training and credentialing that has recently come up. There was an investigation into The Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy that revealed some courses had reduced instruction hours for 2015-2019 which potentially impacted credentialing. If anyone has mariners that have used that academy, please reach out to Mr. Scott Taylor for any questions. The National Maritime Center is experiencing some delays in printing out mariner licenses. Had a great brief on Ocean Wind 1 and same with Atlantic Shore South.

Details in meeting packet 2

Approval for ordering batteries for the rear Marcus Hook Range has been granted and we are just waiting for them to be delivered. The Brandywine Shoal Light catwalk has been built but it still needs to be secured. Once that is done, we will manage the light. We are pushing to get this completed.

Aids to Navigation Team had their Change of Command Ceremony on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The new officer in charge is Chief Casper.

I am wrapping my 3-year tour here at the end of the month. I will be heading to the DC area to pursue a Masters' Degree and then a following tour at headquarters. Thank you to everyone in the room, it's been a great 3 years and a wonderful tour.

Lt Engle – Good morning everyone, I am also here to say goodbye. It's has been a quick one here for me. I just want to thank everyone especially Captain Cuff and Captain Hodgens. I worked in a lot of ports and a lot of waterways, and I have never had the honest communications that I have had here. I would also like to thank Mr. Tim Kelly and his whole team.

As for updates, we are dry docked until early August. I am relieved by LT Cory Sonnega on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also, BOSN Isaac St. John is now the XO on the CGC William Tate.

Delaware River light #2 was extinguished last month. That light is unsafe to climb. It looks like we are going to have a buoy in its place.

**F. C&D Canal Presentation – Mr. Donald Marinelli** – Good morning everyone. I represent H&H for Carload Express, who is the operator and maintainer of the C&D Canal railroad bridge.

Just want to give you an overview of the upcoming project we have on the bridge and to get feedback. The project location is between St. Georges and the Summit Bridge. The project scope is replacing the electrical system which was original to 1965 construction, replace navigation system, install lighting and cameras, work on lift mechanical components, minor structural repairs, and elevator modernization. We are at the final design and awaiting approval. Once that occurs, the project will be advertised to contractors sometime in June maybe July. Construction is slated to start early 2024 with the ultimate goal of completion end of 2024. Contractors are to work around rail and canal traffic. For outages, the contractor will need to request a temporary deviation from the Coast Guard. Feedback will come in from users of the canal and hopefully all can work together to find short windows of the bridge being down. Once approved by the Coast Guard, there is a 28-day period for the USACE and the Pilots' Associations to advise of the closure and the USACE will use their public outreach to notify everyone in the public 14 days in advance.

Details in meeting packet 62-70

### III. Unfinished Business / New Business

Captain Drew Hodgens – As MAC Chairman, I would like to acknowledge the Waterways Team and LT Engle. Thank you, all 3 of you. From our group, we are going to miss you guys and from everybody here, thank you for your dedication to the port. There was some much going on in your time here and you were always available. We thank you and wish you all the best in everything next.

### IV. Adjournment

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

Next meeting Thursday, September 14th at Popi's 1030 for coffee and 1100 start.