

Mariner's Advisory Committee Minutes

September 14, 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
2023-09-14.pdf

I. Approval of the Minutes

Captain 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- David Cuff and seconded by Chris Rowland.

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

II. Reports

A. Treasurer's Report – Capt. John Gazzola – Good morning everyone. Captain Rick Iulucci could not make it. The report is posted on the MAC website if you would like to take a look. I believe as of now, everyone has paid. Please be expedient with your 2024 payments.

B. Membership Report – Capt. John Gazzola - We have 2 new members in process right now, New Jersey Economic Development Authority and Moffat Nichol.

Capt. Drew Hodgens – I wasn't sure where I was going to put this today. Captain John Gazzola will be finishing up his term here with the MAC – it's been 23 years that he has volunteered with the MAC. On behalf of the all of us, I would like to thank you for your time and all that you have done for the MAC.

C. ACOE Report - Timothy Rooney – Good morning everyone. I'll start with the Delaware River, Philadelphia to Sea. Norfolk Dredging completed Deep Water Point Range. They will be starting Wilmington Harbor; latest scheduled start date is September 21st. The Hopper Dredge McFarland will begin the dredging at Mifflin Range for shoaling. Norfolk Dredge was the apparent low bidder for next year's contract and should be awarded by late September. Should start in the Marcus Hook Range in Winter 2024. Bucket dredging is scheduled to begin by the end of week for the dredging between Tacony-Palmyra Bridge and Newbold Island. C&D Canal - construction continues on St. Georges Bridge. Salem River – contract was advertised in June and is still in the evaluation phase. Anticipated to be awarded early next year. Government Dredge Murden will be used to clear shoals from the channel bend and placement to be near Oakwood Beach. Intercoastal Waterway / Cape May Ferry – Bids opening for maintenance dredging on September 18th. Maurice River – Maintenance dredging bid was awarded September 1st to Barnegat Bay Dredging Company. Work will commence in September and continue through February.

Details in meeting packet 7 through 12

D. USCG Report – Capt. Kate Higgins-Bloom – Good morning everyone. There has been a lot of personnel change at Sector, I want to take a second to introduce some new folks, BMC Derek Casper took over ANT and LT Cory Sonnega on the CGC William Tate. There is also LT Daniel Taylor who took over MSD in Lewes and LT Owen Mims who took over for LT Jordan Marshall as Waterways Management Chief. We want to thank PBF Energy for the PREP exercise. It was the first large scale in person pollution exercise that the sector had done since well before the pandemic. The Empire State is heading up to New York in a few days and we are really excited to see her get underway.

LT Owen Mims – Thank you Captain Higgins-Bloom and thank you Captain Cuff. We've had a few good things going on for our ranges. We've gotten some funding to rebuild Fisher Point Range front and rear lights. We have received funding for Liston and Reedy Range and New Castle. We are working towards funding Brown Shoal Light as well hopefully in 2024. There is a chart put in for Mid-Atlantic Offshore Wind Projects that shows all 16 active off shore leases. Looking forward to working with everyone on this project.

Details in meeting packet 2 through 6

Capt. Drew Hodgins – I would like to give a personal shout out to the USCG. The other night on the river, 3 range lights went out and by 2:00 the next afternoon, all 3 were back and working properly. Thanks to the team for handling that, it is very much appreciated.

E. NOAA - Mr. Chris DiVeglio – Good morning everyone. Not too much to update here. One thing to mention, the Voice Data Response system will go offline tomorrow. Not many use it anymore but just for everyone's information. Some quarterly statistics for the period ending August 31, 2023 – all of the air gap systems of interest in our area were reporting at or above 99%. Philadelphia current meter is at 100% and Brown Shoal is at 70% range. The sensor was down and redeployed during that time frame. There is planned work this fall for the wind data. I want to introduce my new colleague, Jay Dawsey. He will be giving a brief update.

Mr. Jay Dawsey – Morning everyone. I want to give an update on some new High Tide Flooding Products. We have some flyers that will give you the Mid-Atlantic Outlook. They have a QR code on them that you can scan, and it will give you an Annual and a Monthly outlook. To give you a summary, the 2022 Mid-Atlantic Region saw 8 flooding days while 2023 is predicted to see 9-14 days. Feel free to take a handout, they will be here in the back.

Mr. Ryan Wartick – Morning everyone, just a couple updates. We are moving through our chart cancellation process. There are 291 left to be canceled. If you need any information on how to use the Custom Chart tool, there are some You Tube videos or you can reach out to me with any questions. We are in the middle of an ENC re-gridding process. We have completed all of the Delaware Bay and River. One last thing, we are in the process of planning our 2024 survey season. We still have the capacity to take requests for areas to be surveyed. If you have any, please let me know.

Details in meeting packet 13 through 36

F. New Jersey Wind Port Presentation – Mr. Fernando Gonzalez Chana – Good morning everyone and thank you to the MAC for having us today. The wind port, it very exciting what is happening now, almost 4 years since we looked at the site. We are getting ready to open operations early 2024. Ørsted will be the first user of the port for a lease period of 2 years. Permitting is completed for Phase 1B which is why work is well under way. Phase 2 permitting is in process and expecting approvals by the end of year. Time frame, by early 2024 completion of parcel A. As early as April 2024, we may start with vessel operations depending on when Ørsted takes over and starts bringing components in. By September 2024, the main substation is completed and by Q3 2024 Parcel E CDF will be completed. We are expecting 2 feeder barges per day to be bringing the components in. Additional vessels bring in components from overseas every 7 1/2 to 10 days. Some milestones before start of operations, we need to provide project data to the Pilots' Association and the MAC. We need to start speaking with NOAA about charting. We went through a series of real time simulations with the Pilots' and MITAGS. We are expecting by Q1 2024 to repeat that exercise and do a final test run before things become operational. We are working on onboarding a Port Operator. Lastly, we will be seeking USCG approval to get everything up and running. Again, a lot is happening now and a lot to come. It is a very exciting time for New Jersey, and we are happy to be a part of it. Thank you for your time.

Details in meeting packet 37-48

G. **Ørsted – Mr. Norm Witt** – Morning everyone. I'm Norm Witt, Ørsted's Mid-Atlantic Marine Affairs Manager. Just a quick update on our projects. Ocean Wind 1 is the furthest along in the development pipeline. Development-wise, we are expecting to hear next about an approved construction and operations plan this month. We are looking at starting some pre-offshore cabling work possibly at the end of this year but really ramping up early 2024. Final operation, sometime mid-2026. The Skip Jack project is next in the pipeline. We are working through some technical details. We expect to submit our construction and operations plan hopefully in the next couple months. Just wanted to give a really quick update – thank you all for your time.

III. Unfinished Business / New Business

Capt. Drew Hodgens – Next up, any unfinished business and any new business. Update from me, there were 2 updates I posted to the MAC website just draft changes. At Monroe Energy, the ship dock new maximum freshwater draft is 37', and the barge dock is now 29' freshwater draft. Delaware City freshwater draft is now 30'5".

Capt. David Cuff – I know Drew mentioned this already, but Capt. John Gazzola has been doing this for the MAC for 23 years and I personally have known John for over 20 years. He gave me my first job. He is an asset and has been an asset to this port for all these years and I think a standing ovation one more time for John and all he has done for this port.

Capt. John Gazzola – I'll keep this nice and short. I do want to thank Captain Drew and Captain Dave and the assemblage for the last 23 years; it's been a lot of fun. I'm not retiring, I'm just going to need to spend more time out of town. Thank you very much everyone, it's been an honor.

IV. Adjournment

Capt. Drew Hodgens asked for a motion to adjourn: David Cuff motioned, and John Gazzola seconded.

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