

Mariner's Advisory Committee Minutes

December 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
2023-12-14.pdf

I. Approval of the Minutes

Captain Drew Hodgens MAC Chairman opens the meeting: It is the holiday season; I know everyone is busy this time of year so thank you for making time to come today. There is a small gift for everyone to grab on their way out. The first order of business is the approval of the minutes from the September Meeting. If anyone would like to make a motion to accept those minutes.

Motion to approve minutes- David Cuff 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 – Capt. Drew Hodgens – Good morning everyone. Captain Rick Iuliucci could not make it. The report is posted on the MAC website if you would like to take a look. The balance carried over from September was \$11,701.82. We had a few expenses leaving us with a balance of \$8,757.42.

B. Membership Report – Capt. Drew Hodgens – Thank you all for being members. We will be sending out the dues for 2024 via email.

C. USCG Report – Capt. Kate Higgins-Bloom – Good morning everyone. In 2023 we processed permits for 103 marine events. We kicked the year off with an interesting SAR case with Air Station Elizabeth City in North Carolina and Atlantic City recused 7 Honduran crew members off of the Tug Legacy sue to heavy weather offshore. We worked together to get them into our area via dead ship tow and into dry dock. This is just one example of the teamwork in our area to keep the port not only moving but open. Another great job was the delivery of the NSMV, National Security Multi Mission Vessel, Empire State by Philly Ship. We also had our PREP exercise where we test our plan once every 4 years. We had over 150 people there from at least 12 different agencies. Thank you to PBF Energy for hosting us. Lastly we had Navy week. This is a sign of things to come. In 2025 the Navy is planning to host a much bigger Fleet Week here and as everyone knows in 2026 we will have FIFA World Cup, the US 250, and the Baseball All-Star Game. We are expecting some impact on marine transportation when all of this happens. Lastly, Philadelphia is an interesting city. There is a lot going on including illegal activity. We have been working closely with our partners at the FBI and JTTF on a number of operations. We try to minimize the impact that has on you but every once in a while, it does require us to do something to disrupt the flow of commerce. When we do take that kind of action, please know it is not done lightly. One last thing, for those of you who have not yet met our new Deputy Sector Commander Rob Rivera he joins us from our pollution shop. He has an outstanding record.

LT Owen Mims – Good morning all. We have 2 MSIB's, one starting tomorrow for our domestic ice season alert, and we also have our MSIB for reporting of sexual misconduct on US vessels. There have been some changes there within our inspections department. As for ATON specific items, CGC William Tate has been underway, and they are swapping out 72 aids. ATON station Philadelphia is awaiting batteries for the Marcus Hook Range. It was an exciting November for ANT Cape May. We had an intercoastal waterway contract signed and preconstruction meeting has happened to replace 20 fixed aids. Brandywine Shoal Light is also awaiting batteries. And Elbow Cross Ledge, we are in conversation with D5 and the plan is to put in a temporary aid. Exciting news for Fisher Point Range front and rear lights, funding has been set aside and we are expecting in this coming year to have the contract awarded and well as the rebuilding of the Liston/Reedy Range and New Castle Range. We have quite a few construction projects coming up and hopefully we can get them going in the first part of the New Year.

Details in meeting packet 2 through 6

D. ACOE Report - Timothy Rooney – Good morning everyone. I'll start with our Philadelphia to Sea project; we are waiting for Norfolk Dredging to finish some dredging at the wind port. They will be done in a December timeframe and will come back online in January. We have had the Hopper Dredge McFarland keeping the New Castle Range and Marcus Hook Range open for the short term. She is at the dock now and will be back online in April 2024. When Norfolk Dredge gets back to ACOE projects, we are scheduled to have the Essex Dredge in Marcus Hook Range and should most likely start in February. Following completion of Marcus Hook, we will decide along with the Pilots as to whether it is Deep Water or New Castle which will be the next range following Marcus Hook. Wilmington Harbor will be following that with the Dredge Essex somewhere in the July time frame. Philadelphia to Trenton is the next project. Bucket dredging is ongoing at the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge, Newbold areas, as well as Fairless Turning Basin. It is scheduled for completion by March 15th. Moving on to the C&D Canal, there are a few bridge projects going on. The St. Georges deck replacement is not expected to have any air gap reduction. The Reedy Point Bridge will start sometime in Spring 2024. No planned air gap reduction. Lastly, the maintenance dredging of the Upper Chesapeake began December 4th and is expected to be completed March 2024. Next we have Salem River. The dredging was advertised, and the contract is proposed to be awarded by the end of the calendar year. This is a unique project as we are beneficially placing the dredged material. This is where we hope to go with the Delaware River maintenance dredging. The Dredge Murden is scheduled this winter to clear some of the sand shoals in the bend of the Salem River. For the Intercoastal Waterway and the Cape May Ferry Channel, Barnegat Bay Dredging was awarded the job and work will start March/April 2024. As we know, the McFarland is nearing the end of her life. Eastern Ship Building has been contracted out by the ACOE to build the new dredge. They are in the design phases right now. Delivery is expected to be in November 2027.

Details in meeting packet 7 through 12

E. NOAA - Mr. Chris DiVeglio – Good morning everyone. I'm joined today by my colleague, Nicole Kruz. She is the communications lead in our office. Just some updates, we have renewed our agreement with PhilaPort. Quarterly Sensor Stats – all have been operating at or near 100%. The only issue was Brown Shoal Light, there was equipment damage on 10/4 and it was repaired on 10/24. The upgrades to Delaware City have been completed. High Tide Flooding Products have been worked on quite a bit in the past year by NOAA. We still have some flyers that will give you the Mid-Atlantic Outlook. There is a workshop being held on Tuesday, January 9th, if anyone is interested. Ryan could not be here today, but he wanted me to remind you that if help is needed with Custom Chart Tool to reach out to him. We are still continuing with the chart cancellation process.

Details in meeting packet 13 through 22

III. Unfinished Business / New Business

Capt. Drew Hodgens – Next up, any unfinished business and any new business. From my point of view, these lunches started in 1964 and I think they would be proud of where things have gone and of how well we all work together. Their vision was a great one. Happy Holidays to everyone. A special thank you to Robert Klepacki who helps me out with everything for the meeting.

IV. Adjournment

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

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