

SOUTHEAST TEXAS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for January 25, 2018, Full-Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Southeast Texas Waterways Advisory Council (SETWAC) was held on January 25, 2018 at Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, TX. The current SETWAC Charter is dated January 23, 2014. Printed materials presented at the meeting are available for copying at the office of the U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Unit at 2901 Turtle Creek Drive, Port Arthur, TX 77642. Meeting information and power point presentations are also available electronically through the SETWAC website www.setwac.org.

1. Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 10:08 by SETWAC Chairman Larry Kelly. He recognized Mr. Paul Beard as the latest recipient of the Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce Arthur E. Stilwell Award. Completed an introduction of all committee members and guests in attendance.

2. Remarks by the Captain of the Port:

- Captain Jacqueline Twomey gave welcoming remarks. She expressed thanks for SETWAC's continued support and relayed that it is an exciting time to be a stakeholder as we move into a new year that should be filled with opportunity and expansion. CAPT Twomey introduced Mr. Erik Stromberg, from Lamar University, who presented later during the meeting.

3. Approval of the October 26, 2017 Minutes:

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the October 26, 2017 minutes. A unanimous vote was passed.

4. Committee Reports:

Navigation Sub-Committee Report:

- Captain Charles LaHaye reported 5% growth in ship movements throughout calendar-year 2017. He expressed the added outlook and expectation of taking in larger ship traffic in the coming months/years. CAPT LaHaye stressed the Pilot's desire to maintain efficiency and proficiency through solid communication and proper planning so as to decrease delays due to planning shortfalls and typical winter/spring weather. He added that the Pilots can handle increased traffic provided stakeholders provide accurate scheduling information.

Port Welfare Subcommittee Report:

- Ms. Dourine Badeaux presented on behalf of Fr. Sinclair Oubre. On behalf of Lamar State College, she spoke to new mariner courses being offered that include an OUPV/6-pack course and a Tankerman course.

- She informed the group of the “Special Seminar on Mental Health” being hosted by WGMA, The Nautical Institute, The Apostle of the Sea - Diocese of Beaumont, The Apostle of the Sea - USA, and the North American Maritime Ministry Association. The event is to take place 1130 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, April 20, 2018 at the WGMA in Houston, TX.
- Mrs. Badeaux announced CAPT Jim Robertson (USCG Ret.) as the new President of the Port Arthur International Seafarers Center.
- She announced the PAISC Annual Bike Blessing to take place at the Seafarer’s Center on Saturday, March 31, 2018.

USACE Waterway Maintenance Report/Dredge Operations Sub-Committee:

- Mr. Randy Reese reported that the Sabine-Neches Navigation District received \$557,000 in 2017 from the Senate Appropriations Committee. Increased funding is expected throughout 2018.
- Mr. Steve Sherrill reported on upcoming dredge projects including the Lower Neches River, the Outer Bar and Bank Channels (both to be awarded in the summer and started in the fall), and the PA-8 and PA-11 contracts. PA-11 has been slow to start due to weather. The PA-8 contract should be awarded in the fall; work should commence this coming winter.
- Mr. Sherrill reported on the ongoing restriction at Taylor’s Bayou, and regular monitoring and surveying in the area to ensure repairs to the wall do not fail.

Waterway Security Sub-Committee Report:

- Mr. Jeremy Hanson spoke to the 2017 Sabine-Neches AMSC highlights.

ATON Status/Projects Report:

- BM1 Ryan Richards, Executive Petty Officer, Aids to Navigation Team Sabine gave a brief report on area Aids to Navigation (ATON). He reported 13 ATON knock-downs in 2017.

5. New Business:

- Mr. Stan Napper, Houston Baptist University, spoke to the make-up of the college, and the current educational offerings from Houston Baptist College of Engineering.
- Mr. Douglas Hendrix, USCG, addressed the proposed disestablishment of the Sabine Federal Anchorage.
- LT. Mateusz Lemanski, USCG, presented “Update on Towing Vessels.”
- Mr. Douglas Hendrix, USCG, presented the “2017 State of the Waterway.”
- Erik Stromberg, Executive Director, Center for Advances in Port Management, Lamar University, presented on pertinent post-Harvey studies currently underway at the university. Mr. Stromberg addressed current fields of study and upcoming workshops in 2018. He further stressed the need to continue to partner and promote cooperative studies of area waterways that will benefit port stakeholders.

6. Next Meetings:

- The next working group meeting will be held at the Sabine-Neches Navigation District offices on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
- The next full committee meeting will be held at MSU Port Arthur on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

7. Adjourn:

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

