On Friday May 10, 2013 at 10:15 AM, members of the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee (LSHSC) gathered for the Committee’s sixth meeting. The meeting was held at the Port of Houston Authority executive building, located at 111 East Loop North, Houston, TX 77029. The published agenda is included: enclosure (1).

CALL TO ORDER

Executive committee member (Acting Chair), Mr. John Salvesen, performed Roll Call. 23 Members of the Board were present; a satisfactory Quorum was established.

OPENING REMARKS BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Chair welcomed the Committee and the members and attendees briefly introduced themselves. Chair then yielded to Mr. Marcus Woodring for a safety brief, followed by an overview of the agenda and a few opening remarks.

REMARKS BY THE U.S.C.G. CAPTAIN OF THE PORT

Chair yields the floor to Capt. Marcus Woodring, who introduced the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Captain of the Port (COTP) Capt. James Whitehead and made a few remarks regarding his upcoming retirement from the USCG. Chair recognized the COTP, who discussed several points, following:

There are several personnel changes for sector Houston-Galveston. He will turn over COTP to Capt. Brian Penoyer. WGMA will be hosting a “meet and greet” for Capt. Penoyer on June 4th at 11:30. Capt. Jim Robertson will be relieved by CDR Ricardo Alonzo. Chief of Prevention CDR Mark P. will be relieved by Gary Messner. CDR Rich house is leaving in July – CDR Adrian West will relieve. Attorney Bruce Davis will become Senior Investigating officer. All will arrive this summer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of May 10, 2013 were distributed to members of the board. Enclosures will be made available on the website. Philip Kropf made one correction: “Bayou” should read “Double Bayou”. Niels Aalund moves to approve the minutes with the correction. Tammy Lobaugh seconds. Minutes approved.
SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Respective Chairs of the Subcommittees submitted their reports to the Committee.

1. Training and Outreach – Ms. Tammy Lobaugh
   The Training and Outreach Subcommittee report is enclosed: enclosure (2).

2. Navigation Operations – Mr. David Foret
   - A TSAC group met in March and will next meet in August to discuss AIS and how we can better use AIS data without burdening the mariner.
   - The Facilities team is meeting facilities at a rate of two per quarter.
   - Aids to Navigation: 14 of 27 collisions were self-reported this year.
   - The Loss of Propulsion work group also met. Mr. Foret yielded to Lt. Doug Trent and Capt. Pontikos for a brief overview of their workgroup’s activities before continuing with his report.
   - The Galveston railroad bridge is nearly complete.
   - In Texas City there is discussion of using the Snake Island area. The port needs to officially request usage from the Snake Island stakeholders.
   - Members met with CenterPoint Energy to discuss a fender system and relocation which will not interfere with their submerged pipelines.
   - Brown Water University funding has been secured and will be on Sep 11-12 at the Houston Pilots and the Seaman’s Church.
   - Next meeting is June 4th at 0900 at WGMA’s offices, followed by Dredging/Marine Construction.

3. Waterways Utilization – Capt. JJ Plunkett
   The Waterways Utilization Subcommittee report is enclosed: enclosure (3).

4. Dredging & Marine Construction – presented by Mr. David Casebeer
   - Mark Coyle is stepping down as chair. Mr. Casebeer will be the acting chairman until the new chair is selected.
   - The Subcommittee would like to post more dredging information to the LSHSC website, such as Hydrographic Surveys, Safety, and General dredging information. Discussed the possibility of tracking safety issues and dredging products.
   - Patrick Seeba is putting together the most recent soundings (date/time) and will work with Bob Lain, whose dock list uses much of the same information.
   - Mark gave update on major private dredging projects.
   - The creation of a Facility Information Guide is in progress. This is a six-month project to create a book with facility info (tying into Patrick and Bob’s above-mentioned projects). Texas City and Freeport also have a need for a facility guide. A means of funding the project must be found; the subcommittee is considering advertising opportunities. Bill Diehl and the GHPB will assist in gathering and compiling data. Over the next month LSHSC will connect with the other areas of interest and make sure they know about the project and how they can get involved.
   - 12 May 2013 will be the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. USCG Hurricane Plan Update – Capt. Steven Nerheim
The Port Coordination Team (PCT) will hold its annual meeting tentatively in June. CDR Xochitl Castañeda mentioned that the preseason MSID will be going out soon via Homeport and reminded those present to complete any prehurricane season surveys at their respective facilities. It is going to be an active hurricane season this year. There will be some minor modifications to the plan.

2. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Update – Ms. Tricia Campbell

Ms. Campell briefly described the status of the following dredging projects:

- Bayport Main Channel Contract to PA 15. Dredge returning at the end of May.
- Barbours Cut and HSC from Morgan’s Point. to Exxon. This is a recent award which starts in ~1 mo. Dredged material will go to the Spilman Placement Area.
- Galveston Entrance Channel and Redfish high shoal reach. Award in August. Material to offshore.
- Carpenters to Greens, Greens Bayou. Award in October. Material to Lost Lake/Clinton Placement Areas.
- Bayport Flare and HSC Redfish to Beacon 78. Award in October. Material to Mid-bay Placement Area.
- HSC Sims Bayou to Turning Basin. Award in January. Material to Clinton Placement Area.

The committee recessed at 11:25.

Chair called the committee to order at 11:33.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Waterways Suitability Assessments – CDR Xochitl Castañeda

   CDR Castañeda introduced Vince Alexander and Tyler Cathburn to the committee, who are the points of contact for Waterways Suitability Assessments, and yielded the floor to Vince. Vince reviewed several changes to MSID policy from the COTP.

2. Marine Event Permit Handling Updates – CDR Xochitl Castañeda

   CDR Castañeda explained that the USCG has updated their permitting process, and will not be issuing as many marine event permits. Specifically, they will not be officially approving many events though they are still permitted to occur; this is a change in terminology and practice which addresses liability. She advised the committee to not construe a lack of official approval in such cases to be a signal that the event is no longer permitted.

Chair opened the floor for the discussion of additional new business.

Chair recognized Mr. James Prazak, who introduced SEATAC and its projects to the committee.

SEATAC is a chemical transportation advisory committee of 22 members in Greater Houston, working out of USCG headquarters. They provide advice to the USCG such as pollution prevention, safety, and security matters with regard to bulk chemicals. SEATAC has been in hiatus since 2009, but met last December and again this week. Currently they are working on Mobile Vapor Control systems. A Regulations working
group is reviewing MARPOL and others regulations for outdated material, and Liquid and Compressed Natural Gas (LNG/CNG) fuel use considerations. Next working group meetings will be in June or July. The next full SEATAC committee meeting will be in December in Washington DC. James Prazak, Carl Holley, John Salveson, and others can provide more information about this committee to anyone interested.

Chair recognized Mr. John Walker, USCG. John described a USCG security exercise which will be taking place in September. The purpose will be to review security considerations and exercises with focus on the detonation of a “dirty” bomb in the Houston Ship Channel. More information coming this summer.

Chair recognized Mr. Anuj Chopra. Anuj discussed Certificates of Compliance (CoC’s) and foreign tanker vessels. There was a difficult situation created in the last year with regard to CoC’s because terminals have not been permitting use of their docks as a layberth. This continues to be a serious issue. Mr. Bob Lain announced that he will call another CoC working group meeting to handle this matter.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Committee will meet on August 2nd at the Houston Pilot’s office at 10:00 AM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Bob Lain moves to adjourn. Capt. Robert Thompson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Submitted: KRISTOFER SCHRÖDER

Executive Secretary

Certified: TOM MARIAN

Committee Chairman

Enclosures: (1) LSHSC – Published Agenda – May 10, 2013

(2) Training and Outreach Subcommittee Report

(3) Waterways Utilization Subcommittee Report
Meeting Agenda

LONE STAR HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

10:00 AM, 10 May 2013
Port of Houston Authority
111 East Loop North
Houston, TX 77029

A. Introductions and Opening Remarks by Committee Chairman – John Salvesen

B. Remarks by Captain Whitehead – Introductions of new Sector Personnel

C. Approval of Minutes – February 8, 2013 Meeting

D. Subcommittee Reports
   1) Training and Outreach – Ms. Tammy Lobaugh
   2) Navigation Operations – Mr. David Foret
   3) Waterways Utilization – Captain JJ Plunkett
   4) Dredging & Marine Construction – Mr. Mark Coyle

E. Old Business
   1) U.S. Coast Guard Updates - Hurricane Plan
   2) ACOE Updates – Ms. Tricia Campbell

F. New Business
   1) Waterways Suitability Assessments – LCDR Xochitl Castañeda
   2) Marine Event Permit Handling Updates – LCDR Xochitl Castañeda

G. Next Meetings
   1) Friday, August 2nd
   2) Friday, November 8th
   3) Friday, February 7th
Subcommittee Report: Training & Outreach

In looking back to the Subcommittee notes dated 24 April 2012 --- much has been accomplished. Our group initially began to develop a working direction & reputation while avoiding the creation of ‘artificial boundaries’.

Three basic points were sought then addressed by the following action items:

1. Train the Future Generation
   - Identify ‘Exit Lines’ for local high school students, defining educational paths
     - Vocational Training
     - Community Colleges
     - Universities
     - Maritime Academies
   - Identify alternative paths for students wishing to enter into military service or industry
     - Identify tools for training
     - Job fairs
     - Internships
     - USCG Auxiliary
     - Maritime forums

2. Train the Current Generation

3. Broadcast the LSHSC presence & purpose

LOGO – The Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee, logo was initiated as an art contest amongst local maritime high school students. Pencil sketches were scrubbed by cadets at Texas Maritime and aided by design graphics. Final rendering was reviewed by a maritime marketing firm and end result now officially accepted as the official logo of the LSHSC. The logo may be found posted on the LSHSC web page.
INDUSTRY SURVEY – An industry survey was developed. Purpose for such is to bridge the gap between the needs of the maritime industry, services provided by maritime education institutions and workforce recruiting efforts.

The survey is live and available at this time. It may be found on the LSHSC web page, under the category of training and outreach. The survey is powered by ‘Survey Monkey” and graciously being maintained by Patrick Seba as web master. I would like to encourage all to take part in the survey and please share it with your colleagues.

JOB BOARD – LSHSC Job Board is up and running. The current format requires a great deal of web master oversight, we ultimately hope to move to an automated system. Job postings are available at this time.

Simply maneuver to the training & outreach page. Scroll down to the topic of “Looking For Employment In The Maritime Industry? Click here for the LSHSC Job Board”

A list of various companies, colleges and universities are found and persons may link to their job postings.

OUTSTANDING ITEM – “Save Our Bay” brochure. The original document was developed & published by the HOGANSAC committee. Unfortunately after numerous attempts the original document cannot be opened and changes made. It was the intent to verify contact information and make any necessary changes before posting to the LSHSC web page. It was also the intent to remove any references to HOGANSAC.

After brief discussions at the 10 May 2013 meeting it was decided that Philip Kropf will provide a copy of the document to Captain Bill Diehl of the GHPB and Captain Diehl will rework the document for posting to the LSHSC web page.
Meetings Held: 3/21/13 & 5/7/13

Next scheduled mtg: 6/13/13

Workgroups:

- Certificate of Compliance WG (Chair: Bob Lain): Thanks to the CG for working so closely with our working group & implementing suggestions on how best to streamline the process from an industry standpoint. S/c members who are stakeholders in the CoC process all agreed that they have seen big improvements in inspector availability and vessel scheduling. The group will continue to work with CG on problems that arise. They are also hoping to get a letter from LS HSC to the CG requesting CG resources commensurate with Port needs.

- Layberth WG (Chair: Bob Lain): Layberth group continues to gather information on layberth availability which always seems hard to find, especially for deeper draft ships. They should have a product that can be disseminated to Ship agents on some simple dock specs & POC’s to check for dock availability. The group is also working with GHPB to assess the feasibility of an electronic bulletin board that would show real time availability.

- Anchorage WG (Chair: Jim Andrews): Has identified 10 action items in a pretty comprehensive plan to carve out additional anchorage space for Port Traffic. Group has enjoyed some early success with low hanging fruit, tabled some items due to objections from different groups, and is working on some of the more difficult issues.

- Precautionary areas ad hoc WG (Chair: Jim Andrews): At the direction of LS HSC, this ad-hoc working group has been established. Membership includes pilots, brown water reps, and Coast Guard. First meeting is scheduled for later in May.

Issues for the Committee: None.