



Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee

Freeport Sub-Committee Meeting

12 April 2018 1000-1100

Location

Emergency Operations Center, Port Freeport
801 Navigation Blvd., Freeport TX 77541
2nd Floor conference room

Call In number: 1-979-373-5989

Pin to enter after connecting: 2436

Meeting Minutes

- Safety Briefing – Al Durel, Port Freeport
- Attendee Introductions

Old Business

- Tug & Barge / Ship Interaction and VHF Communication update/Bluewater/Brownwater Seminar – Matthew Krohn
 - Communications between Pilots and Barge Traffic have improved, Pilots are able to raise the tugs on the VHF
 - Matt attended the 2nd day of the Seminar and sees it as an extremely valuable event but geared towards Houston. Recommends this Subcommittee to host one for the Freeport Area Stakeholders.
 - Subcommittee should continue to monitor this item.
- Dredge/Placement Area availability for harbor users – Jason Hull
 - USACE working to reopen placement area on Quintana Island, removing sediment for beneficial use and raising the levee. Resident Engineer working with the contractor on the Safety Plan, Aron Edward is the USACE POC to provide additional timeline. Aron could not make this meeting because he was in training.
 - Seth Jones, USACE, provided update on dredging projects in the GIWW. Freeport to upper Matagorda Bay, including San Bernard River and Colorado River contract to go out in May. Anticipate awarding contract in August.
- Brazos Pilots Boat - Matthew Krohn
 - Pilot Boat delivery on schedule for delivery 1Q2019
- Brazos Gate Project – Letter sent for Public Comment – Ann Marie Poninski

- Subcommittee would like to ask the Full Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee to provide public comment. The Subcommittee asked for additional time for public comments with the 12 April and 4 May meetings to discuss.
- Ask Full Committee if we can forward our letter to additional parties:
 - Matt Mahoney, TXDOT, as the POC for the Non-Federal Local sponsor
 - Governor Greg Abbott
 - Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz
 - Congressman Randy Weber, 14th District
 - Senator Joan Huffman, Texas State Senate District 17
 - Representative Dennis Bonnen, Texas State House District 25
- Seth Jones, USACE, provided insight into the 3x3 process for studies – 3 years and \$3MM is available to complete all studies. Based on the Public Comment, they may request additional time to evaluate the options. Subcommittee or local stakeholders need to monetize the 2nd gate, how much money will be spent by not only USACE but private companies to maintain the proper depth with the increased siltation anticipated.
- Pilots main concern is the level of sediment that will be experienced in the Freeport Channel, reducing draft. That combined with the increased cross currents anticipated with the wider opening for the gate is a safety concern for the channel.
- Are we missing another option, like dredging the mouth or the Brazos River? Pilots say no. The mouth was opened during Harvey and has not had any significant improvements in siltation or cross current in Freeport Channel.
- At the time of this meeting, Chairman Ann Marie Poninski was awaiting a cost of construction for gates from Franchelle E. Craft, Project Manager, USACE.
 - Received 4/13/18: “Our estimate with contingencies for 3a.1 for a new sector gate was approximately \$90 million.”
- Harbor Tugs in Freeport
 - One new boat will be delivered in May but still awaiting Freeport LNG schedule to determine placement of any new boats in Freeport
 - Freeport LNG still scheduled for 1st train 4Q2018

New Business

- Brazos Gate/Colorado Locks - Additional comments to USACE
 - See above
- Commander Callaghan is completing his tour at MSU Texas City in June. He will be relieved by Commander Eric Carrero at the Change of Command on June 8th.
- NOAA Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) – Working with the Brazos Pilots, Chairman Ann Marie Poninski reached out to NOAA to gather information on the system. NOAA will provide a system overview from Houston/Galveston, including cost benefit, sensors and downtime/maintenance requirements.
 - They will also provide a cost estimate for the system that the Pilots are interested in for Freeport Harbor.
 - Recommend this Subcommittee to work with the Pilots, Port, Port Stakeholders

- and NOAA to evaluate PORTS for Freeport Harbor.
- Brazos Pilots brought up the lack of a proper NOAA Freeport Approach and Channel chart. They will reach out to Allan Bunn, NOAA, to start evaluating the possibility of a new chart. The chart will also need to accurately identify the location of wrecks in the anchorage area off Freeport.
- USCG approved anchorage areas – with increased ship traffic, the Pilots are seeking our help to chart anchorage areas off the Sea Buoy.
- USCG Full Waterway Assessment - Commander Callaghan indicated that the USCG is planning commence a full waterway assessment of Freeport Channel later this year.
- Mike Quilty, Port Freeport representative to Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee has moved on and we need a new member to represent the Port to the Full Committee. Al Durel wishes to remain as the alternate. Al is asked for a volunteer and Gene Theriot, Dow, has agreed to be the representative.

Action Items

- Ask Full Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee for Public Comment letter and to send Subcommittee Letter additional Government Officials – Ann Marie Poninski
- Obtain additional information on NOAA PORTS – Ann Marie Poninski
- Contact Allan Bunn, NOAA, for new hydrographic survey in anchorage area and new chart – Brazos Pilots
- Port Freeport representative to Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee – Al Durel