



LONE STAR HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 4, 2018 Meeting

On Friday, May 4, 2018 at 9:00 AM, members of the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee (LS HSC) gathered for the Committee's twenty-sixth meeting. The meeting was held at the Houston Pilots office in Deer Park. The published agenda is included in the Enclosures.

CALL TO ORDER – 9:08 AM

Committee Chair JJ Plunkett called the meeting to order at 9:10am. CAPT Plunkett commented how pleased he is with the level of enthusiasm at committee and subcommittee meetings and workgroups. He looks forward to the exciting things that will be happening in 2018 and 2019. This meeting is CAPT Plunkett's first meeting as Committee Chair.

CAPTAIN OF THE PORT OVERVIEW – CAPT Rich Howes

CAPT Rich Howes, Deputy Sector Commander of Sector Houston-Galveston, appeared for CAPT Oditt, who is out of town and sends his regards. CAPT Howes thanked the Houston Pilots for hosting this meeting. He highlighted the importance of being prepared for the 2018 hurricane season, and recommended everyone review heavy weather plans and last year's lessons learned. He appealed for anyone with feedback regarding the Coast Guard's hurricane policies and procedures to contact him, CAPT Oditt, or LCDR Griffin. CAPT Howes also extended congratulations to Port of Houston for receiving this year's Rear Admiral Richard E. Bennis Award for Excellence in Maritime Security. In closing, he mentioned updated MSIBs regarding an ATON knock down reporting and Menhaden issues, as well as noting that the new anchorage at Bolivar Roads is almost complete.

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS – Rachel Washko

Rachel Washko of WGMA sat in as Executive Secretary and performed the roll call. A satisfactory Quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Plunkett presented the minutes for the February 2, 2018 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Niels Aalund and seconded by Chris Bennett. Motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION "CDC REPORTING & PORT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS"- Ms. Stephanie White, CDC

Ms. White shared a presentation on the CDC's involvement with port entry requirements. She explained in detail the illness and death reporting requirements for international ships coming into US ports. For further information, contact Ms. White at sbwhite@cdc.gov, 281-230-3871.

PRESENTATION “HURRICANE OUTLOOK 2018”- Brian Kyle, National Weather Service

Mr. Kyle shared a presentation on hurricane tracking and impact statistics and the 2018 hurricane outlook. He noted that NWS will implement some updated approaches to predictions of storm tracks and potential storm effects this year. He welcomed all stakeholders to reach out to NWS with comments and feedback. For further information, contact Mr. Kyle at brian.kyle@noaa.gov, (281) 337-5074 x305 .

DISCUSSION: HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS – LCDR Navin Griffin

LCDR Griffin noted that there will be changes this hurricane season to US Coast Guard Port Condition specifics and MSIB verbiage. For instance, Port Condition Whiskey might be set earlier and last longer; all vessels will be required to be out of port prior to Port Condition Zulu whenever possible.

This will be LCDR Griffin’s last LS HSC Full committee meeting. LCDR Griffin was recognized by the Committee for all of his hard work in making the Port of Houston a safer and more efficient waterway.

Break

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Chair led the discussion into the subcommittee reports. Updated documents as provided by Subcommittees are included in the Enclosures.

1. Maritime Education, Training, and Outreach Subcommittee – Amy Arrowood
Ms. Arrowood noted several maritime summer camps scheduled this year to get the next generation exposed to the maritime community. Camps include those hosted by SanJac, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce, and Seabase Galveston.
2. Navigation Operations Subcommittee and Working Groups – CAPT David Foret
 - a. Menhaden Working Group – Jeff McCormick
Mr. McCormick noted that the medhaden season has already started and that there have been 4 incidents already, with the first occurring in January. An MSIB has been issued.
 - b. ATON Working Group – LCDR Navin Griffin
LCDR Griffin mentioned discussions for creating a restricted visibility workgroup at a Navops meeting a few days ago; it is scheduled for May 9 in the VTS Houston training room.
3. Waterways Utilization Subcommittee and Working Groups – JJ Plunkett
At the 2 meetings in April, discussions included bridge projects and closures. Expect new bridge construction to begin in 2020. Lamar University did some modeling regarding the

closure schedule. On a separate note, although February transit numbers were dismal due to fog, March set a new record for vessel movements in the Houston Ship Channel.

- a. Anchorage Working Group – Mark Nokelby
Anchorage Alpha E will be effective May 29 after nearly 3 years of work.
 - b. Certificate of Compliance (COC) Working Group – CAPT George Pontikos
Terminal education provided by USCG Sector Houston-Galveston did an excellent job working with agents, operators, and terminals to minimize delays with COC inspections. USCG HQ has made some changes to COC requirements. CG personnel have been visiting some terminals to educate them on COC inspections. The next workgroup meeting should be in a few weeks.
 - c. Facility Working Group – John Taylor
FWG met with LBC and discussed mooring arrangements, dock access, and gangway location.
4. Dredging and Marine Construction Subcommittee – David Casebeer
Last year they were asked to make under keel clearance recommendations. A workgroup was formed to determine how to update the best practices resource. They have added a section in the revision on under keel clearance, as well as updated to information and resources.

A motion was made by CAPT Pontikos to approve the updates to Best Practices for Berthing Area Surveys. The motion was seconded by Amy Arrowood and carried unanimously.

5. Freeport Subcommittee – Ann Poninski
This is the newest subcommittee and they have been very busy. They submitted public comment to the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Brazos Floodgate and the Colorado Locks. The Bluewater/Brownwater Seminar went well and they plan to have one in Freeport. The CG is planning a full waterway assessment this year. They are hoping to have NOAA sensors and charts improved.

REMARKS BY SECTOR HOUSTON-GALVESTON PERSONNEL

1. Waterways Management and ATON – LCDR Navin Griffin
The ATON CGC HATCHET is in dry dock in Houma until mid to late June. An MSIB has been released regarding ATON allisions because it was determined the best way to communicate proper reporting and consequences for failure to report. They are reviewing the Waterways Action Plan draft and will meet May 16 to review.
2. Vessel Traffic Service – Steve Nerheim
Mr. Nerheim advised they are working on the Bolivar Roads inbound route to change the language in the Waterways Action Plan. He noted what a great partner NWS has been not only in fog and heavy weather but for other extreme weather related events.

3. Area Maritime Security Committee – Gary Messmer
Part 1 of the AMSC exercise took place on April 17. The exercise was an active shooter underway tabletop. Part 2 of the exercise will take place in the field on May 8.
4. Area Committee
The next meeting is scheduled for June 7 at TRG in Cypress. They are actively engaged with the Clean Gulf conference coming to New Orleans in November.

OLD BUSINESS

Brownwater University will take place October 30-31 at the Houston Pilots, with a November 1 simulation session to follow.

CAPT Mitchem shared a video on the Brownwater/Bluewater Symposium.

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming meetings are as follows:

May 8, AMSC Exercise Part 2, Kemah

May 9, ATON Workgroup, VTS Houston

May 16, Waterways Management & ATON(Waterways Action Plan draft review)

June 7, Waterway Utilization Subcommittee, location TBD

June 7, Area Committee, TRG in Cypress

July 17, Tri(Quad)-Committee Meeting, WGMA

August 3, LSC HSC Full Committee, location TBD

October 30-November 1, Brownwater/Bluewater University, Houston Pilots

June 25-27, 2019, National Harbor Safety Committee Conference, Houston

Comments and Discussion:

- A comment was made about a safety issue – the oil wells in the bay need to be lit. It was noted that other workgroups with members including USCG, TLO, and NOAA have formed over the years and have addressed this issue. The issue can be taken up again.
- An announcement was made requesting speakers for an upcoming recreational boater presentation.
- City Dock 1-3 will be seeing an increase in activity. City Dock 43 has been out of service; May 25 is the tentative reopening date. There is damage to Dock 27 and it is about to be under construction.

ADJOURNMENT

Thank you to all our agency partners for attending the meeting today.

Motion to adjourn made by Captain Christos Sotirelis and seconded by Captain David Foret.
Meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.

Submitted: Rachel Washko
Executive Secretary

Certified: CAPT JJ Plunkett
Committee Chairman

Enclosures: (1) LSHSC Published Agenda
(2) Member Sign In
(3) Presentations and Subcommittee/Working Group Attachments