Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee
Full Managing Board Meeting
February 7, 2025, 0900
Houston Pilot's office
Meeting Minutes

A. Opening Remarks by Committee Chair – Greg DeLong

1) Our last meeting with Capt. Keith Donohue as our Sector Commander

B. Safety Briefing – JJ Plunkett

1) No drills scheduled
2) Smoking areas and Restroom locations identified.

C. Invocation –David Foret

D. Welcoming Remarks by Captain of the Port – Sector Commander Keith Donohue

1) We are in the process of rebuilding after hurricane Beryl and information on new funding for AIS
2) Headquarters personnel present to move forward on a study of what the future of VTS will look like
3) Thank you for your support
4) Everyone is doing great working together to solve issues (i.e. Pelican Island, Heavy Fog)
5) CDR. Nicole Rodriguez to be coming in.
6) Kelly Brown to take over Corina Ott's position
7) Brian Caputo coming in as Deputy

E. Confirmation of Committee Quorum – Kathleen Sanders

1) Quorum Confirmed – 26 members present

F. Approval of Minutes – Oct 31, 2024, Meeting

1) First: D. Shelton
2) Second: D. Foret

G. US Customs & Border Protection

1) No Report – Not present

H. **"State of the Waterway" – Albert Hernandez Director, Vessel Traffic Services**

1) Discussion on the new NVIC about the guidance for harbor safety committees, with plans to distribute it electronically.
2) Alberto Hernandez begins his presentation on the State of the waterway, highlighting the increase in commercial transits and the economic impact of the port.

I. Subcommittee Reports and Working Group Updates:

1) Navigation Operations Subcommittee and Working Groups – Capt. David Foret

a) Increased currents at Bolivar / GIWW – Current meters, TXDOT

- Rey Newby with TxDOT reviewed data and what is being done to problem-solve in these areas of concerns.
- Working to contact state agencies and USGS Water Development Board and identify

source of increased velocities.
- Looking to temporarily deploy current meters to determine the cause. – still working on gathering funding for these.
- Looking for long-term funding for AIS and meters to be placed permanently in these problem areas.
- We are putting out an automated Incident Reporting form to allow us to create a log of the data.
- Putting together a working group for a bridge allision prevention group.

b) Capt. Foret gave a brief review of the NVIC 01-25 that recently came out on behalf of James Prazak.

c) Working Groups

- Marine Casualties / Loss of propulsion / Loss of steering
- Safe Access Group; Ship Pilot Ladders
- Texas International Terminal: approach, assist vessel, Pelican Island bridge

d) Upcoming meetings are scheduled to revisit and strengthen the San Jacinto High Water Action Plan, and the Navigation Guide for the Houston Ship Channel. We're also going to be reviewing a permit for fleeting operation over Freeport.

2) Waterways Utilization Subcommittee and Working Groups –JJ Plunkett

a) Next meeting at the end of March

b) Heavy Weather w/g James Prazak
c) Technology w/g Mike Warner –
d) Facility w/g John Taylor –
e) Anchorage w/g Mark Nokelby –

- Discussed Ike Dike Gate System and effects.
- Review of increased Transits
- More to come

f) COC w/g Jeff Milstein / Denise Schaefer

- Next meeting scheduled for March 26th to discuss power changes in DC
- Working directly with the congressional folks that have supported us so far.
- We are still looking to get our COC legislation change made.

g) Seafarers David Clark

- Upcoming Gala first Saturday of May - looking for volunteers
- Ship Visitor App to be enhanced following being purchased by an advocacy group

3) Dredging & Marine Construction Subcommittee – Jim Elliott

a) Next meeting February 20th
b) Focuses have been on Project 11 and keeping channels open.

c) U.S.A.C.E. update Andrew Cook –

- Review of report out from Andrew Cook and presentation.

d) Project 11 update Leia Wilson/Jose Tapia –

- Review of report out from Leia Wilson and presentation.

4) Maritime Education, Training and Outreach Subcommittee – Adam Reeves

a) Nothing to update yet – more to come.

b) Recreational Boater w/g David Clark –

- TGLO is more engaged regarding derelict boats
- They are looking for solutions
- BWSB signs are working!
- Facebook page is helping so much to keep the distribution up.

c) Fishing Vessel w/g Todd Whitecotton

- Nothing to Report

5) Freeport Subcommittee – Kody Andrews

J. Remarks by USCG Sector Houston-Galveston Personnel

1) Waterways Management and ATON LT Commander Alex Mostrom / LTJG Nelson
   a) Please notify off any construction to piers or docks to minimize delays in use.
   b) Channel closure requests – please communicate with us
   c) We are looking forward at potential closures upcoming in May surrounding the Beltway 8 bridge.

2) Vessel Traffic Service Albert Hernandez / Randy Scott
   a) Thank you to all of our mariners

3) Area Maritime Security Committee – Tyson Muniz / Keiton Moore
   a) Next meeting February 20th.
   b) Executive Steering Group is starting
   c) Briefing to come regarding the Final Rule for Cyber Security.

4) Cybersecurity – Keiton Moore
   a) The Final Rule is really putting out a baseline requirement for Cyber Security.
   b) Comment Period ends for US Flag Vessels on March 18th.
   c) You can find more information at www.regulations.gov - USCG-2022-0802; MTSCyberrule@uscg.mil – send any questions
   d) April 15th – Tabletop Exercise for Chemical Bonds

5) National Harbor Safety Committee – James Prazak

K. Old Business:

L. New Business:

1) A new Subcommittee is being formed under Darren Shelton for Galveston/Texas City.

M. Other Business:

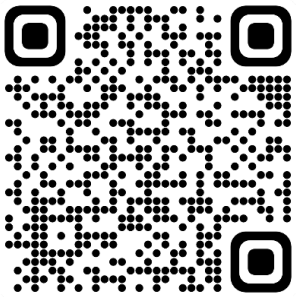
N. Roundtable Comments

1) LSHSC Managing Board – General Comments and Discussion
2) Public Attendees

O. Upcoming Schedule: (Check www.LoneStarHSC.org for details & updates)

1)	COC working group –	TBA
2)	Waterway Utilization subcommittee –	3/25/2025 (tentative)
3)	Dredging & Salvage subcommittee –	2/20/2025
4)	Freeport subcommittee – Port Freeport	4/2/2025
5)	Maritime Education, Training, & Outreach (Virtual)	TBA
6)	Navigation Operations subcommittee (Action Group)	2/27/2025
7)	Next LSHSC Full Committee – Coast Guard Sector	5/2/2025 @ 0900
	a) Lone Star 2025—future meetings 5/2/25, 8/1/25, 11/7/25	

P. Adjourn –
1) First: R. Hawn
2) Second: E. Carrero

Q. *** denotes Action Item (vote required)

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b) for updates and meeting announcements