

## South Texas Waterways Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

13:30, 20 January 2022

Meeting was held at the Ortiz Center for Term Members and virtually via ZOOM for General Members

#### A. Call to order/opening remarks by chairman

At 1332 Chairman of STWAC, Mr. Russ Pickering, Sr. called the meeting to order. A quorum was reached.

#### B. Administration

The October 31, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

#### C. Coast Guard Remarks

LCDR Tony Garofalo, U.S. Coast Guard Sector/ Air Station Corpus Christi Sector Waterways Management Division, presented a year in review of vessel arrivals, inspections, and marine casualties. Additionally he discussed recent incidents in other ports regarding pilot embarkation ladders and highlighted the Coast Guard's commitment to safety through focused ladder exams.

#### D. Presentations

##### 1. Pipeline Removal Project/CC Ship Channel Dredge Project

- Mr. Dan Koesma, Port of Corpus Christi, provided an update of completed work and targeted completion dates for phase 2/3 of the project.
- Pipeline removal of 58 pipes continues in the lower bay reach and Inner Harbor.

##### 2. POCCA Gangway Project

- Ms. Maria Rivas, Port of Corpus Christi, provided an overview of improved efficiency and safety to gangways within the Port. Oil Docks 4 and 8 were identified as the first project. A tower gangway design was selected and funding has been approved by the Port Commission.

#### E. Committee Reports

##### 1. Vessel Movement Committee

- Mr. Russel Cordo, Port of Corpus Christi, provided a movement report. 2021 saw record tonnage levels with an increase of VLCCs, LNGCs and Suez Max. There was a slight drop in Aframax and decrease in Panamax vessels. This is attributed to

increase in larger vessel movements. The Port saw quarter records for imports and exports.

2. Waterway Optimization/Dredging Committee

- Nothing to Report.

3. WSA Advisory Committee

- Nothing to Report.

4. Marine Firefighting Committee

- Committee met 2 times: the Marine Firefighting Resource guide was shared with Port of Brownsville who is establishing a committee, after-action finding were drafted for the Terminal Fire exercise, ICS training is being officered by the City of Corpus Christi and Port of Corpus Christi, recovery phase of the cut-B was discussed in a table top exercise, and the committee is developing an improvement plan for follow-on exercises.

5. Gangway Safety and Waterway Rescue Ad Hoc Committee

- Nothing to Report.

**F. Old Business**

1. 2022 Brown Water/Blue Water Symposium

- Recommendation made to postpone until Fall 2022.

**G. New Business**

1. Consideration and action on new memberships

- Mr. Jorge Andres Pino Ponce and Mr. Jonathan Novak approved for STWAC membership.

2. Terminal Dock Line Practice

- Mr. Russel Cordo discussed recent issues with slacked mooring lines within the Port leading to dock damage and potential for injury or death.
- He encouraged reporting of mooring line issues to the Harbor Master's Office.

3. CC Ship Channel dredge completion determination

- Capt. John Williams, Aransas-Corpus Christi Pilots, discussed possible ways to take advantage of the improved channel in an incremental process.
- The Port of Corpus Christi will engage with USACE about the order of the project and potential to certify channel depths ahead of final project completion.
- A comment was made that NOAA should also be included in the conversation to include chart updates to reflect new channel depths and dimensions.

4. General Public

- Ms. Melody Pro, CCISD, presented on new Maritime Studies program at Mary Carroll High School and solicited for 10 industry volunteers to help plan and provide input to the Technical Committee.
- Dr. Quentin Stubbs, NOAA, highlighted that NOAA accepts preliminary data for future or planned changes in order to update charts.
- Mr. Xavier Valverde provided a reminder of the June 13-15 National Harbor Safety Committee Conference in Boston, MA.

**H. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Pickering.

**Meeting Schedule of the Full Committee**

July 21, 2022

October 20, 2022

January 19, 2023

April 18, 2023

DRAFT