

South Texas Waterways Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

13:30, 20 Oct 2022

Meeting was held at the POCCA Executive Building

A. Call to order/opening remarks by chairman

At 1330 Chairman of STWAC, Mr. Russ Pickering, Sr. called the meeting to order. A quorum was not reached and the meeting continued. At 1350 a quorum was reached.

B. Administration

The July 21, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.

C. Coast Guard Remarks

CAPT Jason Gunning, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi, provided remarks thanking the committee for the ongoing work and invited open communication with the Coast Guard.

D. Presentations

1. Women in Maritime Operations

- Ms. Kasey Eckstein presented on the Women in Maritime Operation, a 501(c)(3) organization of women who are actively employed in the maritime industry. The organizational goals are to provide networking opportunities and continued education about the industry. The organization is working to extend a chapter in the Coastal Bend and requested any assistance and support.

2. Ship Channel Improvement/Pipeline Removal Update

- Mr. Andrew Smith, USACE, provided a status on the Channel Improvement Project. Dredge ALASKA has arrived in the Port and the dredging in the bay is expected to be completed by mid-February. Four dredges are working and expect a fifth dredge for work in the La Quinta Channel. USACE is anticipating dredging to begin early 2023 near the Harbor Bridge. Maintenance dredging for the entrance is expected to be awarded in March 2023. Pipeline removal have been challenging, but continues.
- Dredging is beginning in the Lower Laguna Madre

3. Bluewater/Brownwater Symposium

- The 5th symposium was held on August 31, 2023. The group identified 3 areas for STWAC to evaluate:
 - Focus group to look at traffic in the La Quinta Channel and interaction between blue/brownwater vessels.
 - Focus group to look at naming convention of fleeting areas and facilities.
 - Focus group to provide recommendations to the USCG for marking the barge channels.

E. Committee Reports

1. Vessel Movement Committee

- Mr. Russel Cordo, Port of Corpus Christi, provided a movement report. The Port of Corpus Christi continues to see increase in growth. Increases are reflected in all vessel types across the board with exception of Aframax classed vessels.

2. Waterway Optimization/Dredging Committee

- Nothing to Report.

3. WSA Advisory Committee

- The advisory committee will meet October 27, 2022 to provide the submitter initial feedback on the preliminary WSA submitted to the Coast Guard.

4. Marine Firefighting Committee

- The committee continues to meet every two months. The primary focus of the meeting was to solidify participant commitment and continue tabletop exercises in the La Quinta area. Strengths include: availability of firefight water, increased identification of firefighting capabilities, and strong response relationships. Areas of improvement include: need to identify unified command post locations and improve land based response.
- In the recover phase of the tabletop exercise, the strengths identified: limited geographical exposure to CCSC, adequate command post location, and improved identification of land based response. Areas of improvements include: need for discussion of search and rescue capability, discussions about limited landside access to the area, and discussion about distance to nearest medical facilities.

5. Gangway Safety and Waterway Rescue Ad Hoc Committee

- Port of Corpus Christi is moving forward with procurement of 2 new gangways.

F. Old Business

1. Ad-Hoc Nominations Committee

- Mr. Kevin Miller presented on the committee's work to establish new Term Members and gather nominations of Vice Chairperson and Steering Group. He also recommended that some of the language be clarified in the charter.

G. New Business

1. Consideration and action on selecting Vice Chairperson

- Ms. Brandi Rogers was selected as the Vice Chairperson

2. Consideration and action on selecting Steering Group member

- Mr. Mike Winans and Mr. Jason Weeks were selected as the Steering Group members.

3. Consideration and action on dissolving Ad-Hoc Nominations Committee

- Ad-Hoc Nomination Committee will remain open to gather nomination for STWAC representation for the Pilot Review Board.

4. Consideration and action to act on Bluewater/Brownwater Symposium recommendations
 - Ad-hoc committee established.
5. Consideration and action on new memberships
 - Mr. Romeo Rice, Mr. David Krams Ms. Kasey Eckstein were selected as new members of STWAC
6. General Public
 - NOAA requested input for chart corrections ahead of shift to electronic charts.
 - Recommendation made to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee to update the STWAC Charter.

H. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Pickering.

Meeting Schedule of the Full Committee

January 19, 2023

April 18, 2023

July 20, 2023

October 19, 2023