

South Texas Waterways Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

13:30, 21 July 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 reached.

B. Administration

The April 21, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.

C. Coast Guard Remarks

CAPT Jason Gunning, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi, provided remarks regarding the Coast Guard's role and focus to ensure the availability of the waterways for all users. The Coast Guard appreciates working together to keep the Ports opening and functioning smoothly. He also asked for feedback regarding MSIB distribution for the frequent safety zones supporting the channel improvement project. Additionally he noted an increase in marine casualties and the importance to report in order to improve safety on the waterways.

D. Presentations

1. National Harbor Safety Committee Conference Brief

- Mr. Russel Cordo, Port of Corpus Christi, provided a brief of the 18th bi-annual conference covering varying topics from cyber security to COVID. He reports that not all of the 30 committees are as robust as STWAC. Concerns were raised that conference funding from TRB may need to be replaced from private corporations. Mr. Pickering raised the question if we should support/fund the next conference.

E. Committee Reports

2. 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. Year to date the Port has seen a growth from 1151 to 1282 ship arrivals. Increases are reflected in all vessel types across the board. VLCCs are up from 47 to 63, LNCGs are up from 98 to 107, Suezmax are up from 122 to 148, Aframax are up from 298 to 310, Panamax are up from 496 to 558, and oceangoing vessels are up 6 from the previous year.

3. Waterway Optimization/Dredging Committee

- Nothing to Report.

4. WSA Advisory Committee

- Will be soliciting for STWAC participation in an upcoming WSA Workshop.

5. Marine Firefighting Committee

- The committee continues to meet every two months. The primary focus is the table top exercises, specifically the La Quinta area. Strengths include availability of firefight water and strong response relationships. Areas of improvement include the need to identify unified command post locations and improve land based response.

6. Gangway Safety and Waterway Rescue Ad Hoc Committee

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

F. Old Business

None

G. New Business

1. Consideration and action on new memberships

- Thomas Netzel, William Griffin, and Nancy Cisnos approved for STWAC membership.

2. Establishment of ad-hoc Nomination Committee

- Mr. Kevin Miller volunteered to chair the ad-hoc committee and motioned passed to establish the ad-hoc committee to identify new term member.

3. Channel Improvement Project Update

- USACE gave an update on 4 projects in the area. Callan Marine is working with one dredge near marker 25 and will be bringing in another dredge. Great Lakes Dredge and Dock has one dredge working outside of the Inner Harbor and plan to bring an additional dredge this fall. Two projects are underway in the GIWW for a break water project and dredging near Aransas Bay and Rockport.
- Three new projects are scheduled in Matagorda Ship Channel, Port Mansfield, and La Quinta Channel in Fall of 2022.

4. Bluewater/Brownwater seminar

- Date is set for August 31, 2022 at 1pm.

5. NOAA Survey Update

- NOAA planning for surveys in Texas starting 2023 and soliciting for areas in need of survey.

H. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Pickering.

Meeting Schedule of the Full Committee

October 20, 2022

January 19, 2023

April 18, 2023

July 20, 2023