

**South Texas Waterways Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**13:30, 20 April 2023**  
**Meeting was held at the Ortiz Center**

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

At 1333 Vice-Chairperson of STWAC, Ms. Brandi Rogers. called the meeting to order. A quorum was reached.

**B. Administration**

The January 19, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

**C. Coast Guard Remarks**

CAPT Jason Gunning, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi, provided remarks thanking all for coordination with dredge activities. He also highlighted importance of updated Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment reporting requirements and announced completion of the gangway accident Report of Investigation.

**D. Presentations**

1. Bollard Integrity – Ms. Marisa Alaniz

- Ms. Alaniz, PCCA Operations Engineer, shared test methods and completed work to test bollard strength at Port of Corpus Christi docks. To date, Docks 8, 9, 14, 15, and the Avery Docks have undergone non-destructive test. The Port has identified and plans to make repairs to identified bollards.

2. POCCA Engineering Updates

- LCDR Lauren Garofalo, US Coast Guard, presented new policy regarding reporting sexual misconduct on US vessels. Procedures and reporting requirements are contained within MSIB 1-23 and can be found at <https://www.uscg.mil/Mariners/> and [MSIB-01-23 Sexual Misconduct Reporting Requirements.pdf \(uscg.mil\)](#).

3. Ship Channel Improvement/Pipeline Removal update

- Ms. Laura Kinder, Port of Corpus Christi, shared updates for the improvement project. 5 AEP lines are to be removed starting Jun 2023, Avery Point line removal is scheduled for May 31-Dec 2023, 3 lines at the Bulk Terminal is scheduled for May-Aug 2023, and Viola Turning Basin lines are schedule for May-Aug 2023

4. US Coast Guard 2018 Gangway Marine Casualty brief

- LCDR Lauren Garofalo, US Coast Guard, provided a presentation on the Gangway Casualty Findings. A list of causal factors related to the incident were presented in detailed and included: Lack of adequate Safety Management System guidance, poor decision making by the vessel's crew to take apart gangway prior to all personnel boarding the vessel, the inadequate or non-existing lashings to secure the gangway, the removal of the gangway safety netting under the gangway, the less than ideal securing location for the gangway on the hose rail due to facility layout, size of the gangway lips compared to the size of the hose rail on the vessel, a lack of US law pertaining to gangway securing requirements, a lack of US laws requiring regulated facilities to have a means of recovering a person from the water, and a lack of US law requiring regulated facilities to have training to recover a person from the water.

**E. Committee Reports**

1. Vessel Movement Committee

- Mr. Cordo provided an update of vessel movement. In general, the Port continues to see an increase of vessel traffic in most vessel types.
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## 2. Waterway Optimization/Dredging Committee

- Nothing to report.

## 3. WSA Advisory Committee

- Nothing to report.

## 4. Marine Firefighting Committee

- Ms. Hale, Port of Corpus Christi, discussed Marine Firefighting Tabletop series findings to formulate formal responses and recommendations for STWAC consideration.
- The Committee discussed possible action on recommending a new Committee Chairperson.

## 5. Gangway Safety and Waterway Rescue Ad Hoc Committee

- Nothing to report.

## **F. Old Business**

### 1. Consideration and action on Bluewater/Brownwater recommendations

- Recommendations generated from the Ad-hoc committee were presented to term members.
- Term Members approved STWAC chairperson to send letters to agency/stakeholders on the recommended actions. Letters will be drafted and sent by Chairperson.

## **G. New Business**

### 1. Maritime Career Expo and Fair recap

- Mr. Valverde shared success of event and recommended this event to be carried out annually.

### 2. Consideration and action on new memberships

- New members voted in a STWAC members.

### 3. General Public

- Discussion on need to revisit gangway safety in the Port after US Coast Guard presentation and recommitment to explore possible solutions.

## **H. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Rogers.

## **Meeting Schedule of the Full Committee**

July 20, 2023

October 19, 2023

January 18, 2024

April 18, 2024