

## Charleston Area Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) Meeting Minutes

Thursday – April 18, 2024

**Roll Call & Call to Orders:** LT James Sullivan, USCG

Meeting was conducted via Zoom and in-person at 4500 Leeds Ave in North Charleston, SC. Membership list/attendance collected. See Table 1. LT Sullivan completed a roll call and transitioned to opening remarks.

**Opening Comments:**

**Opening Remarks:** Mr. George Detyens, Jr., KMD Marine

Mr. Detyens welcomed attendees and remarked on how informative the port incident management panel was during the April NAVOPS meeting.

**Committee Administration:**

**Voting Membership Turnover:** LT James Sullivan, HSC Executive Secretary

LT Sullivan spoke on six upcoming voting member turnovers, and the need to identify a new HSC Chairperson to replace Mr. Detyens before the end of the year. The October 2024 HSC meeting also will mark the end of term for 3 members of the Executive Board. A current term membership roster will be sent out via email along with the April meeting minutes.

**New Business:** N/A

**Open Issues, Presentations, Proposals, Follow-Up:**

**Ops/Nav & Southern AOR Subcommittees Updates:** LT Sullivan

LT Sullivan acknowledged the hard work done by Mr. Ryan Sellers (Moran Towing) as the long-standing Ops/Nav Subcommittee Chair and announced that he must unfortunately step down from the role due to professional obligations. Attendees were implored to consider possible replacements in the coming quarter. Ms. Carla Ferguson was unable to attend the HSC meeting to brief the group on the Southern AOR Subcommittee. LT Sullivan informed attendees they plan to convene on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss LE mooring balls and illegal charters.

**MASC Private Terminal Group Update:** Mr. Cord Smythe, Carver Maritime

Mr. Smythe spoke on the layout of the MASC Private Terminal Group, which (according to their charter) was formed to “advocate, educate, and champion private marine terminals economic impact on the local, state, and federal economy. To organize and vocalize the issues these terminals face with regulations; to promote our members’ portfolios to local, state, and federal officials.” He went on to explain how private terminals account for roughly 25% of the commercial vessel traffic in the Port of Charleston, and how their inaugural meeting was held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Substantive topics discussed included navigation data sharing to mitigate safety hazards in the upper Cooper River, and how the group will interface with the HSC. Their second

meeting will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup>, where members-at-large, most notably the group treasurer, will be elected.

**Charleston Harbor Waterfront Center Discussion:** Mr. Randy Draftz, Charleston Yachting, Charleston Race Week

Mr. Draftz began his portion of the agenda by providing an overview of the Charleston Race Week sailing regatta, which was currently taking place in Charleston Harbor. Any parties concerned with traffic management may contact him directly or coordinate safe passage with on-scene safety boats via VHF. He then spoke on how he has spent his career supporting and fostering the growth of the sailing and boating communities in Charleston, and the current need for a publicly accessible marine facility. This need stems from the lack of launch points for sailboats and most local marinas being at capacity. This limits potential for any additional growth for Charleston Race Week. Ms. Katerina Fjording, who was responsible for the construction of the Volvo plant in Ridgeville, SC, has indicated she is willing to assist in this matter. The goal is to present the developer of the Union Pier site with a turn-key facility plan. The project would likely benefit from sponsors, and could be used for a variety of purposes, including Power Squadron training and passenger vessel inspections. He expressed hope for College of Charleston involvement, as this facility would have hoisting capability for their sail team and would be much closer to campus than Patriots Point. Mr. David Galloway asked if there were any example concepts for this facility. Mr. Draftz spoke on existing facilities in Milwaukee, Annapolis, and Pensacola. He punctuated the discussion by stating this facility must be profitable and will require support from the local maritime community. After thanking attendees for listening, Mr. Draftz departed the meeting for matters related to Charleston Race Week.

**Presentation on Current Plans for Don Holt & Wando Bridges + Bridge Protection Systems:** Mr. Kevin Turner, SCDOT

Mr. Turner spoke to attendees on a plan to raise the Don Holt Bridge from 155 ft to 186 ft, which would accommodate larger vessel traffic bound for destinations in the upper Cooper River. He also spoke on plans to decrease the height of the Wando Bridge from 138 ft to 65 ft, while at the same time expanding the 4-lane road configuration to 8, with cyclist and pedestrian accommodations. These projects are part of an initiative to upgrade transportation infrastructure to support user needs, in conjunction with the expansion of I-526. All bridge related construction activities still pend appropriate permitting and environmental review, with groundbreaking anticipated for CY2030. Mr. John Cameron asked if SCDOT will consider adjustability in their designs, like the Talmadge Memorial Bridge in Savannah. This was not something SCDOT had considered, but they are aware of the possibility and will discuss as plans move forward. Mr. Galloway asked if SCDOT will explore public rail transportation to support population growth. Mr. Turner stated mobility plans are continuously discussed, but no current plans for this exist yet. Mr. Scott Higman inquired about the possibility of tunnels running underneath Charleston Harbor. Mr. Turner cited the difficulty of constructing tunnels in Charleston considering groundwater, soil composition and seismic resilience requirements. Ms. Silvia Judy added the Port of Hamburg is experiencing similar issues with infrastructure supporting growth. Their river floor, however, can support the construction of a tunnel. Mr. Turner segued the conversation to speak on structure resilience, explaining how the Don Holt

Bridge piers were designed with cofferdams at their base. The cofferdam design ensures larger vessels will beach on a rock island (which would give and force the vessel to ride up) instead of impacting any supporting structures. By design, the bridge can withstand impact from vessels with a deadweight tonnage of 50,000 LT (112 Million lbs), at a speed of 8 kts. Comparatively, the Ravenel Bridge is able to withstand slightly more force- 54,500 LT (112.08 Million lbs) at 10 kts. Fender systems also serve for energy dissipation. Mr. Cameron stated current traffic exceeds the deadweight tonnage parameters, at an average of 80,000 LT for container ships, and nearly as much for car carriers. Mr. Turner explained how current bridge configurations are determined to have less than a 1% chance of failure over 100 year period, not considering regulatory safety measures. Mr. Edmund Most asked if the rock island design was expandable. Mr. Turner replied yes, for every direction except within the federal channel. Mr. Cameron then noted the average draft for large commercial traffic in the Port of Charleston is 42 ft, the deepest example being 46 ft.

**Overview of Ashley River Walkway Project:** Mr. Edmund Most, City of Charleston

Mr. Most introduced himself as the primary overseer for various infrastructure projects throughout the City of Charleston. Most notably, he is involved in the construction of the Ashley River Crossing, which will connect the peninsula to the West Ashley Greenway, designed for cyclist and pedestrian use. A big focus of this project will be aesthetics and accessibility, with minimal impact to the environment. A swing design was chosen to reduce long-term maintenance costs, and the contract currently sits at approximately \$74 MIL over 3.5 years (anticipated completion in CY2027). Attendees discussed potential concerns with bikes and pedestrians using the walkway. Mr. Billy Ackerman asked about landside accessibility for construction crews. Mr. Most explained parking plans for on-site workers, then showed the group of variety of diagrams outlining the project scope and configuration.

**City of Charleston Anchorage Ordinance Update:** Sgt. Chris Morrell, Harbor Patrol Unit, CPD

Sgt. Morrell provided the group an overview of the new anchorage ordinance in Charleston Harbor, which began enforcement in February. Vessels anchored for more than 14 days must now obtain a permit from the City and provide proof of a minimum \$100,000 insurance policy. To date, 11 permits and 16 tickets have been issued, while 9 vessels have left the area. The City of Mount Pleasant has engaged Charleston County for their own ordinance, which would provide even more coverage for local waterways. The primary issues addressed by the anchorage ordinance are abandonment and unsightly vessels, with an ancillary effect on decreasing illegal activity on the water.

**Announcements/General Comments:**

LT Sullivan announced that First Class Pilotage License Requirements for the Charleston Regional Exam Center (REC) are being updated for the first time since 2017. A draft memo will accompany the meeting minutes, and HSC members are asked to provide input for potential changes or corrections. The comment window will remain open until May 10<sup>th</sup>, after which LT Sullivan will review changes with the REC and route to the Sector Charleston Prevention Department Head for approval. Mr. Cameron added that attendees would like to discuss illegal charters during the next HSC meeting.

**Closing:**

LT Sullivan thanked everyone for attending and concluded the meeting. The next HSC meeting will take place on July 25, 2024.

**Table 1**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>In Attendance</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Industry Entity Represented</b>
Abeyta	Joseph		<a href="mailto:joe@allwatermarinegroup.com">joe@allwatermarinegroup.com</a>	Allwater Marine Services, TBUS
Ackerman	Billy	X	billya@amalie.com	AOCUSA - Charleston
Adams	Jordan			SJ Hamill Construction
Archer	Jon	X	<a href="mailto:jona@morantug.com">jona@morantug.com</a>	Moran Towing – Charleston
Boyer	Chip			Vulcan Materials
Boyle	Tom		<a href="mailto:TBoyle@scspa.com">TBoyle@scspa.com</a>	SCPA
Britt	Joel		<a href="mailto:jbritt@scspa.com">jbritt@scspa.com</a>	SCPA
Brodie	Ryan		<a href="mailto:Ryan.C.Brodie@uscg.mil">Ryan.C.Brodie@uscg.mil</a>	USCG
Cameron	John	X	<a href="mailto:jcameron@charlestonpilots.com">jcameron@charlestonpilots.com</a>	Pilots Association
Campsen	Richard		<a href="mailto:richard@spiritlinecruises.com">richard@spiritlinecruises.com</a>	Spirit Line Cruises
Chlum	Erin		<a href="mailto:erin.h.chlum@uscg.mil">erin.h.chlum@uscg.mil</a>	USCG
Clauhs	Bobby	X		
Coker	Gene		<a href="mailto:gcoker@scspa.com">gcoker@scspa.com</a>	SCPA
Conner	Corey			USCG
Constanza	Michael			USACE
D'Amato	Carmine			ITS CONGLOBAL
David	George			US CBP
Dawson	Denetta	X		SCDNR
Davis	Justin			
Del Porto	Fowler			
DelRosso	Frank			USCG - COTP
Detyens	George	X		KMD Marine
Dosi	Max	X		MSC
Draftz	Randall	X	<a href="mailto:rdraftz@charlestonyachting.com">rdraftz@charlestonyachting.com</a>	Charleston Yacht Club
Ferri	Paul			SC Stevedores Association
Fleming	Lee			CMMC LLC
Flores	Jay	X		USCG
Forbes	Robert			OOCL
Fulmer	Rob			Charleston Fire Dept.
Futch	Sean			SCDOT
Galloway	David	X		
Giggi	Greg			TowboatUS
Godowns	Andrew			SCDNR
Greer	Luther		<a href="mailto:luther.m.greer@uscg.mil">luther.m.greer@uscg.mil</a>	USCG Regional Exam Center
Haitz	Henry			
Hardwick	Margie			
Harmon	Chris			Odfjell Terminals
Hawkins	Rachel			ES Intergrated

Hedgpath	Mike			
Higman	Scott	X		Mediterranean Shipping Co.
Hills	Elizabeth		<a href="mailto:ehills@charlestonpilots.com">ehills@charlestonpilots.com</a>	Pilots Association
Hines	Julius			
Hodgson	Thomas	X		
Huggins	Jeremy		<a href="mailto:Jeremy.huggins@us.af.mil">Jeremy.huggins@us.af.mil</a>	628 Air Base Wing
Huit	John			GLDD
Jackson	Taylor	X		MASC
Jason	Judy			
Johnson	Jeremy			USACE
Johnson	Bryan	X		USCG
Jones	Ken			USCG
Judy	Silvia	X	<a href="mailto:silvia.judy@jas.com">silvia.judy@jas.com</a>	JAS Forwarding
Kerr	Bradley		<a href="mailto:bkerr@detyens.com">bkerr@detyens.com</a>	Detyen's Shipyard
Kicklighter	Josh	X		McAllister Towing
Knight	Bill			
Kromer	Kenneth			SCPA
Krukowski	Adam		<a href="mailto:Adam.b.krukowski@uscg.mil">Adam.b.krukowski@uscg.mil</a>	USCG
Lawrence-Holman	Michelle			Service Transfer Inc
Lawson	Kate	X		USCG
Lewis	Marish			USN
Madeleine	Frume		<a href="mailto:mf@koppurtrailers.com">mf@koppurtrailers.com</a>	
Mahney	Jim		<a href="mailto:james.v.mahney@uscg.mil">james.v.mahney@uscg.mil</a>	USCG
Mahoney	John	X		Moran Environmental
Marshall	Kirby			ATM Design Engineering
Martin	Chris			ECM Maritime Services
Masserman	Mark			SCPA
McCown	Renee	X		Renfinity
McDavid	Korey			
McDonald	Karen	X		Moran
Meadows	Gardner			Heartland Credit Card Payment and Pay
Morgan	Christopher			USCG
Morrell	Chris			Charleston Police Dept.
Nichols	Chris	X		USCG
O'Toole	Sean	X		Hapag-Lloyd
Pecci	Jorge			
Pendergrass	Charles	X		SCPA
Pereria	Rhonda			CBP
Phinney	Sigriel			SLED
Posda	Jim			GEL

Preston	Matt	X		Jas Forwarding
Preston	Randy			USCG
Ray	Aaron		<a href="mailto:Aaron.v.ray@uscg.mil">Aaron.v.ray@uscg.mil</a>	USCG
Reed	John	X		Maersk
Richardson	Logan	X		MSC
Riley	Kenneth			ILA 1422
Santos	Gary			Inchcape Shipping
Schreck	Gordon	X	<a href="mailto:Gordon.schreck.retired@wbd-us.com">Gordon.schreck.retired@wbd-us.com</a>	
Shores	Jules			
Sims	Micah	X		MPFD
Smith	Whit			Charleston Pilots
Smith	Bos		<a href="mailto:b.smith@stevens-towing.com">b.smith@stevens-towing.com</a>	Stevens Towing
Smythe	Cord			Carver Maritime
Socha	Rudy			
Stehmeyer	Ed			SCPA
Stratton	Gene		<a href="mailto:a.eugene.stratton@uscg.mil">a.eugene.stratton@uscg.mil</a>	USCG
Sullivan	James	X	<a href="mailto:charlestonwaterways@uscg.mil">charlestonwaterways@uscg.mil</a>	USCG
Taylor	Tarvin			Tarvin Seafood
Tomassini	Joe			
Torres	Valerie	X		MASC
Tribou	Caleb	X		Moran
Turner	Kevin	X		SCDOT
Ward	Kyle			NOAA
Welker	Thomas			USCG
Westerling	Brian			
Wilson	Tyler	X		LCG Freight
Wright	Chris	X		USACE
Whitehead	Shannon		<a href="mailto:swhitehead@tompsc.com">swhitehead@tompsc.com</a>	Town of Mount Pleasant
Wolsborn	Natasha	X		USCG
Wunderley	Andrew			Charleston Watchkeeper
Young	Bill	X		Bill Young for Congress