

GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday, September 4, 2024

The following representatives were in attendance:

Attendee	Affiliation	Attendee	Affiliation
Ryan Phillips	ACBL	Leo Falgout	Kirby
Leopold Bernard	ACBL	Mark Wright	LA House of Representatives
Sonny Businelle	ACBL	Richard Heausler	Laborde
Jill Bessetti	AWO	John Maurin	Lanier Engineers
Tim Lagarde	Bar Pilots	Vaughn McDaniel	LeBeouf Towing
Michael Miller	Bar Pilots	Ian Burnette	Marathon Petroleum
Jeff Wille	Blue Water Shipping	David Beerbohm	McDonough Marine
Randy Bullard	Bullard Marine	Eric Acosta	MSOC St Bernard/Plaquemines
Marc Broussard	Callan Marine	Chris Voelker	Navigo Shipping
Terri Edwards	CBP	Jason Ledet	NOBRA Pilots
Alrick Brooks	CBP	Charlie Hurst	Norton Lilly
Cherrie Felder	Channel Shipyard	Tommy King	ParaTech
Jim Boucher	ClassNK	Elizabeth Gondek	Port NOLA
Stanislav Smyk	ClassNK	Lester Millet III	Port of South Louisiana
Robert Socha	Conrad Shipyard	Tim Reid	Shell
E. Michael Bopp	Crescent River Port Pilots	Jeff Kindl	Steiner Construction
Jean-Paul Richard	E.N. Bisso	Tony Odak	Stone Oil
Michael Leblanc	E.N. Bisso	Thyn Oo	Tulane Public Law Center
Lance Sannino	Enterprise Marine	Michael Novak	USCG
Bill Myers	Evolution Marine Systems	Dan Velez	USCG
Hank Webster	Federal Pilots	Xiaobin Tuo	USCG
Paul Dittman	GICA	Kathryn Lopez	USCG
Stephen McKinney	Global Maritime Ministries	Courtney Keith	USCG
Robert Roussard	Global Maritime Ministries	Gregory Callaghan	USCG
Chandler Stobbs	Global Maritime Ministries	Tim Long	Valero
Matt Lagarde	Ingram Barge	John Whitlow	Venture Global
Kevin Cador	Ingram Barge	Richard Holt	Venture Global

The following reports were given:

Harbor Safety Committee Ex-Officio, Matt Lagarde

Matt called the meeting to order, led introductions, and made general announcements. Thank you to our guest presenter, Mr. Bill Myers, for treating us to coffee and donuts for this meeting.

USCG Sector New Orleans, CAPT Greg Callaghan

Captain Callaghan provided updates on the Plaquemines LNG facility, low water operations including the impending construction of a saltwater sill by USACE, and MM 158 pipeline removal operations. The USCG Board of Inquiry did select New Orleans as one of the locations that will be visited to evaluate traffic surrounding critical infrastructure. They will be making a visit to New Orleans the week of September 23, and

they will hold a stakeholder engagement session. Anyone selected to participate in the stakeholder engagement session should hear from someone at Sector New Orleans about it in the next two weeks. Captain Callaghan also commended NOAA for the recent accomplishments in air gap sensor efforts. As we approach the peak of hurricane season, please remain vigilant and prepared.

USCG Sector New Orleans, CDR Michael Novak

Bayou Sorrel guide wall construction has been extended to February 28. An update to the MSIB was issued yesterday. Regarding low water, please be mindful that many avoidable groundings occur at or near the docks, not in the navigable channel. Commander Novak provided updates on the Grosse Tête Bridge/Port Allen – Morgan City Alternate Route – there will be a 10 hour closure on September 12 and the safety zone hours remain in effect Monday through Friday. Additionally, two slow speed/no wake zones have been established by Iberville Parish.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, APD Terri Edwards

APD Edwards shared updates regarding Customs User Fees for FY25, which should be coming out in a Southern Currents over the next few days. CBP New Orleans is working closely with the NFL, FBI, and HIS as well as other federal, state, and local partners in preparation for the upcoming Superbowl. APD Edwards also introduced our new Assistant Port Director for passengers and crew.

Bar Pilots – Captain Tim Lagarde

The channel is in good condition on the Bar Pilot Route. Additionally, they have been working with CG to have some navigation lights repaired and some new lights installed.

Crescent Pilots – Captain E. Michael Bopp

Things are busy on the CRPPA route, the traffic dynamic may be affected in the area of Venture Global berths as they become operational. The Saltwater Sill may affect anchorage usage, so please reach out to the office if you have questions. There have been some draft concerns at Nashville Ave. and Napoleon Ave. so please stay aware when planning loading drafts. Big thanks to NOAA and Captain Wattigney for their efforts with the air gap sensors.

NOBRA Pilots – Captain Jason Ledet

Pipeline operations on the NOBRA route are complete and the associated draft restrictions have been lifted.

Federal Pilots – Captain Hank Webster

Nothing to report

GICA – Paul Dittman

Harvey Lock is effectively closed due to low water. Paul also provided additional information about the Grosse Tête swing bridge operations, which theoretically will be completed around Thanksgiving. There is no funding in the President's 2025 MRNT budget for dredging the Atchafalaya River at Stout's Pass. The Port of Morgan City has put in project requests with our LA state senators' offices in the interest of gaining some

supplemental funding. Paul will continue to work on this, and industry may need to become actively engaged in this effort.

AWO – Jill Bessetti

If you are seeing any bridge issues such as operational problems or missing lights, please report those issues via the Bridge Reporting Program which can be accessed from the AWO website. The information needs to be reported and documented via this system so that bridge issues can be addressed. Also, the AWO fall convention will be in Long Beach, CA on October 8.

CAMO – Lester Millet

Coordination on the recent pipeline removal operation was very effective.

Cybersecurity Subcommittee – Lester Millet

Lester provided updates on recent and upcoming Cybersecurity meetings and events. Recent unauthorized drone operations were reported on August 30. Lester also provided information on maintaining healthy cyber safety in your company technology.

Presentation – Mr. Bill Myers, Evolution Energy Systems

Mr. Myers gave a presentation on Evolution Energy Systems and the work they are doing through their partnership with AKA Energy Systems. If you have any questions for him, Bill can be reached at bill@evolutionmarinesystems.com.

Port Safety Council Ex-Officio Matt Lagarde adjourned the meeting. The next regular meeting of the GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee is scheduled for November 6, 2024.