

GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday, January 10, 2024

The following representatives were in attendance:

<i>Attendee</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Attendee</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Mark Wright	AWO	Jason Ledet	NOBRA Pilots
Jonathan Davis	Bisso Towboat	Toby Wattigney	NOBRA Pilots
Cherrie Felder	Channel Shipyard	Chris Voelker	Norton Lilly
Jacob Naquin	Conrad Shipyard	Elizabeth Gondek	Port NOLA
Robert Socha	Conrad Shipyard	Ross Armstrong	Reliant Recycling
James Rousse	Cooper Marine	Brett Sprenger	Sabine Surveyors
Karl Gonzales	Cooper Marine/GNOBFA	Tim Reid	Shell
Christian Short	Crescent River Port Pilots	Kevin Lordo	Southern Devall
Jean-Paul Richard	E.N. Bisso	Roxanne Assevedo	St. Bernard Port
Rick Bauer	Es2	Angela Nunes	St. Bernard Port
Dedrick Roybiskie	FCC	Tony Odak	Stone Oil
Hank Webster	Federal Pilots	Laura Lewis	TowWorks
Paul Dittman	GICA	Thyn Oo	Tulane Public Law Center
Jason Glynn	Global Rigging	Mario Munoz	Turn Services
Brandi Trosclair	Green Marine	Billy Soltz	US Lifesaving Assoc.
Michael Nation	Harbor Towing	Ben Walsh	USCG
Chris Ulfers	Jones Walker	Altrece Arnold	USCG
Leo Falgout	Kirby	Jake Norris	USCG
Jim Orr	L&O Marine	Shelby West	USCG
John Maurin	Lanier Engineers	Justin Harris	USCG
John Rutherford	Lanier Engineers	Michael Novak	USCG
Erwin Thompson	LeBeouf Towing	Andrew Goetz	USCG
Vaughn McDaniel	LeBeouf Towing	Gregory Callaghan	USCG
Bruce Lambert	MARAD	Kelly Denning	USCG
Jake Stahl	Marine Expertise	Joseph Hart	USCG
Tim Osborn	NOAA	William Stewart	USCG

The following reports were given:

Harbor Safety Committee Chairman, Mario Munoz

Chairman Munoz called the meeting to order, led introductions, and made general announcements.

Our board members for 2024 include Chairman Munoz, Vice Chairman Mark Wright, At-Large Members Ron Branch & Tony Odak, ex-officio Matt Lagarde, and Secretary/Treasurer Christine Titus.

USCG Sector New Orleans, CAPT Kelly Denning

CAPT Denning detailed recent successful security events and upcoming security events on the river. The Sector New Orleans change of command will take place on June 7, when CAPT Greg Callaghan will assume command of Sector New Orleans and CAPT Melanie Burnham will be reporting as Deputy Sector Commander. CAPT Denning's retirement ceremony will follow the Change of Command. Recent MSIBs

include MSIB XXIV-004 concerning seafarer access – please review that if you have not already. The Waterways Action Plan working group is concluding, and Marine Industry Day will likely be held in May or June. Please work with Christine to help identify a date that works well for industry.

USCG MSU Baton Rouge, CDR Michael Novak

There have been 25 groundings since June in MSU BR, and they have been conducting investigations and working closely with USACE to coordinate survey vessels and ensure the groundings are not occurring in the federally maintained channel. Nineteen of the 25 groundings occurred between Friday, January 5 and Sunday, January 7. Fifteen occurred above the 190 bridge, and only 2 of the 25 caused any navigation delays. The river gauge at BR should be going over 10ft this week. There is quite a bit of facility growth and expansion in MSU Baton Rouge, and the collaboration to evaluate new and expanded facilities is going well.

USCG Sector New Orleans, LCDR Will Stewart

MSBI XXIV-001 & XXIV-002 includes all active MSIBs that were issued in previous years that are still active and current. VTS is sending daily updates for ongoing operations which include any changes. You can subscribe to those on the Homeport website. Please review the seafarer access MSIB and reach out to Sector if you have any questions. Regarding UAS/drones, the current guidance is from 2020 and Sector is updating that guidance that will be provided in an upcoming MSIB. There will be an online form to replace the current email notification. The Waterways Action Plan should be finalized by the end of the month. Mardi Gras security operations: Feb.10-13 will be the date range for enhanced security operations and details will come out in an MSIB. The water is rising but will likely go down again, and the low water MSIB will remain in effect. MM158.2 pipeline removal: Gulf South will be at MNSA next week (Jan. 17) to collect more stakeholder feedback and they are targeting operations for late June – early August. The national harbor safety committee conference is March 20-21 in Chicago and information is available online at the national harbor safety committee website. The hopper dredge disposal area at MM2.0 AHP – they are planning to remove a pipeline on Jan. 23, and an MSIB will be coming out next week. Saltwater Sill: the contact pilot has been removed but all other navigation safety measures are still in effect. All but about the lower 25 feet of Alliance Anchorage is available for use.

USACE – Vic Landry, Operations Manager (update provided via email)

1. Algiers Lock resumed full lock operations on 29 November 2023.
2. Harvey Lock remains daytime operations only due to extreme low water impacts and continued reverse head conditions on the miter gates.
3. Low water conditions persist and cause challenges at the Mississippi River locks, but the conditions on the GIWW are acceptable for navigation.

Crescent Pilots – Captain Christian Short

Nothing to report

NOBRA Pilots – Captain Toby Wattigney

Business is picking up on the NOBRA route. They have seen a few groundings due to low water, but the pilots have done a great job of ensuring safety and efficient movement, and the Corps of Engineers has done a great job of maintaining the channel. Revetment work at MM215.0 AHP will take place this weekend so the channel will be closed during operations there, and NOBRA will continue to move ships outside working hours with two pilots on board. Upriver crossings are in good condition.

Federal Pilots – Captain Hank Webster

Things are going well, and thank you to Sector New Orleans and LCDR Stewart for the management of the saltwater sill operations this year.

GICA – Paul Dittman

There are issues with the hinges at the Bayou Beouf lock as of Nov. 2023. The USACE is expecting to have at least three closures lasting four days each in mid-late January, and they will give as much advance notice as possible.

GNOBFA – Karl Gonzales

Any GNOBFA members that need their letters of good standing should reach out to Karl. The alternative security plan was approved in November and you will need a letter from Karl or Alan to use that, so if you need either from of documentation you can reach Karl at karl.gonzales@cooper-marine.com.

AWO – Mark Wright

February 20-23 is the AWO Regional Annual meeting in New Orleans. AWO asked the state of Louisiana for hearing regarding a rule issued by the DEQ that would essentially triple the cost for monitoring ballast water, and if anyone is interested in working on that issue please reach out to Mark at mwright@americanwaterways.com.

Lester Millet, Cybersecurity Subcommittee Co-Chair (update provided remotely)

Lester provided an update on cybersecurity concerns, recent events, and upcoming opportunities for involvement. The 2024 Critical Infrastructure Protection & Resilience Americas conference will be held March 12-14 in Lake Charles, LA. The Bayou Hackathon will be April 19 at the Cyber Innovation Center. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has a new resource titled “Personal Security Considerations Action Guide: Critical Infrastructure Workers” which is available in the *Resources* area at cisa.gov. If you have any questions about these items you can reach out to Lester at lmillet@portsl.com.

Presentations

Tim Osborn of NOAA, Attachment 1

Port Safety Council Chairman Mario Munoz adjourned the meeting. The next regular meeting of the GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee is scheduled for March 6, 2024.