Lake Carriers' Association

MINUTES OF THE 34th ANNUAL CAPTAINS COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: February 16, 2017 Start: 0810
PLACE: DoubleTree Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio End: 1415

AGENDA AND ATTENDEES

The agenda is on page 5. The list of attendees is on pages 6 and 7.

MINUTES

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Jim Weakley, President of Lake Carriers' Association, welcomed attendees and introduced RADM June Ryan, Commander – Ninth Coast Guard District. She will retire on August 2. Her replacement will be RDML Joanna M. Nunan, currently assigned to Headquarters. She will work with LCA to get RDML Nunan on a laker as soon as possible. This proved invaluable for RADM Ryan and her staff, especially the Commanding Officers of the 140-foot-long icebreaking tugs.

RADM Ryan also discussed the Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) for the 140s and announced that the Atlantic Area Commander has agreed to send another East Coast 140 to the Lakes when necessary to ensure we never have less than five at one time.

RADM Ryan announced that Jayhawk 60s will replace the Dolphin 65s stationed in Traverse City, MI, beginning in April. Their capabilities, such as flying to Duluth without refueling, will be very beneficial on the Lakes. The 65s will be moved south for use in the war on drugs.

U.S. Coast Guard Agenda Items

Icebreaking Update: LT Matt Stroebel reviewed the 2016-2017 ice season to date. It has been a very mild ice year with ice covering less than ten percent of the Lakes for the entire season. The expectation is that the rest of the season will be mild.

Service Life Extension Program (SLEP): The Service Life Extension Program is halfway to completion with an expected completion date of 2020. These upgrades are expected to add 20 years to each vessel's career. D9 will continue to have five operational WTGBs per ice season. The NEAH BAY is due to return in July 2017. The KATMAI BAY will enter the SLEP in May 2017.

Review of Policy Letter on Conditionally Occupied ATBs: CDR Christopher Tantillo explained the new terminology for "Permissibly Manned ATBs" is "Conditionally Occupied ATBs." CDR Tantillo noted that Lakes ATBs already comply with most of the requirements of the Policy Letter, which is just a temporary bridge until NVIC 2-81 is rewritten. The most significant change is the requirement to log when crew members move between the tug and the barge. Concern was expressed that having the Captain make all these log book entries will distract him from his primary responsibility – safe navigation of the vessel. It was suggested a log book be placed at the transfer point and crewmembers make the entry themselves or that a log book entry be required only when conditions are such that crew members cannot move between the tug

and barge. CAPT Paul Arnett encouraged members to express concerns to Jim Weakley so he can share them with CG Headquarters. The Coast Guard acknowledged this is being driven by some circumstances on the West Coast, not the Lakes.

Update on Subchapter M: LT Jerrold Federer presented an update on Subchapter M. Nationally, the Coast Guard is encouraging use of third party option due to limited resources. There were no updates to regulations; however, there is a NVIC still being developed. A list of currently approved Third Party Organizations (TPOs) can be found on the Coast Guard Towing Vessel National Center of Expertise website using the following link: https://www.uscg.mil/TVNCOE/SubMTPOs.asp. A list of FAQs for inspected towing vessels is available at https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/TVNCOE/SubMFAQs.asp. LT Federer also reviewed the timeline for the implementation of Subchapter M with an expected completion date of July 2027.

Overview of Regulatory Cooperation Council and Breach of Security - Cyber: Josh Peters provided background information on the creation of the Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) and its joint maritime initiatives. He also discussed the purpose of the Great Lakes Saint Lawrence Seaway RCC Working Group and gave details of its Work Plan.

An overview of Cyber Breaches of Security (BoS) Incidents was presented along with information regarding when and how to report them. The Coast Guard's advice was "If in doubt, report it out."

Members have been reporting incidents involving unmanned aircraft to the National Response Center (NRC), but are not getting much feedback on what happens after that. The Coast Guard will look into getting follow-up reports from NRC.

Update on Norfolk Southern Bridge Delays: Scot Striffler from the Coast Guard's Bridge Branch reported that there were more than 170 vessel delays over the past year, most of which involved Norfolk Southern bridges. A meeting with Norfolk Southern was held to discuss how to improve the bridges' performance. Casey Talbot, a representative for Norfolk Southern, was present and stressed he understands our members' concerns, especially in regards to communication and what is perceived to be preferential treatment of railroad traffic over maritime traffic. Interlake Steamship personnel visited Norfolk Southern's operation in Deaborn and all members are invited to do so. Monthly calls with Norfolk Southern Operations representatives and vessel operators will be established to keep the lines of communication open to ensure timely and accurate communications in the future.

Captains' Items for USCG:

- The Captains strongly approve of the return of the Jayhawk helicopters;
- There must be better communication between bridge tenders and captains. Once a vessel has entered a harbor or waterway, it's options are very limited. Captains need to know when there will be a lengthy delay as soon as possible so they can check down or wait out in the Lake;
- Unmanned aircraft and persons shining laser lights at the pilothouse remain a concern;
- Captains need a link to the Point Edwards/Sarnia camera pointing toward Lake Huron Cut buoys 1 & 2;
- Efforts must be made to control kayaker and paddle board traffic in Cuyahoga River, Buffalo Harbor and Chicago River.

Current Traffic Buoys to Virtual Buoys

- LL #12915 Lime Island Traffic Buoy 46* 04' 12.252" N / 084* 00' 59.206" W (No AIS)
- LL #21300 Porte Des Morts Ent. Lt. Bell Buoy 45* 13' 52.769" N / 086* 53' 54.110 W (AIS)
- LL #22005 Sherwood Pt. Traffic Buoy 44* 53' 34.312" N / 087* 24' 51.469 W (AIS)

Discontinued Traffic Buoys Returned as Virtual Buoys

- Lake Erie - Buffalo Harbor Traffic Buoy and Maumee Bay Safe Water Lighted Buoy
- Lake Huron - Cheboygan Traffic Buoy
- Upper St. Mary's River – Round Island Traffic Buoy
- Lake Michigan - Rock Island Passage Traffic Buoy

Leave As Is and Put AIS Mark On

- Lake Erie - LL#6825 Peelee Passage Traffic Lt Buoy (P) 41* 51' 48.000 N / 082* 34' 30.000 W

Replace With a Year Round Lighted Buoy

- LL#8160 River Rouge Canal Entrance Lighted Buoy #2

Items of Interest Discussed

- Size of Virtual ATONs on screen, can they be smaller?
- St. Clair Cut-Off Buoy 2 @ X32 (LL #8595) was moved to dredge and never returned to proper position. This makes for questionable meeting situations, especially for 1000 Footers.
- Coyle Pt. Lt. Buoy Q-28 (LL #13215) winter mark is an unlighted spar buoy. We will ask the Canadian Coast Guard that it is always a Lighted Aid to Navigation.

NOAA Agenda Items

NOAA 2017 Season Improvement Process: Brian Hirsch, Marine Program Manager from the National Weather Service, outlined available resources for obtaining weather information. A Marine Weather Discussion webpage is available at http://www.weather.gov/greatlakes/afd. Brian requested feedback for an alternate format for the Open Lake Forecast, pending your feedback this season, NWS would like to move toward a table format. The new forecast is available for Lake Huron at http://www.weather.gov/dtx/glftable and http://www.weather.gov/lot/glftable for Lake Michigan. All the Lakes will participate this season. Brian requested support from our members in providing feedback in evaluating the change. NWS is making an effort to transition to a new web platform http://www.weather.gov/greatlakes In order to make these webpages as useful as possible, Brian will be asking for feedback from ship personnel on a conference call involving NOAA Information Technology personnel.

Great Lakes VOS Program: Ron Williams presented information about the VOS system including a video highlighting the importance of weather observations for safety. If any members would like to have the system installed on a vessel, they can contact Ron at ronald.williams@noaa.gov.

Great Lakes Ice 2017: Gary Garnet reported that there has not been much ice this season and most of it is thin. It is definitely below normal for most of the Lakes. Since ice starts to deteriorate in mid to late March, it is unlikely that we should see much more over the next few weeks. Ice information is available at www.weather.gov/cle/greatlakesice.

Future Focus on Great Lakes: Mike Bardou provided a quick walkthrough of National Weather Service marine forecast information. His presentation outlined how the forecast information starts with general information for a large area and drills down to more specific information for a smaller area. His presentation can be viewed on the Members Only page of the LCA website.

Water Levels and Currents: Richard Edwing, Director of the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS), provided an overview of services available in the Great Lakes. He discussed the water level stations network and talked about the International Great Lakes Datum update. The physical oceanographic real-time systems for the Cuyahoga River and the Soo Locks were also

discussed along with the operational forecast systems. A description of the Hydrographic Services Review Panel was given. For additional information, the following important links are available:
CO-OPS Tides and Currents Website: https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/index.html
Great Lakes Online: https://glakesonline.nos.noaa.gov/
Cuyahoga PORTS: https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ports/index.html?port=cy
Soo Locks PORTS: https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ports/index.shtml?port=sl
GLOFS: http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ofs/glofs.html.

Nautical Charting: Tom Loeper from the Nautical Publications Branch of the Office of Coast Survey presented information on the issues with converting paper charts to electronic charts. He assured the attendees that paper charts will continue to be printed for at least the next 10-15 years.

Recommended courses will be discussed in greater detail at a meeting on Friday, February 17, 2017, involving Lake Carriers' Association and the Chamber of Marine Commerce members.

Wisconsin-Lake Michigan Marine Sanctuary: Ellen Brody from the Great Lakes Office of Marine Sanctuaries gave an overview of the National Marine Sanctuary System. She provided information on the National Marine Sanctuaries in the Great Lakes – Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Lake Huron and the proposed Wisconsin – Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary. She explained the designation process for Wisconsin. The boundary alternatives and the regulatory alternatives for the Wisconsin – Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary were reviewed. A discussion on the ballast water practices in the Great Lakes National Marine Sanctuaries was held during which Ellen noted that the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 would apply to the Wisconsin – Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary, which allows ballasting and excludes ports. Ellen also shared information about upcoming public meetings and outlined the sanctuary nomination process.

Captains' Items for NOAA and NWS:

- Captains need water level gauges in the southern end of Lake Michigan and Johnson Point;
- Captains support retention of current meter in Toledo and would like to see current meters in the Rouge River and Green Bay. (Note: LCA and Canadian operators have funded continuation of the Cuyahoga River current meter, but the others must be funded by other users.);
- Captains asked that the pulling of weather buoys, especially on Lake Superior, be delayed as long as possible;
- Captains would like a wind station at the northern end of Lake Michigan (Gull Island or Lansing Shoal) and an alternative website windalert.com

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Agenda Items

Dave Wright and Kevin Sprague gave a Great Lakes Navigation System update.

Funding Status: Dave Wright talked aobut provisions of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014. He provided the following link for WRRDA 2014 implementation guidance:
http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/ProjectPlanning/LegislativeLinks/wrrda2014/wrrda2014_impguide.aspx.

Soo Locks: The status of projects included in the Soo Locks Asset Renewal Plan were reviewed.

Rock Cut: Updates on the West Neebish Island Rock Cut stabilization work were given.

New Poe-Sized Lock: An economic reevaluation is being conducted. Draft report scheduled to be completed December 2017.

Outreach: Information can be found by utilizing the following link:
www.lre.usace.army.mil/greatlakes/navigation.

Captains' Items for Corps

- Dock near the Willow Street Bridge in Cuyahoga River is falling in;
- Turning basins need to be dredged to project dimensions and cleared of boats and spud barges;
- Concern was expressed about lack of tie-up space in Soo Harbor with Carbide Dock being condemned;
- Water level gauge reading at Middle Neebish dock should be made available on line or from the lockmaster;
- Simmon Reef needs to be surveyed to locate high spot.

Waiver of Safety Zone at Mouth of Cuyahoga River

LCDR Mickey Dougherty, Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Unit Cleveland, asked for feedback regarding the proposed waiver of safety zone at mouth of Cuyahoga River by March 10. Rob Clarke of the Flats East Bank outlined the provisions of the waiver. The waiver will be reviewed each year, the dock master must be present for mooring, there will be no overnight docking, and an app will be available to contact the dock master. Other notable items are that the waiver can be revoked at any time and will be reevaluated constantly and the safety zone will not be removed from the Federal Register.

Captains General Comments/Recommendations

Traffic buoy recommendations should be sent to CDR Tony Maffia.

Ray Sheldon will continue as Chairman until 2018 with Brad Newland as Vice Chairman. At the 2018 Captains Committee meeting, Brad Newland will become Chairman and a new Vice Chairman will be elected.

Lake Carriers' Association Updates

Second Poe-Sized Lock: Support continues to swell for lock, both at the federal and state levels. A recent U.S. Department of Treasury report forecasts the economic benefits of twinning the Poe Lock could be as high as $1.7 billion and the project's benefit/cost (b/c) ratio as high as 4.0. The Corps is working to complete its reevaluation of the b/c ratio by year's end. Another positive development is the Corp now believes the lock can be built in 6, rather than 10 years.

Ballast Water: Efforts to pass legislation establishing a uniform, federal ballast water discharge standard nearly succeeded in 2016. The legislation has been reintroduced in the new Congress. The Commercial Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (CVIDA [S. 168/H.R. 1154]). A key provision is that the U.S. Coast Guard is the lead agency. Currently the Coast Guard shares oversight with the EPA and 16 states have added ballast water provisions to the Vessel General Permit.

New Heavy Icebreaker: LCA continues to seeking funding for the heavy icebreaker (more than $200 million) authorized in the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, but this will be a heavy lift. The Coast Guard is focusing on building a new polar icebreaker. LCA is trying to tie to two together.

Dredging: LCA's efforts to increase funding continue to bring more dredging dollars to the Lakes, but the fact remains approximately 15 million cubic yards of sediment still clog ports and waterways, so it will be imperative we work the appropriation process each year to ensure funding keeps growing.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1415.

Minutes Submitted By
Glen G. Nekvasil
Vice President

Lake Carriers' Association

34th Annual Captains Committee Meeting - February 16, 2017

DoubleTree Hotel – Cleveland Downtown/Lakeside
1111 Lakeside Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44114 • 216-241-5100 • Guest Fax: 216-241-7437

AGENDA

0730 - 0800 ..... Continental Breakfast ..... Lakeside Ballroom

0800 - 0815 ..... Greetings from Jim Weakley, President, LCA
RADM June Ryan, Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District

0815 - 0945 ..... Ninth Coast Guard District

- Recap of Icebreaking Operations December 2016/January 2017 – LT Matt Stroebel
- Update on Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) for 140s – LT Matt Stroebel
- Review of Policy Letter on Conditionally Manned ATBs – CDR Christopher Tantillo
- Update on Subchapter M – LT Jerrold Federer
- Review of Policy Letter on Reporting Suspicious Activity and Breaches of Security
- Overview of Regulatory Cooperation Council – Josh Peters
- Update on NS Bridge Delays – Scot Striffler

0945 - 1000 ..... Captains' Comments/Questions for USCG

1000 - 1145 ..... NOAA

- Great Lakes Demonstration Products – Brian Hirsch
- VOS Presentation and Video – Ron Williams
- Great Lakes Ice 2017 – Gary Garnet
- Future Focus on Great Lakes – Mike Bardou
- Water Levels and Currents – Richard Edwing
- Nautical Charting – Thomas Loeper
- Wisconsin-Lake Michigan Marine Sanctuary – Ellen Brody

1145 - 1200 ..... Captains' Comments/Questions for NOAA

1200 – 1315 ..... Lunch – Ontario Ballroom

1315 - 1415 ..... U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District (David Wright, Kevin Sprague)

- Recap/Preview FY16/FY17 Dredging Program
- Preview Plant/Contract Structure Repair Work Ongoing in FY17
- Overview Soo Locks Winter Work Completed in FY16, Planned/Ongoing in FY17
- Overview Soo Locks Asset Renewal Projects Completed in FY16, Planned/Ongoing in FY17
- Status of Rock Cut Wall Stabilization Work
- Other Operations Issues
- Status of Rehab Report for Existing Locks/Economic Reevaluation Report for Second Poe-sized Lock
- Access to Corps Websites and Navigation Data (Condition Surveys, NTNI's)

1415 - 1430 ..... Captains' Comments/Questions for USACE

1430 - 1500 ..... Waiver of Safety Zone at Mouth of Cuyahoga River – Rob Clarke, Flats East Bank

1500 - 1530 ..... Captains Comments/Recommendations

1530 - 1600 ..... LCA Updates on Major Initiatives

- Second Poe-Sized Lock
- Ballast Water
- New Heavy Icebreaker
- Dredging

1600- 1700 ..... Open Discussion

1700 ..... Adjourn

ATTENDEES

LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

(LCA Captains Committee Members – Bold)

Jeff	Musselman	Andrie Inc. / Inland Lakes Management, Inc.
Capt. Dave	**Wellington**	**Andrie Inc. / Inland Lakes Management, Inc.**
Tom	Anderson	American Steamship Company
Kevin	McMonagle	American Steamship Company
Capt. Bill	**Millar**	**American Steamship Company**
Mark	Pietrocarlo	American Steamship Company
Aaron	Bensinger	Central Marine Logistics, Inc.
Capt. Ray	**Sheldon**	**Central Marine Logistics, Inc.**
Capt. Richard Shawn	**Bennish**	**Great Lakes Fleet**
Ken	Gerasimos	Great Lakes Fleet
Capt. Joseph	**Hooker**	**Great Lakes Fleet**
Joshua	Juel	Great Lakes Fleet
John	Thibodeau	Great Lakes Fleet
Dave	Carroll	Keystone
Mark	Mather	Lake Michigan Carferry/Pere Marquette Shipping
Roger	Beadle	Pere Marquette Shipping
Ed	Hogan	Port City Marine Services / Port City Steamship
Capt. Paul	Christensen	The Interlake Steamship Company
Capt. Brad	**Newland**	**The Interlake Steamship Company**
Capt. Joe	**Ruch**	**The Interlake Steamship Company**
Randin	Bernosky	VanEnkevort Tug & Barge, Inc.
Dave	Connell	VanEnkevort Tug & Barge, Inc.
Dave	Groh	VanEnkevort Tug & Barge, Inc.
Capt. Brian	**Sauvey**	**VanEnkevort Tug & Barge, Inc.**

LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION

Katie	Gumeny	Lake Carriers' Association
Glen	Nekvasil	Lake Carriers' Association
Jim	Weakley	Lake Carriers' Association

CHAMBER OF MARINE COMMERCE AND MEMBERS

Capt. Peter	Carpenter	Algoma Central Corporation
Capt. Martin	Neuenhagen	Algoma Central Corporation
Scott	Porter	Canada Steamship Lines
John	Greenway	Chamber of Marine Commerce

ATTENDEES – CONTINUED

FEDERAL AGENCIES

LCDR Mickey	Dougherty	Ninth Coast Guard District
CAPT Joseph	DuFresne	Ninth Coast Guard District
LT Jerrold	Federer	Ninth Coast Guard District
CDR Tony	Maffia	Ninth Coast Guard District
CDR Jeff	Novak	Ninth Coast Guard District
Josh	Peters	Ninth Coast Guard District
RADM June	Ryan	Ninth Coast Guard District
Scot	Striffler	Ninth Coast Guard District
LT Matt	Stroebel	Ninth Coast Guard District
CDR Chris	Tantillo	Ninth Coast Guard District

Ellen	Brody	NOAA, Great Lakes Office of Marine Sanctuaries
Richard	Edwing	NOAA, National Ocean Service
Darren	Wright	NOAA, National Ocean Service
Mike	Bardou	NOAA, National Weather Service
Gary	Garnet	NOAA, National Weather Service
Brian	Hirsch	NOAA, National Weather Service
Ron	Williams	NOAA, National Weather Service
Thomas	Loeper	NOAA, Nautical Publications Branch

Josh	Feldman	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kevin	Sprague	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Marie	Strum	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Dave	Wright	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

OTHERS

Rob	Clarke	Flats East Bank
Scott	Skrzypczak	International Shipmasters' Association
George	Haynes	Lakes Pilots Association, Inc.
Casey	Talbot	Norfolk Southern