

Mariner's Advisory Committee Minutes

June 11, 2026

Captain Drew Hodgens MAC Chairman welcomed members and guests in the room to the 2nd Quarterly Meeting

Following the Posted Agenda

I. Approval of the Minutes

Captain Drew Hodgens MAC Chairman opens the meeting. Thank you for making time to come today. Captain Hodgens then requested we go around the room for participants to introduce themselves. Motion to approve minutes – Kubilay seconded by Dave Monk.

II. Reports

- A. **Treasurer's Report – Captain Rick Iuliucci**– Good morning, everyone. March ending balance \$18,018.36. Total disbursements \$5,365.31. The newest member is Enstructure Wilmington, welcome Erin. Thank you all for your support.

III. USCG Report –

Captain Kate Higgins-Bloom - Good morning, it's great to see everybody. Not too much to say other than it is a real pleasure to be here at what is my last MAC meeting, my last month at Sector. I wanted to express my own personal gratitude to all of you for being such incredible partners. I've been in several ports, and I can say completely without any bias that this one is the best. Whether it's working through things like the river freezing, figuring out how to get a cruise ship up here in a significantly shorter amount of time than anybody expected, or if it's you know getting together to socialize, go shoot shotguns poorly, I might add, it's really just been an immense privilege to work with all of you and in an incredible community.

IV. ACOE Report

- A. Mr. Timothy Rooney – Good morning, everybody. Norfolk Dredging Company maintenance dredging has completed Wilmington Harbor and New Castle Range. Currently mobilizing to Deepwater Point Range. Following that we will be moving up to Marcus Hook Range in July when the sturgeon moratorium is open for dredging operations. Hopper Dredge McFarland began dredging operations on June 7th. She is currently dredging Liston Range. The USCG requested USACE Philadelphia District to assist in acquisition and contract administration to dredge the boat basin. We got Kokosing to come in 2 weeks ahead of schedule. It was a great partnership, and the job was completed with no issues. Delaware River Philly to Trenton is scheduled to begin August 1st and continue through March 15th. Wilmington Harbor was completed as mentioned. Finally; the emergency object removal. We are in the process of doing the evaluation of the proposals. C&D Canal is looking for solicitation for next year's contract. Summit Bridge is being worked on and there is an air gap restriction.

Details in meeting packet 4 through 8

V. NOAA

- A. Christopher DiVeglio – Good morning, happy almost officially summer. Ports Program updates – quarterly statistics are operating at above 95%. I mentioned this at the March meeting that the NOAA tide station at Coast Guard property is going to be rebuilt. It was scheduled for September, that has slid to October, but things are looking on track there. I don't have any updates on Reedy Point. I also mentioned back at the March meeting that the station fell in the water because the pier was destroyed by ice, and you know it was in rough shape anyway. As far as the tide observations, we do not have a path forward at the moment.
- B. Ryan Wartick – Good morning, not too much to update. We just finished a survey for the pilots of Wilmington Anchorage. It is finished and the results are given to the pilots.

Details in meeting packet 8 through 16

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. Captain Drew Hodgins – Captain Rick Iulicci, I would just like to thank you for your endless dedication to the Delaware River. On behalf of everyone who's working on the river or benefits from commerce on the river, we appreciate your professionalism. Your service to the MAC goes back so many years; we're not even sure when it started. Rick and I talked this morning; he's been attending MAC meetings since ninety-four, um which is amazing. Enjoy your retirement and we all wish you nothing but the best. We have a little something for you.

Next unfinished business, Captain Kate Higgins-Bloom already said she is leaving and I wrote something I wanted to say. The United States of America is a maritime nation. Our way of life depends on safe, open, and reliable access to the oceans. Our waterways, our coasts, and our seas play a vital role in American recreation, commerce, transportation, and defense. The United States maritime domain is varied and immense, consisting of an integrated network of twenty-five thousand miles of coastal and inland waterways, three hundred sixty-one ports, one hundred twenty-four shipyards, three thousand five hundred maritime facilities, twenty thousand bridges, fifty thousand federal aids to navigation and ninety-five thousand miles of shoreline. All of which interconnects with critical highways, Railways, airports, and pipelines. We have oceans on both coasts, the Gulf of America down south, and an inland waterways system that no other country can match. Let's be clear; none of it will function without the great leadership and great people of the United States Coast Guard. Captain Higgins Bloom, we thank you for your incredible leadership and your constant dedication to our waterway. Your service to this nation has been noted and appreciated. We wish you and your family all the best at your new position down at our nation's capital. We have a gift for you also.

Next, Lieutenant Commander Owen Mims - Everyone in attendance here today appreciates all your hard work and for always being a phone call away. The MAC and all its members greatly rely on the Waterways Division at the Coast Guard, and we're grateful to have had such a dedicated professional as yourself leading this division. We wish you nothing but continued success on your journey in the United States Coast Guard.

And finally, MSTC Dylan Cichowski. I've lost track of how many times I've said to David Cuff; "Let's call Dylan." MSTC Cichowski is a below the radar person who has assisted the pilot office and the MAC countless times. His professionalism is top notch, and his skills and talents will be greatly missed. We wish you all the best as your journey in the Coast Guard takes you to many new locations.

VII. New Business

- A. **Captain Drew Hodgens** - One of the things with Rick stepping down, this is going to be under new business. Rick is retiring from Vane Brothers and retiring from the MAC. So, the MAC board, we all got together and we have selected Dave Monk to be Captain Rick Iuliuccis' replacement. Thank you very much to Dave for stepping in and agreeing to do this. We obviously collect money from everybody - we have an account at PNC Bank, and we went to the bank this morning. One of the things we must do, and it must go into the minutes - Rick will be stepping down as treasurer so we will be removing Rick from the account at PNC. There are some names on there from quite a few years ago that just for housekeeping purposes were never taken off. Mr. Scott Anderson's name, Captain John Kemmerley and Captain Steve Roberts will all be removed from this PNC bank account. We're going to be adding Dave Monk as treasurer, and we're going to be adding me as I was never on the account - so adding Captain Drew Hodgens as chairman. Just to let everybody know, we did that this morning at the bank. We must send the minutes to the bank to establish those names on the account.

VIII. Adjournment

Captain Drew Hodgens asked for a motion to adjourn; Captain David Cuff motioned, and Kubilay seconded.

Next meeting Thursday, September 10th at Popi's 1030 for coffee and 1100 start.