



## CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Connecticut Boating Advisory Council  
Minutes February 3, 2011 (via teleconference)

COALITION OF  
CONNECTICUT  
SPORTSMEN

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Attendees: Grant Westerson, Chairman, called the meeting to order via teleconference. In attendance were Grant Westerson, Connecticut Marine Trades Association; Sue Weeks, CT Bass Federation Nation; Jean Trappani, Paddlers Network; Sandra Pierog, United States Power Squadrons District 1, Vice Chairman; Sandy MacDonald, Fairfield County Commodore's Association; Eleanor Mariani, CT DEP Boating. Joining the call later were Steven Biro, US Coast Guard Auxiliary; John Annino, CT DEP Boating and Frank Kemp, United States Power Squadrons District 2.

Minutes of the November 10, 2010 meeting were accepted with corrections to the list of attendees. Sandy MacDonald of the Fairfield County Commodores Association and George Hallenbeck of United States Power Squadrons, District 2 should have been shown as attendees.

Legislation/Regulations: Eleanor Mariani provided updates on the proposed regulations regarding the Mystic River no wake zone, on-line boater education and marine dealer registration for surveyors and brokers. The hearing report is due out shortly. She reviewed the steps necessary before the regulations can be considered adopted and addressed questions from the committee on procedures, timing and the ability of the public to address the legislative review committee. Ms. Mariani provided updates on proposed legislation concerning boating under the influence, including time limits for testing and removal of boating rights upon conviction. She discussed proposed legislation regarding boat livery operators and temporary boating certificates that would require livery operators to administer an exam prior to issuing the temporary certificate to enable the rental. Another bill has been proposed to increase ceiling on fees paid to harbor masters/municipalities for moorings and anchorage.

Grant Westerson updated the committee on other legislative bills of interest, including adding appeal right to the dredging and structures permit process, simplifying the vessel lien process, and the threats to boating industry regarding sales tax exemptions for boating related items. He mentioned the mandatory sick leave benefits will be of concern to the boating industry. Mr. Westerson discussed a proposed vessel "lemon law".

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Sandy MacDonald inquired about activity by the State of New York. Ms. Mariani and Mr. Annino were unaware of anything critical. A question was raised about NY seeking a no-discharge zone for Long Island Sound.

Ms. Mariani informed the group zebra mussels have been found in Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah. DEP will be working with CT Bass Federation Nation for certification by members in tournaments that they have properly cleaned and dried their vessels prior to launching. The best method to avoid contamination is to clean the boat after each use (ideally with 104 degree water), drain all water and allow the vessel to dry for 5 days before re-introducing to another body of water. All boaters should practice these precautions and be aware of the requirement that waste water must be handled properly. A discussion was held concerning costs of eradication of invasive species, the consensus was that boaters should not bear the entire cost there are other sources of introduction of the invasives.

There was no support for an increase fee on boat registrations to handle the costs of invasive species or abandoned boats.

The next meeting will be held March 9, 2011 in Norwalk.

The call was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Pierog, Acting Secretary

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## CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Connecticut Boating Advisory Council Minutes March 9, 2011 Norwalk Maritime Aquarium

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In attendance: Grant Westerson, CT Marine Trades Association, Jean Trapani, Paddlers Network, John Craine, Fairfield County Commodore's Association, George Hallenbeck, United States Power Squadron – District 2, Steven Biro, Dept. of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Eleanor Mariani, CT DEP Boating and Susan Weeks, CT B.A.S.S. Federation Nation.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by CBAC Chairman, Grant Westerson.

#### **Previous Meeting Minutes**

There were no amendments to the February 3<sup>rd</sup> teleconference meeting minutes. A motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded and approved.

#### **Legislation/Regulations**

Eleanor Mariani provided a handout with a Regulatory and Legislative Update. The Boating Regulations package continues to move slowly through the process. An internal draft is being prepared regarding the length of vessels on Candlewood Lake. The legislative proposal for safe boating certificates for individuals who rent a boat in CT is being opposed as written. The bill extends beyond the intent of the certification, requiring those boaters renting non-registered boats to obtain a certificate from the rental agent. The bill also authorizes the rental agents to issue the State certificate, which the Department finds unacceptable. There is reciprocity with our Border States, New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. An agreement has also been reached with New Hampshire. The Mystic River speed limit issue is being supported as well as the Boating BUI bill to make it consistent with the motor vehicle DUI statutes. Grant Westerson reviewed the other Legislative proposals listed on the update. To see the bills in more detail you can go to [www.CT.gov/DEP/Boating](http://www.CT.gov/DEP/Boating).

An update on the Governor's Budget proposal was also reviewed. 1. Eliminate the boating fund which would be favorable to the DEP Boating because personnel would be placed on GF. The current boating fund doesn't keep up with inflation. 2. Repeal the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program – Towns would now be able to tax boats as personal property at state wide uniform rate of 20 Mills. 3. Luxury tax of 3% on items over certain thresholds.

#### **Old Business**

Eleanor sent all an email with information about the DEP "No Child Left Inside" program.

Invasive Species – The Zebra Mussel Task Force is going to have an Invasive Investigator Program to train associations on how to check boats and trailers. A link to find car washes in an area might be added to the website. The CBFN is providing their tournament anglers with a letter and information about Zebra Mussels.

Grant Westerson proposed that we could consider supporting a regulatory rate increase on boat registrations where the money would go back to the DEP as opposed to a property tax increase.

**New Business**

If you want to lookup a bill you can go to [www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov), you do need to know the number of the bill. You can also sign up to receive alerts.

The following are upcoming events that Boating is participating at: 3/5/11 Cabelas, 3/19/11 Pilot Point Open House and an Educators Forum 3/23/2011 at the DEP Marine Headquarters from 9am to 12 noon.

Eleanor sent all an email with information about the DEP No Child Left Inside program.

Also another one regarding: EPA Seeks Public Comments to Help Develop Management Practices for Recreational Vessels

For More information about the Clean Boating Act:

<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/lawsguidance/cwa/vessel/CBA/about.cfm>

NASBLA – Eleanor attended a workshop of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators in Kentucky. The 2010 Highway Transportation bill authorizes the **WALLOP-BREAUX** Trust Fund and we need to make sure that it continues to exist. Boating groups rely on these funds for various projects.

The Coast Guard Strategic Plan is available. [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org) and you can download it.

NASBLA is now a strategic partner working with the US Power Squadrons with on water training. There is Operation Dry Water June 24 -26 regarding BUI water issues.

NASBLA is also developing:

1. New Field Sobriety Testing
2. Study to look at the retention of knowledge of online versus classroom courses
3. BOATS Program – certify level of competency of an operator of a vessel – sworn officers with significant boating experience.
4. T-31 Standards for law enforcement boats to provide for safety in construction of those boats based on use.
5. Accident reporting – Improve quality – study for a better understanding for possible change
  1. Data
  2. Coast Guard to decide on terms/definitions
6. Two Tier system for accident reporting – Making boat operator and state – responsible for reporting of all accidents. .

Grant suggested getting Marine Insurance Companies to send accident reports.

**Other**

None

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,



## CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting September 21, 2011

Grant Westerson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:34PM at the Maritime Aquarium, Norwalk, CT. In attendance were; Grant Westerson, CT Marine Trades Ass.; Bob Crook, Coalition Connecticut Sportsmen; Sue Weeks, CT Bass Federation Nation; Sandra Pierog, US Power Squadrons-D1; George Hallenbeck, US Power Squadrons-D2; Eleanor Mariani, CT DEP Boating; John Annino, CT DEP Boating;; and Sandy McDonald, Fairfield County Commodores Ass., Secretary. There were no minutes of the May, 2011 meeting to be approved.

Legislation/ Regulations. There is no new proposed boating legislation at present. There was discussion of the LI Sound Council proposal to get support for towns by the Harbor Masters; and the question of more Harbor Master training and authority. It was felt that they should not have custodial arrest authority and not be armed in order to minimize liability on towns. There is also a feeling that the boating budget should be a line item as a division in the General Fund. Congress has passed an amendment to extend the reauthorization of the recreational boat safety trust fund until March 31, 2012, which would be in the Highway Safety Trust Fund.

Old Business. The invasive species program went well with 9 training sessions statewide. Zebra mussels were addressed in the Housatonic River. Next season the program will be more diverse.

New Business. YTD CT boating fatalities were 7 and 50 boating accidents. Ethanol in gas will go to 15% but marine fuel will stay at 10%. Boating would like new legislation on online courses, illegal transport of zebra mussels. These are preliminary ideas. Letters to and from Boating and the USCG regarding deficiencies in reporting marine casualties were distributed. Also, Boating activity logs from January 2011 to August 2011 were passed out. Ms. Mariani reported on the national NASBLA conference. There is a national survey in 2011 on boating by USCG that will be out by March 2012. This will be done every 2 years. Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) is working with states to get lapsed boaters to renew their boating registrations. CT numbers have declined from 112,000 to 108,000. USCG is considering mandating life jacket wear for those operating vessels 18' or under and has put out a request for . CT is considering supporting the federal position for all paddle boats, motorboats under 18 feet and personal watercraft,. As for boat launching ramps, Lattin's Cove State Boat Launch on Candlewood Lake has new wheel stops. This is a temporary measure and a redesign of the parking lot and ramp area is underway. There is a redesign of the Lake Lillinonah ramp and parking lot. The State Comprehensive Recreational Plan, due every 5 years, is being developed.

The next meeting will be November 9, 2011 at Old Lyme. The meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.

Respectfully submitted, Sandy McDonald, Acting Secretary

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## CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting November 9, 2011

Grant Westerson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM at the DEEP Marine Headquarters, Library in Old Lyme, CT. In attendance were Grant Westerson, Connecticut Marine Trades Assoc.; Sue Weeks, CT Bass Federation Nation; Sandy MacDonald, Fairfield County Commodore's Association; George Hallenbeck, US Power Squadrons D2; Sandra Pierog, US Power Squadrons D1; Bob Zipps (guest), Antique Outboard Motor Club; Eleanor Mariani CT DEEP Boating, and John Annino, CT DEEP Boating.

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The minutes of the September 21, 2011 meeting were approved as written.

Legislation: Bob Zipps presented his point of view and information on Proposed Bill 5517 (2011 bill number), regarding a slow no wake zone on the Connecticut River at East Hartford/Hartford. There were several unanswered questions including when was the last time someone was ticketed? What is the opinion of Riverfront Recapture and the East Hartford Police Department. No action was taken on the presentation.

Eleanor Mariani provided updates on the potential legislation from DEEP. Items under consideration include failure to assist in a collision and BUI hearing procedures. The DEEP is still working toward on-line courses. A proposal has also been made to require a dock permit for reconstruction after a catastrophic event. Currently a replacement of up to 25% every year and decking whenever necessary is permitted. Grant informed us the CMTA has filed a petition to send this proposal to a hearing, questioning why another plan is necessary to replace something that already existed.

Old Business: Grant informed us the CMTA Boat Show will be held at the CT Convention Center January 27-29, 2012. The CT DEEP and the CT Bass Federation Nation will have space at the show.

New Business: Members were invited to the Awards Ceremony for the 2012 Boater's Guide Cover Competition on Friday November 18 at the Legislative Office Building. The DEEP may seek to reduce the number of Boater's Guides printed since an on-line version is available. Cost of the Boater's Guide is around \$51,000 for 95 thousand copies. A new DEEP brochure with scanable smartphone QR codes was distributed.

The proposed Lake Lillinonah boat launch area renovations were presented. The design should be completed by the end of 2012. The plan envisions 2 ramps with a dock down the center and a rock jetty. Latin's Cove Boat Launch at Candlewood Lake should also be complete by the end of 2012. Financing for both projects is coming from state and federal funds. The state has an opportunity to purchase property the former Beverly's Marina on Bantam Lake. The intention would be to utilize the property for handicapped boating and fishing.

Grant reported the Coast Guard is pushing for mandatory life jacket wear. CMTA feels this should be a state, not federal issue. He also informed the group that subsidies for corn and E15 used in fuel may disappear in the next few years. Grant noted the Coast Guard is against ethanol refueling at a dock, as it burns hotter, attracts water and has a short life.

Sandy Macdonald noted that the prohibition on bottom cleaning continues to be a major concern for boaters in his area.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2012 at the Norwalk Maritime Aquarium.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Pierog, Acting Secretary