Navigation Restoration Team – Hurricane Harvey Meeting Minutes

1030 CDT, Monday August 28, 2017

1. Roll Call
2. National Weather Service briefings: Brian Kyle – NWS Houston

* Currently max winds at 40mph not at center
* New Track has 20 miles offshore over next few days, over Bolivar/High Island over Wednesday.
* New Track; takes storm 20-miles offshore, to make landfall again at High Island
* In general, areas to East of storm will see more significant weather. Winds counterclockwise, West/SW winds in lower Texas Coast then N/NW near Matagorda Bay later today.
* 8-10 ft seas on upper Texas Coast through Thursday or Friday

Joel NWS Corpus Christi

* Strong offshore flow now through Thursday; onshore flow Friday.
* 6-8’ waves through Tuesday and several days before clear sailing.
* Lesser chances of precipitation in south, but still off/on showers.
* Rainfall between San Antonio Bay and Lavaca Bay still 1-2 inches.
* 6-8’ waves through Thursday and probably won’t recede until Friday.
* Further down coast, Corpus South, may lay down sooner.

1. USCG Updates:
   1. Sector Corpus Christi: LCDR Pickering briefed:
      1. All sunken vessel are NOT within Federal channels
      2. Drill Ship is still derelict on the Corpus Christi North Jetty
      3. Overflight done from CC to Matagorda Bay no
      4. Overflight performed yesterday
      5. No ATONS on ICW between Corpus Christi and Matagorda.
      6. Initial assessment is that 30-40 AtoNs are missing within the Corpus Christi Ship Channel
      7. No status on Matagorda aids to date.
   2. Sector Houston-Galveston – Steve Nerheim briefed:
      1. Port Condition Zulu for Freeport, Texas City, Galveston and Houston
      2. USCG Cutter Harry Claiborne ran the entrance channel and reported only Buoy 6 being off station.
      3. PHA fireboats are moving south to Bayport to assess main stem.
      4. Pilot boats attempted to traverse the Entrance Channel and reported significant sea states.
      5. No known derelict vessels or emergent obstructions beyond a few items on upper HSC (which aren’t affecting navigation).
   3. MSU Port Arthur – Scott Whalen Briefed:
      1. Condition Yankee at 10am; no decision on Zulu to date
      2. Awaiting storm to hit so no survey work.
      3. Pilots went out yesterday, but sea conditions too strong.
      4. Will start looking at survey resources over next day or two so can make assessment.

Port Port Condition

Brownsville: Normal

Corpus: Zulu

Victoria: Zulu

Matagorda Zulu

Houston: Zulu

Texas City: Zulu

Freeport: Zulu

Port Arthur Yankee

Beaumont: Yankee

Orange: Yankee

1. USCG – Bridge Branch – District 8
   1. Nothing new to report
   2. Nerheim: Galveston Rail Bridge is in the down position
      1. Port Arthur to Bolivar
2. USACE update
   1. Karl Brown:
      1. BRFG: project will be operational at noon. Don’t see any traffic moving. Will be looking forward to surveys as available
      2. Colorado: generator power on West. Will not be in operation until tomorrow. Colorado River flood stage, will get flows to team via email. Project will not be operational until later this week.
   2. Survey – Chris Frabotta provided an overview of USACE Survey efforts:
      1. Graphic sent to team regarding survey progress chart. List of current survey assets in place. Following discussion is in addition to table sent out to team. Table is status of deep draft Nav channels. Map will be periodically updated and available online.
      2. Hydrographic survey assets from outside district:
         1. NOAA NRT2: In route to Corpus Christi; anticipate arrival on Tuesday August 29, 2017
         2. Mobile District providing the following support:
            1. Technician and sidescan sonar sent on USCG aircraft to Corpus last night. Currently in use on USACE vessel CC-03
            2. A three man survey crew in route to Corpus Christi now. Expected in Corpus Christi tonight.
         3. New Orleans District:
            1. One survey boat and two crews in route to Corpus Christi now. Will arrive in Corpus Christi tomorrow.
            2. Two additional survey boats and crews to leave New Orleans tomorrow. Will arrive in Corpus Christi tomorrow.
      3. Andrew Smith/Darrell Johnson: team currently working, will incorporate additional teams upon arrival
         1. RGV01 doing profiles on GIWW N between Port I and Mansfield
         2. CC01 on Inner Harbor CCSC
         3. CC03 sidescan Inner Harbor CCSC w/ Joey Freeman from Mobile Dist
         4. Terrasound 25’ GIWW JFK causeway going south
         5. Terrasound 27’ Side Scan within La Quinta Channel
         6. Terrasound 22’ In route from Austin
         7. NAO-01 In route from Galveston
         8. NRT-02 In route from Florida
         9. 3 people from Moblile District arriving in San Antonio tonight, Darrell will send people to pick up
         10. Terrasound vessels from USCG, 3 day contract, hope to clear areas in that time.
         11. Matagorda Bay: haven’t been able to perform assessment. Will coordinate with Captain Adrian. Matagorda Pilots attempted to get boat on channel today. More survey assets are arriving over next few days. Pilots and USACE working together to determine where to put boats in etc. Will be massing efforts on Corpus and Matagorda equally once weather allows.
         12. Terrasound vessels collecting data? Yes and Darrell will process data.
   3. Matt Duke:
      1. NAO-1. In route to Corpus, leaving at 11am.
      2. Tanner and De La Hunt still at Bayland Marina probably until Friday.
      3. Will run centerline coming down.
      4. Tanner will likely go to Freeport.
      5. Will use standby crews to put on other vessels.
      6. Trying to get a hold of Contractor vessels, not able to be reached. Supposed to be in Galveston today rigging boats, other vessel in Louisiana. Plan on being in Corpus tomorrow. Contractor renting in Vessel in Galveston, Chris will pass vessel name to Steve Nerheim. Driving in a survey crew and operator, will leave from Galveston to Corpus to be in Corpus by tomorrow. Vessels contingent on sea states. Current plan to send first vessel to clear Corpus first and then Matagorda. Second vessel is supposed to be in Galveston by tomorrow and survey Galveston and Freeport. Will coordinated with Sector Houston regarding which channel first.
      7. NRT 4: is it deploying? At Houston Yacht Club, crew members unable to get there due to roads being impassable. Once sea states better he can help with Houston.
      8. Can Andrew forward hotel info to New Orleans support? Looking to stay overnight to College Station. Is there a shorter route? Drive Texas good website, Andrew will let know if shorter route becomes available. EOC support on coordinating rooms for Mobile/New Orleans/NOAA support would be fantastic.
   4. SNELL: sitting on E. side of Colorado River to east of Locks on GIWW. Capt. Scott Hall does not anticipate being able to cross Colorado River for next 2-3 days due to currents. Probably will go over to Matagorda Harbor and do safe harbor until river comes down some.
   5. Chris Frabotta reported the following:
      1. Galveston District to formally request the following support:
         1. New Orleans District hydrographic survey resources
         2. Wilmington District support with M/V SNELL. Mobilization down GIWW to Corpus Christi
         3. Mobile District side scan sonar support and potentially boat operators and surveys if Galveston District employees are unable to respond due to their home being flooded.
         4. Potential request for hopper dredge WHEELER from New Orleans District
      2. Two 100+ft Contractor vessels to be in Galveston Monday. Will likely mobilize directly to Corpus Christi area.
3. Pilots
   1. Corpus Christi Pilots: preliminary run yesterday afternoon, drill ship out of way, relayed shoaling to USACE. Pilot station inoperable. Running down CCSC this afternoon to get a better assessment of ATONS.
   2. Matagorda Pilots: Intention to get boat underway today, but still 35-40knot winds, rough and debris, will wait until morning for visual survey of aids and initial look of bottom. Unlikely to be able to go offshore. Station fine, boats intact.
   3. Freeport Pilots: Initial assessment, status Zulu another 48 hrs with debris in water. Yesterday’s assessment was that ATONs in place, but 5-6’ of shoaling in entrance channel. Pilot station operable.
      1. Chris F: channel currently under contract and funding available to dredge additional quantity.
      2. Boat for surveys should be entering AOR tomorrow, will determine if can survey based on sea states, will coordinate with Pilots and USCG on priority of Galv/Tx City/Freeport.
   4. Galveston/Texas City Pilots: the Texas didn’t make it past jetties this morning. Buoy 6 is off station in the navigable channel.
   5. Houston Pilots: Boats are down at pilot boat station and are available for survey work up channel
   6. Sabine Pilots: Standing by
4. Next call 1030 8/29/17, same call in info.