

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

August 12, 2014
899 Morrison Drive
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

Mr. Henry Hay, Chairman
Mr. John Hassell
Capt. Chris Thornton
Mr. Billy Lempesis

Excused absence was noted for:

Mr. David Galloway
Mr. Ken Riley

Staff and others present were:

Capt. Whit Smith, Harbor Pilot
Capt. John Cameron, Consultant to the Commission
Mrs. Julia Bennett, Charleston Pilot Assoc
Ms. Pam Zaresk, Maritime Assoc.
Mr. Denver Merrill, Maritime Assoc.
Commander Heath Hartley, US Coast Guard

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday, August 12, 2014, at the Maritime Association Office, 899 Morrison Drive, in Charleston, South Carolina. Whereas, proper notice of date, time, place and agenda information having been properly provide to the **Charleston Post and Courier** and proper notice also having been posted at the Maritime Association Office 24 hours prior to the time scheduled for the meeting and quorum having been noted as present. Chairman Hay called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Hay asked the members to read the draft of minutes taken during the July 8th meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Thornton moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Lempesis seconded the motion. **The motion passed.** Next, the Finance Report showed that checks written since the last meeting totaled \$4,896.44 and there was one deposits of \$4,800.00. With all bills being paid, the Commission had \$5,502.72 on hand. **Motion:** Commissioner Hassell moved to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Thornton seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Chairman Hay asked for public comment. There was none.

Chairman Hay asked for a Coast Guard report. Commander Hartley announced that he had replaced Commander Higman three weeks ago and would be in attendance at future meetings. There was not further report.

In Mrs. Cox's absence, Chairman Hay read aloud the LLR report. There were no physicals due in August, and two due in September. All agencies are encouraged to be

vigilant in defending against security breaches and inform LLR of anything out of the ordinary.

Capt. Cameron gave the right whale report. The American Chamber of Shipping is now aware of the issues at hand. Capt. Cameron will notify the Commission when he receives word on a decision from the Office of Management and Budget.

Commissioner Hassell had no report on the Savannah River Maritime Commission, but indicated he would have an updated status next month.

Chairman Hay asked for an update from the Personnel Committee on the pilot apprentice selection process. Capt. Cameron reported that of the 36 applicants, 1 had withdrawn and three scored below the point threshold to be granted an interview. Of the remaining 32 applicants, there are only six remaining to interview, and those are being scheduled for this month. It is possible that all interviews will be completed by the September meeting.

Chairman Hay asked for an update on pilot regulations and physicals. Capt. Cameron reported that the consensus among pilot groups nationally was to keep requiring annual physicals. He briefed Commander Hartley on the issue, and said he would work on language for new proposed regulation.

Capt. Cameron mentioned a navigational issue due to a range at Rebellion Reach not flashing with enough frequency. Commander Hartley said he would look into its repair and report at the next meeting.

In other old business, Commissioner Lempesis asked about the silting in of the Upper Harbor. Capt. Cameron reported that the shoaling at Daniel Island Reach was scheduled to be corrected during Upper Harbor and Lower Harbor maintenance dredging this year, scheduled for September and December, respectively. This is the area most in need of maintenance. Range Delta is also becoming an issue, with only one meter of under keep clearance currently.

Under new business, Capt. Cameron recommended that the Commissioners convene a Boat Committee to approve that the new vessel FORT RIPLEY is worthy for service as a pilot vessel. The vessel is owned by Southeast Ocean Response Services but will be leased to the pilots. It will have Coast Guard certification, and is scheduled for delivery next week. Chairman Hay concurred, and he volunteered to serve on that committee and report back at the September meeting.

There being no further business to bring before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Bennett
(Standing in for Secretary)

Henry Hay
Chairman