

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

August 13, 2013
899 Morrison Drive
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

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

Excused absence was noted for:

Mr. David Galloway
Mr. Ken Riley

Staff and others present were:

Capt. Whit Smith, Harbor Pilot
Capt. John Cameron, Harbor Pilot
CDR Scott Higman, USCG
Mrs. Kitty Cox, LLR
Ms. Julia Winkler, TradeWorthy Inc.
Ms. Pam Zaresk, Maritime Assoc.
Mr. Denver Merrill, Maritime Assoc.
Mrs. Noreen Milligan, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday, August 13, 2013, 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 provided 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 Lempesis called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Lempesis asked the members to read the draft of minutes taken during the June 11th meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Hassell moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Hay seconded the motion. Next, the Finance Report showed that checks written since the last meeting totaled \$1,675.00 and there was one deposits of \$7,08.25 with all bills being paid, the Commission had \$5,550.87 on hand. **Motion:** Commissioner Thornton moved to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Hassell seconded the motion.

Chairman Lempesis asked for public comment. There was none.

The Coast Guard said that the dredge at Drum Island is down. The pilots notified the Coast Guard that there is an obstruction in the Cooper River. The Coast Guard will check into it. Buoy 38 is 150 ft. east of where it should be. No one knows how it was moved but the Coast Guard will have it back in its correct position.

Mrs. Cox gave the LLR report. There is one physical due for the month of August and one due for the month of September. Information sent or provided to Boards/Commissions will be shredded when meetings are finished if they are given any material; and the LLR websites for Commission/Board members will be moving to a secure site where nothing will be allowed to be printed. Mrs. Cox asked for the Commission and pilots to continue to send information that can be added to the Commission's website for the public.

Governor Haley signed the right whale letter and it was sent to the Honorable Cameron Kerry, Acting Secretary of U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

The dredging has been approved for the Savannah River. There was nothing new to report.

Chairman Lempesis instructed Mrs. Milligan to take the Pilot/Commission fees off the agenda. It would take a change in legislation to have the fees increased.

The Commission sent a letter to the SCDOT in reference to the Racon on the Don Holt Bridge not working. The SCDOT sent a response letter on June 17th. They said that they returned the Racon to the manufacturer four times since it was installed on April 5, 2011. They stopped relying on their "bench testing" and tested the unit in the field on April 15, 2013 with the help of the pilots. They have found that there are few options for replacing it. They have ordered a replacement Racon from another manufacturer but it takes about 10 weeks for it to be built. They ordered it on April 5, 2013. It will have an added 3 year warranty along with remote monitoring capabilities. The Coast Guard will be doing a test on August 14. Capt. Smith said that he will call Tampa, Baltimore and Jacksonville to see what they have installed on their bridges. The pilots have also said that they are still having a problem with the Racon on the Ravenel Bridge.

Under new business the pilots have asked LLR if they can have I.D. badges issued to them under LLR. This would help them to get back to work after any kind of weather or disaster (hurricane). They do not want the badge to have any kind of expiration date on it. Mrs. Cox said she will check in to it and have a response for the next meeting.

The Commission moved to change the date for the next meeting to September 17th because of the Trade Conference on September 10th.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen K. Milligan
Executive Secretary

William P. Lempesis
Chairman