

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

June 14, 2011
899 Morrison Drive
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

William P. Lempesis, Chairman
David Galloway
Capt. Whitemarsh S. Smith (in for Capt. Thornton)
John F. Hassell, III

Staff and others present were:

Kate K. Cox, LLR Administrator
Sheridon Spoon, LLR Agency Counsel
Capt. John E. Cameron, Charleston Harbor Pilots
CDR Chris Marcy, USCG
CWO. Robert Wilson, USCG
CDR Jason Werriweather, USCG
Ray Kneer, Moran Shipping
Noreen K. Milligan, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday, June 14, 2011, 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 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 May 17th meeting. Commissioner Hassell moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Next, the Finance Report showed that checks written since the May 17th meeting totaled \$7,371.86 and there were no deposits. With all bills being paid, the Commission had \$1,801.86 on hand. Commissioner Hassell moved to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Chairman Lempesis asked for public comment. Ms. Cox introduced Mr. Spoon to the Committee. CDR Marcy introduced CDR Merriweather to the Committee. There was no other public comment.

Capt. Wilson gave the Coast Guard report. He said that Buoy #55 has a light and the pilots need to let them know if the location if satisfactory. He also asked the pilots to let them know if the light on Rebellion Reach is bright enough. He said that if anyone knows of any upcoming events to contact him.

Mrs. Cox gave the LLR report. The Reg. 136-018 is on file with a 120 day review expiration date for automatic approval of March 19, 2012. There was a House Regulations Subcommittee meeting on May 19th were the Proposed Regulation passed the Subcommittee. Capt. Cameron attended the meeting with Mrs. Cox. The Commission was pleased with the response letter from Mr. Spoon on the Carrying

Passenger for Hire. They may only use the third vessel to carry out certain secondary tasks which increase the overall safety and efficiency of their operations and so long as they do not conflict with their primary duty of carrying out pilotage activities traditionally defined as carriage of a pilot to and from a client ship. Further, the owners of the vessels should obtain written confirmation of coverage from their insurance carriers for all activities undertaken. Capt. Cameron is working with Mrs. Cox on keeping the annual health certificates for the pilots up to date.

Capt. Cameron submitted a draft letter to the Commission in regards to concerns with navigational parameter with the proposed Savannah Harbor Deepening Project. The letter is addressed to Mr. Dean Moss, Chairman of the Savannah River Maritime Commission. The letter addresses the concerns with the width of the proposed channel for navigation of Post-Panamax ships. The draft capabilities of the project would require substantial tide dependence and a continual challenge to manage adequate under-keel clearance.

Chairman Lempeis asked Commissioner Galloway to check with Maybank Systems on monthly and yearly costs for the new Channel 13 system.

Capt. Cameron submitted a letter for the Commission to read in reference to the Right Whale issue. The Commission would like to have the Governor's Office send the letter to the Secretary of the Department of Commerce. The letter recommends the Department of Commerce to change the Charleston Harbor from a fixed Seasonal Management Area (ships speeds are restricted for certain months of the year) to a Dynamic Management Area (ships speed is regulated only when whales are sighted). The Commission read the letter and made a motion to send the letter to the Governor's Office.

Under new business Capt. Smith said that Captains Weil and Sanders will be taking the Third Short Branch Pilot test by the end of June.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen K. Milligan
Executive Secretary

William P. Lempeis
Chairman