

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

June 8, 2021

Charleston Branch Pilots Association Office

6 Concord Street

Charleston, South Carolina 29401

\*\*\*Meeting was conducted by Conference Call\*\*\*

Board Members Present:

Ms. Amy Riley (Chairwoman)  
Mr. Henry Hay III  
Mr. David Galloway  
Capt. Chris Thornton

Excused Absences were noted for:

Mr. Joel Britt  
Mr. Kenny Riley  
Mr. Darrell Johnson

Staff and Others Present:

Capt. John Cameron, Pilot Commission Consultant  
Capt. Whit Smith, Charleston Pilots Assoc.  
Ms. Elizabeth Hills, Charleston Pilot Assoc.  
Ms. Laura Smith, LLR  
Mr. Hardwick Stuart, LLR Advice Counsel  
Lt. Chad Ray, USCG  
Mr. Nick Wong, Charleston Maritime Assoc.  
Ms. Owen Gregory, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday June 8, 2021 by conference call. 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 on the LLR website/Pilotage 24 hours prior to the time scheduled for the meeting and a quorum having been noted as present, Chairwoman Riley called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Riley asked the Commission to approve the agenda. **Motion:** Commissioner Thornton moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Hay seconded. **The motion passed.** Chairwoman Riley asked the members to read and review the draft of minutes taken during the May 11, 2021 meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Hay moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Thornton seconded. **The motion passed.** Chairwoman Riley asked the Commission to approve the April Financial Report. **Motion:** Commissioner Hay moved to accept the financial report and Commissioner Thornton seconded. **The motion passed.**

Under old business, Lt. Ray reported on behalf of the Coast Guard. Cutter Willow is still working the Entrance Channel. Buoys 42, 39, 38 and 36 have already been moved off station, and moving buoys 34, 35 and 37 means no buoys would be in place for Pilots' reference points. The Pilots are asking the USCG to reconsider moving buoys 34, 35 and 37 at this time. Lt. Ray informed the Commission that at this time there are limited/available resources. Buoys 19-22 are off station and the last 4 buoys at the Entrance Channel at Fort Moultrie are 50 feet narrower and the new buoys would be 15 yards beyond the new edge of the channel. At this moment, there has not been approval for the requests for the new buoy placement.

Ms. Smith reported for LLR. Capt. McIntire has his physical due by June 30, 2021. Ms. Smith has finally gotten approval from LLR for the issuance of new ID cards for the Pilots. LLR needs current photos from each Pilot to place on the cards that will be four dollars a Pilot. There should be a sample for the Commission by the next meeting. Ms. Smith also let the Commission know that in person meetings could start to take place next month. It was agreed amongst the Commission to begin in person meetings beginning in July at the Pilots Office. Ms. Smith notified the Commission that the LLR website is now up to date with all correct information.

Capt. Cameron reported that there were a few discrepancies regarding the apprenticeship and licensure under reference for the S.C Dept. of Veteran Affairs. There is no special licensing requirement or program for military spouses or veterans. Military spouses and veterans must complete the three year apprenticeship program in order to obtain a Pilots License. This will remain on the agenda to make sure it has been corrected fully.

Capt. Cameron reported that Covid-19 precautions continue as noted previously. The Pilots have sent thank you letters to their ships thanking them for their help with COVID guidelines during the past year. The Pilots continue to follow the Coast Guard's guidelines regarding Covid-19 precautions until further notice.

Under New Business Capt. Cameron informed the Commission that Capt. Kratz, Capt. Rowe and Capt. Ward are advancing from First Short Branch to Second Short Branch Pilots status effective July 1, 2021. They have completed their requirements to move forward to Second Short Branch Pilots in their written exam and their upcoming interviews with the board of examiners.

Under Commissioners Comments, Capt. Thornton reported to the Commission that Capt. Henry Lockwood would be retiring July 1, 2021.

There were no legal comments.

There were no public comments.

There were no announcements.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Ms. Amy Riley  
Chairwoman

A. Owen Gregory  
Secretary