

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

September 14, 2021

Charleston Branch Pilots Association Office

6 Concord Street

Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Board Members Present:

Ms. Amy Riley (Chairwoman)

Mr. Henry Hay III

Mr. David Galloway

Capt. Chris Thornton

Mr. Joel Britt

Excused Absences were noted for:

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. Ryan Brodie, USCG

Mr. Nick Wong, Charleston Maritime Assoc.

Ms. Owen Gregory, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday September 14, 2021 at the Charleston Branch Pilots Assoc. Office. 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.

Chairwoman Riley asked the members approve the agenda. **Motion:** Commissioner Thornton moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Galloway seconded. **The motion passed.** Chairwoman Riley asked the Commission to approve the August 10, 2021 minutes and the August Financial Report. **Motion:** Commissioner Thornton moved to accept the minutes and the financial report and Commissioner Galloway seconded. **The motion passed.**

Under old business, Lt. Brodie reported on behalf of the Coast Guard. Lt. Brodie informed the Commission that the Coast Guard is working on the Front Range of Daniel Island regarding a blocked line of site. The Coast Guard continues to work with Capt. Cameron and the Pilots on the realignment of the Inner Harbor.

Ms. Smith reported for LLR. LLR Received Capt. Campsen's physical and is still awaiting physicals from Capt. Waldeck and Capt. Upton. LLR is ready to print the ID cards, having received all the photos of the Pilots.

Capt. Cameron reported that there is nothing new regarding the legislative bills at this time.

Capt. Cameron reported that COVID-19 precautions have resumed for Pilots and employees at the Pilot Office. All Pilots are now wearing masks while on ships.

Under New Business, it was brought to the Commission's attention that it may be time to look at some of the Regulations in the Pilots Manual regarding the Short Branch Draft Criteria. The Statutes and Limitations are clear and there is no wiggle room to change the limits. The regulations set the Branch Limitations, so the Commission may need to look into those and see what can be changed regarding Draft Criteria.

Capt. Cameron informed the Commission that Pilots have a target Drug Testing Rate of no less than 200% -and no more than 400% which means that pilots can be drug tested 2 to 4 times a year. Lowcountry Drug Testing randomly selects pilots using a number generator; therefore no one knows when they will be called in for a test. The Pilots are asking to modify the policy testing rate in the manual to no less than 100% to reflect the minimal testing rate. Commissioner Galloway moved to modify the testing rate in the manual to 100% and no more than 400%. Commissioner Britt seconded. The motion passed. Commissioner Galloway moved to make the modifications effective October 12, 2021. Commissioner Britt seconded. The motion passed.

Under Commissioners comments:

Capt. Thornton informed the Commission of a Pilot accident two weeks prior to the meeting. Capt. Thornton was departing the Dublin Express, while the gangway was lowered, he fell and went 20ft. into the water. He was not injured, but it was a situation that no Pilot wants to have happen.

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