

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

January 9, 2024

Charleston Branch Pilots Association Office

6 Concord Street

Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Board Members Present:

Mr. Henry Hay (Chairman)

Mrs. Amy W. Page

Mr. David Galloway

Mr. Joel Britt

Capt. Chris Thornton

Excused Absences were noted for:

Mr. Darrell Johnson

Mr. Ben Flowers

Staff and Others Present:

Capt. John Cameron, Pilot Commission Consultant

Capt. Crayton Walters, Charleston Pilots Association

Ms. Elizabeth Hills, Charleston Pilots Association

Ms. Laura Smith, LLR

Mr. Hardwick Stuart, LLR Counsel

Lt. James Sullivan, USCG

Ms. Owen Gregory, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met via telephone January 9, 2024 at the Charleston Pilots 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, Chairman Page called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. All votes referenced herein were unanimous otherwise noted.

Chairman Page asked the members to approve the agenda. **Motion:** Commissioner Hay moved to accept the agenda and Commissioner Thornton seconded. **The motion passed.** Chairman Page asked the Commission to approve the December 12, 2023 minutes and the December financial reports. **Motion:** Commissioner Hay moved to accept the minutes and the financial report and Commissioner Thornton seconded. **The motion passed.**

Under old business, Lt. Sullivan reported for the Coast Guard. Due to the heavy weather that Charleston is under, he reminded the Commission of the heavy weather call taking place at 7pm to assess Port conditions. Station 25 in the inner harbor still pending approval.

Ms. Smith reported for LLR. Capt. Stuhr and Capt. Stewart have physicals due 1/31. Still waiting on Capt. Logan's physical.

Capt. Cameron informed the Commission that the Regulatory Committee met this morning regarding 2025 Legislation. Looking to implement the updated changes for the Right Whale Rules, as soon as NOAA makes them available.

Commissioner Galloway reported for the Personnel Committee. All applicant interviews have been completed and scored. Letters will be going out this week to all candidates informing them whether or not they will continue on in the hiring process.

Capt. Cameron announced to the Commission that as of January 1, 2024 Capt. Kratz, Capt. Rowe and Capt. Ward's six-year odyssey was officially over and their licenses as Full Branch Pilots was in effect. There are 20 Full Branch Pilots.

Under New Business, Capt. Cameron released the 2023 Annual Pilotage Report to the Commissioners. The number of arrivals is still trending down due to the fact ships are getting larger, therefore fewer ships. The goal is still to have no more than 300 moves per Pilot. Pilots will be taking on apprentices in the next few months in order to be prepared for any unplanned/planned retirements. The Annual Pilot Register includes all 20 Pilots. Commissioner Galloway moved to accept the register of pilots. Commissioner Britt seconded. **The motion passed.**

There were no legal comments.

There were no public comments.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Amy W. Page
Chairman

A. Owen Gregory
Secretary