

**SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONERS OF PILOTAGE**  
**LOWER COASTAL**  
Monthly Meeting Agenda  
April 14, 2026  
5:00 PM  
Charleston Pilots Office  
6 Concord Street, Charleston, SC 29401

**Present:**

Board Members Present:

Mr. Henry Hay (Chairman), Mrs. Amy W. Page, Mr. Henry Coombs, Mr. Joel Britt, Mr. David Galloway, Mr. Derrick Holmes

Staff and Others Present:

Capt. Crayton Walters, Charleston Pilots Assoc.  
McKenzie Miles-Addison, Charleston Pilots Assoc.  
Mrs. Laura Smith, LLR Board Executive  
Hardwick Stuart SCLLR Board Counsel  
Capt. John Cameron, Charleston Pilots Assoc,  
Ms. Valerie Torres, Maritime Assoc. of S.C./Pilot Commission secretary,  
Lt. Nick Jones, USCG

**Call to Order/Attendance** Mr. Henry Hay

**Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm** by Mr. Henry Hay, Lower Pilotage Commission Chairman.

Public Notice of this meeting was properly posted at the office of the LLR South Carolina Board of Commissioners of Pilotage website and at the Charleston Pilots Office, 6 Concord Street, Charleston SC. It was provided to any requesting persons, organizations or news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the 1976 South Carolina Code, as amended, relation to the Freedom of Information Act. A quorum is noted as present/not present. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

**Approval of Agenda**, Mr. Hay

The agenda was reviewed.

- **Motion:** Approval of the agenda, Mrs. Amy W. Page
- **Seconded by:** Mr. Henry Coombs
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

**Approval of Minutes and Financial Report**, Mr. Hay

The minutes February 10, 2026, and financial report was reviewed.

- **Motion:** Approval of the minutes & Financial report, Mrs. Amy W. Page
- **Seconded by:** Mr. Henry Coombs
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

**Old Business**

Coast Guard Report –

- Charleston Race Week: Scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month. Approximately 20 vessels. No significant navigational impacts anticipated.
- Charleston Air Show: Official show: May 2, 2026. Safety zone will be in effect April 30-May 2. More details on Safety zone and timing to be release on Friday
- Docking Pilots/OCMI Discussions: Ongoing coordination regarding first-class pilot OCMI. Productive meeting held with Moran & McAllister.

LLR Report

- Ms. Laura Smith reported the following outstanding pilot physicals:
  - **March:** Daniel Waldeck
  - **April:** Gerald Lucas, John Dukes

#### Policy/Procedure Update

- Mr. John Cameron presented the revised **Chapter 9 – Apprentice Pilot Selection**, highlighting that Chapter 9 had not been substantially updated in over 25 years
  - Revisions reflect current practices and clarified misunderstandings regarding:
    - Applicant eligibility vs. apprentice selection
    - Application process structure (basic info vs. experience details)
    - Medical requirements aligned with current Coast Guard standards (Form 719-K)
    - Age eligibility determinations tied to **date of selection convening**
    - Residency requirements clarified and strengthened
    - Application expiration timelines (3-year validity)
    - Scoring methodology transparency
    - Graduate degree scoring changes per updated regulations
    - License scoring now based on **highest credential only**
    - Pilot scoring process clarified for finalist evaluations
    - Apprenticeship completion requirements summarized
  - **Motion:** Mr. David Galloway
  - **Seconded:** Mrs. Amy W. Page
  - **Vote:** Unanimous approval

#### Legislative Updates

- John provided a legislative overview regarding the **Small Business Regulatory Reform Act**:
  - The Pilotage Commission exemption was approved by subcommittee
  - Opposition from other professional groups delayed further movement
  - Revised language has not yet been released
  - No recent developments: staff continues to monitor

#### Personnel Committee Activity

- The Personnel Committee reported no additional updates beyond Chapter 9 review and remains ready if further guidance is required.

#### Rate Adjustment

- The Commission reviewed the previously advertised rate adjustment request:
  - **Rate increase:** \$82.90 → \$85.15 per thousand gross tons
  - **Second pilot rate:** \$33.90 → \$34.90
  - **Delay fee:** \$750 → \$850 per half hour (after first hour)
  - **Minimum passage (commercial vessels):** \$1,500 → \$1,700

All increases aligned with CPI adjustments.

- **Motion:** Mrs. Amy W. Page
- **Seconded:** Mr. Henry Coombs
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

#### Rate Card Approval

- The updated rate card reflecting approved changes was presented, Effective July 1, 2026
  - **Tonnage rate shall be \$85.15 per 1,000 gross registered tons**
  - **Draft rate shall be \$34.90 per draft foot**
  - **\$1,700.00** for commercial vessels
  - **\$1,500** for non-commercial vessels
    - **Motion:** Mrs. Amy W. Page
    - **Seconded:** Mr. Henry Coombs
    - **Vote:** Unanimous approval

**New Business**

- There were no new business comments

**Commissioners Comments**

- Thanked Valerie for improved meeting notices, calendar invites, and agenda distribution

**Legal Comments**

- There were no legal comments

**Public Comments**

- There were no public comments

**Announcements**

- There were no announcements.

**Adjournment**

- 5:42 pm

Next Meeting scheduled Tuesday, May 12, 2026