SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONERS OF PILOTAGE LOWER COASTAL

Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 13, 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,
Staff and Others Present:
Mrs. Laura Smith, LLR Board Executive
Mary Lee SCLLR Board Counsel
Lieutenant Nick Jones, USCG
Ms. Valerie Torres, Maritime Assoc. of S.C./Pilot Commission secretary

Call to Order/Attendance Mrs. Amy W. Page
Meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Mrs. Amy W. Page, Lower Pilotage Commissioner.

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 the1976 South Carolina Code, as amend, 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, Mrs. Amy W. Page
Call to Order

Mrs. Amy W. Page called the meeting to order and confirmed that members had reviewed the agenda.

- **Motion:** Approval of agenda Mr. Henry Coombs
- **Seconded by:** Mr. Joel Britt
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes and Financial Report, Mrs. Amy W. Page
The minutes September 8, 2026, and financial report was reviewed.

Motion: Approval of the minutes & Financial report, Mr. Henry Coombs
Seconded by: Mr. Henry Hay
Vote: Unanimous approval

Old Business
Coast Guard Report
- No report

LLR Report
- A physical examination submission was received for applicant John Rowe and was determined to have been submitted to the wrong office. The document will be forwarded to Valerie for processing with the applicant's file.

Policy/Procedure Update
Captain Cameron provided a legislative and policy update.
- Authorization related to High Water Reach had passed the House but had not yet passed the Senate.
- The American Pilots Association Safety Committee and the American Waterways Operators organization continue to support the initiative.
- No other significant legislative, regulatory, or policy developments were reported.

Personnel Committee Activity

In the absence of Commissioner Galloway, a report was provided regarding pilot applicant interviews.

- Valerie Torres continues scheduling applicant interviews.
- Due to applicant availability and several individuals being at sea, interviews may extend into December.
- Efforts are being made to conduct interviews on the same day where possible.
- Approximately 31 applicants remained responsive and qualified.
- One applicant, Matt Morse, requested removal of his application from consideration.
- One additional applicant had been unresponsive despite outreach efforts.
- Several applicants had responded but had not yet scheduled interviews.

Commissioners thanked staff for their work coordinating the process.

New Business

- No new business

Commissioners Comments

- No commissioners comment

Legal Comments

- No legal comments

Public Comments

- No Public comments

Announcements

Cell Phone Policy Recognition

Captain Cameron reported that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) contacted the American Pilots Association regarding pilot cell phone policies following findings from a Texas marine casualty investigation in which pilot distraction from a cell phone was identified as a contributing factor.

Highlights included:

- The NTSB encouraged the American Pilots Association to promote stronger cell phone usage policies.
- South Carolina's existing policy and procedures were submitted as an example of proactive safety measures.
- Approximately fourteen pilot organizations have implemented similar policies.
- Discussion on this issue is expected at upcoming American Pilots Association meetings.
- Commissioners noted that the current policy permits operational use of electronic devices for navigation and aviation tracking purposes, provided such use does not distract from safe navigation.

The board expressed satisfaction that South Carolina's policy aligns with current safety recommendations.

Adjournment

- 5:09pm

Next Meeting scheduled Tuesday, November 10, 2026