

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

May 13, 2014
899 Morrison Drive
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

Mr. Henry Hay, Chairman
Mr. Billy Lempesis
Mr. David Galloway
Mr. John Hassell
Capt. Whit Smith (in for Thornton)

Excused absence was noted for:

Mr. Ken Riley
Capt. Chris Thornton

Staff and others present were:

Capt. Whit Smith, Harbor Pilot
Capt. John Cameron, Harbor Pilot
Capt. Rick Rodriguez, USCG
CDR Chris Ruleman, USCG
Mrs. Kitty Cox, LLR
Mrs. Julia Bennett, Charleston Pilot Assoc.
Ms. Pam Zaresk, Maritime Assoc.
Mr. Denver Merrill, Maritime Assoc.
Mrs. Noreen Milligan, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at the Maritime Association Office, 899 Morrison Drive, in Charleston, South Carolina. Whereas, proper notice of date, time, place and agenda information having been properly provide to the **Charleston Post and Courier** and proper notice also having been posted at the Maritime Association Office 24 hours prior to the time scheduled for the meeting and quorum having been noted as present. Chairman Hay called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Hay asked the members to read the draft of minutes taken during the March 8th meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Lempesis moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Galloway seconded the motion. **The motion passed.** Next, the Finance Report showed that checks written since the last meeting totaled \$2,553.11 and there was one deposits of \$4,800.00, with all bills being paid, the Commission had \$10,424.46 on hand. **Motion:** Commissioner Hassell moved to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Lempesis seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Chairman Hay asked for public comment. There was none.

Under the Coast Guard report, The Low Country Splash will be on May 24th and there will be a boat race at Patriots Point. The Coast Guard is waiting on the permit.

Mrs. Cox gave the LLR report. They are verifying submission of Capt. Lockwood, Jr.'s physical. There is one physical due in May and one due in June. The ID badges are being completed by LLR. Please continue to send in information to be posted to the web-site. There will be a new Advice Council for LLR. Mrs. Cox will have the name of the new attorney at the next meeting.

The 120 day waiting period for the Right Whale motion is next month. The Commission hopes to have a response to their letter that was submitted on March 3, 2014.

Commissioner Hassel had nothing new to report on the Savannah River Maritime Commission.

The Racon on the Ravenel Bridge has been replaced and is working.

The physical for the harbor pilots was last revised in 2008 and adopted Coast Guard medical evaluation standards by reference. Coast Guard regulations for medical fitness are regarded as sufficient to meet state objectives to ensure the safety of pilotage. Since 2008, Coast Guard regulations have undergone a variety of changes. The most substantive change pertinent to South Carolina is that the federal regulation for pilot physical exams has moved to a new cite. South Carolina regulations refer to Title 46 CFR part 10.709. That cite no longer exists and the content that was once there is now found in 46 CFR 11.709. The 2008 version of 46 CFR 10.709 remains available in archived versions of the Federal Code of Regulations. The 2nd change is that the Coast Guard still requires an annual physical, new regulation now only require pilots to submit every other physical to the Coast Guard for review. That biannual submittal becomes the basis for a Medical Certificate administered by the Coast Guard that is a required for the Federal First Class Pilots license to be valid. The references in the South Carolina Code of Regulations now refer to an archived version of the CFR, rather than the current version. The Commission is asking LLR for guidance on this. Mrs. Cox will have an update for the next meeting.

Under new business the pilots submitted a letter to the Commission requesting the Commission to open the apprenticeship selection process. The pilots are facing 3 mandatory pilot retirements by the end of 2017 and another 2 pilots becoming eligible for voluntary retirement next year. They would like to have the apprenticeship program begin in October. The pilots respectfully propose determining the number of appointments in the ensuing months. Chairman Hay made the motion to open the apprenticeship selection process. **Motion:** Commissioner Galloway moves to open the process and Commissioner Lempesis seconded the motion. **The motion passed.** The last day to submit or update application will be June 2, 2014 by 5:00 pm. **Motion:** Commissioner Galloway moved to have Commissioner Lempesis chair the apprenticeship selection process. Commissioner Hassell seconded it. **The motion passed.**

The pilots have revised the draft for the Daniel Island Reach. It is now 39 ft. from 40 ft. because of a shoal on the right side. The Corp. of Engineers has been notified but it may take some time before it can be dredged.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen K. Milligan
Executive Secretary

Henry Hay
Chairman