

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

June 11, 2013
899 Morrison Drive
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

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

Excused absence was noted for:

Capt. Chris Thornton
Mr. Ken Riley

Staff and others present were:

Capt. John Cameron, Harbor Pilot
CDR Scott Higman, USCG
Mrs. Kitty Cox, LLR
Ms. Julia Winkler, TradeWorthy Inc.
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, June 11, 2013, 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 provided 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 Lempesis called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Lempesis asked the members to read the draft of minutes taken during the May 14 meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Hassell moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Hay seconded the motion. The motion carried. Next, the Finance Report showed that checks written since the last meeting totaled \$2,247.25 and there were no deposits, with all bills being paid, the Commission had \$144.62 on hand. **Motion:** Commissioner Galloway moved to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Hassell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Lempesis asked for public comment. There was none.

The Coast Guard thanked the Pilots for their help during the Hurricane Preparedness seminar.

Mrs. Cox gave the LLR report. LLR staffing was reported. It was reported that there was one physical for the month of June due and two for the month of July upcoming. The web-site for the pilots is still being updated as information is submitted.

There was no new information on the Commission's request for a fee increase. The pilots are in support of the increase.

Capt. Cameron reported the air draft on the Don Holt Bridge is working and the pilots are happy with the results. Chairman Lempesis informed Mrs. Milligan that this can be taken off the agenda.

Capt. Cameron said that a settlement has been reached in the Savannah River dredging. The oxygen levels will be checked regularly; and if there is any impact, the dredging can be stopped and it will go back to the Legislature to be reviewed. They have been approved to dredge to 47 ft. The Savannah Port has to maintain a 2 million dollar fund for the next 50 years in case there are any problems with the environment.

Capt. Smith suggested that the pilots pay the drug test fee to help offset the costs that the Commission has, since there is no update on the request for a fee increase. Capt. Cameron said that most pilot organizations pay their own drug test bill. Chairman Lempesis asked if the Commission needed to make a motion. Capt. Cameron said that it is in the policy and he will make a proposal for the next meeting.

It was reported the Racon on the Don Holt Bridge is still at the manufacturers. The pilots hope to have it back by next week. The state engineers want to test it at the pilot office first and then test it on the bridge. Capt. Cameron said that the Racon on the Ravenel Bridge is not working and it is from the same manufacturer.

Under new business Capt. Cameron asked the Commission to review the right whale speed management issue. The slow down during whale season which runs from November to April has been in effect since 2009. There have been only 8 whale sightings off our coast compared to 800 sightings from Maine to New Hampshire's coast. NOAA has cancelled the fly overs on our coast. They decided that there were not enough whales spotted to continue the fly overs but South Carolina is still the most heavily regulated coast line for right whales. Capt. Cameron said that the pilots would like to see the season run from December to March and for the channel to be taken out of the speed restrictions. He said that the pilots have until August 6th to make a recommendation. The Commission said that they could send a letter and to see if Governor Haley would send a letter asking for a change to the speed regulations. Capt. Cameron will write the draft and get it to Mrs. Cox.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen K. Milligan
Executive Secretary

William P. Lempesis
Chairman