

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

January 10, 2012
899 Morrison Drive
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

Mr. David Galloway, Chairman
Capt. Chris Thornton
Mr. John Hassell, III
Mr. William Lempesis

Excused absence was noted for:

Mr. Kenneth Riley

Staff and others present were:

Capt. Whit Smith, Chas. Harbor Pilots
Capt. John Cameron, Chas. Harbor Pilots
Capt. Michael White Jr., USCG
CDR Scott Higman, USCG
CWO Robert Wilson USCG
ENS John Santorum USCG
Ms. Julia Winkler, TradeWorthy, Inc.
Mrs. Kitty Cox, LLR
Mrs. Noreen Milligan, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday, January 10, 2012, 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 Galloway called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Galloway asked the members to read the draft of minutes taken during the December 13, 2011 meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Hassell moved to accept the minutes and Capt. Thornton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Next, the Finance Report showed that checks written since the last meeting totaled \$6,665.50 and there was one deposit of \$8,160.00. With all bills being paid, it was reported the Commission had \$3,233.50 on hand. **Motion:** Commissioner Hassell moved to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Thornton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Galloway asked for public comment. There was none.

The Coast Guard reported that Townsend Creek #2 was moved and Buoy #5 is fixed.

Mrs. Cox gave the LLR Administrative Report. She reported the Omnibus Clean-up bill has been proposed and registered; and the Proposed Regulations were published in the December 2011 *State Register*. The hearing date for the Commission of Pilotage has been set for Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 10:00 am in Charleston. She reported Proposed Regulation 136-018 is still in the 120 day review period and the approval date is still March 19, 2012. She reported on a list of Harbor Pilots that are due for health certificates in January and February 2012. She notified the Commissioners that their Statement of Economic Interest is to be filed electronically by April 15, 2012.

Captain Cameron had no updates on the Jasper Port Terminal, and he will continue to keep the Commission informed of any changes.

He reported the request to change the Right Whale Speed Regulation is still under consideration from NOAA.

He reported the Army Corps of Engineers is looking into all aspects of the proposal for the Post 45 Project. There will be a meeting with them on January 26, 2012 from 12:30 to 5:00. Commissioner Lempesis said that they will have a representative speaking at the next Propeller Club meeting on January 19, 2012 on the issue.

The Commission asked Capt. Cameron to draft a letter to the DOT on the air draft issue for the bridges.

Commissioner Lempesis said that the repositioning of the cranes from CST to WWT have had a series of delays. He reported the contractors are expecting to move the 1st crane in the next 2 to 3 weeks and he will have an update at the next meeting.

Capt. Cameron reported Reg. 54-15-190 states that all boats used for pilotage at Charleston, Port Royal and Georgetown shall be used exclusively for pilotage, except that the South Carolina Commissioners of Pilotage may grant temporary permission for those other uses as they deem appropriate. LLR has reviewed this issue. The pilots would like to extend the jurisdiction of the boats to include the Savannah area. He will have an update on this at the next meeting.

The pilots would like to set up an apprenticeship program for Georgetown in the Upper Coastal Area to anticipate growth. Capt. Cameron recommends a two (2) year apprenticeship. Chairman Galloway asked if there was a list of pilots that were already licensed in Georgetown. Capt. Smith said that they would submit a list to him.

The pilots have recommended procedure changes in the way drug tests for the pilots are done. They would like to be able to randomly pick the pilots on any given day and time. Capt. Cameron will draft a letter to the Commission on this request for the next meeting for a policy.

Capt. Cameron reported on the pilot fatigue study that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has requested. The Commission asked for more direct communication from the SC Governor's office so deadlines can be met. Mrs. Cox said she would facilitate that. Capt. Cameron reported he will have an update for the Commission at the next meeting on the report to NTSB and on the Pilot fatigue study.

Chairman Galloway asked if there was any new business for the Commission. Capt. Cameron asked for an increase in the fees that pilots receive when they administer a test to an apprentice. The fees are \$50.00 and they would like to increase

them to \$150.00 per test. Commissioner Thornton made the motion and Commissioner Hassell seconded it. The motion will pass after the regulations have been checked.

Capt. Cameron submitted the list for 2012 Licensed Harbor Pilots to the Commission.

Capt. Smith informed the Commission that Capt. Lockwood was piloting an outbound vessel on December 12, 2011 when it lost power. Tugs were present to help steer the vessel. They were going 14knots. If they had been going 10knots they would have had problems if there had been another vessel behind this one. Capt. Lockwood was commended for his piloting skills.

Capt. Cameron said that the Laffey will be moved from Deytons back to the Yorktown on January 26, 2012. They are in the process of putting a dead ship tow plan together and will be submitting it to the Coast Guard. Stevens towing has the contract to move the vessel. The Commission has concerns with this move and wants to make sure that a pilot is used for this move. The pilots will be meeting with Stevens Towing on this issue.

A budget was submitted to the Commission to help track the costs that they incur. **Motion:** Chairman Galloway asked for a motion to accept the budget. Commissioner Thornton made the motion and Commissioner Lempesis seconded it. The motion passed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen K. Milligan
Executive Secretary

David Galloway
Chairman