

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

October 11, 2011
899 Morrison Drive
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

David Galloway, Chairman
William P. Lempesis
John F. Hassell, III
Capt. Christopher H. Thornton

Excused absence was noted for:

Kenneth Riley

Staff and others present were:

Capt. John Cameron, Charleston Harbor Pilots
Capt. Michael White Jr., USCG
CDR Scott Higman, USCG
CWO. Robert Wilson, USCG
ENS John Santorum, USCG
Brad Gettelfinger, Moran Shipping
Kate K. Cox, LLR Administrator
Noreen Milligan, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday, October 11, 2011 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 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 September 13, 2011 meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Thornton moved to accept the minutes as printed and Commissioner Hassell seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Finance Report was given and showed that checks written since the last meeting totaled \$771.70 and there were no deposits. It was reported that with all bills being paid, the Commission had \$1,221.50 on hand. **Motion:** Commissioner Lempesis moved to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Hassell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Galloway asked for public comment. There was none.

CWO Wilson gave the Coast Guard report. It was reported the Coast Guard will start working on Town Creek 2 next week and they will be taking down the Upper Range which is past the Wando Terminal. It was reported they are still waiting on responses in

reference to the Environmental Impact Project. They handed out a memo to the Commissioners on upcoming events in the Charleston Harbor, Wando River, Cooper River and Ashley River.

Mrs. Cox gave the LLR Administrative Report. She reported Governor Haley sent a letter on October 7, 2011 to the US Department of Commerce in regards to the Right Whales and dynamic management of speeds in the affected zones. She also reported LLR did an audit of the Practice Acts and Regulations of all LLR boards and commissions. She noted the major item noted for the Pilotage Commission was Article 2 for Port Royal in the Regulations which was noted as unnecessary. It is suggested that this Article be removed and the Articles renumbered in the future. She reported the review will continue. She informed the Commission that LLR made a decision that transcripts will not be made of each meeting for the Commission. She reported there were no health certificates due now for the month of October and that two (2) are due in November. She reported the 120 day review for Regulation 136-018 is still in place with the approval date as March 19, 2012. Mrs. Cox asked if anyone was interested in having a Pilot Commission vehicle tag and no one responded. She reported on the Board Member Training Symposium held in Columbia today and that Chairman Galloway attended.

Capt. Cameron reported there was nothing new on the Jasper Port Project. He gave the Commissioners a copy of the letter that Governor Haley sent to the US Department of Commerce. Capt. Cameron stated he was very pleased with the letter; and he will take it to Washington D.C. this week to address this issue and will have an update for the Commission at the next meeting. He also reported the pilots will continue to use the letter that the Commission issued last year in reference to speed during the Right Whale season. He related there has been more communication between the pilots, tugs, and agents to cut down on Port congestion. He noted the fire boat contract has been pushed back a month.

Commissioner Lempesis informed the Commission that the Port will be repositioning cranes from CST to WWT. On November 7, 2011 they will begin WWT crane realignment. He said the cranes from CST will arrive at the WWT on November 30, 2011 and the WWT will be down to two (2) berths from November 7 until November 21, 2011. He said he will have an update at the next meeting.

Under New Business Capt. Cameron handed out a letter that he sent to James R. Brennan, a partner with Norbridge, Inc., from the Charleston Pilots. He said the letter lists ten (10) features that the pilots would like to be considered in the harbor deepening project for the inbound direction. Capt. Cameron said he will continue to give updates to the Commission on this important project concerning the deepening of the Charleston Harbor.

The Commissioners were given a copy of a letter sent to Marc Fetten of Cooper River Partners. Capt. Cameron reported the letter was in reference to Cooper River Partners developing a marine terminal at Bushy Park, for ships of up to Panamax beam and 28 ft. of draft. He informed the Commission the current conditions in the river allow for vessels to be safely navigated to Bushy Park at drafts of up to 25 ft. and that drafts of up to 28 ft. would seem to be attainable with only a modest amount of dredging to widen the deepest part of the river in the 180 degree turn at the south end of the Bushy Park complex. It was discussed the pilots require 300 ft. of width at a depth of 28 ft. at mean low water to safely handle ships through the turn and this can be accomplished with less than 1000 cubic yards of material removed by dredging. It was reported the pilots

also requested that the aids to navigation in the area be moved to more precisely mark the deepest water and the Coast Guard would handle this request.

Chairman Galloway reminded everyone about the Swim Around Charleston that will be held on October 23, 2011 for a ten (10) mile swim. He thanked Governor Haley for sending the letter on the Right Whale issue.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen K. Milligan
Executive Secretary

David Galloway
Chairman