

Minutes of Meeting

25 May 2011

The Pilotage Commission for the Port of Georgetown held a regularly scheduled meeting on May 25, 2011 for the purpose of holding a Business Meeting. The meeting, held at 5:00 pm in the United Way building on Front Street in Georgetown, was duly published.

Attending Commissioners:

Lep Boyd, Chair
Steve Strickland

Edwin Jayroe
Clayton Bull

Also Attending:

Micheal Elmore, SCSPA

Kitty Cox, SC LLR

Chairman Lep Boyd called the meeting to order.

Guests were introduced and the minutes of the March 2011 meeting were approved.

Pilot's Report - Pilot Edwin Jayroe gave an update on shipping, with 2 ships since the last meeting. 3 Pilots are available, and the pilot boat (RIB) was in operation. The current usable draft is 18 feet at berth 31A, berths 32 and 31B are not operational due to siltation. The Sampit River is currently where the shallow portions of the navigation channel are located between 16-18 ft (with a Congressionally authorized depth of 27 ft +2). Other areas with depth issues include near Belle Isle (marker 32) around 23 feet and near the Georgetown entrance around 25 feet. The Pilots try to maintain a 10% safety factor to allow for clearance between the ship's hull and the river bottom.

Pilot Jayroe also stated that Georgetown had only 1 licensed pilot in 1990 to handle ships, and that it takes a minimum of 12 round trips to certify new pilots for navigation in Georgetown harbor. We currently maintain 3 licensed pilots for Georgetown. Any new pilots for the Port would need to meet minimum training and licensing requirements.

SCSPA Report - Michael Elmore made comments on the current port operations. SCSPA has a sales and marketing team for Georgetown giving rates. A rail hopper is planned for addition to the port for cement. The state may need to obtain permits for dredging around the berths, ACOE has permits in place for maintenance dredging of the navigation channel. Michael Elmore will be the new appointee for the Georgetown Port Pilotage Commission.

SC LLR – Administrators Report – Kitty Cox stated that current copies of the Annual Health Certificates for each Pilot are needed, and these must be submitted to LLR for two of the Pilots. She would send original copies for the Pilots to get filled out. Her email address is coxk@llr.sc.gov for anyone needing to get in touch with her.

No further business was brought before the Commission.

Edwin Jayroe moved for adjournment. This being duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven G. Strickland

Georgetown Times
Coastal Observer
Sun News
Attn: Community Events Section

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please print this in your public notices/community events section of the newspaper during the weeks of Sep 12th and 19th, 2011. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 843-651-7900.

Sincerely,

Steven G. Strickland
Secretary, Commission on Pilotage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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There will be a meeting for the Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Georgetown on Wednesday, Sep 21, 2011 at 5 PM at the Georgetown County United Way on 515 Front Street in Georgetown. This meeting is open to the public.

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General Info on Pilotage Commission

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Georgetown is an agency of the state with the purpose of regulating pilotage for the Georgetown Bar and Harbor. Pilotage safeguards maritime commerce entering, navigating within, and departing the port. The Pilotage Commission ensures that an adequate number of trained Harbor Pilots are available, establishes rates for pilotage services, and examines the cause of any marine accidents to vessels in charge of licensed Pilots.