

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

November 13, 2012  
899 Morrison Drive  
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

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

Excused absence was noted for:

Mr. Ken Riley  
Mr. Henry Hay  
Mrs. Kitty Cox

Staff and others present were:

Capt. John Cameron, Chas. Harbor Pilots  
Capt. Whit Smith, Chas. Harbor Pilot  
Capt. Michael White, Jr USCG  
CDR Scott Higman, USCG  
Ms. Pam Zaresk, Maritime Assoc.  
Mr. Denver Merrill  
Ms. Julia Winkler, TradeWorthy Inc.  
Mrs. Noreen Milligan, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday, November 11, 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 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 October 9th meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Hassell moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Galloway seconded the motion. The motion carried. Next, the Finance Report showed that checks written since the last meeting totaled \$3,704.45 and there was one deposit totaling \$2,040.00 with all bills being paid, the Commission had \$614.55 on hand. **Motion:** Commissioner Hassell moved to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Thornton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Lempesis asked for public comment. There was none

In the Coast Guard Report the Coast Guard said that the Right Whale season has started. They will be meeting with NOA on the enforcement of the speed restrictions. It was reported the racon is working on the Don Holt Bridge. Capt. Cameron thanked the Coast Guard for their help in this matter. It was reported the Charleston Boat paraded is on December 1 and there will be a moving safety zone around the boats.

Mrs. Cox was not present for the meeting but she sent her LLR report. It was reported there are 2 pilots that are due for physical in November and 3 pilots that are due in December. LLR received a letter from the Commission requesting an increase in the pilot fees. Mr. Spoon (legal counsel for LLR) had suggested that the Commission submit another letter to LLR with more detail in the need for the increase. The IRF is reviewing the extra insurance policy that the Commission has been carrying. Mrs. Cox will have an update at the December meeting. LLR is still reviewing all policies and procedures of all boards and commissions. It was reported Mrs. Cox will keep the Commission informed of any new updates.

The Commission has no further information on the NTSB and this will no longer be carried on the agenda; however, if there are any new updates, it will be will brought back up.

It was reported The Commission has no new information on the Charleston Harbor 45 project. This will no longer be carried on the agenda; however, if there is any new information, it will be will brought back up.

It was reported the port is waiting for DOT to start the installation on the air draft monitor. There is a meeting with them this month. The pilots would like to attend. Chairman Lempesis will call them when the meeting is confirmed.

The S.C. Supreme court ruled that the permit issued by DHEC was invalid. There was nothing else to report on the Savannah River Commission.

The Commission approved the new letter to LLR with more detail in their request for fee increases. The letter will be sent to LLR with a letter from Capt. Smith and the budget that was approved by the Commission at the beginning of the year. Capt. Cameron said that if LLR has more question that he would go to Columbia and meet with them.

The new air draft policies 60 day waiting period is over. Capt. Cameron will draft a letter for the Commission to approve for the next meeting.

Under new business Captains Smith and Cameron attended the APA conference. The NTSB study was discussed. Everyone is having problems with the TWIX cards. Capt. Smith was elected again as Secretary/Treasurer. With the Right Whale season starting, Vessel Captains are asking for the 50 CFR 224.10c Speed Deviation Log Entry stickers that the pilots have. The pilots submitted a letter to the Commission on loss of propulsion on the Livorno Express on November 6, 2012. The Livorno Express was outbound from NCT. When the vessel was at Myer's Bend at 1555 the ship lost propulsion. The pilot maintained control of the vessel with the ruder and ordered the port anchor dropped near buoy 44 in Drum Island Reach. He called for tug assistance and notified the USCG via radio. The crew as able to restore engine power to the vessel before the tugs arrived. The tugs assisted in turning the vessel towards CST. The vessel moored at 1740. Capt. Cameron suggested to the Commission that they may want to investigate starting a website. The Commission tabled the idea until the next meeting when Mrs. Cox would be in attendance.

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