

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

September 9, 2014
899 Morrison Drive
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

Mr. Henry Hay, Chairman
Mr. David Galloway
Mr. John Hassell
Mr. Billy Lempesis
Capt. Chris Thornton

Excused absence was noted for:

Mr. Ken Riley

Staff and others present were:

Capt. Whit Smith, Harbor Pilot
Capt. John Cameron, Harbor Pilot
Mrs. Kitty Cox, LLR
Mrs. Julia Bennett, Charleston Pilot Assoc.
Mrs. Noreen Milligan, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday, September 9, 2014, 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 Hay called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Hay asked the members to read the draft of minutes taken during the August 12th meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Hassell moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Lempesis seconded the motion.. **The motion passed.** Next, the Finance Report showed that checks written since the last meeting totaled \$1,494.50 and there were no deposits, with all bills being paid, the Commission had \$4,008.22 on hand. **Motion:** Commissioner Lempesis moved to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Hassell seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Chairman Hay asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

There was no Coast Guard report.

Mrs. Cox gave the LLR report. There were two physicals in September and one for October. LLR is warning everyone to be aware of security (keeping all systems protected and ready). If you see anything out of the ordinary you are asked to report it immediately to LLR. Please continue to send documents for the web site electronically.

Capt. Cameron is still waiting on a response from NOAA on the right whale issue. There was nothing new to report.

Commissioner Hassell had nothing new to report on the Savannah River Maritime Commission.

Chairman Hay asked for an update from the Personnel Committee on the pilot apprentice selection process. Capt. Cameron reported that there are four interviews to be conducted this week and the final two next week.

Chairman Hay asked for an update on pilot regulation and physicals. Capt. Cameron said that the National Pilot Assoc. is meeting in October and the consensus from other pilot groups is to continue requiring annual physicals. Mrs. Cox said that the Commission could do a Notice of Drafting (NOD) that is good for six months. Capt. Cameron said that he would work with LLR to draft the notice. **Motion:** Commissioner Lempesis moved to have Capt. Cameron draft a NOD with LLR and Commissioner Galloway seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Chairman Hay reported to the Commission that he and Capt. Cameron inspected the FORT RIPLEY on August 29, 2014. This inspection was conducted in accordance with paragraph 136-040 (C) of the South Carolina Code of Regulations. There were no discrepancies noted by Chairman Hay. The Commission accepted the certification of the FORT RIPLEY.

Commissioner Hassell mentioned that the International Trade Conference was being held this week in Charleston.

Under new business Capt. Cameron informed the Commission that on August 30 the Charleston Branch Pilots received a request for a pilot for a tank ship named Marlin Iris arriving in Charleston on August 31 coming directly from Nigeria. The Pilots were concerned with the Ebola virus threat. The Pilots reported the arrival of the vessel to DHEC and inquired about state public health concerns. The vessel had been at sea for 17 days. At the direction of the Commission, the Pilots also conferred with the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, the local US Customs and Border Protection and the US Coast Guard duty officers. All four agencies said that the master of the vessel is required to report if there is any illness on board and if there is no report of illness there are no restrictions on bringing the vessel to dock. US Customs was the only agency that had plans to board the vessel when it got to the dock. The boarding officers were planning on wearing gloves when they reviewed passports and papers. This was a matter of personal preference and not a Customs policy. The Pilots reported no incidents related to this vessel.

Commissioner Hassell reported that he had been in Philadelphia for the Harbor Safety Conference. He thanked Capt. Cameron and Mrs. Bennett for their help in putting together a power point presentation that he used during the conference. The other ports represented at the conference were Baltimore, the Great Lakes and Tampa.

Commissioner Galloway informed the Commission that he was contacted by Mr. Anthony Perez from Wallenius with a question regarding the pilot fees. Mr. Perez said that he had heard that some ports were discounting their pilot fees. Commissioner Galloway said that Mr. Perez was welcomed to address the Commission on this matter.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen K. Milligan
Executive Secretary

Henry Hay
Chairman