

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

January 14, 2014
899 Morrison Drive
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

Mr. Henry Hay, Chairman
Mr. John Hassell
Capt. Chris Thornton

Excused absence was noted for:

Mr. Ken Riley
Mr. Billy Lempesis
Mr. David Galloway

Staff and others present were:

Capt. Whit Smith, Harbor Pilot
Capt. John Cameron, Harbor Pilot
CDR Boyles, USCG
Mrs. Kitty Cox, LLR
Ms. Julia Winkler, Charleston Pilot Assoc.
Ms. Pam Zaresk, Maritime Assoc.
Mr. Denver Merrill, Maritime Assoc.
Mr. Tyrone Richardson, Post and Courier
Mrs. Noreen Milligan, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday, January 14, 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 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 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 November 12th meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Thornton moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Hassell seconded the motion. **The motion passed.** Next, the Finance Report showed that checks written since the last meeting totaled \$1,699.75 and there was one deposit of \$50.00 with all bills being paid, the Commission had \$5,687.56 on hand. **Motion:** Commissioner Hassell moved to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Thornton seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Chairman Hay asked for public comment. There was none.

The Coast Guard had nothing new to report.

Mrs. Cox gave the LLR report. There were 2 physicals due for the month of January and 4 for the month of February. Mrs. Cox noticed that Chairman Hay's

signature on the pilot badges was incorrect. She informed the Commission that LLR would reprint them and have them ready for the next meeting, if possible. There have been no new updates to the Pilot Commission website. The Economic Interest Statements are due by March 30, 2014. The LLR website has updated Board/Commission Members' handbook.

The American Pilots Association requested the removal of the sunset provision from the December 2008 ship speed rule protecting the endangered North Atlantic right whale; and NOAA Fisheries received public comments requesting exclusion of federally-maintained dredged channels and pilot boarding areas from the rule. The petitioners requested the exclusion due to their concerns of possibly compromised navigation in dredged channels or pilot boarding areas from New York to Jacksonville. NOAA Fisheries is considering the exclusion request as a petition for new rulemaking under the Administrative Procedure Act and is publishing notice of the petition in the Federal Register with a public comment period. NOAA Fisheries will evaluate public comment on the petition and decide if rulemaking to exempt these areas is warranted. UPDATE: NOAA Fisheries finalized a rule to remove the 2008 ship speed rule sunset provision on December 9, 2013. It will be published in the Federal Register on January 30, 2014 and there will be a 30 day public comment period.

Commissioner Hassell had no updates on the Savannah River project.

Capt. Cameron said that DOT has purchased the same racon device that is on the Don Holt Bridge for the Ravenel Bridge.

The Pilots will continue to use Investigative Associates for their drug testing. Capt. Cameron asked that this be taken off the agenda.

Under new business the Pilots gave their Annual Registration Report. For the 2014 calendar year there are 20 licensed harbor pilots. **Motion:** to extend licenses for all the pilots, Commission Thornton moved to accept the motion and Commissioner Hassell seconded it. **The motion passed.** The pilots gave their Annual Operational Report. The pilots at their annual meeting decided not to hire any apprentices for 2014. **Motion:** to accept the Annual Operations Report, Commissioner Hassell moved to accept it and Commissioner Thornton seconded it. **The motion passed.** Capt. Cameron is going to do a review of the Coast Guards requirements for physicals. He will have an update for the next meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen K. Milligan
Executive Secretary

Henry Hay
Chairman

