

# MEETING MINUTES

## STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS

September 17, 2015

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Present:

Chairman: Harry Dudley Vice Chairman: Scott Ferguson  
Commissioners: Sheri Tonn, Chuck Adams, Ned Kiley, Grant Stewart, Don Mayer, Ed Marmol  
Administration: Shawna Erickson, Peggy Larson  
David Grobschmit, Linda Styrk, Walt Tabler, John Scragg: Puget Sound Pilots  
Mary Nelson: Port of Grays Harbor  
Mike Moore, Jordan Royer: Pacific Merchant Shipping Association  
Rob Olmsted: USCG Sector Puget Sound  
Lou Paulsen: The Northwest Seaport Alliance (TNSA)  
Louis Sackett: Retired Puget Sound Pilot  
Chris Reilly: Nicoll Black & Feig Attorneys  
Fred Felleman: WAVE Consulting

**REGULAR MEETING - Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was convened at 9:45 a.m. by Chairman Harry Dudley in the Agate Conference Room, 2901 Third Avenue, Seattle, Washington. Well wishes were expressed to Walt Tabler for his 37 years of affiliation with our Board, most recently as Executive Director of Puget Sound Pilots. Linda Styrk was welcomed and introduced as Walt's replacement.

**Minutes.** The August 20, 2015 Minutes stand approved as written.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Consideration of *DRAFT Safety Advisory Bulletins re Fuel Switching and Anchor Equipment.*** In response to the Board's request for their development, Commissioner Ferguson briefed the Board on his two draft bulletins. Motion: Mayer/Ferguson – adopt both Safety Advisory Bulletins as drafted – Carried.

**Discussion and Possible Resolution Concerning Setting the Number of Pilots in the Puget Sound Pilotage District as provided in WAC 363-116-065.** Due to the uncertainty regarding traffic projections specifically related to "Shell" assignments, the number of licensed pilots in the PSPD will remain at 52. By consensus, this item will not be listed on the next meeting agenda.

**Discussion Concerning PSP's Request for a January, 2016 Tariff Adjustment.** Verbal arguments were heard from PSP, PMSA and TNSA, both pro and con, for consideration of a mid-term PSP tariff adjustment. Motion: Mayer/Tonn – file a CR-102 for a December, 2015 tariff hearing based on a handout distributed today from PSP - further discussion continued - Motion: Tonn/Kiley – table Captain Mayer's motion to the November meeting – Carried unanimously. In the meantime, it is anticipated that the major groups of stakeholders will meet to discuss those issues discussed today, primarily the effects of the Shell fleet demobilization and remobilization anticipated this fall and next spring.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Pilot's Report of Incident: PS Pilot Mayer – ALASKAN EXPLORER, 8-25-15**

Between the N & S berths at Cherry Pt.	The vessel's propeller cut an anchor buoy line on its approach to the dock. Commissioner Marmol is participating in an investigation on behalf of the Board with Alaska Tanker Co. and the BP Refinery.	<u>Motion:</u> Marmol/Stewart Defer consideration of this incident to the next meeting as the investigation is ongoing – Carried.
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**Pilot's Report of Incident: PS Pilots Scragg & Jensen & Trainee Henderson – OTAGO HARBOUR, 8-31-15**

Cal Portland (Glacier) Dock, Duwamish WW	According to Commissioner Mayer's investigative report - while docking, the vessel came flat alongside with no excessive speed. It appeared two pilings were damaged in the process. The pilings in question were rotten and weak. Other pilings were previously damaged. This dock is scheduled for maintenance and a copy of the proposed repairs was distributed.	<u>Motion:</u> Mayer/Stewart File as an Insignificant Incident without placement in the pilot's file, no further action to be taken – Carried.
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**Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: ALASKAN LEGEND, 8-4-15**

Port Angeles Harbor	A close quarters situation developed with a small fishing vessel while departing Port Angeles Harbor for Cherry Point.	Near Miss	<u>Motion:</u> Marmol/Stewart File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: EVER EXCEL, 9-4-15**

Abeam Browns Point	The vessel was put to anchor in Commencement Bay while repairs were made to a leaking fuel pipe in the engine room	Navigational Safety Concern	<u>Motion:</u> Marmol/Stewart File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: WESTERDAM, 9-5-15**

Northbound off Port Madison	Partial electrical blackout. Repairs were made and the vessel was anchored near Ediz Hook while a surveyor's inspection was made in order to proceed to sea.	Navigational Safety Concern	<u>Motion:</u> Marmol/Stewart File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**2015 Annual Tariff Hearing Preparation – Grays Harbor Pilotage District.** A letter dated September 16, 2015, from the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH) to the Board was presented which detailed their request for rule amendments to the GHPD tariff. This request was approved by the Grays Harbor Port Commission on September 8, 2015. Motion: Tonn/Adams - file a CR-102 reflecting adjustments within a range of 0.0% to an increase of 7.0% in all tariff categories except the *Pension Charge* which will increase from \$403 to \$463 and the *Travel Allowance* which will remain at \$105 per assignment – Carried. PMSA concurs with this proposal.

**Approval of Pilot License Upgrade Program.** Captain Bill Lowery is nearing completion of his third license year. Motion: Mayer/Kiley - approve the license upgrade program for Captain Lowery as drafted by the TEC - Carried.

**Approval of Puget Sound Pilot Training Programs for Captains Philip Hunter and Rodney Myers.** The TEC has reviewed and evaluated the experience of Captains Hunter and Myers for purposes of developing their customized pilot training programs. Motion: Mayer/Kiley – approve the Training Programs as drafted and present them to the trainees – Carried. Upon acceptance of their programs and completion of training orientation, Captains Hunter and Myers shall be issued *Trainee Licenses #044 and #045 respectively*, intended for commencement of training on October 15, 2015.

**BPC Staff Report.**

- Month-end spreadsheets of pilot statistical data were distributed.
- Retiring Board-designated Physician, Donald Stevens, MD of Kingston recommends Peter Lehmann, MD of Poulsbo be considered for Board appointment. Staff has interviewed him and recommends that he replace Dr. Stevens. Motion: Marmol/Stewart – appoint Dr. Peter Lehmann as a Board-Designated Physician – Carried.
- Two Commissioners' terms are expiring in December this year – Phil Morrell, American Shipping and Captain Don Mayer, Puget Sound Pilots. Both are eligible for re-appointment.

**Committee Reports.**

**Trainee Evaluation Committee:**

- The TEC met on September 15.
- Training Program progress was reviewed for all current trainees: Captains Surface, Kelleher, Henderson, Furst and Rounds including face-to-face sessions with Captains Hunter and Myers.
- Captain David Surface has advanced from the Observation phase to the Training phase.

**Legislative/WAC Committee:** No activity reported.

**Exam Committee:** Contract negotiations were completed with Progeny Systems Corporation. The final cost of the executed contract is fixed at \$287,000. Motion: Kiley/Tonn – set the application fee at \$400 (no change from previous exams) – Carried. The cost to take the written exam was set at \$2,000 per applicant and the cost for the simulator evaluation, for those eligible to advance, was set at \$2,600. Exam dates were set - April 4, 2016 for the written exam and the week of April 11<sup>th</sup> for the simulator evaluations. A preliminary notice is forthcoming, with the formal notice to follow.

**Activity Reports.** Mary Nelson, representing Port of Grays Harbor, Captain David Grobschmit, representing Puget Sound Pilots, Captain Mike Moore, representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association, and Lou Paulsen representing The Northwest Seaport Alliance, offered current and projected statistical data as well as updates on current maritime events.

**Review of Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.** Motion: Marmol/Tonn - accept the physicians' reports for Captains B.R. Jensen, E. Marmol and J.A. Shaffer for annual pilot license renewal, Captain B.E. Lowe for initial pilot licensing and Captains P.V. Hunter and R.A. Myers for initial trainee licensing – Carried.

**Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates.** The next regular meeting dates are set for October 15, November 19, and December 17, 2015, at 2901 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Seattle.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Dudley adjourned the regular session Board meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peggy Larson, Executive Director

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Harry H. Dudley, Chairman

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Scott J. Ferguson, Vice Chairman

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Commissioner Sheri J. Tonn

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Commissioner Charles F. Adams

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Commissioner Edmund I. Kiley

**Absent**

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Commissioner Philip Morrell

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Commissioner J. Grant Stewart

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Commissioner Donald W. Mayer

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Commissioner Edmund Marmol