

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
December 15, 2022

REGULAR MEETING – Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Sheri Tonn in the Commission Room of the Port of Grays Harbor, 111 S. Wooding St., Aberdeen, WA and online via Microsoft Teams. In her opening remarks, Chair Tonn thanked the Port of Grays Harbor for their hospitality in hosting the Board and the public.

Present in Grays Harbor:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Commissioners: Sandy Bendixen (Pilot), Timothy J. Farrell (Public), Mike Anthony (Pilot)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki

Gary Nelson, Mike Folkers, Leonard Barnes, Commissioner Tom Quigg: Port of Grays Harbor

Ryan Leo & Family: GH Pilot Licensure Candidate

Present via Microsoft Teams:

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Jason Hamilton (Public), Andrew Drennen (U.S. Shipping), Nhi Irwin (Ecology)

Administration: Jolene Hamel

Assistant Attorney General: Albert Wang

Ivan Carlson, Eric Klapperich, Bill Sliker, Severin Knutsen, Mark Bostick, Charlie Costanzo, Magen

Brooks: Puget Sound Pilots

Mike Moore: Pacific Merchant Shipping Association

Zack Thomas: The Northwest Seaport Alliance

Ann LaRue: Public

Monique Webber: Pacific Yacht Management

Sol Kohlhaas: Marathon Petroleum

BPC Staff Report.

- The Board reviewed the most recent draft of the Rule 10 flyer that was discussed at the November Board meeting. BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever asked for feedback and received ideas for improvement. By consensus, staff will move forward with distributing the flyer with minor revisions as discussed.
- Washington State Ferries has recently distributed a new code of conduct message to address harassment of WSF employees. The code was developed through the WSF Diversity Advisory Group (DAG). The TEC discussed this yesterday and will make sure to distribute to trainees and also with new pilotage letters.
- The Governor released his proposed 23/25 budget, which fully funded the BPC's biennial budget request. The BPC request includes funding for a temporary employee to work exclusively on the upcoming tug escort rulemaking. The decision package still must go through both the House and the Senate.
- Jaimie also reported on meetings she has attended over the past month including successful conversations and exam poster distribution at the Pacific Marine Expo. Additionally, she was able to attend, by phone, a meeting of the San Francisco Board of Pilot Commissioners (BOPC) and plans to be a regular participant moving into the new year.

BPC Chair Report.

- Chair Sheri Tonn reported that she attended the Harbor Safety meeting and thought the USCG did a beautiful job in honoring Captain John Veentjer by presenting him with the Distinguished Public Service Award. John retired from the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound and is currently the Chair of the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee.
- Chair Tonn shared that Governor Inslee has reappointed Vice-Chair Eleanor Kirtley for another term.

Activity Reports. Mike Folkers representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH), Ivan Carlson representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), Zack Thomas representing The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), and Mike Moore representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA) offered current and projected statistical data as well as updates on current maritime issues and activities.

Additionally, BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki provided the dashboard view of Puget Sound Pilots' monthly activity report.

BPC Commissioner Jason Hamilton thanked Ivan Carlson, Charlie Costanzo and the PSP team for allowing him to visit and get a chance to see the dispatch system in person. He also complimented PSP on the measures they have taken to improve efficiency.

A discussion regarding the USCG investigation of the grounding of the *EVER FORWARD* in Chesapeake Bay followed PMSA's activity report resulting in consensus to issue a joint letter from the Board, PMSA, and PSP regarding pilot use of personal cell phones while having the conn of a vessel.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Farrell/Bendixen – approve the November 17, 2022, Meeting Minutes as drafted – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- **Consideration of Licensure of Grays Harbor Pilot Candidate: Captain Ryan Leo.** On behalf of the Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC), TEC Chair Bendixen reported that Captain Ryan Leo has successfully completed all sections of his Training Program Agreement including successful Portable Piloting Unit (PPU) training. The TEC finds that Captain Leo has proven to be consistent, safe, and able to pilot independently. The Board has received his TPTR Summary and all training comments.

Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – issue Captain Ryan Leo state pilot license number 18 for the Grays Harbor Pilotage District – Carried.

Port of Grays Harbor Deputy Director Leonard Barnes spoke on behalf of the Port expressing excitement regarding Captain Leo's licensure and the future of the Port.

- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains Michael, Mann, Seamans & Henderson.** The revised upgrade letters have been updated and reviewed by the TEC and provide increased opportunities to better assist upgrading pilots to their next license level. There are currently 8 pilots upgrading at this time.

Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – approve the pilot license upgrade programs for Captains Michael, Mann, and Seamans as recommended by the TEC – Carried.

- Motion: Bendixen/Farrell – approve the pilot license upgrade program for Captain Henderson upon his return to fit-for-duty status – Carried.
- TEC Chair Bendixen reported that as of December 10, Trainees have been authorized to return to training on Crowley ATB's. Trainees are still prohibited from Crowley ship assist. The TEC will continue to work with Crowley to find ways to mitigate risks to allow for trainees to return.
- COVID-19 update: All trainees continue to take appropriate precautions to stay safe while continuing to work through their training programs. COVID continues to impact trainees. The TEC is considering a recommendation to file another Emergency Rule for the next Board meeting and is also working hard on additional changes within WAC 363-116-078 *Training Program* allowing for more flexibility for the TEC to deal with unexpected situations.
- There are 8 trainees in PS and 1 in GH. In Puget Sound, there are 3 trainees in the Evaluation Phase, 3 in the Training Phase, and 2 in the Observation Phase. In Grays Harbor, there is one in the Training Phase. The Board hopes to license one trainee in Puget Sound in February.
- The TEC met yesterday and reviewed all the trips and comments for both Puget Sound and Grays Harbor trainees. One trainee came to the TEC meeting to discuss training program expectations.
- Commissioner Anthony audited the PPU class for the Grays Harbor trainees and Commissioner Bendixen and Captain McGrath intend to audit the upcoming PPU training for Puget Sound.
- Additional outreach efforts have been made with both current candidates as well as potential exam applicants. The TEC will be moving forward with ongoing targeted outreach.

Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: DAYRA MAYA, 11/11/2022

Upon boarding, approx. 1 nm Northwest of Buoy GH in Grays Harbor.	Upon full sea speed order, the pilot was informed that there may be an issue with the main engine. A fuel valve issue was detected, USCG notified, and issue resolved swiftly and with no adverse effects. A tug escort was called for an extra layer of safety, though not required by the USCG.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Bendixen File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: JOHNNIE BRYAN, 11/20/2022

Everett South Terminal/Port Gardner.	While still under tug escort, a low-level lubrication alarm sounded for #4 cylinder and needed to be investigated. After confirmation that repairs were needed, tugs assisted with anchoring at Port Gardner Anchorage.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Anthony File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: EVER SUMMIT, 11/22/2022

Underway at TC Buoy.	After exiting Commencement Bay, just past Buoy TC and upon increasing to Full ahead, an alarm sounded. Pilot intended to take vessel to Yukon Harbor Anchorage, however engineer was able to make repairs while underway. Repairs were completed successfully, and the vessel was able to proceed to Port Angeles without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Anthony File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: MV AL DHAFRA, 11/30/2022

Underway at South Channel near #15 & 16 in Grays Harbor.	Mechanical issue detected due to strainer clogged by sea grass. Vessel was able to continue passage via dead slow ahead without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Anthony File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: MAERSK BALTIMORE, 11/14/2022

Underway at entrance to Seattle East Waterway.	Vessel encountered unreported and unexpected gill net at entrance to East Waterway Seattle, extending from Kinder Morgan East towards downtown. Pilot was able to navigate past net uneventfully.	<u>Motion:</u> Bendixen/Farrell File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Anthony/Farrell – approve the annual pilot physical examination report for Captain J.T. Kearns – Carried.

Motion: Farrell/Bendixen – approve the annual trainee physical examination report for Captain K.W. Riddle – Carried.

BPC staff will be sending a new annual physical letter template to Board Designated Physicians in January. The Board reviewed a sample of the letter.

Committee Updates.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

- The Board reviewed the Cal Maritime 12th Annual Women in Maritime Leadership Conference sponsorship proposal. The Conference will be held the first weekend in March and both Chair Tonn and Executive Director Jaimie Bever will be attending. Chair Tonn thanked PSP for their support of this conference as well as other DEIC efforts.

Motion: Bendixen/Farrell – authorize sponsorship at the bronze level as recommended – Carried

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- The committee has not met since the November Board meeting and is planning a meeting at the end of January.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- The OTSC has not met since the November Board meeting.
- The BPC and Ecology will be holding two webinars in January specifically for Tribes to discuss the rulemaking process and tug escort risk model analysis.
- Rulemaking for ESHB 1578 will be announced in February.

Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)

- The VEC met on December 7 and discussed the successes of the 2022 yacht season, as well as areas for improvement for the 2023 yacht season. They also explored outreach efforts and a potential new fee schedule for 2023.
- The committee is looking for a new captain (large yacht) for committee membership in 2023. Recommendations can be directed to either Captain Anthony or Jolene Hamel.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting dates on Thursday January 19th and February 16th.

Public Comment. Monique Webber, Pacific Yacht Management, asked a question regarding the BPC outreach for the upcoming exam and offered some local resources. Commissioners Bendixen and Anthony reported regular outreach to MITAGS West, Seattle Maritime Academy, Compass Courses, and the Maritime High School to name a few.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Tonn thanked everyone, wished everyone happy holidays, and adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaimie C. Bever, Executive Director

Sheri J. Tonn, Chair

Eleanor Kirtley, Vice Chair

Commissioner Timothy J. Farrell

Commissioner Andrew Drennen

Commissioner Mike Ross

Commissioner Sandy Bendixen

Commissioner Michael Anthony

Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton

Commissioner Nhi Irwin