

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
October 26, 2021

Regular Meeting – Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chair Sheri Tonn via Microsoft Teams.

Present via Microsoft Teams:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Jason R. Hamilton (Public), Sandy Bendixen (Pilot), Mike Anthony (Pilot), Nhi Irwin (Ecology), Timothy J. Farrell (Public), Michael Ross (Foreign Shipping), Andrew Drennen (U. S. Shipping)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Assistant Attorney General: Albert Wang

Ivan Carlson and Charlie Costanzo: Puget Sound Pilots

Gary Nelson and Mike Folkers: Port of Grays Harbor

Mike Moore and Jordan Royer: Pacific Merchant Shipping Association

Lou Paulsen: The Northwest Seaport Alliance

Laird Hail and Nate Menafee: USCG

Vince Addington: General Steamship

Ann LaRue: Public

Michael Haglund: Public

Tom Ehrlichman: Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Lovel Pratt: Friends of the San Juans

Bob Poole: Western States Petroleum Association

BPC Staff Report.

- The BPC Pilotage Quarterly newsletter Fall Edition has been distributed and posted to the BPC website.
- At the end of September, Jaimie Bever attended a meeting exploring a possible anchorage subcommittee of the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee (PSHSC). It was confirmed at the following PSHSC that the subcommittee would be formed and meet on an ad hoc basis.
- Jaimie attended the WISTA PNW Tugboats 101 Lunch n' Learn. She thanked Commissioner Kirtley for the invite and reported that it was very educational and time well-spent.
- Bettina Maki provided and commented on 3rd Quarter vessel traffic reports for both Puget Sound and Grays Harbor.

BPC Chair Report.

- Chair Tonn reminded the Board about Women Offshore's annual conference coming up on November 5 and 12.

Activity Reports. Mike Moore representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), Captain Ivan Carlson representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), Lou Paulsen representing the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), Laird Hail representing the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and Mike Folkers representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH), offered current and projected statistical data as well as updates on current maritime issues and activities.

Mike Folkers reported that the Port's grain ship loader at Terminal 2 has been down since September 1, 2021. He was unable to provide details as an investigation is underway. However, he did report that the Port's dry bulk customer ADP has procured two portable loaders called teleport stackers, which were delivered this week for temporary loading. Installation is underway and the vessel FEDERAL EMBARI is expected to arrive on November 4 and load 5500 metric tons of soybean meal headed for Vietnam. The Port anticipates the teleport stacker will be very beneficial to continued Port operations. The Port is working on replacement of the permanent loader in the meantime.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Hamilton/Kirtley – approve the September 28, 2021, Meeting Minutes with a minor grammatical change – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- The BPC, PSP, and USCG have resumed communication regarding federal pilotage in Puget Sound (PS). The focus is to complete the new federal pilotage package and promulgation letter regarding the existing packet soon.
- The TEC met yesterday and reviewed all the training programs and comments. One trainee transitioned from the Training Phase to the Evaluation Phase. There are nine trainees in the PS program and zero in Grays Harbor (GH). Four trainees are in the Evaluation Phase, four are in the Training Phase, and one in the Observation Phase.
- One trainee is on target for licensure next month.
- One of the candidates from the 2021 Exam Waiting List has received an offer for the GH training program. The candidate has visited GH and met with the Port and Captain D’Angelo. The BPC is awaiting his formal response.
- The TEC has reviewed the current PS training program agreement and requirements. The Board will receive updated versions for consideration and approval at the November 18 meeting. Additionally, the TEC will provide considerations for changes to WAC 078.
- There is a small workgroup looking at the conning quizzes and local knowledge exams to make sure the product is the best the BPC can provide and helps the trainees be successful in the training program.
- Regarding COVID-19, the trainees continue to fill out the BPC’s trainee health declaration daily and follow proper recordkeeping. The number of trainees on board vessels continues to be limited as a precaution. Crowley is now allowing one trainee onboard tankers, which have a larger wheelhouse than the ATBs. Chair Tonn expressed thanks to Mark Homeyer for his efforts in getting the trainees back on board.

Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)

- The first meeting of the VEC was last week. Commissioner Anthony, who is also the committee chair, shared that it was a productive meeting and good starting point in identifying areas of committee focus. A list of goals and possible recommendations have been compiled and will provide focus for the committee going forward.
- Monique Webber, Pacific Yacht Management, and Peter Schrappen, Northwest Marine Trade Association, recommended Captain Charlie Johnson for the Large Recreational Vessel (130-200 FT) Captain position on the committee. Captain Johnson has years of experience operating yachts in the Puget Sound area.
Motion: Anthony/Kirtley – appoint Captain Charlie Johnson to the VEC in the Large Recreational Vessel (130-200FT) Captain position – Carried.
- The VEC will bring forward potential candidates for the last position on the committee, the Small Recreational Boating Representative, at a future meeting.
- The next meeting is scheduled for November 10.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- The committee met on October 18 and had a good meeting, which included presentations from Ecology regarding the Synopsis of Changing Vessel Traffic Trends and the Tug Escort Analysis Scope of Work.
- The OTSC’s Tug Industry Representative, Charlie Costanzo, AWO, has transitioned positions and is now the Executive Director of Puget Sound Pilots. Therefore, the OTSC requires a new Tug Industry Representative. The Board received a recommendation from Charlie on behalf of AWO to appoint Jeff Slesinger, Delphi Maritime, to the position. Jeff is a retired tugboat captain and considered a tug/tow subject matter expert. Captain Slesinger is also a member of the BPC’s Trainee Evaluation Committee.
Motion: Kirtley/Anthony – appoint Jeff Slesinger, Delphi Maritime, to the OTSC as the Tug Industry Representative – Carried.
- The approved minutes from the August meeting were provided to the Board.

Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: TIWAI POINT, 09/14/2021

Duwamish River toward Glacier Cement Seattle, WA	Multiple fishing nets moored in the river blocking the channel. Calls for net removal were unanswered. Radical movements required to stay in channel due to draft.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Drennen File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Vessel Exemptions:

Sailing Yacht *MY STAR* – 115', 136 gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captain Brent Daw.

Motion: Drennen/Anthony – concur with Vice Chair Kirtley's granting of an interim exemption with the following conditions imposed: Pilot Orientation with No Deception Pass or Locks – Carried.

Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Kirtley/Hamilton – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains J.E. Siddell, S.P. Bendixen, D.W. Melin, J.A. Hannuksela, J.C. Scragg, E.P. Ninburg, B.R. Jensen, R.A. Myers, P.S. Kelly, S.E. Moreno, M.N. Hannuksela, and T.D. Coryell for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried with an abstention from Commissioner Bendixen.

Motion: Kirtley/Hamilton – approve the annual pilot physical examination report for Captain M.L. Anthony – Carried with an abstention from Commissioner Anthony.

Motion: Anthony/Bendixen – approve the annual trainee physical examination reports for Captains E.T. Michael and P.P. Mann – Carried.

Consideration of 2022 Board Meeting Schedule. BPC staff provided three options for the 2022 meeting schedule. The options included moving the meetings to Tuesdays to accommodate PSP during cruise season and keep the meeting on the same day for the entire year, a hybrid of Tuesday and Thursday meetings, similar to 2021, or just Thursdays with no accommodation for cruise season. Jolene Hamel will provide a poll to the Board and present the most popular choice for Board consideration. The Board will take action on the 2022 meeting schedule at the November 18 meeting.

ESHB 1578.

- Synopsis of Changing Vessel Traffic Trends – the Board will receive the draft report in electronic form on November 4 with hard copies following via mail. Jaimie Bever has provided an email and calendar invites to Board members with reminders for their review and comments deadline. Ecology will present the draft report at the November 18 meeting. Board member comments are due to Jaimie by end of business November 19. Jaimie will then provide the compiled comments to Ecology. The Board will review and approve the final report at the December 9 meeting and submit to the Legislature before December 31.
- Tug Escort Analysis Scope of Work – the Board will receive the draft scope as a part of the November meeting materials. Ecology will present the draft scope at the November 18 meeting with the Board taking action at the December 9 meeting.

Committee Updates.

BPC/PSP Joint Diversity Committee (JDC)

- The JDC will plan for a meeting before the end of the year to work on the charter and membership for Board consideration.
- The Board engaged in a discussion regarding industry support for diversity, equity, and inclusion and broadening the pilotage pool. Jaimie Bever is a member of the Washington State Ferries' Diversity Advisory Group (DAG) and the DAG's Workforce Development Subcommittee and has been attending meetings regularly.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- Commissioner Drennen, PSC Co-Chair, reported that the PSC met yesterday. The agenda included updates from PSP regarding COVID-19, a review of rest rule exceptions, an update on the pilot ladder safety report form being developed by PSP and proposed pilot ladder safety bulletin for the Board to consider at the November 18 meeting.
- Most of the meeting was focused on extended transit time for bulkers out of Tacoma, which has been a topic at several previous PSC meetings. The committee looked at 2019-2020 data, which showed that nearly all bulkers departing Tacoma had a 12-to-17-hour assignment time, which in most cases exceeds fatigue management recommendations. The assignment time includes the pilot's preparation and transportation to the vessel and the vessel's transit time from the berth or anchorage out to the pilot station. Approximately two thirds of these jobs were night jobs. The committee reviewed data, discussed scenarios with agents and operators, and discussed PSP's proposed change to their operating rules to turn the night jobs into two-pilot jobs with the pilot change-out occurring in Seattle. PSP will be sending a letter to industry with a notification of the change. Chair Tonn added that the PSC will review the results of this change over the next six months. A short Q&A followed. Chair Tonn reiterated that this change was not something the Board will approve or disapprove. It is a PSP operational change.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reviewed the calendar and reminded the Board that the November meeting will return to Thursday at 10:00 a.m. on November 18, 2021. Likewise, the December meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Tonn asked for public comment. Tom Ehrlichman, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, addressed the Board regarding the Tug Escort Analysis Scope of Work. He reiterated that Ecology will be presenting another draft of what the OTSC originally reviewed, which was responsive to the feedback received from the OTSC. He added that the OTSC will have another chance to review that draft prior to Board approval. Chair Tonn thanked him for his comment. There being no further public business to come before the Board, Chair Tonn adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.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