

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
April 12, 2024

CLOSED SESSION

A Closed Session of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Sheri Tonn in the Rainier Conference Room, 2901 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA and online via Microsoft Teams to discuss matters relative to the 2024 Pilot Exam.

Present In person:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Mike Anthony (Pilot), Richard Firth (Foreign Flag Shipping)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Present via Teams:

Commissioners: Nhi Irwin (Ecology), Jason Hamilton (Public), Tim Farrell (Public),

Sandy Bendixen (Pilot), Andrew Drennen (U.S. Shipping)

Dainis & Company: Paige Fischer, Michael Maurice

REGULAR MEETING – Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Chair Sheri Tonn in the Rainier Conference Room, 2901 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA and online via Microsoft Teams.

Present In person:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Mike Anthony (Pilot), Richard Firth (Foreign Flag Shipping)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Puget Sound Pilots: Charlie Costanzo, Severin Knutsen, Matt Hannuksela, Blair Bouma

USCG: Laird Hail

The Northwest Seaport Alliance: Lindsay Wolpa

Present via Teams:

Commissioners: Nhi Irwin (Ecology), Jason Hamilton (Public), Tim Farrell (Public), Andrew Drennen (U.S. Shipping), Sandy Bendixen (Pilot)

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association: Mike Moore

Puget Sound Pilots: Travis McGrath, Eric Klapperich, Peter Mann, Bill Sliker, Ken Grieser, Ivan Carlson

USCG: Kira Moody

Port of Grays Harbor: Mike Folkers

Puget Sound Pilot Trainees: George Fleischfresser, Joel Michelson, Harlow Wood

American Waterways Operators: Peter Schrappen

Public: Sheree Carson, Ryan Campbell, Conor Sullivan

Dainis & Company: Paige Fischer, Michael Maurice, Charles Nastos

The Seattle Times: Josh Farley

BPC Staff Report.

- BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever shared an overview of meetings that she has been involved in since last month including a visit from the Executive Director of the Oregon Board of Maritime Pilots Tom Griffiths, and the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee Joint Meeting with Canadian counterpart PACMAR where she was able to share an update on tug escort rulemaking.
- Executive Director Bever also reminded the Commissioners that their annual financial disclosure F-1 forms were due Monday.
- The BPC Pilotage Quarterly Spring Edition was provided to the Board and distributed to the public last week.
- BPC Data Analyst Bettina Maki shared data charts including the new KPI dashboard and was available for questions.

BPC Chair Report.

- Chair Tonn welcomed two pilots who will present at the meeting later in the agenda – Captains Blair Bouma on pilot continuing education and Matt Hannuksela on the Pilot Fall Arrest System (PFAS).

Activity Reports. Lindsay Wolpa representing The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), Laird Hail representing the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Ivan Carlson representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), Mike Folkers representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH), 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.

The BPC was surprised to hear that Laird Hall announced his retirement and that this would likely be his last BPC meeting. The Board, Staff, and public expressed gratitude and well wishes for Laird.

PSP President Ivan Carlson shared that PSP didn't add the trailing 12-month callback job ratio into the activity report as he indicated he would last month. The ratio for the trailing twelve is 12.35%. The number of assignments in same 12 months a year earlier was very similar to the last twelve. However, the callback ratio was 16% indicating efficiency changes over the past year have had a positive impact on the callback job ratio. BPC Data Analyst Bettina Maki was available for any questions on the PSP Dashboard.

Puget Sound pilot Captain Blair Bouma shared the details of the extensive continuing education program that all Puget Sound pilots receive. Once a pilot is licensed, they are required to take three courses during the first year: Manned Model, which has emergency components built into the training, Bridge Resource Management for Pilots (BRMP), which is focused on the team and human element for emergency prevention and response, and simulator training for emergency tug response and ship failures in preparation for newer pilots to start piloting laden tankers. Prior to a pilot obtaining their unlimited license, they attend Azipod training in preparation for piloting cruise ships. Also prior to becoming unlimited, pilots attend ultra large container vessel (UCLV) training. Pilots are required to attend Manned Model training every five years. Recently, the pilots have implemented a 5-year renewal for BRMP.

Washington State Ferries Assistant Secretary Introduction. Recently appointed Washington State Ferries Assistant Secretary Steve Nevey joined the meeting in person to introduce himself, the work he has already accomplished as Director of Operations at WSF, and the work ahead as Assistant Secretary. The BPC is looking forward to working with Steve and is excited for WSF's future.

NEW BUSINESS

Cut Score for the Written Examination: Paige Fischer, Dainis & Co. Associate Psychometrician presented on the psychometric process for developing and evaluating the 2024 Marine Pilot Written Exam. After reviewing the exam data, Dainis & Co. recommended a Written Exam cut score of 70.

Motion: Kirtley/Firth – Adopt the recommendation of 70 as the cut score for the 2024 Marine Pilot Written Exam – Carried.

Determine the Number of Successful Applicants who will advance to the Simulator Evaluation:

Motion: Farrell/Anthony – based on the Written Exam Cut Score of 70, 20 of the 25 applicants will advance to the Simulator Evaluation – Carried.

Scoring information will be posted on the BPC website and sent by e-mail to all applicants by 4:00pm today.

Appoint the Evaluators for the Simulator Evaluation Portion of the Examination. Simulator Evaluations begin Monday, April 22, 2024.

Motion: Farrell/Drennen – appoint Captains Sandy Bendixen, Ryan Leo, and John Scragg as Simulator Evaluation Evaluators with Captain Alec Newman as alternate – Carried with Commissioner Bendixen abstaining.

Simulator Evaluations will begin on Monday, April 22, 2024.

Chair Tonn shared a letter received from Matson in response to BPC’s request for information regarding MSOs seen from Matson vessels. While the letter detailed the work they do in Puget Sound, it did not address any of the details of the MSOs. It was suggested that the BPC follow up to Matson in writing and ask for details of the cause and remedy of the MSOs.

Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: DOOLIN RODGERS (ATB VISION), 3/09/2024

Underway in Hylebos Waterway, coming alongside Targa	ATB Vision was within a few feet of the berth when <i>DOOLIN RODGERS</i> called to inform of their intentions to pass down <i>ATB VISION</i> 's starboard side and continue outbound through the Hylebos bridge. They were advised of the assist tug's wash. The <i>DOOLIN RODGERS</i> passed through the tug's wash, took a sheer to starboard, and headed towards the vessel. <i>DOOLIN RODGERS</i> was able to regain control and stopped short. Once under control, the operator communicated that he momentarily lost his port main engine but was able to restart and proceed.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Kirtley – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: SPORT FISHING VESSELS (UNION VOYAGER), 3/20/2024

Underway at SF Buoy	While underway the pilot observed approximately 35 vessels less than 20 meters in the traffic lanes and separation zone just south of the SF buoy. Pilot ordered the vessel to begin reducing RPM's to maneuvering speed and posted extra lookouts. As vessel approached the SF buoy, it sounded 5 short blasts of the ship's whistle and made security calls. No vessels responded. With continued use of the vessels whistle and careful use of the rudder, vessel was able to pass through the obstructed traffic lane without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Drennen – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried. Increase awareness with Washington State Ferries and Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife/Sport Fisheries.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: AVAX, 3/22/2024

Underway East of Pilot Station, off Green Point	Upon first boarding vessel, a bridge alarm sounded. After continued alarms and repeated questioning, pilot was finally advised there was an engine room fire. When the Captain could not answer if any machinery or other critical equipment was affected, the pilot turned around to return to Port Angeles to anchor the vessel. Pilot notified VTS of the situation and requested an escort tug as a cautionary measure. Vessel was safely anchored in anchor position #5 Port Angeles. The vessel had an electrical fire located in an electrical panel outside the ECR. At no time during the fire did the vessel lose engines and all engine orders were answered.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Farrell – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: SEACOR LEE (ESTEEM HOUSTON), 3/20/2024

Underway, Anacortes to Vendovi	Pilot was concerned with actions of a US flag vessel and noted that there was no pilot onboard although the vessel appears to be subject to pilotage under 46 CFR 15.812. Deferred to May agenda for more information from the USCG.	Deferred.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: WEST SITCUM CRANES (MANULANI), 3/29/2024

Underway in Commencement Bay	Approaching the West Sitcum Waterway to dock portside-to at the north end of the West Sitcum Dock, pilot observed the container cranes were not spotted close together near the midships area of the intended vessel position, contrary to the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Plan. Only one of four cranes was positioned midships; two were at the port bow and one at the port quarter. Docking proceeded without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Firth – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence as well as pass along to newly created workgroup – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: MANULANI, 3/30/2024

Underway, Tacoma to Port Angeles	Pilot boarded vessel at APM terminal, Sitcum waterway in Tacoma and departed without incident. While underway, pilot was notified of a fuel leak on the main engine fuel pump and the need to stop the main engine. Pilot notified USCG of intention to return to the vessel's berth. Utilized the assist tugs to tow the vessel back to its berth. Vessel was all fast at the APM North berth. Repairs were attempted but not successful and the sailing was canceled.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Hamilton – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence and add this MSO to the Matson letter – Carried.
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Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Hamilton/Farrell – approve the March 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes as drafted with minor grammatical corrections – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains Hannuksela, McGourty & Moore.** TEC Chair Captain Bendixen reported that there are currently 19 pilots in their upgrade window and that the TEC reviewed the 3 upgrade letters for the captains listed above.
Motion: Bendixen/Farrell – approve the pilot license upgrade program for Captains Hannuksela, McGourty & Moore.
- The TEC met yesterday and reviewed all trainee progress, and one trainee came to the TEC meeting to discuss his progress. There are 5 trainees currently in PS and zero trainees in GH. There are 2 trainees in Evaluation, 2 in Training and 1 in Observation. All are progressing well, with one trainee planning to be done in May and another following in June.
- TEC Chair Bendixen also shared the continuing struggles and efforts regarding federal pilotage. She also shared that recently one of the trainees had an issue at the border while attempting to go ride with the BC Coast Pilots even though the trainee had a sponsorship from PPA. The TEC may need to look again at the process and make sure all trainees have an invitation in hand while attempting any Canadian trips. Chair Tonn mentioned the increased budget that Senator Lisa Murkowski was able to secure for the National Maritime Center and the hopes that it will have an impact in the current delays seen from the NMC.

Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Kirtley/Anthony – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains A.B. Seamans, P.L. Velarde & E.T. Michael for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

It was noted that the Board had previously received a first draft of the new physical form, but the updated version was not ready for this month’s Board meeting. Further revisions of the new form for a Board consideration are forthcoming.

Possible Board Action – Consider Request from PSP.

PSP Executive Director Charlie Costanzo sent a letter to the BPC requesting that the BPC address both the Number of Pilots as well as establish the Target Assignment Level (TAL). After some discussion, it was decided to consider the following two motions:

Motion: Kirtley/Anthony – recognize receipt of the letter from Puget Sound Pilots and plan for Board consideration of the number of pilots – Carried.

Motion: Firth/Drennen – assign the work for establishing the TAL to the Pilot Safety Committee – Carried.

Chair Tonn thanked the PSC for the work ahead of them and advised that Bettina Maki, BPC Data Analyst has already started working on the data that the PSC will need to make recommendations.

Exemptions from Pilotage.

Sailing Yacht CLIPPER RACE AROUND THE WORLD– 75’, 49gt, British registry, Multiple Captains.

Motion: Drennen/Firth – grant annual exemptions for the 11 yachts with the conditions of limitations in geographic restricted areas – Carried – with abstentions from Captains Anthony & Bendixen.

Motor Yacht SOUTHERN WAY– 114’, 218gt, Cayman Island registry, Captain Rene Munoz Cabrera.

Motion: Anthony/Farrell – concur with Chair Tonn’s granting of the interim annual exemption with the conditions of limitations in Duwamish or Deception Pass – Carried.

Puget Sound Pilot Presentation – Pilot Fall Arrest System (PFAS).

Puget Sound Pilot Captain Matt Hannuksela shared information and a hands-on demonstration of the new pilot fall arrest system (PFAS) equipment by Petzl. This equipment is still in a trial basis and PFAS equipment is voluntary for Puget Sound Pilots.

Committee Updates.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- Commissioner Drennen reported that the PSC will be meeting next on Monday, May 6.

Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)

- VEC Chair Anthony stated that the VEC has not met yet.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

- The DEI Steering Committee is planning to have a meeting in May.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- Stakeholder Workshop #7 regarding SEPA will take place Wednesday, May 8, 1pm to 3pm, both virtually and in-person at Ecology’s Northwest Office. This workshop will follow the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee Meeting.
- The next OTSC meeting for Workshop #7 materials is May 15, 2024.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reminded everyone of the upcoming meetings in May and June. There is a Special Meeting of the BPC via Teams only on Wednesday, May 1 at 12:00pm to determine the Simulator Evaluation cut score. The May Regular Meeting will be on Thursday, May 16 and the June meeting will be on Thursday, June 20. All meetings (excluding the Special Meeting) continue to be hybrid, and all are invited and encouraged to attend in person or online.

Public Comment. Chair Tonn asked for public comment, but no public comment was offered.

Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned by Chair Tonn at 2:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaimie C. Bever, Executive Director

Sheri J. Tonn, Chair

Eleanor Kirtley, Vice Chair

Commissioner Timothy J. Farrell

Commissioner Andrew Drennen

Commissioner Richard Firth

Commissioner Sandy Bendixen

Commissioner Michael Anthony

Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton

Commissioner Nhi Irwin