

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
May 15, 2025

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 Agate 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: Lee Tyler (Foreign-Flag Shipping), Mike Anthony (Pilot), Severin Knutsen (Pilot), Andrew Drennen (U.S.-Flag Shipping)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Puget Sound Pilots: Ivan Carlson, Scott Brewen

Present via Teams:

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

AAG: Albert Wang

Port of Grays Harbor: Mike Folkers, Ryan Leo, Ryan Campbell

Puget Sound Pilots: Travis McGrath, Matt Hannuksela

USCG: John Robertson

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association: Mike Moore

Oil Transportation Safety Committee: Lovel Pratt, Fred Felleman, Tim Johnson

Public: Ann LaRue, John Harris, Rishi Luthra, Kris Faucett, Steve Kennedy, Liam Hastings, Jake Spink, Bonnie Gee, Gord Cooper, Antonio Machado, Arthur Seaman, Terry Hall, Mason Reed

Utilities and Transportation Commission: Scott Sevall

BPC Staff Report.

- BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever reported that both the Transportation Budget as well as SB 5801, which holds a technical fix to RCW 88.16.180, are both still on Governor Ferguson's desk for signing with a deadline of Tuesday.
- Executive Director Bever also stated that BPC staff is working on the 2024 Annual Report with a draft provided to the Board in July, as usual. To complete the report, the BPC requires the audited financials from both Puget Sound and Grays Harbor.
- The BPC audit team has narrowed the scope of the audit to procurement, stipend payments, pilot license fee revenue, and vendor payments. More information will be provided when available.
- The BPC move to the 4th floor of the 2901 Building has been cancelled and the BPC will remain on the 1st floor. In addition, the Agate Conference room will remain a meeting space for the BPC.
- BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever announced that she will be attending a one-day Women Offshore Leadership Summit in Houston on May 21.

BPC Chair Report.

- BPC Chair Sheri Tonn announced that the current Board's Ecology representative Nhi Irwin is taking on a new position at the Department of Ecology and will be stepping down as commissioner. Chair Tonn thanked Nhi for her valuable work on the Board. The BPC wishes her the best in her new role. Her replacement will be Tom Buroker, Department of Ecology Northwest Region Regional Director. His first meeting will be in June.
- Chair Tonn and E.D. Bever met with the Coast Guard a few times in the past month. On April 21 they met with Sector Puget Sound leadership and toured VTS. On May 14 they met Lt. Commander Sarah Rodino, who in June will replace Commander Kira Moody. She looks forward to attending a BPC meeting soon.
- Chair Tonn also took this opportunity to mention the Special Meeting to be held remotely on June 5. The purpose of this meeting is to adopt the tug escort proposed rulemaking package (CR-102) as well as releasing the draft Environmental Impact Statement and Preliminary Regulatory Analysis. The final adoption of this will likely take place in November for an end of the year deadline. The Board will also be considering the creation of a committee to address RCW 88.16.180 *Oil Tankers-State Licensed Pilot Required*.

Activity Reports. Mike Folkers representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH); Ivan Carlson representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP); Mike Moore representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), and John Robertson representing United State Coast Guard (USCG) offered current and projected statistical data as well as updates on current maritime issues and activities.

BPC Data Analyst Bettina Maki shared the pilotage activity dashboard and was available for questions. Captain Ivan Carlson shared information on a new data sort for tankers going to or from Canada, and PSP Executive Director Scott Brewen shared information on pilot boat maintenance.

NEW BUSINESS

Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *SNLC YORK, 04/05/2025*

Pilot Station to PA 1S Berth	Dead ship shift due to the loss of propulsion upon approach to the Pilot Station the previous day.	<u>Motion</u> : Knutsen/Drennen– File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MAUNAWILI, 04/18/2025*

Underway from the Pilot Station	The start air valve failed and the crew was unable to start the engine. The valve was replaced, engines started, and the vessel proceeded to Tacoma berth 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: *CSL TECUMSEH, 04/26/2025*

At anchor at Elliott Bay West Anchorage	The anchor winch became stuck. Multiple attempts were made over several hours to get the last 3 shackles of the anchor but were unsuccessful. The vessel was re-anchored and needed a diver to inspect anchor area.	<u>Motion</u> : Knutsen/Hamilton – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Legislative Update. Senate Bill 5801 contains a technical fix to RCW 88.16.180, which if signed, would provide language to allow the current 50-year practice of not requiring Washington state licensed pilots on Canadian tankers while in Washington waters to be in place for the next two years. A permanent fix of legislation is required in the 2027 legislative session for implementation in July 2027. Agency Request Legislative is due in September 2026. As mentioned previously, at the June 5 Special Board Meeting the Board will begin discussing the public process for this legislative work via a committee. The Board will consider priorities and membership.

Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Hamilton/Kirtley – approve the April 17, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes as drafted – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains Leo & Cassee.** TEC Chair Knutsen reported that the TEC met yesterday and reviewed the upgrade letters for the pilots listed above.
Motion: Knutsen/Farrell – approve the pilot license upgrade program for Captains Leo and Cassee as written – Carried.
- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Grays Harbor License Update Captains Leo & Grobschmit.** TEC Chair Knutsen explained that with the license revision that was approved at the hearing in April, there will need to be an adjustment to the upgrading process for the two Grays Harbor pilots. Mirroring the license change level that last happened in Puget Sound, the TEC recommends two additional trips outside of the upgrade window to get the pilots paired with their new license level.
Motion: Knutsen/Anthony – approve the out of window upgrade trip letters for Captains Leo and Grobschmit as written – Carried.
- TEC Chair Knutsen stated that it has been a busy month for the TEC. There are 14 upgrading pilots, an orientation session for Captains Bolton and Butterfield, 6-month check ins with Captains Shuler, Britton, and Boullion, and the TEC met with Captain Campbell who is about to move into the Training portion of his training program in Grays Harbor. In Puget Sound there are currently 4

trainees in Training, 2 trainees in Evaluation and 2 trainees in Observation. There is 1 trainee in Grays Harbor in Training.

- TEC Chair Knutsen mentioned that the TEC received great feedback from the Trainees at the TEC meeting regarding their current experience with the REC. Given that has not always been the trainee experience, the BPC thanks the REC for their efforts. It was mentioned that the BPC should send a letter of gratitude to the REC.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- **Revised MSO Form for Beta Testing.** PSC Co-Chair Andrew Drennen advised that he missed the last meeting, however he wanted to be sure to acknowledge the hard work that BPC Data Analyst Bettina Maki has put in on the new online MSO form. It has been decided to proceed with beta testing during through early August. Pilots can either use the new electronic form or use the traditional form during this testing period. Feedback received will be considered in August.
Motion: Drennen/Hamilton – approve the beta test for the new MSO form – Carried.
- BPC Data Analyst Maki also shared that BPC is proceeding with a paid boater safety message in the Department of Fish and Wildlife fishing regulations pamphlet. The BPC website has also added a safety tab highlighting rules of the road for recreational boaters, including the “clear the lanes” flyer designed by Captain Anthony for the Boat show and for fishing sites. Chair Tonn thanked both Captain Anthony and Bettina for all their work on this issue.

Exemptions from Pilotage.

Motor Yacht S-CAPE – 92’, 169gt, Marshall Island registry, Captain Jan Enderslev.

Motion: Knutsen/Drennen – grant an annual exemption with no conditions – Carried.

Motor Yacht SEA NASH – 164’, 499gt, Cayman Island registry, Captain Craig Maree.

Motion: Anthony/Farrell – grant an annual exemption with the conditions of no Deception Pass or Duwamish waterway unless orientation in those areas – Carried.

Motor Yacht AMORE – 155’, 499gt, Cayman Island registry, Captains Robert Soper and Trevor Hulbert.

Motion: Farrell/Tyler – concur with Chair Tonn’s granting of the interim annual exemption with the conditions of a dockside orientation and none of the restricted areas – Carried.

Motor Yacht NURI – 155’, 499gt, Cayman Island registry, Captains Robert Soper and Trevor Hulbert.

Motion: Anthony/Drennen – concur with Chair Tonn’s granting of the interim annual exemption with the conditions of no Deception Pass and no Duwamish waterway unless orientation in those areas – Carried.

Motor Yacht CV-9 – 140’, 325gt, Cayman Island registry, Captains Jason Milton, James Southgate and Charlie Johnson.

Motion: Knutsen/Drennen – grant an annual exemption with the condition of no Deception Pass – Carried.

Motor Yacht RISING DAWN– 140’, 397gt, Marshall Island registry, Captain Paul Stengel.

Motion: Anthony/Knutsen –concur with Chair Tonn’s granting of the interim annual exemption with the conditions of a dockside orientation and none of the restricted areas unless orientation in those areas – Carried.

Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Kirtley/Anthony – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains T.S. McGrath and J.E. Kalvoy for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

Motion: Drennen/Kirtley - approve the pilot trainee physical examination report for Captain D.M. Bolton for his annual pilot trainee license renewal – Carried.

BPC Data Analyst Bettina Maki reported on updates to a new annual physical form that are meant to help ease the process. It was decided to have the two Pilot Commissioners review it and make a recommendation at the June meeting.

Committee Updates.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- OTSC Chair Jaimie Bever shared that there were no specific updates beyond the Special Meeting happening on June 5. When the CR102 is filed on June 11, it will kick off the official public comment period.

Pilot Exam Committee (PEC)

- Jaimie announced that the BPC received one proposal from the exam solicitation. Once contract negotiations are complete, the BPC will announce the selection as well as the exam date.

Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)

- The VEC is currently on hiatus and has not met recently.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

- The BPC is currently working with a DEIC consultant who is helping with exam messaging and website updates. There will be more work and opportunities for exam outreach throughout the Fall.

Terminal Operations Work Group (TOWG)

- The TOWG presented the meeting minutes from their first meeting.
- The TOWG is working on scheduling the next meeting and wants to get a clearer agenda and priorities set before bringing in crane operators. Perhaps Commissioner Tyler will be able to join this committee and help in setting those priorities.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reminded everyone that there will be two meetings in June, a Special Meeting held online on June 5 and the Regular Meeting on June 26, which is one week later than usual due to the Juneteenth holiday. BPC Regular Meetings continue to be hybrid, and all are invited and encouraged to attend in person or online. She also stated that it is likely that we will have the August Board meeting in Grays Harbor.

Public Comment. Chair Tonn asked for public comment and the only comment was from Commissioner Farrell who thanked the BPC staff for keeping the Commissioners informed, organized, and up to date.

Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Tonn at 12:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaimie C. Bever, Executive Director

Sheri J. Tonn, Chair

Eleanor Kirtley, Vice Chair

Commissioner Timothy J. Farrell

Commissioner Andrew Drennen

Commissioner Lee Tyler

Commissioner Severin Knutsen

Commissioner Michael Anthony

Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton

Commissioner Nhi Irwin