

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
July 20, 2023

REGULAR MEETING – Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was convened at 10:00am 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)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Puget Sound Pilots: Ivan Carlson, Charlie Costanzo

U.S. Coast Guard: Laird Hail, Kira Moody

Present via Teams:

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

Administration: Albert Wang (AAG)

Puget Sound Pilots: Eric Klapperich, Severin Knutsen, Mark Bostick

Port of Grays Harbor: Mike Folkers

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association: Jordan Royer

The Northwest Seaport Alliance: Lindsay Wolpa

Public: Ann LaRue, Sol Kolhaas

PSP Candidates: Harlow Wood, Joel Michelson

BPC Staff Report.

- Executive Director Jaimie Bever announced Women Offshore's 2nd Annual Inclusion Summit on Wednesday, August 23 from 8-12 PDST. Like last year there will be both an in-person (Houston) and a remote option. She encourages anyone who would like to attend to notify the BPC office.
- Secretary of State Steve Hobbs announced the launch of a new State Productivity Board to incentivize state employees to brainstorm ideas and create solutions to help Washington's state government operate more efficiently and effectively. Jaimie will be the BPC liaison to the new board and will share updates as they are available.
- The job posting for a Marine Policy and Program Manager, a position focused on tug escort rulemaking, is now active and has been shared through the agency's social media channels and website, as well as numerous state job posting sites.
- The Board received the final draft of the 23/25 biennial budget allotments. Allotments are due for submittal to OFM by August 15.
- The BPC Pilotage Quarterly Summer Edition was published in early July. Board members received a copy in their meeting materials.
- Executive Director Bever will be on vacation from July 29 through August 5.
- BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki shared updated pilotage data.

BPC Chair Report.

- BPC Chair Sheri Tonn stated it has been a busy month so far, with the new exam consultants, Dainis & Company, visiting Seattle the week of July 10. Amanda Dainis, Lead Psychometrician, and her team are under contract with MITAGS. While in town, they were able to see the simulator in action, ride a ship in both Puget Sound and Grays Harbor, and meet with BPC and PSP leadership. In addition, they held a two-day Job Task Analysis workshop. Chair Tonn thanked the Subject Matter Experts (SME's) along with PSP leadership for their active participation in the visit. The Dainis & Company team will be publishing a blueprint for the exam later this Fall and more information will be coming later in the Pilot Exam Committee report out.
- Chair Tonn also reported that she was thrilled that the federal pilotage package workgroup will reconvene with a meeting on August 9 to resume work on the packet. She thanked those in attendance who have helped get the workgroup back on track after leadership changes within the USCG.

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

Commissioner Bendixen thanked the Coast Guard for their recent assistance in clearing recreational fishing vessels from the traffic lanes.

Captain Ivan Carlson, PSP President, shared that Captain George Quick, whom he referred to as an “Icon of Icons”, passed away earlier this month at age 93. He had been involved in multiple aspects of piloting for the past 60 years, most recently serving as MM&P Pilot Membership Group Vice President.

OLD BUSINESS

Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MORNING LENA, 03/07/2023*

East of Pilot Point (Northbound).	While proceeding outbound, vessel experienced loss of propulsion. The USCG issued a COTP order to proceed to Port Angeles anchorage with an assist tug.	<u>Motion:</u> Bendixen/Hamilton – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MATSON ANCHORAGE, 03/10/2023*

Abeam "T" Buoy Southbound in Traffic Lanes.	Vessel experienced bridge blackout with steering and propulsion loss. Situation stabilized and vessel proceeded to Sitcum Waterway with no further issue.	<u>Motion:</u> Defer to August Meeting.
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Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Farrell/Kirtley - approve the May 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes as drafted with the additional language requested by Commissioner Bendixen to reflect PSP President Carlson’s statement on recruitment – Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MAERSK RUBICON, 06/14/2023*

Heaving anchor at Smith Cove Anchorage in Elliott Bay.	The vessel’s anchor windlass failed to retrieve the anchor and chain under its own power due to the depth of the anchorage, more than 270ft. Vessel was moved into shallower water to assist in the anchor chain recovery. This effort was successful and resulted in a delay of approximately 35 min. The rest of the transit completed without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Drennen – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *ETOILE, 06/13/2023*

Underway in Puget Sound.	While underway en route to the Pilot Station from Seattle, the radar failed. Several attempts were made to troubleshoot unsuccessfully. VTS was notified. The other radar remained fully operational, and visibility was unobstructed. VTS notified the ship that they could continue on the voyage without any stipulations.	<u>Motion:</u> Bendixen/Kirtley– File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *EVER STRONG, 06/23/2023*

Underway in Puget Sound approaching Bush Point NB.	While northbound in the TSS an alarm near the ETO went off. VTS notified of main engine issue and speed reduction while issue being diagnosed. It was quickly determined that the exhaust gas high temp sensor had tripped. Initial impression was that the sensor was faulty, and that there was no material issue with the engine. VTS was notified and the rest of the outbound transit was completed without incident. Just prior to pilot disembarking the vessel at Pilot Station, captain relayed the cause per engineer’s report: No. 5 fuel high injection P/P (pump) plunger stuck in barrel. Pilot updated VTS on arrival at the station.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Kirtley – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *NORTH STAR*, 06/16/2023

Underway in Puget Sound.	Sport fishing vessels encountered actively trolling throughout area N and S of "SF" buoy in outbound and inbound traffic lanes as well as separation zone. Pilot was making course change towards an opening between the many sport fishing vessels when one emerged from a group of boats and crossed from left to right in front of the ship, which repeatedly sounded the danger signal. The fishing vessel disappeared from sight while crossing in front of the ship but later was seen on the starboard side, still fishing. VTS notified of rule 10 violation (blatant disregard for a deep draft vessel in a traffic lane).	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Bendixen – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MATSON KODIAK*, 06/21/2023

Underway inbound TSS nearing Protection Island.	While transiting the inbound TSS from the Pilot Station to Tacoma, vessel’s chief engineer informed captain of the need to shut down engines and replace a suction valve for a main engine cylinder. The repair would only take approximately 20-30 minutes. After assessing traffic situation, an area north of the traffic lanes in the vicinity SW of Eastern Bank was identified for the operation, leaving plenty of room to drift. Thrusters and anchors were available if needed. Pilot contacted VTS to explain situation, and made way for Eastern Bank. Crowley tug <i>PROTECTOR</i> was dispatched. VTS gave permission to shut down main engines and drift to make repairs. At 0305 repairs were completed and the vessel made way without issue to Tacoma.	<u>Motion:</u> Hamilton/Kirtley – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MSC SARAH ELENA*, 07/05/2023

Terminal 5 West Waterway.	Multiple safety issues involving crane boom and gangway platform.	<u>Motion:</u> Defer to August Meeting. PSP to meet with NWSA to create plan.
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During the MSO discussion, it was suggested that the MSO form be evaluated by BPC, pilots and the Coast Guard, with revision recommendations to follow.

Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Kirtley/Hamilton - approve the June 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes as drafted with two minor improvements suggested by Commissioner Hamilton – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- TEC Chair Captain Bendixen reviewed the proposed changes to WAC 363-116-078 Training Program and advised that the public hearing process timeline will require one final Emergency Rule to be filed in the coming months.
Motion: Bendixen/Kirtley – approve BPC staff to file the CR 102 for WAC 363-116-078 as drafted – Carried.
- Captain Bendixen reported last meeting about the simulator training for the 6 current trainees and was pleased to state that the training dates had been finalized for July 30 and 31. Captains Scragg and Anthony will be facilitating, and the trainees are excited for the opportunity.
- Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains Bozina & Knutsen. TEC Chair Bendixen reported that 15 pilots are in the upgrade window.
Motion: Bendixen/Kirtley – approve the pilot license upgrade program for Captains Bozina & Knutsen as recommended by the TEC.
- The TEC met yesterday and reviewed all trainee progress. There are currently 6 trainees in PS and zero trainees in GH. In Puget Sound, there are 2 trainees in Evaluation phase and 4 in Training phase and all are progressing. 1 trainee came in to discuss transitioning into Evaluation

phase and the remaining 5 trainees will all attend the August TEC meeting to discuss their individual progress in the Training Program.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

- The DEI Steering Committee felt that the adopted charter from a year ago was too broad and wanted to narrow the scope to focus on exam recruitment and equal access to the exam process. The proposed revised charter reflects that change.
Motion: Bendixen/Farrell – approve the revised DEIC charter as drafted – Carried. Commissioner Kirtley asked for inclusion of KPI goals in future committee charters.
- Executive Director Bever thanked Commissioner Irwin on her valuable input and feedback on the charter revision.
- She also shared the flyer from WSF for the Maritime Career Pathway Scholarship. This is a two-year training program developed in partnership with MITAGS with tuition and fees 100% funded by WSF for ten scholarship recipients. The program is designed to increase diversity in maritime by providing academic training and onboard experience allowing a person with little or no maritime experience to become a USCG-licensed Unlimited Tonnage Inland Mate.

Exemptions from Pilotage.

Sailing Yacht TAMSEN– 172’, 463gt, British registry, Captain Richard Catlett.

Motion: Drennen/Bendixen – grant an annual exemption with the following restrictions imposed: No Deception Pass or Duwamish River – Carried.

Motor Yacht GAYLE FORCE – 96’, 190gt, Marshall Islands registry, Captain Scott Whittaker.

Motion: Bendixen/Kirtley – grant an annual exemption with the following restrictions imposed: No Locks – Carried.

Motor Yacht MIRA TWO – 110’, 219gt, Jamaica registry, Captain Charles Papa.

Motion: Bendixen/Drennen – concur with Chair Tonn’s granting of the interim annual exemption and removed any restrictions as conditions met in orientation – Carried.

Motor Yacht AFTER EIGHT– 151’, 498gt, Isle of Man registry, Captains Dave Holliss & Grant Lindsay.

Motion: Bendixen/Farrell –grant an annual exemption with the following restrictions imposed: No Locks – Carried.

Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Farrell/Drennen – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains Captains J.C. Scragg, W.J. Sliker, B.W. Bouma, R.M. Gartner & C.F. Rounds for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

Pilot Absent 60 Days.

The Board received a letter from a Puget Sound Pilot who had been absent from pilotage for more than 60 days without Board consent. The pilot was asking to keep his license active until its next renewal date in January 2024 while he continues making retirement decisions. This would allow him the ability to assist PSP, if needed. A discussion of the request followed.

Motion: Bendixen/Hamilton – approve BPC staff to send the pilot a letter advising that he must complete 2 pilotage assignments in the next 60 days and notify the Board in advance if he would then be absent again for more than 60 days before his license renewal – Carried.

Tug Escort Rulemaking Updates.

Workshop 2 has occurred and workshop 3 will take place at the end of September. The fourth workshop will take place in December and will be focused on the risk model analysis results. A fifth workshop will take place in early 2024 as well as workshops all next year. Work with Ecology behind the scenes continues and is going well. There is a great team in place at the Department of Ecology. Sara Thompson, from that team, will be presenting an update on the rulemaking at the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee on August 2nd while Executive Director Bever is on vacation.

Committee Updates.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- The PSC had a great meeting earlier this week where they discussed past rest rule exception data under the framework of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) being developed. The Committee feels that the proposed target for the KPI is reasonable.

- The PSC had a very informative presentation from Grays Harbor Pilot Captain Leo regarding their recent mariner overboard drill/audit. He was available to join the meeting and gave the presentation again for the Board.
- The ladder safety reporting 2023 Q2 data was made available to the Board and discussed briefly.
- The committee will meet again in early October.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- The draft meeting minutes of the most recent OTSC meeting were provided to the Board as info.
- The committee will meet again in September, prior to Workshop 3.

Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)

- The VEC is meeting on August 23.

Pilot Exam Committee (PEC)

- As Chair Tonn mentioned in her Chair report, Dr. Amanda Dainis and her team were here last week. They are learning a ton and were very enthusiastic about getting to know both pilot groups.
- The BPC hopes to formalize the Spring 2024 Marine Pilot Exam dates at the next meeting. In the meantime, work is underway to iron out the details of potential remote proctoring of the written exam. The Board will also be provided with exam timelines in upcoming meetings.
- BPC and PSP are working on webinars for early Fall to discuss topics on the exam process and life as a pilot.

Public Comment. Chair Tonn asked for public comment, but none was offered.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reminded everyone of the upcoming meetings in August and September. All meetings will continue to be hybrid, and all are invited and encouraged to come in person. She also reported that the KPI Workshop 3 will be delayed until at least the September meeting.

Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned by Chair Tonn at 1:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaimie C. Bever, Executive Director

Sheri J. Tonn, Chair

Eleanor Kirtley, Vice Chair

Commissioner Timothy J. Farrell

Commissioner Andrew Drennen

(Vacant)

Commissioner Sandy Bendixen

Commissioner Michael Anthony

Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton

Commissioner Nhi Irwin