

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
November 17, 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 via Microsoft Teams.

Present via Microsoft Teams:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

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

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Assistant Attorney General: Albert Wang

Eric Klapperich, Bill Sliker, Charlie Costanzo: Puget Sound Pilots

Mike Folkers: Port of Grays Harbor

Mike Moore, Jordan Royer: Pacific Merchant Shipping Association

Laird Hail: USCG

Zack Thomas: The Northwest Seaport Alliance

Ann LaRue: Public

Eric Brickenstein: Public

Weldon Burton: Public

Sol Kohlhaas: Marathon Petroleum

Harlow Wood, Nick Sabbath: Pilot Candidates

BPC Staff Report.

- BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever reported on both meetings she has attended over the past month, along with upcoming meetings that she will be attending to keep the important work of the BPC in the forefront including: the annual meeting of the Pacific States and British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force on November 2, Maritime Blue office hours with Quiet Sound on November 14, Maritime Economic Forecast Breakfast and Pacific Marine Expo on November 18, Governor Inslee's Equity Summit on November 30, and Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee meeting on December 6.
- A poster version of the marine pilot exam recruitment flyer has been developed and will be distributed at the Pacific Marine Expo. Captain Bendixen has also requested a Rule 10 flyer be developed in time for the Seattle Boat Show at the end of January. A draft of that flyer will be provided at the December BPC meeting.
- November 1 marked the 3-year anniversary for BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki. Executive Director Bever celebrated her seven-year anniversary at the beginning of the month also and remarked that between the three staff members, BPC staff have a combined 15 years' experience, building critical institutional knowledge.

BPC Chair Report.

- BPC Chair Sheri Tonn thanked Vice-Chair Eleanor Kirtley for chairing the October meeting in her absence.
- Chair Tonn shared that she and Executive Director Bever have had some recent meetings with both PSP and PMSA regarding efficiency. In the new year, she would like to hold a public workshop for the Board on key performance indicators and key metrics to determine measurable metrics and their outcomes. This action would extend to all areas in the BPC's charge including safety, regulation, efficiency, and competent service. She also asked for ideas for a good facilitator so that she can actively participate in the workshop.
- Chair Tonn reported that it looks highly likely that we will be licensing Captain Ryan Leo in Grays Harbor for the December meeting. To support the Port of Grays Harbor and celebrate this licensure, the December board meeting will be held in person in Grays Harbor. A Teams option will be available for anyone unable to join in person.

- In honor of Indigenous Peoples Month, WSF hosted a viewing of the documentary 'Honor thy Mother', which is the untold story of Native women escaping Canadian boarding schools and migrating to Bainbridge Island, the traditional territory of the Suquamish people. This led to marriages with Filipino agricultural workers and the establishment of Indipino culture. Chair Tonn shared that she thought it was a very worthwhile watch and is currently available from any county library. WSF may have a video link available in the future as well.
- The Women in Maritime Leadership conference will be held in person at Cal Maritime the first weekend in March 2023. The Board will consider sponsorship of this excellent conference at the December meeting, as well as participation in the sessions in support of pilotage.

Activity Reports. Mike Folkers representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH), Mike Moore representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), Eric Klapperich representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), Zack Thomas representing The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), and Laird Hail representing the United States Coast Guard (USCG) 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Bendixen/Kirtley – approve the October 20, 2022, Meeting Minutes as drafted – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains McGrath, Miller & Velarde.** The revised upgrade letters have been updated and reviewed by the TEC and provide increased opportunities to better assist upgrading pilots in their next license level.
Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – approve the pilot license upgrade programs for Captains McGrath, Miller and Velarde as recommended by the TEC – Carried
- The TEC continues to review WACs for necessary updates to ensure that the current language best supports the BPC's practices, goals, and values. The next WAC that the TEC has drafted is 363-116-0751 Qualifications for Pilot Applicants. The changes are mostly clean-up, to provide clarity for potential applicants, and to best align with the state DEI mission.
Motion: Bendixen/Farrell – approve the CR102 for WAC 363-116-0751 as recommended by the TEC – Carried
- TEC Chair Bendixen reported that Captain Holland is nearing the end of his training program and is ready to attend PPU training.
Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – approve PPU training for Captain Holland and provide a one-time stipend increase up to \$2,400 for the cost of the course – Carried.
- COVID-19 update: Even though the Emergency Rule has been lifted in the State of Washington, the BPC still has an active Emergency Rule in place for the Training Program. All trainees continue to take appropriate precautions to stay safe while continuing to work through their training programs. COVID continues to impact trainees including not being allowed on Crowley ATB and Ship Assists as well as significant delays with USCG credentialing. The TEC may recommend another Emergency Rule filing but are working on changing the WAC 363-116-078 Training Program so that there is more flexibility to deal with unexpected situations stemming from COVID or other emergencies.
- There are 8 trainees in PS and 2 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 trainee in the Evaluation Phase and one in the Training Phase.
- The TEC met yesterday and reviewed all the trips and comments for both Puget Sound and Grays Harbor trainees.
- Regarding the marine pilot exam contracting process, Executive Director Bever reported that one group of potential bidders attended the pre-bid meeting, and it was a good opportunity to get questions answered. All bids are due on December 1.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- The OTSC has a new Tribal Representative from the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Senator Brian Porter, who will be replacing previous representative Joseph Williams. The BPC is grateful for continued Swinomish participation regarding ESHB 1578.
Motion: Ross/Drennen – appoint Senator Brian Porter to the OTSC as recommended – Carried
- The OTSC met on November 14 with a small group to allow the Department of Ecology to present and answer questions on the information previously presented to the Board on Rulemaking.
- The BPC and the Department of Ecology will also be presenting two webinars for Tribes in January. The purpose is to present the rulemaking process and provide updates regarding the tug escort risk analysis, as well as answer questions and address concerns.
- OTSC Chair Jaimie Bever reported that she met with Quiet Sound and discussed their current and future projects that could be beneficial for the upcoming rulemaking.

Proposed 2023 Board Meeting Schedule. The Board reviewed the draft schedule for monthly public meetings in 2023. The proposed schedule is for meetings on the third Thursday of every month except for December, which is proposed for the second Thursday, with all meetings at 10:00am.

Motion: Farrell/Bendixen – approve the 2023 Proposed Board Meeting Schedule as proposed – Carried.

Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: OHIO, 10/23/2022

Underway, approx. 2.5nm NE of pilot boarding area.	While completing the MPX, pilot heard the sound of the anchor being let go. Port anchor had been released and all 11 shots run out. Reduced speed, brought anchor back up, completed MPX, and traveled inbound with no further issue or delay.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Drennen File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: MORNING LENA, 11/08/2022

Underway in the Blair Waterway passing Husky Terminal.	While transiting down the waterway at dead slow ahead, an engine problem was detected and the only speeds available were dead slow ahead and slow ahead. Once safely clear of the waterway, and in consultation with VTS, it was decided to take the vessel to Tacoma General Anchorage where repairs could be made.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Bendixen File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: MORNING LENA, 11/08/2022 (Separate Occurrence)

At Anchor in Tacoma General Anchorage.	While departing anchor, the port anchor became fouled on an old anchor chain. Vessel was re-anchored 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: KUMASI, 11/08/2022

Underway in Seattle East Waterway.	While backing out of the East Waterway, engine and follow up system were running unreliably. Proceeded back to berth using tugs alone without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Drennen/Anthony File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Farrell/Ross – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains A.J. Newman, R.A. Myers, N.K. Moore and G.P. Thoreson for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

Motion: Farrell/Anthony – approve the pre-licensing physical examination report for Captain R.W. Leo – Carried.

Motion: Farrell/Drennen – approve the annual trainee physical examination report for Captain S.W. Scott – Carried.

Possible Board Action – New Board Approved Physician: ARNP Maura O’Connor Lenth (Polyclinic). The Board reviewed the possibility of adding an ARNP to the list of Board Designated Physicians. However, it was ultimately decided that this action would require legislation and a change to the Pilotage Act. This item was removed from the agenda and BPC staff will continue the search for a Physician from the Polyclinic.

Committee Updates.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

- The Board received the Women Offshore 2022 Conference impact report, highlighting that the conference was a full and uplifting seven days of keynote speakers, session panels, and networking. Women Offshore is planning for an in-person conference in 2023.
- The DEIC Steering Committee has been meeting regularly with the primary goal of exam recruitment and outreach. The Board reviewed the committee’s action plan, which is the blueprint for working on goals.
- The Board reviewed a draft exam recruitment brochure and provided feedback.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- The PSC met in Octobers and approved both the minutes of the July meeting and a data summary of ladder safety reports, which were both included in the Board meeting materials. The data reports will be submitted quarterly.
- The PSC will be meeting again at the end of January.

Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)

- The VEC has a meeting scheduled for December 7 and will discuss the successes of the 2022 yacht season and areas for improvement for the 2023 yacht season. Additionally, the committee will be looking at outreach and a potential new fee schedule for 2023.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting dates and encouraged all to attend the December 15 meeting in person at the Port of Grays Harbor.

Public Comment. Chair Tonn asked for public comment. Hearing none and there being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Tonn thanked everyone for their hard work, wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and adjourned the meeting at 12:40 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