

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
April 19, 2021

CLOSED SESSION – Call to Order

A Closed Session of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was called from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. by Chair Sheri Tonn via Conference Call and Microsoft Teams to hear a presentation from Dr. Norman Hertz and to discuss and review information regarding the 2021 Marine Pilot Exam Simulator Evaluation process and results.

Present via Conference Call or Microsoft Teams:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Jason R. Hamilton (Public), John Scragg (Pilot), Mike Anthony (Pilot), Dale Jensen (Ecology), Andrew Drennen (U.S. Shipping), Timothy J. Farrell (Public)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Assistant Attorney General: Albert Wang

Dr. Norman Hertz and Emily Hopkins: MITAGS

Regular Meeting – Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chair Sheri Tonn via Conference Call and Microsoft Teams.

Present via Conference Call or Microsoft Teams:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Jason R. Hamilton (Public), John Scragg (Pilot), Mike Anthony (Pilot), Dale Jensen (Ecology), Andrew Drennen (U.S. Shipping), Timothy J. Farrell (Public)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Assistant Attorney General: Albert Wang

Ivan Carlson, Sandy Bendixen, Matt Hannuksela, Travis McGrath: Puget Sound Pilots

Mike Folkers: Port of Grays Harbor

Mike Moore and Jordan Royer: Pacific Merchant Shipping Association

Zack Thomas: The Northwest Seaport Alliance

Laird Hail and Nate Menefee: USCG

Jacob Rosenberg & Nicholas Sabbath: Pilot Aspirants

Vince Addington: General Steamship

Ann LaRue: Utilities and Transportation Commission

Consideration of Simulator Evaluation Process/Results and Set the Cut Score. Psychometric expert, Dr. Norman Hertz, on contract with the Board through MITAGS, and Emily Hopkins, MITAGS, gave an overview of the Simulator Evaluation process, which included a detailed description of the conjunctive scoring model and extended Angoff methodology.

Motion: Farrell/Drennen – set the Simulator Evaluation cut score at 20 pursuant to WAC 363-116-077(4) as determined by the Subject Matter Experts and recommended by Dr. Hertz – Carried.

Based on the cut score of 20, 10 applicants were deemed successful and will qualify as minimally competent to enter the Pilot Training Program. There was a tie in 2 of the lower positions. Chair Tonn announced that the Board would use the random method of a coin toss to determine the tie-breaker. The candidate in the higher position on the list was assigned heads and the lower tails. Executive Director Jaimie Bever called tails, and the lower candidate was the winner. The lower candidate earned the higher ranking on the published list.

This scoring information will be posted on the BPC website and sent via email to all applicants by 4:00 p.m. this afternoon. All applicants will continue to be referenced by an ID number only until the entire exam and review process is complete. This list is not final until an opportunity for review has been given to those requesting a review of their Simulator Evaluation results and the review process has been completed by the BPC.

Chair Tonn thanked Dr. Hertz for his involvement, MITAGS for doing an excellent job on the technical side, the many pilots who assisted in the development, and everyone else involved.

BPC Staff Report.

- The current Spring 2021 issue of the BPC Pilotage Quarterly had been distributed and posted on the BPC website.
- Over the next several months, Board meetings will not occur on the third Thursday of the month to better accommodate the pilot's schedules. Please refer to the list of the next 5 meeting dates/times at the end of today's meeting agenda.
- The BPC has secured Public Officials and Employment Practices liability insurance as of April 6, 2021. Jaimie Bever acknowledged and thanked Tosca Pinder of ABD, whom Jaimie met at a Cal Maritime's Annual Women in Maritime Leadership Conference a couple years ago. Tosca was paramount in successfully explaining our agency and insurance needs to underwriters.
- The Office of the Washington State Auditor will be conducting a routine accountability audit of the BPC for fiscal years 2016-2020. BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki will be the liaison with the Auditor's office. The final report will be provided to the BPC by July 31, 2021.
- BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki presented and described two data visualizations. The first was a look at moves by vessel type from 2016 to 2020 in the Puget Sound Pilotage District (PSPD), which is also being considered for the 2020 BPC Annual Report. The second was an update to PSPD and Grays Harbor quarterly traffic volumes from 2012-2021. These reports can be found in the meeting materials section of the BPC website.

BPC Chair Report.

- Chair Tonn reported she was able to attend several of the Simulator Evaluation sessions and was pleased that Commissioner Jensen was also able to participate. Both Chair Tonn and Commissioner Jensen praised MITAGS for the consistency of communication from candidate to candidate, as well as the information for observers provided to them.
- Chair Tonn also reported that the country of Malaysia has its first female harbor pilot.

Activity Reports. Captain Ivan Carlson representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), Zack Thomas representing the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), Mike Moore representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), 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.

Chair Tonn thanked PSP and Dr. Emily Jarris for the assistance they provided during a COVID-19 exposure of one the pilot trainees. The trainee quarantined for 14 days and tested negative.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Hamilton/Farrell – approve the March 18, 2021 meeting minutes as drafted – Carried.

Motion: Farrell/Kirtley – approve the Special Meeting April 07, 2021 meeting minutes as drafted with a minor revision – Carried.

Consideration of Policy Statement Regarding Extension of Credentials due to COVID-19. After reviewing the latest MSIB 08-20 Change 5 from the USCG dated December 22, 2020, the Board considered updating the current BPC Policy Statement to reflect the dates in Change 5.

Motion: Farrell/Jensen – update the COVID-19 Policy Statement as drafted – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- **Approval of Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captain E. Patrick Ninburg.** Captain Ninburg is nearing completion of his second license year. Captain Ninburg's upgrade program letter has been updated to reflect the new license levels.
Motion: Scragg/Jensen – approve the pilot license upgrade program for Captain Ninburg as drafted – Carried.
- Due to 2021 Marine Pilot Exam obligations, the TEC did not meet in April. Updates will be available at the May 25, 2021 Board meeting.

Consideration of Maritime Blue Membership. Commissioner Eleanor Kirtley, Board of Directors Co-Vice-Chair of Washington Maritime Blue, provided a brief overview of the organization and future Board membership at the March Board meeting. Chair Tonn confirmed that as a government agency there would be no cost for the Board to apply for membership with Washington Maritime Blue.

Motion: Farrell/Scragg – approve joining Washington Maritime Blue and authorize Executive Director Bever to submit a membership application – Carried.

Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MOL PRESTIGE*, 03/10/2021

Underway in the Blair Waterway	Engine malfunction due to faulty lubrication sensor. Vessel went to anchor using 3 tugs.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Jensen File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *ELIZABETH*, 03/12/2021

Underway near Pilot Boarding Area in Port Angeles	Malfunctioning engine that was the result of operator error. Issue was resolved and transit proceeded.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Drennen File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Incident: *ATB VISION*, 03/24/2021

Western end of Guemes Channel	While preparing to retrieve the towline, the tug <i>TANERLIQ</i> landed alongside <i>VISION</i> ’s starboard quarter. The tire fenders slipped above <i>VISION</i> ’s bulwark and caused metal to metal contact.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Hamilton File as an incident with minimal damage and no pilot error– Carried.
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Review of Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Farrell/Drennen – approve the physician’s reports for Captains T.S. McGrath, N.T. Kelleher, J.E. Kalvoy, and D.W. Grobschmit for their annual pilot license renewal – Carried.

Training Program Coordinator Jolene Hamel brought forward two pilot medical issues. The first was potential Board action to issue a follow-up request for a Fit-For-Duty letter from the Board Designated Physician to resolve a pilot medical issue previously considered by the Board.

Motion: Farrell/Kirtley – direct the pilot to provide findings from the Board Designated Physician within 10 calendar days of receipt of the Board’s letter with the Board changing the pilot’s medical status to Not-Fit-For-Duty if the letter is not received in the timeline outlined – Carried with Commissioner Scragg in opposition.

The second issue was the need for an annual physical for a soon-to-be retiring pilot, who already had an annual physical in August 2020. He had another physical to remove him from Not-Fit-For-Duty status in January 2021. The pilot has announced he will retire in October 2021 and would like to waive his physical for August 2021. The Board decided to defer this topic to the May meeting and requested a copy of the January Fit-For-Duty letter in the May packets.

Committee Updates.

BPC/PSP Joint Diversity Committee (JDC)

- JDC Co-Chair Sheri Tonn reported that the BPC will be meeting with Dr. Karen Johnson, Director of the Washington State Office of Equity and working to establish listening sessions regarding future equity plans.
- Chair Tonn and Captain Eric vonBrandenfels are working to schedule the next meeting.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- The Committee will meet again in late May or June.
- The traffic trends slide deck from Ecology was updated with March data and provided to Board members. They are also available on the BPC website in meeting materials. Commissioner Farrell wondered if there were any reports for the trailing 12 months for a smaller dataset than what is being provided.
- There were no public comments.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- The PSC last met on March 25, 2021 and had a productive meeting covering multiple items including COVID, lessons learned from a recent incident, and pilot ladder issues.
- Next meeting scheduled for June 2021.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reviewed the agenda for scheduled meeting dates from May – October, as they will be held outside of the normal third Thursday timeframe.

Chair Tonn asked for public comment and received none. There being no further public business to come before the Board, Chair Tonn adjourned the meeting at 12:20 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 Rik Krombeen

Commissioner John Scragg

Commissioner Michael Anthony

Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton

Commissioner Dale Jensen