

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS**  
**May 25, 2021**

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**Regular Meeting – Call to Order**

The regular meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.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), Rik Krombeen (Foreign Shipping), Timothy J. Farrell (Public)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Assistant Attorney General: Albert Wang

Ivan Carlson, Sandy Bendixen, Joe Semler, Dave Grobschmit, Dave Melin, Travis McGrath: Puget Sound Pilots

John Harris: Retired Puget Sound Pilot

Rob Ekermann: Puget Sound Pilot Trainee

Gary Nelson and Mike Folkers: Port of Grays Harbor

Mike Moore and Jordan Royer: Pacific Merchant Shipping Association

Lou Paulsen: The Northwest Seaport Alliance

Laird Hail: USCG

Monique Webber: Pacific Yacht Management

Vince Addington: General Steamship

Ann LaRue: Utilities and Transportation Commission

Michael Ross: Westwood Shipping Lines

Michael Haglund: Public

**BPC Staff Report.**

- The Office of the Washington State Auditor will be conducting a routine accountability audit of the BPC for fiscal years 2016-2020. After preliminary consultations with BPC Chair and Staff, they have decided to use trainee stipend payments as the benchmark for the audit analysis and have requested an audit sample. Jolene Hamel, Training Program Coordinator, has gathered all of the documentation requested. The final report will be provided to the BPC by July 31, 2021.
- Washington State Ferries is celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and will be having some public celebrations.
- Preparations have begun at the 2901 building to prepare WSF offices for a permanent teleworking/in-person hybrid model moving forward. Drop-in workstations with easy plug and play setups for laptop work and small group meeting spaces will be available. Commissioner Jensen inquired about the ability for other state agencies accessing these spaces while in Seattle, which BPC staff will investigate further. Currently the Open Public Meetings Act is still restricting in-person meetings of more than five individuals.
- Jaimie Bever is working on a BPC office reopening plan, which she will bring before the Board at the June meeting.
- The BPC has applied and been approved for Washington Maritime Blue membership. Jaimie Bever attended the Accelerator Second Wave Showcase adding that she was impressed with the innovation on display.
- Commissioner Kirtley highlighted Green Marine's GreenTech 2021 virtual conference, which begins Wednesday, June 2, 2021.
- Jaimie Bever announced that the BPC's longtime DES Budget Analyst Chad Johnson is moving to a position at WSDOT. Jaimie acknowledged his valuable contribution to the agency and wished him well in his new position.
- The state is in the process of updating its financial software in a large-scale multi-year process called OneWA. There will be minor impact on BPC staff with future trainings anticipated.
- BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki presented and described two data visualizations. The first was a look at moves by vessel type in the Puget Sound Pilotage District (PSPD) comparing the pandemic year to previous years. The second was revenue per assignment also in the PSPD. These reports can be found in the meeting materials section of the BPC website.

**BPC Chair Report.**

- Commissioner Krombeen has accepted a new position within Holland America Group, which will relocate him out of Washington state. Therefore, he will be leaving the Board with this meeting being his last. The Board wished him well in his new role and thanked him for his valuable contribution to BPC’s mission. In addition, Commissioner Dale Jensen announced that he will be retiring from the Department of Ecology and the Board in August. The Department of Ecology is seeking his replacement and a new appointee for the BPC. The August meeting will be his last BPC meeting.
- A new maritime high school, affiliated with Highline College, will be opening in the Puget Sound area in Fall of 2021. In addition, a small group has been working on a maritime high school opportunity in Tacoma. During the summer, the group hopes to make some serious progress.

**Activity Reports.** Lou Paulsen representing the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), Gary Nelson representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH), Laird Hail representing the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Mike Moore representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), and Captain Ivan Carlson representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP) offered current and projected statistical data as well as updates on current maritime issues and activities.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Meeting Minutes.**

Motion: Farrell/Kirtley – approve the April 19, 2021 meeting minutes as drafted – Carried.

**Committee Actions.**

**Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)**

- **Approval of Pilot License Upgrade Programs: Captains Bendixen, Hunter, Kridler, Melin & Siddell.** The TEC met yesterday and reviewed all 5 upgrade program letters. They have all been updated to reflect the new license levels.  
Motion: Scragg/Farrell – approve the pilot license upgrade program for Captains Bendixen, Hunter, Kridler, Melin & Siddell as drafted – Carried.
- **Consideration of Emergency Rule WAC 363-116-078 due to COVID-19.** After a robust conversation regarding COVID-19 limitations on the Pilot Training Program, the TEC reached consensus to recommend a gradual return to the pre-pandemic normalcy. Their recommendation for renewing the Emergency Rule regarding stipends with one change – trainees will now be expected to get 12 trips in a month to receive the full stipend. Prior to the pandemic, the requirement was 18 trips per month. Since the Emergency Rule went into effect in March 2020, there has been no minimum trip requirement.  
Motion: Scragg/Anthony – approve the Emergency Rule WAC 363-116-078 as drafted – Carried.
- The TEC reviewed all trainee programs. There are 10 trainees in Puget Sound. The trainee from Grays Harbor has resigned from that training program and will return to the 2018 waiting list for a position in the Puget Sound Pilotage District. Three trainees attended the TEC meeting. One had an intervention and talked through the lessons learned from the trip. The other two are moving from the Training phase into the Evaluation phase.

**Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *RJ PFEIFFER, 04/23/2021***

Underway in Commencement Bay	Tug equipment malfunction on starboard quarter, continued slowly until new tug relieved it.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Farrell File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *LYRIC HARMONY, 05/11/2021***

North of Temco, Tacoma	Bridge steering station failure, directed to anchor and anchored without issue.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Anthony File as a Marine Safety Occurrence with a change from navigational problem to equipment malfunction. – Carried.
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**Pilot’s Report of Incident: *WESTWOOD RAINIER, 05/11/2021***

Underway from MAN to SEA Pier 18-4	While underway from Manchester to Seattle, experienced steering equipment failure and anchored while awaiting USCG instruction. Finally allowed to shift to pier with 2 tug escort.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Farrell File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**Consideration of Request for Vessel Exemption:**

**Motor Yacht *APHRODITE*** – 130’, 333gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captain Ziajka.

Motion: Scragg/Jensen – concur with Chair Tonn’s granting of an interim annual exemption with the conditions imposed: No Deception Pass and must have pilot orientation cruise – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *LADY BHAI*** – 138’, 296gt, Jamaica registry, Captain Chew.

Motion: Farrell/Anthony – grant annual renewal exemption – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *PALADIN*** – 156’, 496gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captains Smart and Pomeroy.

Motion: Farrell/Anthony– grant annual renewal exemption – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *ESPIRITU SANTO*** – 103’, 210gt, New Caledonia registry, Captain Palmer.

Motion: Scragg/Jensen– grant an annual exemption with the following conditions imposed: No Deception Pass, no Locks and must have pilot orientation cruise – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *CHASING DAYLIGHT*** – 164’, 492gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captains Tarr and Lariviere.

Motion: Anthony/Farrell – grant an annual exemption with the following conditions imposed: No Deception Pass – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *BELLA*** – 146’, 499gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captains Hammond and Cameron.

Motion: Scragg/Anthony– grant an annual exemption with the following conditions imposed: No Deception Pass, no Locks, no Duwamish Waterway and must have pilot orientation cruise – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *BACA*** – 143’, 498gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captain Sonnenberg.

Motion: Farrell/Anthony – grant an annual exemption with the following conditions imposed: No Deception Pass or Locks – Carried.

**Review of Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.**

Motion: Farrell/Anthony– approve the physician’s reports for Captains J.P. Bujacich, and P.L. Velarde for their annual pilot license renewal – Carried.

Motion: Farrell/Anthony – accept the annual physical examination follow-up as requested by the Board at the April meeting. – Carried.

Motion: Farrell/Jensen – accept the annual physical examination done in January 2021 for a fit-for-duty to also count as a soon-to-retire pilot’s annual physical – Carried.

**Presentation Regarding PSP 2020 Audited Financial Statement – Puget Sound Pilots.** Jessica Norris of Shannon & Associates, auditors for Puget Sound Pilots, gave a high-level overview of the 2020 audited financials for Puget Sound Pilots. A Q&A session followed.

**Office of Equity – Washington State’s Five-Year Equity Plan Overview.** The newly created Washington State Office of Equity is working on a five-year strategic equity plan for the state as well as assisting agencies with their individual plans. The BPC has called a Special Meeting listening and learning session on June 8 led by the Director of the Office of Equity, Dr. Karen Johnson. There will be no Board action taken at that meeting, and no quorum is needed. BPC Staff and Chair Tonn previously participated in a listen/learn session for small agencies. Additional information regarding this statewide effort is forthcoming.

**Committee Updates.**

**BPC/PSP Joint Diversity Committee (JDC)**

- JDC Co-Chair Sheri Tonn reported that the JDC will be meeting on Friday, May 28. The committee plans to talk about the 2021 Marine Pilot Exam and to work on the BPC’s Diversity Action Plan for the 2020 Annual Report. Thank you to Commissioner Farrell for working on many edits for the Diversity Action Plan.
- Chair Tonn reported that Captain Eric vonBrandenfels will be co-chair of the committee and that Puget Sound pilot Captain Sandy Bendixen has joined the committee.
- Jaimie Bever reported she has joined the WSF Diversity Advisory Group (DAG) and their Diverse Workforce subcommittee. John Vezina from WSF heads that group and is also a part of the JDC.

**Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)**

- The Committee will meet again on June 3 to discuss risk, hear a vessel synopsis update and for a general check-in.
- The traffic trends slide deck from Ecology was updated with April data and provided to Board members. They are also available on the BPC website in meeting materials.
- There is another Ecology risk model webinar tomorrow, May 26 on the Vessel Accident Module. Commissioner Jensen mentioned that he was pleased with the transparency of the process and that the team has been working very hard to bring a lot of pieces together.
- Chair Tonn and Jaimie Bever have been reviewing the progress of the draft synopsis.

**Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)**

- The PSC last met on March 25 and their next meeting is scheduled for June 9. Meeting minutes from the March 25 meeting will be provided at the June Board meeting.

**Exam Committee**

- The Committee is currently in the Simulator Evaluation Review process and hopes to have the results back soon. The final ranked list will be presented to the Board at the June Board meeting. Ten candidates requested access to review their Simulator Evaluations. However, only six submitted a written response for review. The number of requested reviews is consistent with previous exam cycles.

**Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates.** Chair Tonn reviewed the calendar for upcoming Board meetings, including the Special Meeting June 8 and the Regular Board meeting June 22.

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 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jaimie C. Bever, Executive Director

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Sheri J. Tonn, Chair

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Eleanor Kirtley, Vice Chair

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Commissioner Timothy J. Farrell

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Commissioner Andrew Drennen

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Commissioner Rik Krombeen

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Commissioner John Scragg

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Commissioner Michael Anthony

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Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton

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Commissioner Dale Jensen