

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
December 9, 2021

Regular Meeting – Call to Order

The regular meeting 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: Jason R. Hamilton (Public), Sandy Bendixen (Pilot), Mike Anthony (Pilot), Nhi Irwin (Ecology), Timothy J. Farrell (Public), Michael Ross (Foreign Shipping), Andrew Drennen (U.S. Shipping)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Assistant Attorney General: Albert Wang

Ivan Carlson, Charlie Costanzo, Joe Semler: Puget Sound Pilots

Mike Folkers: Port of Grays Harbor

Jordan Royer: Pacific Merchant Shipping Association

Laird Hail: USCG

Lou Paulsen: The Northwest Seaport Alliance

Brian Kirk and Alex Hess: Department of Ecology

Monique Webber: Pacific Yacht Management

Joseph Williams: Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Jeff Slesinger: Delphi Maritime

Ann LaRue: Public

BPC Staff Report.

- BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever highlighted the feature regarding women in Washington's maritime industry in the 5 December 2021 edition of The Seattle Times.
- Two of three BPC staff have received COVID-19 vaccine boosters. Staff will be 100% boosted by the end of the year.

BPC Chair Report.

- Chair Tonn mentioned a trip to Grays Harbor since the last Board meeting, which will be reported on in the TEC section of the agenda.
- She wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Activity Reports. Lou Paulsen representing the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), Jordan Royer representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), Captain Ivan Carlson representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Hamilton/Kirtley – approve the November 18, 2021, Meeting Minutes – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- **Pilot License Upgrade Programs: Captains Miller and Velarde.** Captain Miller and Captain Velarde are nearing completion of their second license years.
Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – approve the pilot license upgrade programs for Captains Miller and Velarde as recommended by the TEC – Carried
- **PPU Training: Captain Stewart.** Captain Bendixen reported that Captain Stewart is nearing the end of his training program and is ready to attend PPU training.
Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – approve PPU training for Captain Stewart and provide a one-time stipend increase up to \$2,400 for the cost of the course – Carried.
- The TEC met yesterday and reviewed all the training programs and comments. There are eight trainees in the PS program and none in Grays Harbor (GH). Even with the emergency rule in place regarding COVID-19, trainees are progressing through the training program and have been able to meet the minimum training requirements, with the majority exceeding those requirements. In PS, two candidates invited to train have accepted with a start date of 1 February 2022. One

candidate invited to train in GH has until 4 January 2022 to make his decision. Four trainees are in the Evaluation Phase, four are in the Training Phase, and none in the Observation Phase.

- The Port of Grays Harbor hosted an in-person meeting on 30 November 2021. In attendance from the BPC were Chair Tonn, Commissioner Bendixen, Commissioner Anthony, and Executive Director Bever. Gary Nelson, Mike Folkers, and Leonard Barnes attended on behalf of the Port. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss steps forward in the GH training program. Since the Port is Board-authorized for three pilots, it was agreed to invite a second trainee into the program with a staggered start date to meet the unique training environment of GH. The TEC is currently awaiting a decision from both candidates. In the meantime, the TEC is working on the GH training program, which will be presented to the Board at the 20 January 2022 meeting for review and approval.
- Regarding COVID-19, trainees continue to fill out the BPC pilot declaration of health form, and the number of trainees onboard is still limited to two per vessel.
- Recently, PSP President Captain Ivan Carlson renegotiated a long-time standing observation opportunity with the BC Coast Pilots for trainees in the waters of Haro Strait and Boundary Pass, which has been suspended since the start of COVID. The trainees are actively taking advantage of this opportunity, which helps expedite requirements for federal pilotage.
- President Carlson and PSP Executive Director Charlie Costanzo held discussions with both Crowley and Foss regarding tug observation opportunities for the trainees. Foss has offered to continue assisting with the training program by allowing trainees to observe on their ship-assist vessels while following COVID protocols. Crowley has suspended their participation on both ship-assist vessels and ATBs.
- Commissioner Farrell acknowledged Commissioner Bendixen for her exceptional work as and transition to Chair of the TEC.

ESHB 1578 Synopsis of Changing Vessel Traffic Trends. ESHB 1578 directs the Board of Pilotage Commissioners (BPC) to develop rules for tug escorts in Puget Sound for oil-laden vessels by December 31, 2025. Specifically, section 3(1)(d)(2) requires the BPC to submit to the Legislature by December 31, 2021, a Synopsis of Changing Vessel Traffic Trends to assess the effects on vessel traffic of the September 1, 2020, tug escort requirement on laden oil tankers between 5,000 and 40,000 deadweight tons, as well as articulated tug barges (ATBs) and towed waterborne vessels or barges greater than 5,000 deadweight tons in Rosario Strait and connected waterways east. The Board received the final report and a summary of the changes, put together by Lori Crews, Ecology, from the draft previously reviewed. Brian Kirk, Ecology, pointed out changes to the Executive Summary to clarify the main points Ecology was trying to convey. Commissioner Kirtley shared appreciation to Ecology for the heavy lift of putting together the report and incorporating BPC and public comments. BPC staff will submit the report to the Legislature by 31 December 2021.

Motion: Kirtley/Drennen – approve the final Synopsis of Changing Vessel Traffic Trends as presented by the Department of Ecology – Carried with one abstention from Commissioner Irwin.

ESHB 1578 Tug Escort Analysis Scope of Work. The Board received and reviewed the final Tug Escort Analysis Scope of Work. Upon Board inquiry, Alex Hess, Ecology, reported that the summary of the tug escort study commissioned by the Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA), conducted at MITAGS-West, and prepared by Jeff Slesinger, Delphi Maritime, could be included as reference material for the risk model and considered during the rulemaking process. However, the full report is proprietary and has not been shared by WSPA.

Motion: Farrell/Anthony – approve the final scope of work as proposed by Ecology – Carried with one abstention from Commissioner Irwin.

Executive Director Bever provided information, both written and visual, to the Board regarding bill-specified BPC considerations for rulemaking and asked the Board for input. She also reported that she will be meeting with Ecology in January to discuss each agency's rulemaking process to prepare for rulemaking collaboration. Chair Tonn and Executive Director Bever continue to meet with Ecology on a regular basis.

Underway from Manchester to Pilot Station	During night transit a fishing vessel began to cross in front of the piloted vessel. Pilot and VTS attempted contact but were unable to reach the vessel operator. Pilot maneuvered the vessel to clear the fishing vessel with no further issue reported.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Anthony File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *DULCE DIVA*, 11/27/2021

Underway from PA to Everett anchorage	Encountered inoperable brake on starboard anchor winch while trying to anchor in heavy wind. With VTS approval, vessel transited to Manchester and proceeded to anchor safely using port anchor.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Hamilton File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Farrell/Bendixen – approve the pilot physical examination report for Captains N.K. McGourty, G.P. Thoreson, and A.J. Newman for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

Committee Updates.

BPC/PSP Joint Diversity Committee (JDC)

- The Board received a conference recap from Women Offshore’s Fourth Annual Conference.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- The committee will schedule the next meeting in the new year.

Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)

- The VEC is meeting next week.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- The next meeting is scheduled for 4 January 2022.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reviewed the calendar and reminded the Board that the January meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 20, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Tonn asked for public comment. There was none.

There being no further public business to come before the Board, Chair Tonn adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.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