

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 15, 2022**

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

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Assistant Attorney General: Albert Wang

Ivan Carlson, Eric Klapperich, Matt Hannuksela, Charlie Costanzo: Puget Sound Pilots

Mike Folkers: Port of Grays Harbor

Laird Hail, Kira Mooney, M Romero, Mike Tappan: USCG

Zack Thomas: The Northwest Seaport Alliance

Ann LaRue: Public

Kim Morley: Department of Ecology

Cynthia Reed: Marine Exchange

Mike Haglund: Public

**BPC Staff Report.**

- Governor Inslee has announced that the March 2020 COVID Emergency Declaration will be lifted on October 31, 2022.
- The Women Offshore 2022 Conference will be held virtually from October 7-14. The BPC is proud to sponsor the conference again this year.
- The BPC continues to increase exposure and amplify the difference between the BPC and PSP by establishing a Facebook page, in addition to the LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram presence. Links to all the BPC's social media accounts can be found on the website.
- BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever recognized Jolene Hamel, Training Program Coordinator, for her 5 years with the BPC. Jaimie expressed gratitude for Jolene adding that she is a crucial piece of the team.
- BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki provided the dashboard view of Puget Sound Pilots' monthly activity report.

**BPC Chair Report.**

- BPC Chair Sheri Tonn reported that she and Jaimie Bever, along with TEC pilots Captains Bendixen and Anthony, will be going to Grays Harbor this month to meet with the Port and the two pilot trainees. They will also view and ride the pilot boat VEGA. The Board plans to return to August Board meetings in Grays Harbor next year.
- Chair Tonn shared that Vice-Chair Kirtley will be chairing the October meeting.

**Activity Reports.** Mike Folkers representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH), Laird Hail representing the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Puget Sound Pilot President Captain Ivan Carlson representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP) and Zack Thomas representing The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), offered current and projected statistical data as well as updates on current maritime issues and activities.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Meeting Minutes.**

Motion: Bendixen/Drennen – approve the August 16, 2022, Meeting Minutes as written with the minor clarifying correction discussed – Carried.

**Committee Actions.**

**Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)**

- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains Grieser, Bozina, Knutsen, Melin & Hannuksela.** Currently 9 pilots working on upgrading.  
Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – approve the pilot license upgrade programs for Captains Grieser, Bozina, and Knutsen as recommended by the TEC – Carried  
Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – approve the pilot license upgrade program hold for Captain Melin as recommended by the TEC – Carried  
Motion: Bendixen/Ross – approve the pilot license upgrade program extension for Captain Hannuksela as recommended by the TEC – Carried
- **Approval of Pilot Training Program Agreements & Requirements – Captains George Fleischfresser & Billie Sturgell.** TEC Chair Bendixen reported that the TEC has reviewed the updated training program agreements over the last couple of months in consultation with AAG Wang. Additionally, Captain Sturgell has slightly modified requirements to reduce the amount of tug observations as he has extensive tug experience in Puget Sound.  
Motion: Bendixen/Farrell – approve the training program agreement and requirements for Captains Fleischfresser & Sturgell as proposed – Carried.
- **Competitive Solicitation – Marine Pilot Exam 2024.** In reviewing both pilot retirements and the current 2021 candidate list, it was determined that there is a need for a marine pilot exam in the Spring of 2024. Executive Director Bever outlined the standard scope of work and state-required forms for the competitive solicitation process.  
Motion: Bendixen/Farrell – approve the filing of a competitive solicitation for a marine pilot exam in the Spring of 2024 – Carried.
- **Emergency Rule WAC 363-116-078 Due to COVID-19.** The TEC reports that all trainees are still diligently following COVID recommendations from both BPC and Dr. Jarris, Discovery Health MD. However, with the announcement by Governor Inslee to remove the emergency declaration at the end of October, and with COVID still causing concerns and risks for trainees, and with the need to not impact pilots or vessel movements, there was a consensus to update the language from the previous Emergency Rule, which will allow the TEC to remove a trainee from training while still offering stipend credit due to the effects of COVID-19.  
Motion: Bendixen/Ross – File the Emergency Rule WAC 363-116-078 as proposed by the TEC – Carried.
- **Training Program Agreement Addendum.** In reviewing forms for the upcoming trainee candidates, it was determined that 3 of the 2021 trainees had incorrect boxes left on their matrix once the TEC had shifted some trips and needed to correct the issue. These trips are not a reduction of trips the trainee must take, the trips had been moved to other sections and not originally removed from their initial port.  
Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – approve the use of a Training Program Agreement Addendum for the 3 affected trainees as written – Carried.
- Captain Bendixen reported that the federal first-class pilotage requirements and promulgation letter that were previously reported having been completed do not appear to be in rotation from the REC yet. However, the BPC has made sure that current, future and prospective trainees are utilizing it and Jolene uses them when issuing WSF Pilotage letters.
- The BPC is working to update their exam website to make sure that all of the information for the 2024 Marine Pilotage Exam is up-to-date and to allow prospective candidates to make informed decisions.
- The TEC is continuing to review WACs for necessary updates and to ensure that the current language best supports the BPC's practices, goals and values. A hearing for WAC 363-116-082 will occur at the October Board Meeting. The next WACs that the TEC is reviewing are 363-116-0751, and 363-116-076 in consideration of the Marine Pilotage Examination and Application.
- The TEC met yesterday and reviewed all the trips and comments for both Puget Sound and Grays Harbor. There were 3 trainees that attended: Trainee Riddle to transition to Evaluation, Trainee Grobschmit to transition to Training and one Trainee came in to discuss an Intervention.
- Currently there are 6 trainees in PS and 2 in GH. In Puget Sound, there are 3 trainees in the Evaluation Phase, 3 in the Training Phase, and none in the Observation Phase. The TEC anticipates another licensure in Puget Sound in January of 2023. In Grays Harbor, there is one trainee in the Evaluation Phase and one in the Training Phase.

- There are two more trainees starting in Puget Sound on October 1, and the BPC will be holding their Orientation on September 22. Chair Tonn and Commissioner Hamilton will be attending.
- Chair Tonn thanked Commissioner Bendixen and Puget Sound pilot Captain Scott Coleman for their efforts and persistence in the getting the first-class pilotage packet and promulgation letter through to completion.

**2023-2025 Strategic Plan and Biennial Budget.** BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever led the discussion of the final proposed strategic plan and biennial budget along with the additional request for a temporary full-time position to focus solely on the 2025 rulemaking regarding ESHB 1578. She pointed out the minor changes made due to Board feedback.

Motion: Bendixen/Ross – adopt the 2023-2025 strategic plan and biennial budget as written – Carried.

**Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *ALS CLIVIA*, 08/18/2022**

Underway in Duwamish Head/Alki	Failure in the main engine. Tugs were used to bring to safely anchor in Yukon Harbor.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Ross File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MSC LA SPEZIA*, 08/24/2022**

Underway in Elliott Bay	While using the bow thruster, it got stuck in an open position, and continued to rotate the bow to port. Pilot used tugs to compensate. Ship crew ordered shutdown of the thruster and unable to restart. 4 <sup>th</sup> tug ordered and continued transit, docking uneventfully.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Bendixen File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *ATB VISION*, 08/21/2022**

Underway in Northbound TSS at Marrowstone Pt.	While transiting in foggy conditions, a small fishing vessel appeared, cutting in front of the vessel, violating COLREGS Rule 10 regarding traffic lanes.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Farrell File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *ONE PARANA*, 08/11/2022**

Underway at Pier 4 in Tacoma	The cranes were positioned in an unsafe manner at Pier 4, making for a difficult docking (minus 3’ tide).	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Anthony File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *FUJI GALAXY*, 09/10/2022**

Underway in Northbound Traffic Lane between Alki and West Pt.	A recreational boat, carrying boaters without life jacket protection, cut in front of the vessel, violating COLREGS Rule 10 regarding traffic lanes.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Ross File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried with abstention by Bendixen.
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**Exemptions from Pilotage.**

**Motor Yacht *EVVIVA*** – 164’, 492gt, Cayman Island registry, Captains Klinkert & Sethman.

Motion: Farrell/Bendixen – grant an annual exemption with no conditions imposed – Carried.

**Sailing Yacht *PALIADOR*** – 102’, 123gt, British registry, Captain Forderer.

Motion: Farrell/Anthony – concur with Chair Tonn’s granting of an interim 3-month exemption in order to leave Washington state– Carried.

Commissioner Farrell wondered if it would be helpful for BPC staff to contact vessels who are nearing the end of their exemption period with a reminder. This suggestion was well-received, and staff will work on implementing it.

**Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.**

Motion: Ross/Drennen – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains E.P. Ninburg, J.L. Carstensen, J.R. Semler, S.P. Bendixen, D.B. Soriano, B.E. Lowe, D.W. Melin and J.E. Siddell for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried with one abstention from Commissioner Bendixen.

Motion: Bendixen/Drennen – approve the new trainee physical examination report for Captain B.L. Sturgell – Carried.

**Pilot’s Report of Incident: CMA CGM ARCTIC, 09/08/2022**

North of Pier 18 Harbor Island in the Southern Portion of the East Elliott Bay Anchorage Area	After the vessel cleared the waterway with the assistance of 4 tugs, a previously unknown fishing net was sighted along the north end of Harbor Island. The tug master advised that the vessel would easily clear the net. No direct contact was made by the ship or tugs, however turbulence caused tangles in the net. Over 72 hours later, the Tribal Fisherman contacted the pilot with a request for damages, which was later withdrawn.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Farrell File as a Marine Safety Occurrence rather than as an Incident – Carried.
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**Committee Updates.**

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)**

- The DEIC steering committee composed of Commissioners and BPC staff met and started reviewing exam outreach recommendations. The group will meet again on September 27 to continue brainstorming.
- WISTA held an excellent town hall entitled Women at the Helm, which included the Assistant Secretary of Transportation, Marine Division, Patty Rubstello.

**Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)**

- The OTSC will next meet on November 2.
- Ecology will be presenting to the Board at the October meeting on the upcoming rulemaking process. Their work on risk model and analysis continues.

**Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)**

- The PSC has not met since the last Board meeting and is currently trying to get an October meeting scheduled.

**Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)**

- The VEC has not been meeting over the summer, will work on getting a new meeting scheduled to review changes during the 2022 yachting season.

**Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates.** Chair Tonn reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting dates. She also commented on an increase in phishing emails to her state email account and encouraged Commissioners receiving any to send them on to [phishing@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:phishing@wsdot.wa.gov)

**Public Comment.** Chair Sheri Tonn asked for public comment. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at 12:30 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 Mike Ross

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Commissioner Sandy Bendixen

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Commissioner Michael Anthony

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Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton

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Commissioner Nhi Irwin