

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
February 15, 2024

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 in the Rainier Conference Room, 2901 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA and online via Microsoft Teams.

Present In person:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Mike Anthony (Pilot), Andrew Drennen (U.S. Shipping),
Richard Firth (Foreign Flag Shipping)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Puget Sound Pilots: Ivan Carlson, Charlie Costanzo, Severin Knutsen

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association: Mike Moore

USCG: Laird Hail

Department of Ecology: JD Ross Leahy

Present via Teams:

Commissioners: Nhi Irwin (Ecology), Jason Hamilton (Public), Tim Farrell (Public),
Sandy Bendixen (Pilot)

Assistant Attorney General: Albert Wang

Puget Sound Pilots: Travis McGrath, Eric Klapperich, Jamie Galvin, Mark Bostick, Peter Mann

Port of Grays Harbor: Gary Nelson, Mike Folkers

The Northwest Seaport Alliance: Lindsay Wolpa

American Waterways Operators: Peter Schrappen

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association: Jordan Royer

Northwest Marine Trade Association: Jay Jennings

Crowley: Erin Pierson, Bart Pinder, Grant Johnson, Zachariah Zinck, Paul Manzi

Department of Ecology: Sara Thompson, Haley Kennard

Public: Andy Freeman

BPC Staff Report.

- BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever reported that the new emails for board members, as discussed at the January meeting, have been implemented. She requested the Board use only those emails for BPC business moving forward. Chair Tonn and Commissioner Irwin will continue to use their WSDOT and ECY emails, respectively.
- BPC Data Analyst Bettina Maki shared the new data charts that she developed and took questions. She received thanks and positive feedback from the Board for continuing to provide timely and topical data illustrations.

BPC Chair Report.

- Chair Tonn recognized Gary Nelson, who was in attendance online for his last meeting as the Executive Director of the Port of Grays Harbor. She acknowledged his time and tenure with PGH and thanked him for his service to the BPC. He responded by thanking the BPC and spoke to his time in Grays Harbor. His retirement will be March 31 and his replacement at the Port is current Deputy Director Leonard Barnes. The BPC wishes Gary all the best in his well-deserved retirement.
- Chair Tonn reported on several meetings that she had been involved in since the January Board Meeting including one with House Transportation Committee Chair, Representative Jake Fey and his staff regarding the BPC budget.
- Chair Tonn also shared details on the Senate Confirmation Hearing for both Commissioners Drennen and Firth. Both she and Executive Director Bever accompanied the two commissioners for support.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Pilot’s Report of Incident: Chair Tonn and Commissioner Anthony gave an update on the allision involving M/V *MATE*. The investigation is ongoing and will be addressed at a future meeting.

Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *WESTWOOD COLUMBIA (For TUG ARTEMIS) 12/10/2023*

Underway in Seattle East Waterway	Upon final approach approximately, 600’ off berth and 125’ off dock face, tug <i>ARTEMIS</i> made minimal contact with the <i>WESTWOOD COLUMBIA</i> . The vessel was stabilized with ship’s engine and bow thruster and <i>ARTEMIS</i> remained tethered. Pilot called for another tug. <i>ARTEMIS</i> regained engine. <i>BRYNN FOSS</i> arrived and replaced <i>ARTEMIS</i> . The rest of job was completed without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Farrell – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MATSON TACOMA, 1/09/2024*

Underway inbound from PS to Tacoma Matson Terminal	Prior to arrival in Puget Sound, reports were made that neither whistle on vessel was functional. USCG required an escort for the entire transit. All other ship equipment was operational and transit was made without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Drennen/Hamilton – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *CAPE HORN, 1/11/2024*

At anchor in Yukon Harbor Anchorage	While retrieving anchor, the anchor windlass malfunctioned, and the vessel was unable to retrieve the remaining anchor chain. Using the engine and bow thruster, the vessel maneuvered in the vicinity of the anchorage for approximately one hour while the ship’s crew conducted troubleshooting on the port windlass. They were unable to complete the repairs, and Captain requested the vessel proceed back to anchor.	<u>Motion:</u> Firth/Hamilton – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MT GINGA MERLIN, 1/14/2024*

Moored to Terminal 1, Port of Grays Harbor	Upon boarding, captain advised pilot of equipment issue and need to delay departure. Due to tidal window in turning basin, the amount of delay requested was not possible. While standing by, USCG COTP issued a no-sail order.	<u>Motion:</u> Kirtley/Anthony – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MATSON KODIAK, 1/26/2024*

Underway in Sitcum Waterway	The transit was uneventful aside from crane placement in the waterway. Cranes were not boomed up. The pilot, per PSP Guidelines, contacted the terminal for cranes to be moved without success. After pilot’s assessment, the vessel continued without incident. However, there was a crane at the stem of the ship and the transom of the ship overlapped the bow and stern flair.	<u>Motion:</u> Drennen/Kirtley – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: MAUNAWILI (For TUG ARTEMIS), 1/26/2024

Underway in Commencement Bay	Representatives from Crowley (Tug ARTEMIS) were in remote attendance to discuss the issue. It was determined that more time was needed for Crowley to be able to answer the Board’s questions. This event will be on the March 21, 2024 meeting agenda.	Carried to March Meeting.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: SEABIRD (For Tug ARTEMIS), 1/30/2024

Unberthing at TEMCO	Representatives from Crowley (Tug ARTEMIS) were in remote attendance to discuss the issue. It was determined that more time was needed for Crowley to be able to answer the Board’s questions. This event will be on the March 21, 2024 meeting agenda.	Carried to March Meeting.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: SEASPAN FALCON, 2/03/2024

Underway in Tacoma	The vessel experienced mechanical issues with injectors on 3 of 8 cylinders. A 15-minute repair window with the engine shut down to fix the problem was requested by engine room. The decision was made to take the vessel to Yukon Harbor Anchorage for repairs. After being told vessel was ready to go and getting underway again, issues continued. Pilot was eventually able to make safe transit at lower RPM’s.	<u>Motion:</u> Firth/Anthony – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: USS BARRY, 2/05/2024

Dead Ship Underway, North of Edmonds	Due to swell/chop, both tugs were struggling with surging the tug lines and tug spring lines parting. An additional line was given and both tugs secured prior to meeting up with third tug. Voyage made safely with no other concerns.	<u>Motion:</u> Drennen/Anthony – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Hamilton/Firth – approve the January 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes as drafted in the revised version presented – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains Bostick, Gartner, Kridler & Melin.** TEC Vice Chair Captain Anthony reported that the TEC reviewed the 4 upgrade letters for the captains listed above.
Motion: Drennen/Kirtley – approve the pilot license upgrade program for Captains Bostick, Gartner, Kridler & Melin as recommended by the TEC – Carried.
- The TEC met yesterday and reviewed all trainee progress. There are currently 7 trainees in PS and zero trainees in GH. There are 4 trainees in Evaluation, 2 in Training and 1 in Observation. All are progressing well, and 2 trainees are expecting licensure in March. The TEC reviewed and provided for substitutions and scheduling for PPU Training for another trainee in the Evaluation phase, and another trainee met with the TEC for his 6-month review.
- TEC Vice Chair Anthony also reported that a new point of contact has been established with the USCG for ongoing work regarding the Federal package and the TEC hopes to gain some momentum for renewing the recommendations that have been presented over the past years.

CLOSED SESSION

A Closed Session of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was convened from 11:50 a.m. to coincide with a break by Chair Sheri Tonn via Microsoft Teams to discuss matters relative to the exam process.

REGULAR MEETING – Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chair Sheri Tonn in the Rainier Conference Room, 2901 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA and online via Microsoft Teams.

Pilot Exam Committee (PEC)

- Training Program Manager Jolene Hamel reported that the Exam Review Committee had met to review a batch of current applications and determined that some of the applicants qualified under WAC 363-116-0751 to sit for the April 8, 2024 Written Exam.
Motion: Anthony/Firth – approve candidates #s 14, 15, 16, 17, 19 and 21 to sit for the April 8, 2024 Written Exam per the Exam Committee’s recommendation – Carried.
- Jolene reported that the Aspirant Handbook had been released recently, which included a timeline of important dates, instructions for the remote proctoring of the Written Exam, and some sample Written Exam questions. A copy of the handbook was provided to the Board and it is also available on the BPC website.
- Development of the Simulator Evaluation continues to move along at MITAGS. Several Board members will be attending today’s beta testing session after the meeting to better understand the testing process.

Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Firth/Anthony – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains K.J. Grieser, L.R. Holland, R.L. D’Angelo, A.C. Stewart, T.S. McGrath & T.M. Bozina for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

It was also noted that Puget Sound Pilots has one pilot in a not-fit-for-duty status.

Presentation Regarding Non-Revenue Assignments in Puget Sound – PSP Executive Director Costanzo. PSP Executive Director Charlie Costanzo gave a presentation on Pilotage Services highlighting Safety, Expertise, Efficiency and Leadership. A Q&A followed. The presentation slides can be found at the BPC website under Meeting Materials.

Presentation Regarding Status of Tug Escort Rulemaking – BPC Executive Director Bever. BPC Executive Director and OTSC Chair Jaimie Bever, with support from many members of the Ecology team including JD Ross Leahy, Sara Thompson, and Haley Kennard, gave an in-depth status of the current tug escort rulemaking process including benchmarks and upcoming decision dates. A Q&A followed. The presentation slides can be found on the BPC website under Meeting Materials.

Committee Updates.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- Commissioner Drennen reported that the PSC is working to schedule the next meeting.
- He acknowledged the recent death of a pilot in Turkey and the importance of ongoing efforts to improve ladder safety. The BPC expresses condolences to the family of the pilot.
- At the next PSC meeting, they hope to finalize the new MSO form for recommendation to the Board after that meeting.

Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)

- VEC Chair Anthony stated that the VEC is working to schedule the next meeting.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

- Executive Director Bever reported that Training Program Manager Jolene Hamel will attend MARAD’s 12th Annual Women on the Water conference, hosted by Massachusetts Maritime Academy at the end of February. Then, in mid-March, Executive Director Bever and Commissioner Kirtley, as well as PSP Pilot Severin Knutsen, will attend the Women in Maritime Leadership (WIML) Conference, hosted by Cal Maritime. While in California, Jaimie will also meet with the BOPC Executive Director and staff in San Francisco.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- OTSC Chair Jaimie Bever reported several important meetings are coming up and that the Board will be making some important decisions in upcoming months. Specifically, the next OTSC meetings will be February 28 and March 11, with the Board making final determinations at the March 21 meeting for which tug escort ideas and environmental elements to include in the upcoming SEPA process.

Public Comment. Chair Tonn asked for public comment, but no public comment was offered.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reminded everyone of the upcoming meetings on March 21 and that the April meeting will be held on Friday, April 12 for determination of the Written Examination Cut Score. All meetings continue to be hybrid, and all are invited and encouraged to attend in person or online.

Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned by Chair Tonn at 1:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaimie C. Bever, Executive Director

Sheri J. Tonn, Chair

Eleanor Kirtley, Vice Chair

Commissioner Timothy J. Farrell

Commissioner Andrew Drennen

Commissioner Richard Firth

Commissioner Sandy Bendixen

Commissioner Michael Anthony

Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton

Commissioner Nhi Irwin