

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS**  
**May 16, 2024**

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**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 Agate Conference Room, 2901 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA and online via Microsoft Teams.

**Present In Person:**

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Commissioners: Mike Anthony (Pilot), Sandy Bendixen (Pilot)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Puget Sound Pilots: Ivan Carlson

The Northwest Seaport Alliance: Lindsay Wolpa

PSP Candidate: George Fleischfresser & Family

**Present via Teams:**

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

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

Andrew Drennen (U.S. Shipping)

Assistant Attorney General: Albert Wang

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association: Mike Moore, Jordan Royer

Puget Sound Pilots: Charlie Costanzo, Severin Knutsen, Ken Grieser, Pat Kelly, Eric Klapperich

USCG: Kira Moody, John Robertson

Port of Grays Harbor: Mike Folkers

Northwest Marine Trade Association: Jay Jennings

Public: Ann LaRue, Ryan Campbell, Derek Britton

**BPC Staff Report.**

- BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever shared that the BPC Pilotage Quarterly Spring Edition was provided to the Board and distributed to the public last week.
- The BPC 2023 Annual Report is due to the Legislature September 1, 2024. The Board and stakeholders will get a first draft at the July meeting. Jaimie reminded both Puget Sound Pilots and the Port of Grays Harbor to turn in their audited financials.
- Jaimie advised that strategic planning for the 25-27 Biennial Budget is underway, and she will be checking in with committees to get budget expectations for planning purposes.

**BPC Chair Report.**

- Chair Tonn shared the WSF strategic flow chart and reported that new WSF Assistant Secretary Steve Nevey has been off to a fast start with a strong agenda and great communication. He was interviewed on NPR last week.
- Chair Tonn reported that she and Jaimie met with a UTC staff member recently to discuss the pilotage tariffs.
- Chair Tonn announced the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Women Offshore Conference coming up in Galveston, TX on October 10 & 11.

**Activity Reports.** Mike Moore representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), Kira Moody representing the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Mike Folkers representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH), Ivan Carlson representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP) 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.

Kira Moody announced that today was the last day in the office for Laird Hail and that Margaret Woodbridge would be interim acting VTS Director during the hiring process. The Board thanked Laird again for all of his service to the BPC and wished him a happy retirement.

BPC Data Analyst Bettina Maki shared data from the dashboard and was available for questions.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *SEACOR LEE (ESTEEM HOUSTON)*, 3/20/2024**

Underway, Anacortes to Vendovi	Pilot was concerned with actions of a US flag vessel and noted that there was no pilot onboard although the vessel appears to be subject to pilotage under 46 CFR 15.812. Deferred from April agenda for more information from the USCG.	Deferred again as no new information was available from the USCG.
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**NEW BUSINESS**

**Pilot’s Report of Incident: *M/V AMERICAN FREEDOM*, 4/21/2024**

The Commission Investigation Committee (CIC) presented the Preliminary Incident Report for the April 21, 2024 incident involving *M/V AMERICAN FREEDOM*. Chair Tonn thanked Commissioner Drennen for his work on the investigation. A Q&A followed between Board members and the investigation team.

Motion: Anthony/Drennen – File as an incident with damage and no action – Carried, with one abstention from Commissioner Bendixen.

**Pilot’s Report of Incident: *M/V MATE*, 1/18/2024**

The Board received the required white paper in final form of lessons learned from the January 18, 2024 incident involving the *M/V MATE*. Topics included in the white paper included crane safety competence and error trapping.

Motion: Bendixen/Hamilton – Accept and distribute to the pilots and pilot trainees for informational purposes, and to the Terminal Ops Workgroup for consideration – Carried.

**Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *ATHENA (TALISMAN)*, 4/21/2024**

Preparing to get underway in Blair East in Tacoma	With bow and stern lines off and only spring lines remaining, the <i>ATHENA</i> captain notified pilot of a winch casualty to <i>ATHENA</i> , and that he could not complete the job. Specifically, the winch was stuck in “freewheel” mode and it therefore couldn’t retrieve or tension the line. The <i>TALISMAN</i> stayed alongside the pier until <i>ATHENA</i> could be replaced by the <i>BRYNN FOSS</i> , and then got underway uneventfully.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Hamilton – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *YUFU CROWN*, 4/28/2024**

Underway NE of Davidson Rock	While underway, the vessel experienced engine problems with the main engine failing and could not get restarted. Vessel used tug <i>RESPONSE</i> and the rudder to continue to transit to safer deeper water. Propulsion was eventually restored, and vessel went to anchor in Port Angeles with tug and escort.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Drennen – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *CV30 (MSC SARA ELENA)*, 4/30/2024**

Underway in Elliott Bay, off Bell Harbor Marina	On large container ship inbound Seattle to Elliot Bay West Anchorage with ferry cross traffic, deep draft traffic, tug and tow traffic, and large concentration of recreational traffic in the vicinity of Elliot Bay and TSS, pilot saw <i>CV30</i> visually with sails up, on radar and AIS near Bell Harbor moving in a SW’ly direction towards West Waterway. Pilot needed to advise <i>CV30</i> vessel would be slowing on approach to anchorage. Attempted to reach <i>CV30</i> on standard VHF channels with no response. VTS also attempted to reach them with no answer. Vessel then blew whistle to make sure <i>CV30</i> knew the vessel was there. The <i>CV30</i> continued for a bit longer then turned back towards the East. At no point was it a close quarters situation and the vessel proceeded to anchor uneventfully.	<u>Motion:</u> Bendixen/Anthony – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MUSKY, 5/01/2024***

Underway in Commencement Bay	Immediately after engine telegraph was in half ahead order, the engine shut down and many alarms went off. Captain informed pilot that the engine had been restarted but was required to be shut down for approx. 20 min for broken fuel oil pipe to be repaired. Pilot notified VTS and was instructed to go back to same anchorage. Proceeded to anchorage uneventfully.	<u>Motion:</u> Bendixen/Drennen – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *CONTAINMENT BOOM (GLOVIS), 5/06/2024***

Tacoma, Blair A Terminal	On two separate occasions, an oil containment boom was positioned in a way that was a hindrance to the vessel.	Deferred to June Meeting.
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**Meeting Minutes.**

Motion: Kirtley/Drennen – approve both the April 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes as well as the May 1, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes – Carried.

**Process for WAC 363-116-065 Number of Pilots.** Chair Tonn and Executive Director Bever shared the proposed process the BPC would be following to address the request from PSP to re-set the number of pilots. The written steps are available on the BPC website. The Pilot Safety Committee (PSC) has been working on a recommendation for the Target Assignment Level (TAL), which is scheduled for the June 20 Board meeting. The final Board decision is expected to take place at the August 15 Board meeting.

Motion: Drennen/Anthony – approve the process for setting number of pilots as drafted – Carried.

**Committee Actions.**

**Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)**

- **Consideration of Licensure of PSPD Pilot Candidate: Captain George Fleischfresser.** On behalf of the Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC), TEC Chair Bendixen stated that Captain George Fleischfresser has completed all sections of his Training Program Agreement including successful Portable Piloting Unit (PPU) training and has received his federal license. The Board has received his TPTR Summary and all training comments. Captain Fleischfresser started training in October 2022.

Motion: Bendixen/Hamilton – issue Captain George Fleischfresser his state pilot license for the Puget Sound Pilotage District upon position availability – Carried.

Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – Authorize the use of a graduate program agreement for Captain Fleischfresser starting June 1, if needed while awaiting his state license – Carried.

- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains Cassee & Leo.** TEC Chair Captain Bendixen reported that there are currently 17 pilots in their upgrade windows and that the TEC reviewed the 2 upgrade letters for the captains listed above.

Motion: Bendixen/Hamilton – approve the pilot license upgrade programs for Captains Cassee & Leo.

- The TEC met yesterday and reviewed all trainee progress. One trainee came to the TEC meeting to discuss his progress. There are 5 trainees currently in PS and zero trainees in GH. There is 1 trainee in Evaluation, 2 in Training, 1 in Observation and with the conditional licensure that just took place, 1 in the graduate program. All are progressing well, with one more trainee planning to be done in June. One trainee is currently off stipend for the month of May, taking time off to evaluate another pilotage district.
- TEC Chair Bendixen thanked Commissioner Drennen of Polar Tankers for the upcoming invitation for the trainees to take part in the Tanker Drill in September. This will be the second year that trainees have been included in the drill and is a invaluable learning experience.

**Pilot Exam Committee (PEC)**

- BPC Training Program Manager Jolene Hamel reported on the successful exam process. The BPC hopes to have the finalized ranked list soon.
- Jolene also thanked BPC partners from the Port of Grays Harbor, Puget Sound Pilots, MITAGS, Dainis & Company, exam committee members, and the Board who both worked on and supported the team and the 2024 Pilot Exam process.

### **Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.**

Motion: Hamilton/Bendixen – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains J.M. Miller, D.W. Grobschmit & P.P. Mann for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

Motion: Farrell/Bendixen– approve the pilot physical examination report for Captain G.G. Fleischfresser for his pre-licensing pilot license – Carried.

### **Exemptions from Pilotage.**

**Motor Yacht *POWER PLAY*** – 164’, 498gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captains Ian MacAlister & Callan Murphy.

Motion: Anthony/Drennen – concur with Chair Tonn’s granting of the interim annual exemption with the conditions of a pilot orientation and limitations in the Duwamish, Locks and Deception Pass – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *AMARA*** – 164’, 498gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captains Tim Rowland & Philip Papenfus.

Motion: Drennen/Anthony – concur with Chair Tonn’s granting of the interim annual exemption with the conditions of limitations in Duwamish, Locks and Deception Pass – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *COASTAL DRIFTER*** – 96’, 190gt, Marshall Islands registry, Captain Tyson von Bonde.

Motion: Anthony/Farrell – grant annual exemption with the conditions of limitations in the Locks – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *UGLY BETTY*** – 86’, 110gt, Marshall Islands registry, Captains Jonathan Brown & Nicola Donaldson.

Motion: Farrell/Drennen – concur with Chair Tonn’s granting of the interim annual exemption with the conditions of limitations in Duwamish, Locks and Deception Pass – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *CIELO MARE*** – 127’, 247gt, Marshall Islands registry, Captains Jose Angulo & Hal Laws III.

Motion: Anthony/Farrell – grant annual exemption with no conditions, however, must receive current MMC for Captain Laws to be added to the exemption – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *BIG EAGLE*** – 172’, 399gt, St. Vincent & The Grenadines registry, Captains Christiana Virgilio & Edward Featherstone.

Motion: Anthony/Drennen – concur with Chair Tonn’s granting of the interim annual exemption with the conditions of a pilot orientation and limitations in Duwamish and Deception Pass – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *SEANASH*** – 164’, 499gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captains Steven Walker & Craig Maree.

Motion: Farrell/Anthony – grant annual exemption with conditions of limitations in the Locks – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *AVALON*** – 129’, 485gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captain Zane Gray.

Motion: Anthony/Drennen – grant annual exemption with the conditions of pilot orientation and limitations in Duwamish, Locks and Deception Pass – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *LADY L*** – 146’, 463gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captain Matthew Davies.

Motion: Drennen/Farrell – concur with Chair Tonn’s granting of the interim annual exemption with the conditions of limitations in Deception Pass – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *FIGARO*** – 130’, 335gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captain Sean Staine.

Motion: Anthony/Drennen – grant annual exemption with the conditions of limitations in Duwamish, Locks, and Deception Pass – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *ST. EVAL*** – 114’, 217gt, UK registry, Captain Orlando Milla.

Motion: Farrell/Drennen –grant annual exemption with the conditions of limitations in Deception Pass – Carried.

**Motor Yacht *TESS*** – 120’, 244gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captain Orlando Milla.

Motion: Anthony/Farrell –grant annual exemption with the conditions of limitations in Deception Pass – Carried.

### **Committee Updates.**

#### **Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)**

- Commissioner Drennen reported on the PSC meeting from May. In addition to approving the minutes that were included with the meeting materials, Grays Harbor pilot Ryan Leo presented on a recent man overboard drill, the group reviewed the ladder report data, and discussed the policy letter from the USCG regarding fuel stoppers.
- The PSC is also hard at work on developing the recommendation for the TAL, which will be reviewed and discussed at the June Board meeting. Co-chair Drennen thanked both Bettina Maki, BPC Data Analyst, and Ivan Carlson, PSP President, for the data they have been providing to support the recommendation. Chair Tonn also thanked PSC Co-Chairs Commissioner Drennen

and Captain John Scragg for their hard work and heavy lift in preparation for setting the number of pilots.

**Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)**

- VEC Chair Anthony stated that the VEC has not met recently and will plan to meet soon to consider legislation for the 2025 legislative session.

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

- The DEI Steering Committee is meeting today following the Board meeting.

**Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)**

- Since the last meeting both Stakeholder and Tribal Government SEPA Workshops #7 have taken place.
- There will be 2 OTSC meetings in June, with participation from some subject matter experts to provide some technical expertise regarding escort tug characteristics.
- Preparation for Workshop #8 regarding SEPA methodology will occur in July.
- Commissioner Irwin sent an email, which was included with the Board materials, to advise of a computing error in the tug escort risk model analysis. Upon investigation, the results showed that the error was negligible, and that the conclusions remained unchanged. OTSC Chair Jaimie Bever offered that the OTSC had receive corrected information for their recommendation to the Board regarding Alternative Scenarios and Environmental Elements.

**Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates.** Chair Tonn reminded everyone of the meetings in June and July and discussed potentially traveling to Grays Harbor for either the August or September meeting. The June Meeting will be on Thursday, June 20 and the July meeting will be on Thursday, July 18. All meetings continue to be hybrid, and all are invited and encouraged to attend in person or online.

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

**Adjourn.** Meeting was adjourned by Chair Tonn at 12:30pm.

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 Richard Firth

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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