

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
February 16, 2023

CLOSED SESSION

A Closed Session of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was convened by Chair Sheri Tonn from 10:00am to 10:30am virtually via Microsoft Teams to discuss matters relative to personnel issues. In attendance were Chair Tonn and Commissioners Kirtley, Irwin, Bendixen, Anthony, Farrell, Drennen and Hamilton; Assistant Attorney General Albert Wang; BPC staff Jaimie Bever, Jolene Hamel, and Bettina Maki.

REGULAR MEETING – Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was convened immediately following the Closed Session by Chair Sheri Tonn via Microsoft Teams at 10:30am.

Present via Microsoft Teams:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

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

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Assistant Attorney General: Albert Wang

Ivan Carlson, Eric Klapperich, William Sliker, Jamie Galvin, Severin Knutsen, Travis McGrath, Mark Bostick, Joe Semler, Eric vonBrandenfels, Matt Hannuksela, Charlie Costanzo: Puget Sound Pilots

Mike Folkers: Port of Grays Harbor

Mike Moore, Jordan Royer: Pacific Merchant Shipping Association

Laird Hail: USCG

Zack Thomas, Lindsay Wolpa: The Northwest Seaport Alliance

Kim Morley: Department of Ecology

Monique Webber: Pacific Yacht Management

Ann LaRue: Public

Michael Haglund: Public

Sol Kohlhaas: Marathon Petroleum

Jay Jennings: Northwest Marine Trade Association

Harlow Wood, Nick Sabbath: Pilot Candidates

BPC Staff Report.

- Executive Director Jaimie Bever reported on meetings she has attended since the last Board meeting, including the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee. Many of the meetings were regarding the upcoming rulemaking, which she will speak to later in the meeting, as well as outreach efforts.
- The 2023 Legislative Session is well underway. There does not appear to be legislation that will have a major impact on the BPC. The cutoff for bills originating in the Senate has passed and tomorrow is the cutoff for the House.
- Bettina Maki explained that the minor changes in the PSP Activity Report dashboard correlate to the way that PSP now counts delays. She asked if there were any questions regarding the data, but there were none.
- WSF IT is reporting that there have been sporadic on-premises Microsoft Teams voice/video issues. The issues should be resolved in time for the March Board meeting.

BPC Chair Report.

- Chair Tonn announced that Kevin Obermeyer, Vice President of Internal and External Relations of the Pacific Pilotage Authority in Vancouver BC, will retire February 23. His successor is Julie Gascon. A meeting will be scheduled with Kevin and Julie to continue the excellent working relationship between BPC and PPA.
- Chair Tonn thanked Vice-Chair Kirtley for filling in for her while she was out of the country.
- Chair Tonn also thanked Commissioner Bendixen for sending out the Foulweather Bluff article from 48 North.com. She also thanked Laird and the VTS team for the great job of handling the situation.

Activity Reports. Mike Folkers representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH), Laird Hail representing the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Mike Moore representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), Ivan Carlson representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), and both Zack Thomas 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

Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Farrell/Hamilton – approve the January 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes as drafted – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains.** There are currently 10 pilots working on upgrading their pilot licenses.
Motion: Anthony/Drennen – approve the pilot license upgrade program for Captains Bendixen, Bostick, Kridler, Melin and Ninburg as recommended by the TEC. The letters had been used as boiler plate previously with the exception of the Letter 5 Red, which has been updated to reflect the change in larger vessels coming into Port – Carried, with abstention from Commissioner Bendixen.
- TEC Chair Commissioner Bendixen reported there is no change in regard to COVID. All trainees are following all current COVID protocols and none of the trainees have been slowed down as a result of COVID.
- The TEC met yesterday and reviewed all trainee progress. There are currently 8 trainees in PS and 1 in GH. In Puget Sound, there are 3 trainees in the Evaluation Phase and 5 in the Training Phase. In Grays Harbor, there is one trainee in the Evaluation Phase, hoping for a possible April licensing.
- Captain Bendixen reported that trainees are struggling to get appointments at the REC, with several different causes and impacts. She has reached out to Waterways Commander Looney and they are hoping to get these issues resolved quickly.
- BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever reported that two competitive bids have been received for the 2024 Marine Pilot Exam in the second bid cycle and are currently under review.
- TEC Chair Bendixen introduced the possibility of simulator training for the trainees. The TEC is researching costs and options for continual improvements to the Training Program. A recently licensed pilot had the opportunity to take simulator training and wrote to the TEC recommending it for trainees.

Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: GSL ELINI, 01/17/2023

<p><2 nm SW of Point Partridge Light, towed astern.</p>	<p>Vessel experienced adverse weather conditions stronger than forecasted on a dead ship tow with an assist tug that experienced performance limitations reducing tug RPM requiring an additional tug to be ordered to complete the tow.</p>	<p><u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Anthony File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.</p>
--	--	---

Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: MORESBY CHIEF, 01/22/2023

<p>Northbound in Inbound Lane W of "SE" Buoy.</p>	<p>While running at 75 RPM, an alarm sounded for a Cylinder No.4 Misfire, believed to be due to a faulty sensor. Assured the engine was in no danger of stopping and could run at 75 RPM, indefinitely, with the one cylinder misfiring. Once we were North of "No Point" and tried to increase the RPM, the Chief Engineer reported the main engine would require being shut down to remedy the misfire. The Master wished to continue to Port Angeles, and then to sea, opting to exit the VTS Area, prior to stopping the engine and affecting repair. The remainder of the transit was without issue.</p>	<p><u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Drennen File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.</p>
---	---	---

Exemptions from Pilotage.

Motor Yacht FIREFLY – 131', 288gt, Cayman Island registry, Captains Mathew Bryant & Taylor Keamy.

Motion: Farrell/Anthony – grant an annual exemption with the following conditions imposed: No Deception Pass, Ballard Locks or Duwamish Waterway and a Pilot Orientation required upon entry – Carried.

Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Farrell/Drennen – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains S.E. Knutsen, T.M. Bozina, E.C. Klapperich and K.J. Grieser for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

Motion: Farrell/Anthony – approve the pilot physical examination report for Captain L.R. Holland for his pre-licensing requirement – Carried.

Motion: Bendixen/Farrell – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains M.B. Cassee and W.R. Kelly for their annual trainee license renewals – Carried.

ESHB 1578 – Reducing the Risks to Southern Resident Killer Whales by Improving Oil Transportation Safety. Executive Director and OTSC Chair Jaimie Bever provided a presentation on the work being done regarding tug escort rulemaking. A copy of the presentation can be found on the Board website under meeting materials. As mentioned last meeting, tug escort rulemaking will be a permanent agenda line item for the next few years to foster continued public participation and share information.

Committee Updates.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

- Chair Tonn and Executive Director Bever will attend the Women in Maritime Leadership conference at Cal Maritime in Vallejo, CA at the beginning of March. She reported that Commissioner Bendixen will be speaking on a panel and that both Captain Bendixen and Captain Trevor Bozina will be attending the full conference. While in the San Francisco area, they also plan to meet with the SF Board of Pilot Commissioners and SF Bar Pilots Business Director, and former BPC/PSP Joint Diversity Committee member, Captain Anne McIntire.
- Executive Director Bever reported that she was able to attend a round table planning session through the WSF Diversity Advisory Committee (DAG) on statewide DEI initiatives. WSF has also had a good response from their recently implemented code of conduct, as proposed by the DAG, with other state agencies complimenting and interested in adopting similar language.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- The PSC met on February 8. Approved minutes from the previous meeting were provided to the Board for review.
- At the February meeting, the committee reviewed pilot ladder reports from 2022 Q4 and also a data summary from the online reporting tool. That data summary was inadvertently omitted from meeting packets and will be included in packets for the March meeting.
- Pilot transfer safety continues to be an international issue. In addition to the news shared last month of the tragic death of a UK pilot, and a German pilot who fell overboard, the PSC reported a recent Singapore Pilot death while transferring from a tug.
- Per Board direction, the PSC looked at the grounding incident involving the *EVER FORWARD* to determine if any changes needed to be made regarding cell phone usage on the bridge. The consensus was that the PSC will await guidance from any final reports and no changes need to be made at this time.
- The PSC also discussed the laser pointer issue from an MSO reported last month. No new action is needed at this time as this appears to be a one-off situation.

Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)

- The VEC recently met and continues to work on recommended WAC language and fee schedule changes. They will be meeting again soon and resume meeting regularly with the plan to share the final proposals with the Board soon.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting dates and asked the Board to attend in person, if possible, for the March 16 Key Performance Indicator (KPI) workshop and regular meeting. The plan is to start the workshop at 1000, then start the regular meeting at noon. Please refer to the agenda when published next month.

Public Comment. Chair Tonn asked for public comment. Hearing none and there being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Tonn reminded everyone that Bettina Maki does a phenomenal job with data and if anyone wants to have any additional info for the March workshop, to please ask either her or Jaimie. She then adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.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