

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
July 19, 2022

Regular Meeting – Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.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)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Assistant Attorney General: Albert Wang

Ivan Carlson, Eric Klapperich, Bill Sliker, Jack Bujacich, Travis McGrath, Brett Valentine, Charlie Costanzo: Puget Sound Pilots

Mike Folkers: Port of Grays Harbor

Mike Moore, Jordan Royer: Pacific Merchant Shipping Association

Laird Hail: USCG

Lindsay Wolpa: The Northwest Seaport Alliance

Ann LaRue: Public

Kim Morley: Department of Ecology

Robert Ekemann: PSP Licensure Candidate

Nick Sabbath: Pilot Candidate

BPC Staff Report.

- The BPC Pilotage Quarterly Summer Edition, which is typically published at the beginning of July, will be published in August this year.
- Due to the option for attending BPC public meetings via the phone, the chat feature on Microsoft Teams will not be utilized for continued conversations regarding meeting agenda items.
- Chair Tonn and Jaimie Bever have been gathering for Board meetings at the 2901 office building. For the next few months, the Commissioners are encouraged to attend the meetings in person, if they are comfortable. Commissioner Hamilton asked about possibly returning to Grays Harbor for the August meeting, as was the practice prior to the pandemic. The Board will plan the August 2023 meeting in Grays Harbor, or sooner if an opportunity presents itself.
- BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki provided and commented on the dashboard view of Puget Sound Pilots' monthly activity report as well as other reports generated. She also stated that the numbers for first quarter 2022 were skewed as the cancellations got counted twice. She will update and resend.

BPC Chair Report.

- Chair Tonn thanked Vice Chair Kirtley for chairing the June meeting and handling Board matters in her absence.
- Chair Tonn reported that the Women Offshore Inclusion Summit will be taking place remotely on August 3. Both she and Jaimie will be participating and invited any commissioners who wish to join to contact BPC staff.
- PSP President Captain Carlson had notified Chair Tonn of an anomaly and exception to the 10-hour rule regarding the vessel Cable Innovator. This vessel will need 2 pilots for 24 hours shifts for a weeklong period at the end of July. The vessel has established quarters for the pilots who will be able to maintain their rest during the other pilot's watch. This was approved by Chair Tonn.

Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) Pilotage Tariff Filing Process. As of July 15, the Puget Sound Pilots have filed a revised tariff with the UTC. The original presentation by the UTC from April 2019 was shared with Board members followed by a Q&A concerning ex-parte communication rules. The revised tariff filing does not prevent the Board from conducting regular business. The purpose is to prevent inappropriate tariff discussions.

Activity Reports. Mike Folkers representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH), Ivan Carlson representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), Lindsay Wolpa representing The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), Laird Hail representing the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and Mike Moore representing Pacific

Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA) offered current and projected statistical data as well as updates on current maritime issues and activities.

Captain Carlson reported that June had 709 assignments, which brings the year-to-date total to 3,704. This is the most year-to-date assignments since 2016, which was prior to implementation of 3-and-out and statutory rest rules. In addition, year-to-date cruise assignments are at an all-time high. PSP expects the 2022 cruise season to be 30% higher than any other year. June data points included:

- Callback/Assignment Ratio Goal = 5%
 - June 2022 = 22%
- Severe impacts to the pilot corps from COVID-19 in June, as listed in the Activity Report
- Assignments occurring between the hours of 0100 to 0459
 - June 2022 = 49%
 - The stacking of night jobs has a negative impact on PSP
 - Dispatchers try to reduce 3-and-out as much as possible
- Pilot Boat *PUGET SOUND* is out of rotation due to a mechanical issue
 - PSP hopes to have it repaired and in the water in the next 30 days
 - Pilot boat *JUAN DE FUCA* is being fully utilized in the meantime
- PSP has signed an MOU with the IBU with the plan of hiring a 4th dispatcher
- Regarding efficiency measures:
 - Harbor Shift and Inter-port combinations = 31 vessels to 15 pilots (saved 16 pilots)
 - Use of pilots before or after a meeting = 6
 - One hour reduction in call times = 20 times a delay was avoided
 - Reduced 3 and Outs = 21 times
 - Watch Change = Dispatchers report benefits to the system having more pilots available on change day and better opportunities for PSP meetings on change days

Chair Tonn requested that the efficiency measures be added to the Activity Report, also acknowledging the additional workload to do so. Captain Carlson agreed but added that he hoped that once the data is tracked for a while, PSP will be able to stop tracking it.

Charlie Costanzo, PSP Executive Director, explained the June delay log that PSP provided to the Board. Their intention was to look at the reasons for delays. However, the information is not automatically captured in their dispatch system, which required manual collection to include on the log. Per Mr. Costanzo, one big take-away was that a high volume of night jobs had a severe impact on the dispatch system.

Regarding PMSA's activity report recommendation regarding tracking daily pilot availability, Mr. Costanzo pointed out that tracking pilot availability was not as correlative as one might think, adding that an available pilot is not necessarily an assignable pilot. Several factors must be taken into account including rest status, license level, and location of the pilot. While dispatchers are aware of pilots on duty, availability, efficiency, and assignability add another layer of complexity to the situation. A Q&A with the Board followed.

Chair Tonn suggested that an appropriate use of PSP's time would be to request the delay log on a month during the off-season, such as December, for comparison with a cruise season, as opposed to requesting the data monthly. She added that it seemed clear, based on the number of licensed pilots and the number of COVID cases in June, as well as potential future cases, that there will continue to be delays for the next few months. It is imperative that everyone work to reduce delays as much as possible, both on the pilot side and industry side.

Bettina Maki, BPC Program Analyst, commented that she plans to add the number of days pilots are unavailable due to health reasons for a portion of a month versus the entire month to the dashboard of the monthly activity report going forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Hamilton/Kirtley – approve the June 21, 2022, Meeting Minutes as written with one minor correction – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- **Consideration of Licensure of PSPD Pilot Candidate: Captain Robert Ekelmann.** On behalf of the Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC), TEC Chair Bendixen stated that Captain Robert Ekelmann has successfully completed all sections of his Training Program Agreement including successful Portable Piloting Unit (PPU) training. However, while completion of the federal program has been confirmed, the sticker has not yet arrived. The TEC finds that Captain Ekelmann has proven to be consistent, safe, and able to pilot independently. The Board has received his TPTR Summary and all training comments.

Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – issue Captain Robert Ekelmann state pilot license number 220 for the Puget Sound Pilotage District – Carried.

Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – Authorize the use of a graduate program agreement for Captain Ekelmann if needed while awaiting his federal licensing requirement – Carried.

- **Candidate Invitations.** The TEC reviewed progress of the current pilot trainees and projected pilot retirements over the next couple of years in the Puget Sound Pilotage District. The TEC recommends inviting two candidates from the 2021 exam class to begin training on or about October 1, 2022.

Motion: Bendixen/Ross – Invite two candidates from the 2021 exam class to begin training in the Puget Sound Pilotage District around October 1, 2022 – Carried.

- The TEC has no changes to the COVID-19 policies at this time and recommends it remains as-is for the upcoming month, adapting as needed. All trainees are still diligently following COVID recommendations from both BPC and Dr. Jarris.
- The TEC met yesterday and reviewed all the trips and comments for both Puget Sound and Grays Harbor. With the earlier licensure, that leaves 7 trainees in PS and 2 in GH. Trainees are progressing, and both Captains Kelly and Mancini attended the TEC meeting to transition to the Training Phase. They anticipate one more trainee to complete training and be ready for licensure this summer. In Puget Sound, there are 4 trainees in the Evaluation Phase, 3 in the Training Phase, and none in the Observation Phase. In Grays Harbor, there is 1 in the Training Phase and 1 in the Observation Phase.
- During yesterday’s meeting, the TEC reviewed the upgrade trips and are working on recommendations for WAC changes to allow a longer period for upgrading, especially in light of 12 pilots who have to upgrade during the summer months. Captain Christopher Rounds graduated to unlimited status earlier this month.
- The TEC extended a thank you to Commissioner Drennen and Polar Tankers for allowing trainees to participate in tanker escort tether drills this fall.
- Due to a reexamination of procedures, Puget Sound Pilots is once again allowing first-year pilots to operate as second pilot on Duwamish Waterway transits, assisting in the transition from first to second-year piloting.

Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MATTERHORN, 06/12/2022*

Abeam Robinson Point	While transiting from Tacoma, a failed fuel supply valve caused engine alarms and reduced speed capacity. A tug was called, and the vessel was safely anchored.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Bendixen File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *VOLANS LEADER, 06/12/2022*

Docking in the Sitcum Waterway	While backing up for final position to the dock, pilot ordered for dead slow ahead and engine would not start with multiple bridge tries. Engine room was unable to get a start as well. Used bow thruster and stern tug to bring ship alongside. Issue likely due to an air valve or solenoid valve.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Bendixen File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MANOA, 07/11/2022*

Underway in Port Angeles Pilot Boarding Area	Loss of propulsion upon pilot boarding led to taking the vessel to anchor instead of Tacoma as planned. Used tug to tow vessel to Port Angeles Anchorage.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Bendixen File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Exemptions from Pilotage.

Motor Yacht BLUE MOON – 198', 1102gt, Cayman Island registry, Captains Allman and MacDonell.

Motion: Anthony/Ross– concur with Chair Tonn's granting of an interim annual exemption with the following conditions imposed: Dockside orientation at first port of entry, No Deception Pass and Captain MacDonell must transit if in either the Duwamish Waterway or the Locks – Carried.

Motor Yacht CV-9 – 140', 97gt, Cayman Island registry, Captain Johnson.

Motion: Ross/Drennen – grant an annual exemption with no conditions imposed – Carried.

Motor Yacht BUENA ONDA – 39', 19gt, Cayman Island registry, Captain Tutton.

Motion: Anthony/Ross – grant a 3-month exemption with no conditions imposed – Carried.

Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Ross/Drennen – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains A.B. Seamans, P.S. Kelly, J.C. Scragg, J.P. Bujacich, S.T. Coleman, M.L. Anthony, C.F. Rounds and L.A. Seymour for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

Motion: Hamilton/Anthony – approve the pre licensing physical examination report for Captains E.T. Michael and R.T. Ekelmann – Carried.

Motion: Ross/Anthony – approve the new trainee physical examination report for Captain C.G. Grobschmit – Carried.

2021 BPC Annual Report Draft – Discussion. Both pilotage districts and stakeholders, as well as the Board have received the draft 2021 BPC Annual Report. The final draft will be presented at the August meeting for BPC adoption. Thanks to Commissioner Kirtley for her feedback and edits. Once the report is approved by the Board, it will be posted and distributed to the Governor's Office and the Legislature no later than September 1.

2023-2025 BPC Strategic Plan Draft – Discussion. The Board received the first draft of the strategic plan that will accompany the agency's 2023-2025 Biennial Budget request. The Board will receive a 2nd draft at the August meeting and a final draft at the September meeting for adopting prior to the budget submittal deadline of September 20.

ESHB 1578 Updates. Ecology held a webinar on July 8 as a continuation of the ERTV and Tug Escort Analysis Projects outreach. For those who missed it, all the webinars relating to the risk model are housed on Ecology's website. The model testing will start next week and will be continuing all summer with next steps coming this Fall.

Committee Updates.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

- BPC staff is still working on candidates for committee membership and hopes to have more information to share at the August meeting.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- Jaimie Bever, OTSC Chair, met with Bob Poole and Ramine Cromartie from Western States Petroleum Association. Ramine will be taking Bob's place on the committee in the near future.
- No meeting is scheduled at this time.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- There are no updates since the last meeting. The committee is scheduled to meet again next week on July 28.

Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)

- The next meeting will be scheduled after summer, due to the busy season for committee members.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reminded everyone that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 16 at 12:00 p.m. via Teams, and then in September meetings will return to the third Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Public Comment. Chair Sheri Tonn asked for public comment. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaimie C. Bever, Executive Director

Sheri J. Tonn, Chair

Commissioner Timothy J. Farrell

Commissioner Mike Ross

Commissioner Michael Anthony

Commissioner Nhi Irwin

Eleanor Kirtley, Vice Chair

Commissioner Andrew Drennen

Commissioner Sandy Bendixen

Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton