

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
May 18, 2023

REGULAR MEETING – Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was convened at 10:00am by Chair Sheri Tonn via Microsoft Teams.

Present via Teams:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

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

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki

Assistant Attorney General: Albert Wang

Ivan Carlson, Eric Klapperich, Charlie Costanzo, Peter Mann, Scott Coleman, Travis McGrath, Severin Knutsen: Puget Sound Pilots

Mike Folkers: Port of Grays Harbor

Mike Moore, Jordan Royer: Pacific Merchant Shipping Association

Laird Hail, CDR Kira Moody: USCG

Lindsay Wolpa: The Northwest Seaport Alliance

Captain Kevin Riddle & Family: PS Pilot Licensure Candidate

Nick Sabbath, Joel Michelson, Harlow Wood: PS Pilot Candidates

Ann LaRue: Public

Sol Kohlhaas: Marathon Petroleum

BPC Staff Report.

- Executive Director Jaimie Bever reviewed the various meetings she has attended on behalf of the Board since the April Board meeting.
- Jaimie provided information to the Commissioners regarding Washington State's DEI Empowerment Conference, which will take place each Wednesday of June. There are multiple sessions, which can be signed up for individually.
- Jaimie also provided an invitation to the Commissioners regarding the USCG Sector Puget Sound Change of Command Ceremony on June 15. Due to this event, the June meeting of the Board will commence at 1300 to allow for attendance at the ceremony.
- The Board reviewed highlights of the 23/25 Biennial Budget, which included funding for a project position for oil transportation safety rulemaking, a COVID-19 recruitment/retention payment of \$1,000 for state employees, a 4% wage increase for state employees in FY24 and 3% wage increase for state employees in FY25, and a COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Incentive payment of \$1,000 for state employees.
- While the Governor has rescinded the State employment requirement for COVID-19 vaccination, it is up to non-cabinet agencies to determine if they want to continue to require the vaccine. Commissioner Farrell offered that as an agency with a focus on safety, it would make sense that the Board would require vaccination. Commissioners Kirtley and Hamilton inquired about booster requirements.
Motion: Farrell/Drennen – In order to have employment with the BPC, employees must have received and maintained COVID-19 vaccination requirements as published prior to June 2023 – Carried.
- BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki described data trends in Puget Sound she has recently been studying. In summary, the data shows that the increase in pilot delays that began in mid-2021 was due to the changes in rest rules in 2019. The delays did not appear until 2021 because the pandemic-related drop in vessel traffic temporarily obscured the impact of the rest rule change.

BPC Chair Report.

- Chair Tonn and Jaimie Bever met with Pacific Pilotage Authority CEO Julie Gascon and COO Brian Young. The conversation included transboundary vessel traffic, new pilotage regulations in B.C., and increase in vessel traffic from Canada due to the Transmountain Pipeline. The anticipated increases will start at 10 vessels/month in early 2024, increasing to 25 vessels/month

by the end of 2024, and 40+ vessels/month into 2025. It was a good first meeting with continued communication planned.

- They also met with Sector Puget Sound Captain of the Port Patrick Hilbert, along with PS pilot Captain Scott Coleman and WSF Chief Mate Daniel “Bud” Fielder, to thank Captain Hilbert for his work, support of pilotage, and to establish a path forward with the first-class pilotage packet project.

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

Captain Ivan Carlson, PSP President, took a moment to address pilot aspirants interested in taking the 2024 Washington State Marine Pilot Exam who may have been attending the meeting via phone. He said that Puget Sound Pilots is doing everything they can to make this area an attractive place to work. He added that despite what aspirants may hear about reducing the number of authorized pilots, PSP doesn't believe that will happen and he encourages aspirants to prepare for and take the exam.

OLD BUSINESS

Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MORNING LENA, 03/07/2023*

East of Pilot Point (Northbound).	While proceeding outbound, vessel experienced loss of propulsion. The USCG issued a COTP order to proceed to Port Angeles anchorage with an assist tug.	<u>Motion:</u> Defer to June meeting
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MATSON ANCHORAGE, 03/10/2023*

Abeam "T" Buoy Southbound in Traffic Lanes.	Vessel experienced bridge blackout with steering and propulsion loss. Situation stabilized and vessel proceeded to Sitcum Waterway with no further issue.	<u>Motion:</u> Defer to June Meeting
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *SLNC YORK, 03/29/2023*

Underway, S/S to Everett South Terminal.	Vessel experienced main engine failure and needed to be shut down for a restart. The port anchor was successfully released down and a tug on the port quarter stabilized the situation. VTS was notified of the failure and pilot proceeded to tow the vessel into Port Gartner General Anchorage.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Bendixen – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Bendixen/Hamilton – approve the April 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes as drafted with the following corrections: in the TEC report, change “13 trips to zero trips” to “decoupling stipend from training program requirements” and in the KPI discussion, add “plus two minus two” to number of pilots – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

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

Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – issue Captain Kevin Riddle state pilot license number 223 for the Puget Sound Pilotage District – Carried.

- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains McGourty, Moore, & Leo.**

TEC Chair Bendixen reported that 12 pilots are in the upgrade window, down 3 from last month. Of note, since the change to the 6-month upgrade window, several PS pilots have chosen to get a head start on upgrading their trips in anticipation of cruise ship season when it's more difficult to take those upgrade trips, which is an added benefit. In addition, there are upgrade opportunities on cruise ships, which are not normally an option.

Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – approve the pilot license upgrade program for Captains McGourty, Moore, & Leo as recommended by the TEC. The letters were recently updated to add the line “All pilot rest rules apply before, during, and immediately following any upgrade trips taken.” and all letters from March 2023 forward will include this new verbiage – Carried.

- The TEC has appreciated having Mike Folkers from the Port of Grays Harbor on the committee in lieu of a Grays Harbor pilot. However, Captain Leo is approaching 6 months as a licensed pilot and the TEC would like to bring him on as a pilot representative for the Grays Harbor Pilotage District.

Motion: Bendixen/Anthony – appoint Captain Ryan Leo to the TEC – Carried.

- The TEC met yesterday and reviewed all trainee progress. With the earlier licensing of Captain Riddle, there are currently 6 trainees in PS and zero trainees in GH. In Puget Sound, there are 2 trainees in Evaluation and 4 in Training. The TEC recommends the Board offer training invitations to the 3 remaining pilot candidates on the 2021 Exam Waiting List to start training on or around September 1. A robust discussion on pilot forecasting and the factors and impacts took place and in the end, it was decided to issue the invitations.

Motion: Bendixen/Farrell – extend training invitations to Captains Michelson, Wood, and Sabbath – Carried.

- The Port of Grays Harbor is receiving a lower number of first-year license level vessels than anticipated. Ship traffic is increasing, but they are larger vessels, including car ships. The TEC encourages the first-year pilots to stay fresh and improve upon their skills. The TEC recommends a phased exemption process to allow Captain Leo to work on larger vessels. The Port would request exemptions for specific vessels from Chair Tonn, who would use the guidelines to make the determination, which require ballasted only 2nd pilot year tonnage vessels (20FT longer than current level), except for car ships and loaded petroleum ships. When Captain Leo goes into his upgrade window, the TEC would like to see him observe or train on all greater tonnage assignments while on watch until he has completed all of his 7 upgrades, so long as those trips don’t conflict with rest rules. Once he completes the upgrades, he can then pilot on 2nd year vessels except for car ships or loaded petroleum ships. Regarding Captain Grobschmit, it is too early in his licensure to impose the guidelines. His program will be addressed once he hits 6 months.
- The TEC continues to get COVID-19 guidance from Discovery Health. There are no changes to procedures at this time.
- The TEC has been reviewing the Train the Trainer course and is in the process of revamping it. The current timeline is to hold the next one in the fall, in person.
- WAC 363-116-078 revisions continue with anticipated presentation to the TEC and Board next month.
- The kick-off meeting for the Marine Pilot Exam meeting was held on the May 15. The Spring of 2024 is still the target date.

Pilot Exam Committee (PEC)

PEC Committee Appointments.

- The Board reviewed the list of proposed committee appointees.
Motion: Kirtley/Farrell – approve the appointments of Captain Sandy Bendixen, Captain Mike Anthony, Captain John Scragg, Captain Pat Ninburg, Captain Ryan Leo, Captain Steve McElhose, and Captain Ned Kiley, with Jaimie Bever as the Chair and Jolene Hamel as support to the Pilot Exam Committee – Carried.
- PEC Chair Jaimie Bever will contact the new appointees with next steps.

Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: MOL PREMIUM, 04/12/2023

Underway in Commencement Bay on final approach to the Blair Waterway, Tacoma	One mile off from the Blair Waterway, engine would not go astern after multiple attempts. Issue eventually resolved. Tugs were astern and aft during the engine failure. Fuel pressure had not been increased when switched from heavy fuel to light fuel.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Anthony – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: GLOVIS SUMMIT, 04/27/2023

Blair A, Tacoma	While tightening lines alongside the dock, a springlock was caught under the 12x12 removable wood barrier between the bollards. The pilot observed loose rubber. The line boss suspected it was there prior to docking.	<u>Motion:</u> Bendixen/Drennen – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: CAPE ISLAND 04/24/2023

Underway on approach to West Point	While approaching West Point, Chief Engineers informed the bridge of the loss of a pump and possible loss of the plant. VTS was notified immediately. Crew prepared for anchoring. Pump was identified and secured. The vessel proceeded to the Pilot Station. The issue was due to the computer reverting to the factory setting while the ship was in layup. The pump sensors were reset correctly and the vessel proceed to Portland, OR without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Bendixen/Anthony – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Exemptions from Pilotage.

Motor Yacht CV-9 – 140’, 97gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captain Charlie Johnson.

Motion: Anthony/Farrell – grant an annual exemption with no restrictions imposed – Carried.

Motor Yacht FRIENDLY CONFINES – 141’, 498gt, Marshall Islands registry, Captain William Evans

Motion: Anthony/Farrell – grant an annual exemption with the following restrictions imposed: Pilot orientation and No Duwamish, Deception Pass, or Locks – Carried.

Motor Yacht ALTAVITA – 125’, 299gt, Marshall Islands registry, Captain Lee Thomson

Motion: Anthony/Farrell – grant an annual exemption with no restrictions imposed – Carried.

Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Farrell/Hamilton – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains L.A. Seymour, A.B. Seamans, E.P. Ninburg, P.P. Mann, & E.T. Michael for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

Motion: Farrell/Bendixen – approve the pre-licensing pilot physical examination report for Captain K.W. Riddle – Carried.

Committee Updates.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

- The next meeting is scheduled for June.
- WSF’s Diversity Advisory Group (DAG) reported that in WSF’s 23/25 biennial budget, there are funds for 10 scholarships per year for their new Mates program, which covers school tuition, TWIC cards, medical fees, license fees, and 360 days of \$75/day stipends. The DAG is looking at the interview process and identification of potential scholarship recipients. This effort furthers DEI initiatives in the state by the Governor and Legislature. With WSF being a major pipeline to pilotage, this could help further diversify the pilotage pool.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- The PSC met on May 2.
- The Board received approved meeting minutes from the last meeting as well as pilot ladder report data. The PSC also reviewed rest rule exceptions and new pilot ladder reports.
- There was another pilot transfer casualty, this time a Japanese pilot boarding a cruise ship. This ship has a sister vessel calling in Puget Sound regularly.
- The next meeting will be in July.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- The tug escort rulemaking team held the first public rulemaking workshop yesterday. Next week is the first Tribal specific workshop.
- The OTSC met on May 3. The workshop schedule for rulemaking begins with an OTSC meeting, followed by the public workshop, then the Tribal workshop.
- The next OTSC meeting is at the end of June, followed by public workshop #2 and Tribal workshop #2.

Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)

- The VEC is reworking their recommendations and will present them to the Board in the early fall.

Public Comment. Chair Tonn asked for public comment, but none was offered.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reminded everyone that the June meeting will begin at 1:00pm and will be hybrid.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was convened at 1:20pm by Chair Sheri Tonn via Microsoft Teams to discuss matters relative to personnel.

Adjourn. Meeting adjourned after Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaimie C. Bever, Executive Director

Sheri J. Tonn, Chair

Eleanor Kirtley, Vice Chair

Commissioner Timothy J. Farrell

Commissioner Andrew Drennen

Commissioner Sandy Bendixen

Commissioner Michael Anthony

Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton

Commissioner Nhi Irwin