

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
October 17, 2024

REGULAR MEETING – Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was called to order at 10:30 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

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Sandy Bendixen (Pilot)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Port of Grays Harbor: Mike Folkers

Puget Sound Pilots: Severin Knutsen, Eric Klapperich, Scott Brewen

The Northwest Seaport Alliance: Keven Snyder

Present via Teams:

Commissioners: Richard Firth (Foreign Shipping), Jason Hamilton (Public), Nhi Irwin (Ecology)

BPC Assistant Attorney General: Albert Wang

Puget Sound Pilots: Mark Bostick, Stephen Scott

USCG: Kira Moody

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association: Mike Moore, Jordan Royer

Puget Sound Trainee: Rick Boullion

Public: Daniel Bolton

Chair Tonn welcomed new PSP Executive Director Scott Brewen. She thanked everyone for their patience in the later start to accommodate the Great Washington Shake Out (earthquake drill) and advised that due to a quorum issue, the agenda would be moved around to accommodate action items.

BPC Staff Report.

- BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever shared that the fall edition of the BPC Pilotage Quarterly newsletter was recently published and provided to the Board in their meeting materials.
- The Bay Area's Board of Pilot Commissioners is currently undergoing an IT modernization project. Jaimie was interviewed by the consultants as a part of their research.
- Jaimie also reported that Lindsay Wolpa, NWSA, recently brought to her attention a WSDOT plan to renovate the WOSCA site. As a part of the reinventing competition, they are tasked with creating a new headquarters for WSF and a potential maritime hub on the site. It is likely that the renovation would not be complete until 2030.
- Bettina Maki, BPC Data Analyst, shared the 3rd quarter KPI data and was available for any questions.
- Jolene Hamel, BPC Training Program Manager, wished a happy upcoming work anniversary to both Jaimie and Bettina who both share an anniversary date of November 1.

BPC Chair Report.

- BPC Chair Sheri Tonn informed the Board about two great meetings that she and Jaimie have attended over the past month. First, they met with Scott Brewen, new Executive Director for PSP to fill him in on the role of the BPC and on the ways PSP and BPC work together. Then they met with Steve Nevey, Assistant Secretary, WSF, to get an update on WSF.
- Chair Tonn also reported on appointments to the Board. Commissioners Farrell, Anthony, and Firth will be reappointed and will continue to serve on the Board. Commissioner Bendixen however, has decided not to seek a second term when her current term is up on December 26, 2024. Captain Severin Knutsen, PSP, will be appointed to fill the vacant Pilot Commissioner seat as of December 27, 2024.

Activity Reports. Kira Moody representing the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Mike Folkers representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH), Eric Klapperich representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), Keven Snyder representing The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), 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.

PSP’s new Executive Director Scott Brewen introduced himself and shared his background. He is excited to be on board and is looking forward to getting up to speed.

BPC Data Analyst Bettina Maki shared the pilotage activity dashboard and was available for questions.

NEW BUSINESS

Pilot’s Report of Incident: M/V MIYAMA, 10/06/2024

Commissioner Bendixen reported on the Incident Report for the October 06, 2024, incident involving M/V MIYAMA. This was not a pilot-related incident but needed to be reported as an incident due to an injury to a line handler. It was suggested that the Board revise the KPI for incidents to disregard non-pilot involvement when tracking incidents.

Motion: Bendixen/Kirtley – File as an incident with no pilot error – Carried.

Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: CRANES, 09/25 & 09/26/2024

Tacoma, Washington United Terminal	<p>9/25/24: Cranes were boomed down over empty berth at Tacoma Washington United Terminal with no prior notification to Puget Sound Pilots. Most modern container ships’ air draft is too high to pass safely underneath a lowered gantry boom. Newer gantry booms extend in excess of 200-plus feet beyond the dock face and into the Federal Navigation Channel, which is already narrow due to configuration. If operations require a boom down over an empty berth, the appropriate operations members and pilots should be notified of the likely duration and subsequent notification should be made when the boom is raised.</p> <p>9/26/24: Crane was located near the bow position of the Matson Tacoma when vessel was spotted at final position at Tacoma APM-North berth. Due to the strong wind and heavy rains compiled with black color of crane made it hard to ascertain the exact location prior to coming alongside.</p>	<p><u>Motion:</u> Bendixen/Hamilton – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.</p> <p>It was also recommended to expedite this issue to the TOWG and have them send an immediate letter out to all terminals reminding of regulations and Harbor Safety Plan Policies regarding cranes.</p>
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: CRANES (MANULANI), 08/13/2024

Tacoma, North Berth APM	<p>While nearing final position, the ship’s forward crew reported that the crane to the north was still not clear of the bow. The captain reached the terminal on the phone and requested that they move the crane near the bow to the ship’s parallel mid-body to eliminate the chance of the ship contacting it. Over the next 15 minutes, cranes moved slowly in various directions while the pilot used two tugs and the bow thruster to hold the ship in the narrow channel in a moderate wind. Once the cranes were finally positioned correctly, the ship was brought alongside without incident.</p>	<p><u>Motion:</u> Bendixen/Hamilton – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.</p> <p>It was also recommended to expedite this issue to the TOWG and have them send an immediate letter out to all terminals reminding of regulations and Harbor Safety Plan Policies regarding cranes.</p>
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Pilot’s Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: GRAND URANUS, 08/13/2024

Manchester Anchorage	<p>Pilot embarked the vessel at anchor off Manchester in the #1 anchorage in Yukon Habor. While heaving anchor to 4 shackles on deck, the captain tested the Bow thruster, and the generators tripped offline. Blackout time was 1410. Waited for the generators to sync back before calling VTS and the Port State Command center. Reset the anchor to 9 shackles in the water and disembarked.</p>	<p><u>Motion:</u> Bendixen/Kirtley – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.</p>
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Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Hamilton/Firth – approve the September 19, 2024, Meeting Minutes as written – Carried, with one abstention from Commissioner Kirtley.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains Mann & Riddle.** Commissioner Bendixen advised that there are currently 16 pilots in their upgrade window in Puget Sound and 1 in Grays Harbor. She also stated the TEC reviewed the upgrade letters for the pilots listed above.
Motion: Bendixen/Kirtley – approve the pilot license upgrade programs for Captains Mann and Riddle – Carried.
- The TEC met yesterday and reviewed all trainee programs. There are 7 trainees currently in PS and none in GH. There are 2 trainees in Training, and 5 in Observation, three of whom started at the beginning of this month and one who continues to be off stipend but plans to return for November.
- New pilot trainee orientation occurred on 10/3 for 2 new trainees and Commissioner Farrell was also in attendance.
- The TEC has been discussing Hard-to-Get trips and assuring continued growth of a robust Training Program. Additionally, the TEC has been updating Conning Quizzes, the Trainee Handbook, and developing additional trainings with various partners including the Department of Ecology.
- Commissioner Bendixen shared that the TEC has also been discussing the next exam, which is likely to happen in Spring of 2026. In order to minimize the workload leading up to the next exam, the discussion is leading to having the Exam Committee be an ongoing committee rather than just the last 6 months leading up to an exam with more information regarding this at the November meeting.
- Commissioner Bendixen also stated that the TEC has several other big-ticket items that they want to implement and will be the basis for approaching the UTC to ask to increase the training surcharge. These include simulator training, other trainings, psychometric review of the training program, DEI consulting and more. E.D. Bever stated that they have consulted with both the BPC AAG and the UTC AAG and have been reassured that any action that the BPC takes will not affect any other parties' filings. A staff recommendation to address what the tariff adjustment should look like and include will be presented to the Board at the November meeting.

Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Kirtley/Hamilton– approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains J.R. Semler, J.T. Galvin, and R.W. Leo for their annual pilot license renewals, and R.M. Boullion and J.M. Woodworth for their new trainee licenses – Carried.

New Board Designated Physician: Rodney Hagerman, D.O. (The Doctor's Clinic, Silverdale)

Jolene introduced a new physician who has requested to join the Board Designated Physician list. She also thanked the pilots for all their recommendations, including Captains Jensen and McGourty who were pivotal in helping find this South end physician.

Motion: Kirtley/Hamilton– approve Rodney Hagerman, D.O. and add him to the Board Designated Physician List– Carried.

Proposed 2025 Meeting Dates.

The Board received a proposed list of 2025 meeting dates to review for approval at the November meeting. All meetings would take place on the third Thursday of the month with the exception of June (Juneteenth falls on the third Thursday) and December (to best accommodate holiday plans).

Grays Harbor Request for Tonnage Increases to Licenses.

The Port of Grays Harbor has submitted a formal request to increase the license levels to match the tonnage levels of Puget Sound.

Motion: Firth/Bendixen – Have the TEC work on a recommendation on license levels and tonnage for Grays Harbor and present it to the Board in January 2025 – Carried.

Committee Updates.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- The PSC will meet on November 7 and will provide an update at the November Board meeting.

Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)

- The VEC will meet on October 23 and will provide an update at the November Board meeting.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

- The DEIC met earlier this month and identified priorities for the next year.
- A draft charter for upcoming work will be reviewed at the November meeting.
- Dr. Jen O’Ryan, Principal of Double Tall Consulting and author of Inclusive AF, joined the meeting and discussed her work with PSP on DEIB. The B stands for belonging and she shared the importance of “belonging” while instituting changes around diversity, equity and inclusion.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- BPC Executive Director and OTSC Chair Jaimie Bever shared that she had forwarded information regarding Tug Escort Rulemaking Workshop #10 to the Board.
- In addition to the next workshop series coming up in November 2024, the Ecology team will be presenting at the November meeting with an EIS update. Several actions will be needed by the Board during first quarter of 2025, including voting on proposed rule language.

Terminal Operations Work Group (TOWG)

- The TOWG is working to schedule the next meeting and acknowledges the letters the Board has directed it to write and send.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reminded everyone of the meetings in November and December and advised that the November meeting will be on November 21 not 14 as was written in the agenda. All meetings continue to be hybrid, and all are invited and encouraged to attend in person or online. Chair Tonn stated that she was about 85% sure that no December meeting would be needed this year, but the final decision will be made at the November meeting.

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

Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned by Chair Tonn at 1:00pm.

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