

**Connecticut Pilot Commission
Summary Report November 19, 2013 Public Meeting
State Pier Admin Building
New London, CT**

- 1.) The public meeting was called to Order at 10:02 a.m. by the Chairman, Bill Gash. Pilot Commission members Chuck Beck, Alan Blume, Wynne Bohannon, Mike Eisele and Phil Gaughran, were also present. Also attending were Keith Colwell, Paul Costabile, David Cunningham, LT Ben Duarte, Charlie Jonas, Pat Kennedy, Joe Maco, James Mahmann, E.H. McVay, Bill, Mulligan, Mike Peszke, Dave Rossiter, Ted Sanford, Alan Stevens and Alex Woodworth.
- 2.) A motion was made to approve the summary report of the October 15, 2013 meeting by Wynne Bohannon and seconded by Mike Eisele. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
- 3.) Public Comments – None offered.
- 4.) U.S. Coast Guard – LT Ben Duarte reported on dredging projects in the federal channels of Fire Island, Jones Beach Inlet, Norwalk Harbor and New Haven Harbor. He also advised that work on the Q Bridge in New Haven Harbor will cause closures of the channel under the bridge in the spring of 2014. The CG will provide advance notice to mariners. Lastly, LT Duarte reported that CWO James Greene, Sector LIS ATON Officer had retired and been replaced by CWO Tim Woody.
- 5.) Rotation System Administrator Report –Paul Costabile reported that an RSEB meeting would be taking place immediately following the CPC meeting. Three items were on the agenda: 2 submitted by the CT pilots and 1 by the NY pilots. NY riders as pilot observers with CT pilots, format for collecting data and complaints and launch services in CT harbors were stated to be the 3 topics.
- 6.) Rotation System Executive Board (RSEB) Report – Since the RSEB meeting is to be held after the CPC meeting, nothing was offered to report.
- 7.) Connecticut Department of Transportation –Dave Rossiter reported that the Norwalk dredging project was scheduled to be completed by the end of November. The New Haven dredging project is scheduled to start the 1st of December. Cashman is doing both jobs with 2 dredgers. The Chairman thanked the DOT for facilitating getting the Norwalk and New Haven projects funded. Phil Gaughran asked for contact information with the dredge company when working in New Haven Harbor. Chuck Beck offered to obtain the information and provide it with the distribution of the meeting summary report.
- 8.) Executive Session: None called.
- 9.) Continuing Business:
 - A. Investigative Processes for Marine Incidents/Accidents – The Chairman referenced the DOT response dated November 6, 2013 to the CPC letter dated July 19, 2013 both contained in the meeting package. Alan Blume advised that based on the DOT response he would continue drafting a more detailed job description for marine investigative services for which the CPC requested from the DOT to meet statutory obligations. There was additional discussion on the need to not only draft the job specifications but also the process to follow if and when investigative services are deemed necessary by the CPC as well as how funding might be arranged.

B. P.O.R.T.S. Update – Chuck Beck advised that the New Haven Port Authority had entered an MOA with NOAA to provide funds to keep the New Haven PORTS equipment functional for the next year; December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2014. Additionally, DOT has submitted a bond request to the December Bond Commission for \$265,647 for upgrading not only the New Haven PORTS equipment but also the equipment in New London and Bridgeport. An MOA is being drafted by NOAA for upgrading the equipment and the O&M for the New Haven equipment for 5 years.

C. CT State Marine Pilot Licensing Requirements, Gap Analysis – Alan Blume presented an updated gap analysis document which he had been provided electronically before the meeting. Blume stated that he had shared the updated comparison with Frank Keane, Executive Director of the NY Board who did not flag any of the data presented. In general the NY Navigation Laws are less specific than the CT Statutes and Regulation. In other words it was felt that the CT regulations were more proscriptive. Both licensing authorities have common goals related to the state licensing of marine pilots; safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment. The NY Board tends to grant state licenses to applicants with many years of experience already licensed in other NY waters as an extension of route. CT's apprentice pilot regulations are more aimed at someone meeting the minimum requirements specified in the regulations though without a state pilot licenses anywhere else. Ensuing discussion centered on where the CPC goes from here with the issue. One idea considered and almost immediately dismissed was to talk with the NY Board about changing the NY process to better match CT's. Another idea offered was for CT to amend the apprentice pilot regulations to provide more flexibility on the type of vessels training rides could be made on. Chuck Beck reminded all that the CTDOT had already set a "flexibility" precedent relative to rides that would count towards the regulatory requirement. Alan Blume expressed a concern with a potential turnover in CTDOT personnel and the effect on corporate memory. The Chairman suggested that the CPC might review the current regulations and recommend regulatory changes to the CTDOT. Blume also noted differences between the CT Statutes and Regulations: statutes needed legislative approval, regulations did not. Chuck Beck corrected the statement advising that even regulations needed to be approved by the Regulatory Review Committee of the CT Legislature. The Chairman noted that CTDOT has in the recent past been very transparent with statutory and regulatory changes. Mike Peszke raised the issue of not being able to get enough rides on vessels meeting the size requirement to expand his CT license to the Western Long Island Sound. Current large vessel traffic is down and foreign flagged yachts are not large enough. Joe Maco added that vessel traffic in LIS was down 50% overall but 95% in the WLIS region. Beck offered the possibility of a regulatory change to recognize smaller vessels for extension of route vs. initial license. Ted Sanford recommended changing from a gross weight standard for the size of a vessel to a dead weight standard. Mike Eisele stated that perhaps the vessel's draft would be better. The Chairman asked Peszke to submit a letter to the CPC detailing the issue so that it could be discussed at a future CPC meeting. After some additional discussion, the Chairman reiterated the request to Mike Peszke to submit his concerns in writing.

D. Pilot Training – Discussion on the topic was deferred to the December meeting by the Chairman to allow the RSEB to discuss the issue in the meeting to be held immediately after the CPC meeting.

10) New Business:

A. 2014 CPC Meeting Schedule – The Chairman made reference to a draft schedule in the meeting package and the need to determine the meeting location for 2014. He stated that the December meeting would be held at the State Pier Admin Building. Chuck Beck stated that he has a conference room at CTDOT HQ building in Newington reserved for CPC meetings on the morning of the third Tuesday of each month during calendar year 2014. The Chairman appreciated the proactive effort and added that efforts were being made to secure the New

Haven Fire Academy as a meeting site for 2014. The 2014 meeting schedule will be carried to the December meeting agenda.

B. Goals and Objectives – Chuck Beck referenced a copy of the CPC Mission, Objective and Goals document created in June 2009 stating that it might be time to review/update. Most of the goals set in the document had been obtained. The Chairman asked the CPC Commissioners to review the document and be prepared to discuss potential actions and or changes at the December CPC meeting. All present agreed. Chuck Beck added that a draft Annual Report would be part of the December CPC meeting package as well.

The Chairman asked for the indulgence of the CPC Commissioners to raise another issue not on the agenda; the election of a Vice Chairman. He proposed that such an election be conducted as a December 2013 meeting agenda item. All agreed. The Chairman also requested any CPC Commissioners interested in serving as the Vice Chairman to please let that desire known to him during the next month.

11.) Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Alan Blume, seconded by Wynne Bohannon and approved by unanimous vote. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:10 AM.

The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. on Tuesday December 17, 2013 at the State Pier Admin building in New London, CT.**