



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



Minutes of May, 2006 Public Meeting
Connecticut Department of Transportation
State Pier, New London CT

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:03 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael J. Eisele, William Gash, David Pohorylo, and Joseph Russo were present. Also in attendance were Charles Beck and Dave Rossiter (CT DOT), Captain Michael Ball (Block Island Pilots), Captain Keith Kelsey (Northeast Marine Pilots), Captain Ted Sanford, Captain William Mulligan, Captain Vince Cashin (Connecticut State Marine Pilots, Inc.), and Captain Rich Astles.

The Pilot Commission reviewed draft minutes of the April 13, 2006 public meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved as drafted upon the motion of Mr. Gash, seconded by Mr. Pohorylo.

The minutes of the New York Board were circulated for review. Mr. Eisele noted that the New York Board issued an endorsement for the CT/NY MOA Waters to Captain James Mahlmann, subject to a demonstration of recency. The NY minutes also report that Block Island Pilots is preparing a projection of current and future pilot needs under the MOA.

Mr. Eisele advised that the status of the New England Shipping Company v. Block Island Pilots case is unchanged. Briefing has been completed and the parties await a decision.

Mr. Eisele reported that Senate Bill 521 (concerning the training of apprentice pilots) was withdrawn. Senate Bill 519 (concerning the composition and authority of the Pilot Commission) was incorporated into Substitute Bill 5664 and passed by the State Senate and House. The Bill is awaiting action by the Governor. As passed, 5664 would add two members to the Commission, one to be designated by DOT and one to be elected by those pilots participating on the Connecticut side of the rotation. The Bill will also empower the Commission to establish pilot qualifications, examination requirements, and the number of pilots.

The Commission discussed briefly the implementation of an apprentice program through regulation rather than legislative action. Mr. Gash will explore this possibility and report to the Commission.

The Commission discussed the prospects for a unified Pilot Association. To date, the pilots' efforts to form a single association have not been productive.

The Commission discussed the draft evaluation of the Joint Administrator's performance. Mr. Gash will circulate revisions to the draft for discussion at the

June public meeting.

The Commission discussed the use of launches to embark and disembark pilots at the Bridgeport anchorage.

Mr. Eisele circulated copies of a bill pending in the New York Assembly with respect to pilotage rates on the Hudson River. The Commission has requested that the Joint Administrator provide data regarding pilotage fees, expenses, distributions, and the number of pilotage assignments during 2004 and 2005. Mr. Eisele advised the Commission that he will ask the Commission to consider at the June public meeting a recommendation to DOT on pilotage fees.

Captain Beck advised the Commission and pilots of demolition and construction work planned for the Thames River railroad bridge and anticipated impacts on aids-to-navigation.

Mr. Rossiter advised the Commission and pilots of the availability of a condition survey for New Haven Harbor.

Captain Beck reported that DOT is in the process of commissioning a survey of water depths at State Pier.

The public meeting was adjourned at 8:57 a.m. The Commission did not meet in Executive Session. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 8, 2006 at 8:00 a.m., to be held at U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound, 120 Woodward Ave., New Haven CT.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission