



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



Minutes of July 12, 2007 Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting
Connecticut Department of Transportation
State Pier, New London CT

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:04a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael Eisele, Captain Charles Beck, Captain Richard Barry, William Gash, Captain Vince Cashin, Joseph Russo, and Dave Shuda were present along with CDOT staff members Alan Stevens and Dave Rossiter. Also attending were Captain M. Ball, Captain C. Jonas, Captain W. Mulligan, Captain T. Melancon, Captain P. Gaughran, and Captain T. Walker.

The minutes of the New York Board of Commissioners of Pilots for the month of June were circulated for review.

On the motion of Mr. Gash, seconded by Captain Barry, the minutes of the Commission's June 14, 2007 public meeting were approved as drafted by a unanimous vote.

Captain Beck advised the Commission that CDOT is continuing efforts to meet with the Office of Policy and Management ("OPM") concerning OPM's disapproval of the proposed pilotage rate increase. Mr. Eisele advised the Commission that he had written the Governor on behalf of the Commission in support of the rate increase and that Captain Cashin had separately written to the Governor. The Commission reviewed S5303-A, passed by the New York legislature on July 6, 2007, which will increase rates for the New York pilots. It was noted that the New York legislation is expected to become effective on July 16, at which time New York pilots and Connecticut pilots will be operating under different rate structures.

On the motion of Captain Cashin, seconded by Captain Beck, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend that CDOT delete that provision of the proposed regulatory change which would require that 6% of gross pilotage fees be escrowed for pilot training and certification expenses if necessary to win OPM support for the rate increase.

Captain Beck reported that CDOT supports the Commission's June 21, 2007 recommendation to extend the temporary fuel surcharge until January 31, 2008. The CDOT has issued public notice of its intent to extend the surcharge. The public comment period closes July 20, 2007.

Captain Beck reported that the draft Request for Proposals with respect to the management and operation of the Joint Rotation is still under review at DOT and will be released as soon as possible.

Mr. Eisele circulated a June 26, 2007 response from CDOT regarding the Commission's recommendation that a heavy weather pilot station be designated in Block Island Sound. CDOT acknowledged the Commission's efforts to balance safety with business, environmental, and security issues and noted that implementation of the

recommendation will require public notice and comment as well as consultation with the New York Board.

Captain Barry and Captain Cashin reported that they are continuing work on pilot qualification and training requirements. The Commission discussed possible funding sources for this training.

Captain Cashin reported that he and Captain J. Maco met with representatives of Logistec and Royal Caribbean International concerning the feasibility of a series of port calls at New London by the *Explorer of the Seas* during September and October. The Commission will support any pilotage requirements necessitated by these calls.

Captain Beck circulated USCG NAVI Circular No. 03-07 concerning implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential ("TWIC") Program. Under this program, pilots will be required to obtain a TWIC. It was noted that as currently planned, implementation of this requirement will occur no later than September 25, 2008.

Mr. Eisele advised the Commission that he will ask for nominations and a vote on a Vice-Chair at the September public meeting.

Mr. Eisele will prepare a draft Annual Report (7/1/06 – 7/1/07) for review at the September public meeting.

Captain Beck reported that CDOT will now post the Commission's agenda on the Pilot Commission webpage, located at www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=2314&q=307026.

Dave Rossiter indicated that a condition survey of depths at State Pier was available for review by the Commission and pilots. It was reported that this survey had been provided to Royal Caribbean in anticipation of port calls by the *Explorer of the Seas*.

The Commission did not meet in Executive Session.

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m. The Commission will not meet in August. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 13 at the Bridgeport Port Authority, 330 Water Street, Bridgeport CT.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission