

# ***Connecticut Pilot Commission***

**Minutes of April 14, 2005 Public Meeting  
Connecticut Department of Transportation  
State Pier, New London CT**

## **MINUTES**

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:05 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael J. Eisele, Vernon C. Miller, David Pohorylo, William Gash, and Joseph Russo were present. Also in attendance were David Rossiter (CT DOT); Captain Charles Jonas (Interport Pilots Agency, Inc.); Captain William Mulligan (Connecticut State Marine Pilots Association); Captain Ken Warner (Block Island Pilots); Captain Phil Gaughran (Connecticut Harbor Pilots); and Captain Thomas Walker (Long Island Sound Pilots),

The Commission reviewed draft minutes of the March 10, 2005 public meeting. Upon the motion of Mr. Pohorylo, seconded by Mr. Miller, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Eisele circulated Minutes of the Public Meetings of the Board of Commissioners of Pilots of the State of New York for the period February 1 – March 29.

The Commission briefly discussed the New England Shipping Company v. Block Island Pilots, et al. case. Mr. Eisele noted that the docket sheet reports no activity in the case since November, 2004. The Commission is awaiting DOT's response to the Commission's February 11, 2005 recommendation regarding participation in the case. Mr. Pohorylo has recused himself from any participation in this matter.

Mr. Eisele reported that the DOT responded to Captain Gaughran's objections to the inclusion of enrolled vessels by way of a letter to the Joint Administrator dated March 2, 2005. In that letter, the DOT advised the Joint Administrator that the Governing Documents and regulations do not permit inclusion of enrolled vessels in the rotation without unanimous agreement of the participating pilots. Captain Warner advised the Commission that the Joint Administrator has complied with DOT's determination by removing enrolled vessels from the rotation. Captain Gaughran advised the Commission that he is also seeking restitution for penalties previously assessed by the Joint Administrator. The Commission will await the Executive Board's review of this issue.

The Commission tabled its discussion of the annual review of the Joint Administrator's performance due to Mr. Shuda's absence.

Mr. Eisele provided the Commission with a request from the U.S. Coast Guard to

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provide an observer at a Port and Waterway Safety Assessment (“PAWSA”) regarding the Broadwater Energy proposal to construct a floating LNG terminal in Long Island Sound. Mr. Pohorylo volunteered to attend the PAWSA, to be held in Port Jefferson, N.Y. on May 3 and 4, as his schedule permits.

The Commission discussed DOT’s provision of incident/accident reports to the Pilot Commission. Mr. Rossiter advised the Commission that DOT will forward to the Commission future incident/accident reports and provided a “Report of Marine Accident” form used by DOT for pilot reports. Mr. Miller will review the New York, Connecticut, and federal requirements for incident/accident reports and report back to the Commission.

Mr. Gash prepared a recommendation to the DOT regarding state funding of the NOAA PORTS station in New Haven based on information provided by Captain Warner regarding establishment of the station and previous funding arrangements. The draft recommendation asks that the DOT allocate \$5,000 to maintain the PORTS station for another year. On the motion of Mr. Gash, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Commission unanimously voted to make the recommendation. Mr. Eisele will send the recommendation to DOT and circulate copies.

The Commission discussed Senate Bill 327 and related proposals to increase the authority of the Pilot Commission. Mr. Gash agreed to explore possible legislative initiatives for the Commission’s consideration and discussion with DOT. Several members of the Commission noted that it would be imperative for any bill relating to the Commission to have the support of the DOT.

The Commission discussed assembling an annual report for distribution to the various appointing authorities and legislative leaders, describing the Commission’s work. Mr. Eisele will provide the Commission with a draft for consideration.

Mr. Rossiter advised the Commission that the DOT was still considering the issue of mandatory boarding stations and expected to take action shortly. Additionally, the DOT expects to issue 2005 licenses to comply with requirements of the MOA, including recency in the western end of the Long Island Sound.

On the motion of Mr. Miller, the public meeting was closed at 9:30 a.m. The Commission did not meet in Executive Session. Following the public meeting, Captain Jonas hosted a tour of the Connecticut Pilot, including a demonstration of the vessel AIS. The Commission’s next public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2005, 8:00 a.m., at U.S.C.G. Group Long Island Sound, New Haven.

Michael J. Eisele, Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission