

Connecticut Pilot Commission

**Minutes of May 12, 2005 Public Meeting
U.S. Coast Guard Group Long Island Sound
120 Woodward Avenue, New Haven CT**

MINUTES

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:15 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael J. Eisele, Vernon C. Miller, Captain Joseph Staneko, David Pohorylo, David Shuda, William Gash, and Joseph Russo were present. Also in attendance were Richard Jaworski (CT DOT), LCDR Alan Blume, U.S.C.G., Captain Charles Jonas (Interport Pilots Agency, Inc.)' Captain William Mulligan (Connecticut State Marine Pilots Association), Captain Ken Warner (Block Island Pilots), and Captain Phil Gaughran (Connecticut Harbor Pilots).

The Pilot Commission reviewed draft minutes of the April 14, 2005 public meeting. Upon the motion of Mr. Gash, seconded by Mr. Pohorylo, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Eisele distributed copies of the DOT's April 29, 2005 correspondence regarding the New England Shipping Company v. Block Island Pilots, et al. case. In response to the Pilot Commission's February 11, 2005 recommendation, the DOT has decided not to intervene or otherwise participate in the case pending anticipated motion practice. The DOT advised the Commission that it would consider intervening if the case is not resolved by motion. The DOT also encouraged the Commission to continue efforts to work cooperatively with the New York Board of Pilot Commissioners to address concerns arising out of the rotation. The Commission will continue to monitor the progress of this case. As previously noted, Mr. Pohorylo has recused himself from any participation in this matter.

The Commission discussed possible recommendations to the DOT regarding the 1st annual review of the Joint Administrator's performance. A subcommittee consisting of Mr. Gash, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Shuda will prepare a recommendation for consideration by the full Commission at the June, 2005 public meeting.

Mr. Gash and Mr. Pohorylo briefed the Commission on the U.S. Coast Guard's Port and Waterway Safety Assessment ("PAWSA") of the Broadwater Energy proposal to construct a floating LNG terminal in Long Island Sound. Mr. Pohorylo and Mr. Gash each attended one day of the PAWSA in Port Jefferson, N.Y. on behalf of the Commission. LCDR Blume provided further background on the purpose of the PAWSA and the Coast Guard's procedures. The Commission discussed the implications of the Broadwater proposal for pilotage, including specialized training and certification. Mr. Pohorylo will investigate the possibility of inviting a Broadwater

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representative to address a future Pilot Commission public meeting.

Mr. Eisele distributed the DOT's March 1, 2005 notice to all Connecticut-licensed pilots that Montauk Point and Point Judith have been designated as Pilot Boarding and Disembarkation Stations. In addition, the DOT prohibited the pilotage of any vessel through Montauk Channel with a draft in excess of 38'. The Commission discussed the DOT's notice and heard comments from Captain Jonas and Captain Mulligan. Mr. Eisele circulated some history of the Commission's recommendation to DOT regarding boarding/disembarkation stations. Captain Jonas distributed a request that pilots be provided with discretion to board at alternate stations in severe weather. The Commission did not take any action.

Mr. Eisele distributed a copy of the Commission's May 2, 2005 recommendation to DOT that it provide \$5,000 in funding to continue operation of the New Haven PORTS station in partnership with NOAA. Mr. Jaworski advised the Commission that he was scheduled to visit the PORTS station following the public meeting and that DOT was considering the recommendation.

The Commission received a copy of a request for an increase in pilotage rates directed to DOT by Connecticut State Marine Pilots Association, Inc. The proposal includes a rate increase spread over three years, with a portion of the increase to be dedicated to the purchase of a pilot boat, as well as an increase in the minimum and maximum number of pilot units, detention fees, cancellation fees, and docking fees. The proposal includes a comparison of pilotage rates in Long Island Sound with rates for Providence, Newark, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. The Commission will analyze this proposal for discussion at its June, 2005 public meeting.

The Commission discussed the prospects for legislation increasing the authority of the Commission. Mr. Gash will prepare a preliminary outline for discussion with DOT at the June, 2005 public meeting.

Mr. Miller reported that the New York Board had provided him with information regarding New York's requirements for incident/accident reports. Mr. Miller will compare these requirements with the federal standards and advise the Commission if he believes that any recommendation to the DOT is warranted. The Commission discussed the desirability of a single standard among the state and federal authorities.

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 as soon as possible.

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Mr. Jaworski advised the Commission that the DOT completed issuance of 2005 pilot licenses.

LCDR Blume advised the Commission that the First Coast Guard District requested comments regarding the elimination of the BIS buoy. Mr. Eisele will draft a letter on behalf of the Commission requesting that the BIS buoy be maintained.

On the motion of Mr. Pohorylo, seconded by Mr. Gash, the public meeting was closed at 9:45 a.m. The Commission did not meet in Executive Session.

The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Connecticut Department of Transportation, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington CT.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission