



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



Minutes of October 12, 2006 Public Meeting
Connecticut Department of Transportation
State Pier, New London CT

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:05 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael J. Eisele, Captain Charles Beck, Captain Vincent Cashin, David Pohorylo, William Gash, Vernon Miller, David Shuda, and Captain Richard Barry (attending telephonically) were present. Also in attendance were Dave Rossiter (CT DOT), LCDR Alan Blume, U.S.C.G. (Chief, Prevention Department, Sector Long Island Sound), Captain Michael Ball, Captain Ken Warner, and Captain Rich Astles (Block Island Pilots), Captain Bill Mulligan and Captain Ted Sanford (Connecticut State Marine Pilots, Inc.), Captain Charles Jonas and Captain Ted Melancon (Interport Pilots), and Rich Rainey (The Day).

The minutes of the New York Board for 8/06 and 9/06 were circulated for review. The minutes of the Commission's September 14, 2006 public meeting were unanimously approved as drafted upon the motion of Captain Cashin, seconded by Mr. Miller. Mr. Eisele and Mr. Gash abstained.

Mr. Eisele advised that the New England Shipping Company v. Block Island Pilots case was voluntarily dismissed without prejudice in light of the Court's view that the matter was mooted by the implementation of the Joint Rotation.

LCDR Blume briefed the Commission on the Captain of the Port's September 21, 2006 report assessing safety and security issues for the Broadwater Energy LNG project.

Captain Beck reported on the status of the DOT's formulation of a Request for Proposals with respect to the Joint Rotation.

Mr. Eisele presented a draft Annual Report for the period July 1, 2005 – July 1, 2006 and solicited comments from the Commission, DOT and the public. The revised report will be presented at the November, 2006 public meeting for the Commission's approval.

The Commission reviewed the current pilotage rate structure as well as revenues, expenses, workload, and distributions reported by the Joint Administrator for 2005. Captain Warner provided the Commission with a detailed comparison of pilotage expenses at east coast ports for various size vessels. The Commission also heard comments from the public concerning pilotage rates. The Commission will consider further information and comments at the November public meeting with an intention to make a recommendation to DOT regarding pilotage rates by the December public meeting.

LCDR Blume reported that the Coast Guard is cooperating with the Marshall Islands authorities in an investigation of the September 20, 2006 BARKALD / ESSENCE collision, which occurred in New York waters with a New York-licensed pilot aboard. The New York Board is also conducting an investigation.

LCDR Blume briefed the Commission on the Coast Guard's request for comments regarding revised guidelines for merchant mariner physical standards and a requirement for submission of annual physical examinations by pilots working under the authority of federal pilotage endorsements.

Captain Beck advised the Commission that the New York Board referred for investigation an incident involving a transfer of pilots at City Island on August 22, 2006. DOT is reviewing the matter.

The public meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. The Commission did not meet in Executive Session. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 9 at 8:00 a.m., to be held at U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound, 120 Woodward Avenue, New Haven.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission