



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



Minutes of January 11, 2007 Public Meeting
Connecticut Department of Transportation
State Pier, New London CT

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:10 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael J. Eisele, Captain Charles Beck, Captain Vincent Cashin, David Pohorylo, David Shuda, and Joe Russo were present.

The minutes of the New York Board were circulated for review. The minutes of the Commission's December 14, 2006 public meeting were unanimously approved as drafted upon the motion of Mr. Shuda, seconded by Captain Cashin.

Mr. Eisele reported that the Commission's recommendation with respect to a pilotage rate increase and extension of the temporary fuel surcharge had been presented to Commissioner Carpenter. Captain Beck advised the Commission that DOT has decided to extend the temporary fuel surcharge for another 180 days and that the recommended pilotage rate increase is under review.

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

The Commission discussed the use of pilot launches at the Bridgeport anchorage and heard extensive public comment. A number of pilots expressed concern over safety issues involving the launch provided at Bridgeport. Currently, the pilots use a competing launch service from New Haven at a substantial additional cost. Captain Warner agreed to provide Mr. Pohorylo with a list of specific deficiencies in the launch currently utilized for this service. Mr. Pohorylo will consult with the launch operator to determine if these issues can be remedied and report back to the pilots and Commission.

David Domogala of PSEG Power CT LLC addressed the Commission and pilots concerning plans to bring Panamax vessels to PSEG's Bridgeport Harbor Generating Station. Mr. Domogala presented PSEG's plans for dredging and berthing arrangements and sought advice from the pilots present regarding the maneuvering and docking of those vessels and the maximum permissible draft in both the federal channel and alongside. Several pilots provided feedback on these issues. Captain Beck briefed the Commission on the status of dredging plans for Bridgeport Harbor.

The Commission continued its discussion of pilot boarding and disembarkation stations. Mr. Eisele advised the Commission that he asked Captain Beck, Captain Cashin, and Captain Barry to form a subcommittee to consider the issue and report to the full Commission. Captain Barry has met with Captain Warner

and Captain Jonas and the subcommittee plans to make a report at the February public meeting. Captain Jonas demonstrated the operation of the AIS system on a laptop computer to show the Commission how a pilot boat and an arriving ship would identify each other.

Mr. Eisele reported the formation of a Harbor Safety Committee by the Captain of the Port. Captain Beck, Captain Cashin, and Mr. Pohorylo plan to attend the first meeting of the Committee on January 23, 2007 in Port Jefferson.

Captain Walker noted that the Commission's pilotage rate recommendation includes the regulation of docking fees and inquired whether the DOT intended to assess the proposed 6% training and certification fee on docking fees. It was noted that docking fees are not currently subject to the 6% state assessment on pilotage fees. Mr. Eisele stated that it was not the Commission's intention to recommend any change in the current practice. Captain Beck advised the Commission that it is not DOT's intention to assess the training and certification fee against docking fees.

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The Commission did not meet in Executive Session. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 8 at the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound, 120 Woodward Avenue, New Haven, CT.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission