



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION**



**Minutes of December 13, 2007 Connecticut Pilot Commission  
Public Meeting  
Connecticut Department of Transportation  
2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington CT**

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:05 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael Eisele, Captain Rick Barry, Captain Charles Beck, Captain Vince Cashin, and Dave Pohorylo were present along with CDOT staff members Alan Stevens, Dave Rossiter, and Joe Salvatore. Also attending were LCDR Kevin Oditt, U.S.C.G., LT Matt Wingate, N.O.A.A., Captain Charlie Jonas, Captain Mike Ball, Peter Boynton (TSA), and Dawn M. Kallen (U.S.C.G.).

The minutes of the New York Board of Commissioners of Pilots for the month of November were distributed.

On the motion of Captain Beck, seconded by Captain Cashin, the minutes of the Commission's November 8, 2007 public meeting were approved as drafted by a unanimous vote.

Dawn M. Kallen, a marine casualty investigator for the Coast Guard, briefed the Commission on the causes of the BARKALD / ESSENCE collision and responded to comments and questions from the Commission and the public.

Captain Beck reported that CDOT provided the Legislative Regulation Review Committee with notice of the proposed amendment to pilotage rates on November 26 and is awaiting final approval. Barring adverse action by the Committee, the rate increase is expected to be implemented next month.

Captain Beck reported that the Commission's November 27 recommendation regarding extension of the temporary fuel surcharge until July 31, 2008 is supported by CDOT. A Solicitation of Comments was issued on December 5<sup>th</sup> and comments are due by January 15, 2008. The New York Board has been advised of this action.

Captain Barry and Captain Cashin reported on a meeting with the New York Board regarding the Commission's recommendation that a heavy weather pilot station be established in Block Island Sound. The New York Board asked for further information about the location of the proposed station and the weather conditions under which it would be used. Captain Cashin will prepare a response to the Board's questions. This issue will be continued on the agenda.

Captain Cashin commented on safety and standardization issues. The Commission discussed means to pay for training and equipment, including the prospects for persuading OPM to permit the 6% fee currently diverted into the general fund to be used for training and certification purposes.

The Commission continued its discussion of the draft criteria for apprentice pilot

selection and training developed by Captain Cashin and Captain Barry. The Commission will provide further written comments to Captain Beck for inclusion in the draft. This issue will be continued to the January meeting.

The Commission reviewed charter party language provided by Mr. Love which might be used to incorporate a fuel cost index into the pilotage rates. The Commission discussed the use of Platt's Oil Bunker Wire and the Department of Energy's New England diesel fuel index. Mr. Pohorylo observed that a number of tug operators impose a variable fuel surcharge which is pegged to fuel prices. Mr. Pohorylo will investigate the index or other mechanism used to measure fuel prices and report to the Commission.

Captain Cashin, LCDR Oditt, and Captain Ball provided information on TWIC availability and implementation.

Mr. Rossiter commented on the availability of MOB training through Marine Rescue Consultants.

LCDR Oditt briefed the Commission regarding the Coast Guard's Home Port system, which will be used to electronically disseminate information concerning Connecticut ports and LIS.

LT Wingate commented on legislative reactions to the COSCO BUSAN allision and the incorporation of new technology in marine navigation.

Captain Beck reported that the CDOT has completed its investigation of alleged boarding/disembarkation violations involving nine Connecticut-licensed pilots and made a proposal to each of those pilots resolve those violations by imposition of a one day license suspension for each alleged violation, with the suspension to be held in abeyance for a one year period. If no additional violations occur in the one-year period, the suspension would not be imposed. In response to an inquiry, the Commission discussed whether it would be appropriate to recommend to CDOT that record of the suspension be expunged from a pilot's record following the one-year probationary period. No action was taken.

Captain Cashin moved that the Commission recommend to CDOT that one or more new pilots be licensed to participate on the Connecticut side of the joint rotation. The motion was not seconded. Mr. Pohorylo then moved that the Commission recommend to CDOT that the moratorium on new licenses be lifted without a specific recommendation to license a pilot. Captain Cashin seconded the motion. The motion failed to carry by a three – two vote, with Mr. Pohorylo and Captain Cashin in favor and Mr. Eisele, Captain Beck, and Captain Barry opposed.

The Commission did not meet in Executive Session.

The public meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2008 at the Connecticut Department of Transportation, State Pier, New London CT.

Michael J. Eisele  
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission