



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



Minutes of February 8, 2007 Public Meeting
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound
120 Woodward Avenue, New Haven CT

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:10 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael J. Eisele, Vernon C. Miller, David Pohorylo, David Shuda, and William Gash were present. Commission members Captain Charles Beck and Captain Richard Barry participated by telephone.

The minutes of the Commission's January 11, 2007 public meeting were unanimously approved as drafted upon the motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Shuda.

Mr. Eisele reported that the Commission's recommendation to extend the temporary fuel surcharge an additional 180 days was approved and implemented by DOT. The surcharge will now expire on July 31, 2007. Mr. Eisele also advised that DOT has indicated its support for the Commission's recommendation to increase pilotage rates and has drafted a Public Notice, copies of which were distributed. Following publication of the Public Notice and a thirty day comment period, DOT will make a final determination as to pilotage rates.

Captain Beck reported that DOT had completed a draft Request for Proposals with respect to the management and operation of the Joint Rotation. That draft is under review at DOT and will be released as soon as possible.

The Commission continued its discussion regarding the use of launches to transport pilots at the Bridgeport anchorage. Captain Warner advised that the Rotation System Executive Board believes that the launch proposed for use at the anchorage is deficient in its MOB retrieval system, handrails, walkways, and means of egress. This issue remains unresolved and will be continued to the March agenda.

Captain Warner reported that he and Captain Beck had attended the 1/23/07 meeting of the Harbor Safety Committee sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard. Discussion at the meeting focused on fire fighting capabilities on the Long Island Sound and vessel routing issues. Working groups were formed to address both issues.

The Commission continued its discussion of pilot boarding and disembarkation stations. Captain Beck and Captain Barry reported that the subcommittee formed to consider this issue was unable to agree upon a recommendation to the Commission. Two competing ideas were presented; the first to provide pilots

with discretion to board inside Block Island Sound if weather precluded boarding at the Montauk Point pilot station, and the second to establish certain weather parameters for use of the Montauk Point station, but requiring the use of the Point Judith Station (or some nearby location) if boarding at Montauk Point was not possible. After lengthy discussion and public comment, Captain Barry proposed to draft a proposal to establish a heavy weather boarding station inside Block Island Sound, but east of New York's three nautical mile limit, for consideration by the Commission. This issue will be continued on the agenda.

LCDR Alan Blume reported that the comment period for the Broadwater EIS has closed and that the Coast Guard is working on a final recommendation. In addition, the Coast Guard is continuing work on the designation of federal anchorages in Long Island Sound. Finally, LCDR Blume advised the Commission that the Coast Guard contacted Amtrak concerning deficiencies in fendering on the Thames River railroad bridge, which had been reported to the Coast Guard by a pilot. Those deficiencies have been corrected.

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m. The Commission did not meet in Executive Session. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 8 at the Connecticut Department of Transportation, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington CT.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission