

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

April 12, 2011
899 Morrison Drive
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

William P. Lempesis, Chairman
David Galloway
Capt. Christopher H. Thornton
John F. Hassell, III
Kenneth Riley

Staff and others present were:

Kate K. Cox, LLR Administrator
Capt. Whitemarsh S. Smith, III, Charleston Harbor Pilots
Capt. John E. Cameron, Charleston Harbor Pilots
CDR Chris Marcy, USCG
Capt. Robert Wilson, USCG
Brad Gettelfinger, Moran Shipping
Andrew Walsh, Maybank Systems
Noreen K. Milligan, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at the Maritime Association Office, 899 Morrison Drive, in Charleston, South Carolina. Whereas, proper notice of date, time, place and agenda information having been properly provide to the **Charleston Post and Courier** and proper notice also having been posted at the Maritime Association Office 24 hours prior to the time scheduled for the meeting and quorum having been noted as present. Chairman Lempesis called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Lempesis asked the members to read the draft of minutes taken during the March 8th meeting. Commissioner Galloway made a **motion** to accept the minutes and Commissioner Thornton seconded the motion. The motion passed. Next, the Finance Report showed that checks written since the March 8th meeting totaled \$900.00 and there were no deposits. With all bills being paid, the Commission had \$18,397.07 on hand. Commissioner Galloway made a **motion** to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Hassell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Lempesis asked for public comment. Mr. Brad Gettelifinger and Mr. Andrew Walsh introduced themselves to the Commission.

Chairman Lempesis asked for the Coast Guard report. CDR Marcy said that the Ocean Race would be May 14th but would not cause any problems with ship traffic. Buoy #2 will be moved in late June. Clotter Creek has been rebuilt. The Coast Guard will start to send out e-mails and make phone calls when they have a dead ship permit.

Mrs. Cox of LLR gave the Commission an update on personnel changes in LLR in Columbia. She reported a formal complaint has been authorized by the Commission and is being prepared by the LLR Office of General Counsel on one of the pilots. She

also reported there were no requests for a hearing on the Pre-filed Reg. 136-018. The final proposed regulation was filed with the General Assembly in the week ending April 1, 2011.

It was reported that the pilots said they are receiving more cooperation from vessels with the speed restrictions during Right Whale season. The letter that the Commission sent to the pilots in February has helped. Capt. Cameron wanted to know if they should draft a new regulation for next year. Commissioner Hassell said that letters from the Commission and the Maritime Association to the Governor's office might help. Chairman Lempesis asked Capt. Cameron if he would draft a letter for the Commission.

The pilots submitted a letter to the Commission in reference to LLR response letter dated March 3, 2011 regarding Review and Legal Advice on the Carriage of Passengers on Pilot Boats. The Commission made a **motion** to submit the letter to LLR for additional consideration. The motion passed.

The cost for South Carolina on the Jasper Port project was discussed at the last meeting said Capt. Cameron. He will continue to keep the Commission up to date on the project.

Commissioner Galloway asked Mr. Walsh to demonstrate the new Channel 13 system to the Commission. Mr. Walsh went over how the system works and also played back some of the recording for that day. The Commissioners were very pleased with the clarity of the recording. It was noted that the pilots do not have access to the recording. Commissioner Thornton asked how the invoices will be paid. Under the old system the Maritime Association paid the bill and the pilots reimbursed them. With the new system the Commission is looking at paying the bills and the pilots reimburse them. Mrs. Cox will seek legal advice from LLR and let the Commission know how to handle billing and reimbursement at the next meeting.

The Militia letter was tabled until next meeting.

The racons on the Don Holt Bridge have been replaced and are working great.

Chairman Lempesis asked if there was any new business. The pilots have asked for a CPI rate increase of 1.5%. The Commission tabled the request until next month so that the request can be published in the newspaper. Mrs. Milligan was asked to send a notice to the paper so that it would run in Thursday through Sunday's paper. A **motion** to postpone next months meeting by a week was made. The motion passed. The new date for May's meeting will be May 17, 2011.

There being no further business to bring before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen K. Milligan
Executive Secretary

Billy Lempesis
Chairman