



## RI STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION

235 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908

### APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

#### RHODE ISLAND STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING

held on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 9:30am

Room 425A, 235 Promenade Street, Providence RI 02903 and via Zoom

#### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Jason McNamee, Deputy Director, RIDEM, Chair  
Capt. Peter Fritz, Vice Chair  
Capt. Vincent Kirby, RISPC

NOT PRESENT: Cpt. Michael Schipritt, RIDEM

#### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chris Murray Executive Director, NEMP Assn.  
Rich Astles, NEMP Association  
Jenna Giguere, Esq., Legal Counsel for RISPC  
Mary Dalton, RIDEM, Secretary for RISPC  
Matthew Stevens  
Theodore Sanford

### CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the RI State Pilotage Commission took place in Room 425A, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI and via Zoom on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. Chairman McNamee called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. After a roll call was taken, Chairman McNamee confirmed that a quorum was present.

### I. MARCH 2, 2023 & APRIL 6, 2023 MEETING MINUTES VOTE

Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the March 2, 2023 meeting. (This action was tabled from the April meeting for requested revisions.)

Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to approve the revised March 2, 2023 meeting minutes. Capt. Kirby **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS 3-0 to approve.**

Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the April 6, 2023 meeting.

Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to approve the revised April 6, 2023 meeting minutes. Capt. Kirby **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS 3-0 to approve.**

### II. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION

Chairman McNamee stated that the Commission had received probationary upgrade requests from Theodore Sanford and Matthew Stevens and the Commission would vote on these requests later in the meeting.

Chairman McNamee stated that he had received a letter from Boskalis Offshore Contracting LLC requesting an exemption to the pilotage requirement for several vessels in Block Island Sound. Capt. Astles stated that for Block Island Sound Boskalis would have to get an exemption from the New York pilotage commission in addition to the RISPC. He further stated that he had met with Boskalis and they stated they would be using dynamic positioning (DP) as opposed to dropping anchor. Capt. Astles further stated that the USCG was opposed to this and Boskalis stated that they would rescind their current exemption request and reissue.

Capt. Kirby stated that the New York commission received the same exemption request and New York sees this as a Rhode Island issue and is deferring to us. He stated that there is a requirement for pilotage because the vessels will be entering existing or transitioning in state waters. He also states that the RISPC has had a DP policy since 2019 and this policy would apply to these vessels in BIS. Capt Kirby also stated his concerns with some ambiguities in the exemption request regarding “bad weather and other contingencies”.

Vice Chair Fritz suggested that this be deferred until such time that the Commission receives a new exemption request.

Chairman McNamee stated he would reach out to Boskalis regarding a new exemption request and a possible timeline.

### **III. COMMUNICATIONS SENT BY THE COMMISSION**

None.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

The Commission received requests and documentation for upgrade from Matthew Stevens and Theodore Sanford from probationary pilots to full branch pilots.

Capt. Astles stated that these upgrades are supported by the NEMP Association.

Capt. Kirby **MOVED** to upgrade probationary pilots Theodore Sanford and Matthew Stevens to Full Branch pilots. Vice Chairman Fritz **SECONDED** the **MOTION**.

Vote was **UNANIMOUS**, 3-0 to approve.

Chairman McNamee administered the oath to Stevens and Sanford.

### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **a. Review of pilot licenses, certifications and medicals for 2023.**

Ms. Dalton stated that she received renewed federal credentials from David Gray and the new license was issued by the Commission.

#### **b. Pilot President/NEMP Executive Director**

Capt. Murray gave an update on the wind farm construction and stated that the Ulysses with a 40' appendage will be coming in and out of Providence. Capt. Murray further stated that they have reviewed the current applicants on file and will start interviewing for apprentice pilots.

### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Capt. Kirby **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m. Vice Chairman Fritz **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS** 3-0 to adjourn.

**2023 Meeting Schedule:**

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| June 1 <sup>st</sup>      |
| July 6 <sup>th</sup>      |
| August 3 <sup>rd</sup>    |
| September 7 <sup>th</sup> |
| October 5 <sup>th</sup>   |
| November 2 <sup>nd</sup>  |
| December 7 <sup>th</sup>  |

\*Meeting dates are subject to change.  
/md