

APPROVED MINUTES
RHODE ISLAND STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, March 8, 2018
Held at 235 Promenade Street, Room 250
Providence, RI 02908

<u>MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE</u>
Capt. E. Howard McVay, Chair Capt. Peter Fritz, Vice Chair Frank Floor, Member Dean Hoxie, Member	Atty. Christina Hoefsmit, Counsel to the RIPC Jo-Anne Scorpio, Secretary to the RISPC Paul Costabile, Ex. Dir., NE Marine Pilots Assn. Craig Ibbotson, Moran Shipping Bob Blackburn, Port Authority, Davisville

I. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A regular monthly meeting of the RI Pilot Commission was called to order at approximately 9:30am on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at the headquarters of the RIDEM, Div. Law Enforcement. A quorum was present; the February 15, 2018 minutes were reviewed. After a minor revision was made, Commissioner Floor moved to accept the minutes; Vice Chair Fritz seconded the MOTION. [Voted 3-0 in favor.](#)

II. OLD BUSINESS

- 1) **State Pilot Board Updates:**
The Chair stated that the Board met with Apprentice Pilot Dale Harper and reported on his progress. He also advised that Capt. Harper accompanied him on several trips and he is now focusing on the most difficult areas in docking and undocking ships in tight quarters. Capt. Harper continues to improve and should be ready for examination in the next few months. Harper has indicated that he's feeling more and more comfortable.
- 2) **Schedule Changes:** No Changes.
- 3) **Regulation Recodification Update:**
Chair McVay said that he, Commission Counsel Hoefsmit, and Commission Secretary met the previous day (March 7) to review comments and questions made by the Off. of Regulation Review (ORR). McVay said that he and Counsel Hoefsmit did not agree with some of ORR's opinions which could hold up the process of getting the regulations finalized. Most of the comments were reviewed, but they may have to meet one more time to finish editing the rest of the comments.
- 4) **Pilot Advisory Panel Update:** Commissioner Fritz stated that he was in contact with the other panel members and discussed two areas of concerns. 1) Problems that can occur from complacency and how to avoid those challenges, and 2) Issues that may occur in the future as changes occur. He went on to say that our pilots are held to the highest standards and it is important to be proactive in their training. The Panel will be

scheduling a meeting soon to discuss those topics further and will keep the Commission up-to-date.

- 5) **RI Pilot Approach Communication System Update:** Capt. Costabile was told that the state system is not up and running yet.
- 6) **Medical Form Requirements:** Chair McVay will draft two "Policy Letters". 1) informing the pilots that they will no longer have to submit their USCG medical form to the Commission. The State Supplement form completed by their primary care will be the only form they are required to submit; and 2) Their Primary Care Doctor has to clear them 'fit for duty' before returning to work after taking medical leave.
- 7) **State Pilot Incident/Accident Investigation Protocol:** Chair McVay explained that Member Frank Floor wants to have guidance protocol in the event the Commission is notified of an accident/incident. Commissioner Floor advised that the two DEM employees who were trained in obtaining data from the RAVEN equipment have just retired. He said that he will inquire about having other qualified employees trained.

Commissioner Floor also stated that because accidents are so infrequent, there should be a guidance documents that will give detailed instructions on how to obtain the data. Commissioners then discussed who should obtain the VDR and how to facilitate getting the pilot off the vessel while heeding to all statutes and regulations. They also discussed whether it will be necessary to have an EPO (Environmental Police Off.) go on board with a subpoena.

Chair McVay requested Atty. Hoefsmit to devise a plan/procedure to follow that will hold up in court for whoever is going on board after an accident has occurred.

- 8) **Pilot Certificates and Expiration Dates.** The Commission Secretary advised that she contacted Capt Gray about his MMD license which expires in May (2018) and his Radar Observer expiration (3-18-18). Capt. Gray said he was aware of the dates and will send copies to the Commission as soon as he renews those certificates.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- 1) No new business.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11 o'clock a.m.

V. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING