



RI STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION

235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

PROPOSED MEETING MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING

held on Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 9:30am

235 Promenade Street, Room 425A

Providence, RI 02908

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Capt. E. Howard McVay, Chair
Capt. Peter Fritz, Vice Chair
Jason McNamee, RIDEM, Deputy Director, Member
Lt. Michael Schipritt, RIDEM, Div. of Law
Enforcement, Member

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chris Murray Executive Director, NEMP Assn.
Christina Hoefsmit, Esq., Legal Counsel for RISPC
Mary Dalton, RIDEM, Secretary for RISPC
Richard Astles, NEMP Assn.

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the RI State Pilotage Commission took place at 235 Promenade Street, Room 425A, Providence, RI and through Zoom videoconferencing on Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.. The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. After a roll call was taken, Chair McVay confirmed that a quorum was present.

I. INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Chairman McVay introduced Lt. Michael Schipritt from the RIDEM Division of Law Enforcement as Chief Hoxsie's replacement on the Commission. The Commission is awaiting a copy of the appointment letter signed by RIDEM Acting Director Gray.

II. JUNE 3, 2021 MEETING MINUTES VOTE

Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the June 3, 2021 meeting. Chairman McVay then entertained a **MOTION** to approve the draft minutes as written. Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to accept the June 3, 2021 minutes. Mr. McNamee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS, 3-0 to approve.**

III. & IV. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED AND SENT BY THE COMMISSION

Chair McVay asked the members if anyone had received any communications and there were none and stated that none were sent out by the Commission.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Review of pilot licenses, certifications and medicals for 2021.:

Chairman McVay explained that all of the pilots must maintain a variety of licenses and training that is sent to Capt. Murray and he maintains a spreadsheet for tracking of expiring dates. Annually between October and January each pilot must see a Rhode Island licensed physician for an annual medical exam and upon receipt by the secretary, an annual medical certificate will be sent to the pilot.

b. Pilotage Commission accident investigation protocol and VDR recovery:

Chair McVay asked Lt. Schipritt if any of the EPO's had been able to do a "ride along" yet and learn how to retrieve VDR in case of an accident. He further explained the process what happens after an accident and how the EPO would maintain the chain of custody of the VDR. Chair McVay requested that by the October meeting something be in place with the EPO's and Capt. Murray.

c. New RI Pilot licenses (without plantations):

Chair McVay stated he had the probationary licenses to be signed for Capt. Stevens and Capt. Sanford and the full branch license for Capt. Harper because this was the first in person meeting that they could be signed since approved at the March 4, 2021 meeting. These are the first of the new licenses that do not say "plantations".

d. New Narragansett Bay apprentices and vote:

Chairman McVay stated the Commission had received a recommendation from the State Pilot Board for apprentices for Narragansett Bay, Capt. Sanford and Capt. Stevens. Chair McVay further stated that he would like to ride inbound and outbound with the new apprentices. Chair McVay then entertained a **MOTION** to appoint the Capt. Sanford and Capt. Stevens as apprentices for Narragansett Bay. Mr. McNamee **MOVED** to appoint Capt. Sanford and Capt. Stevens as apprentices for Narragansett Bay. Vice Chair Fritz **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**, 3-0 to approve.

e. Pilot President/NEMP Executive Director

Capt. Murray stated that the state had received the PPU's that had been manufactured in New Zealand and training was scheduled for later in September via Zoom with George Burkley. Certificates will be issued and sent to the secretary for filing. Capt. Murray further discussed the iPads, etc. that pilots had purchased for the pilots and possible issue with downloading data or hardware malfunction. Chair McVay stated that the data contained on the iPads belonged to the state in case of an accident and asked if there was a need to change the regulation to state such. He asked about the chain of custody to get this data from the "cloud". Chair McVay suggested that these might be questions for Mr. Burkley to get his opinion since he was an expert in this field.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Date for the annual public hearing:

Chairman McVay stated that the Commission needed to set the date for the annual public hearing with the change to Regulation 9.15Q regarding changes to the PPU requirements.

b. Regulatory changes: PPU regs & training:

Chairman McVay stated that because of an accident in Bellingham Bay with significant damage he would like to change the regulations to state that the PPU be required during all ship movements in any harbor anywhere.

Vice Chairman Fritz stated that the annual "Rules of the Road" review has been sent to the pilots. He further stated that there was a request to combine a couple of training courses because of overlapping content. Chairman McVay stated that the course descriptions were not spelled out in the regulations so there was no need to make a change in the regulations.

Chairman McVay confirmed with Attorney Hoefsmid that once the Commission approves the regulation changes, it goes to ORR then published 28 days before the public hearing for public comment. Chairman McVay stated the Commission would plan for their annual meeting to be held in November.

Chairman McVay then entertained a **MOTION** to approve the modification to the regulation as discussed. Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to approved the modification as discussed. Mr. McNamee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**, 3-0 to approve.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, The Chair entertained a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:52 a.m. Mr. McNamee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was 3-0 to adjourn.

***Remainder of 2021 Meeting Schedule:**

October 7
November 4
December 2

*Meeting dates are subject to change.

/md