

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Rhode Island State Pilotage Commission
Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908**

**Proposed minutes of the RI State Pilotage Commission Meeting
Held at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island
on January 7, 2010**

Members in attendance:

Michael Scanlon, Chair

Captain E. Howard McVay, Jr.; Member

Captain J. Peter Fritz, Member

Larry Mouradjian, Member, excused from attendance

Others in attendance:

Capt. Walker, NEP; Capt. Bogus, NEP; David Keen, Shell Trading;

Hank Nelson, Goff & Page; Tom Sullivan, Moran Shipping;

Ed LaBlanc, USCG; Paul Costabile, Ex. Director, NEP;

Joanne Scorpio, Recording Secretary

Quorum being present, the chair called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. The minutes of the December 3, 2009 meeting were approved by assent.

I. OLD BUSINESS

A. Apprentice Pilot Update – Captain McVay reported to the Commission the status of the apprentice pilots:

1) Captain Bogus has completed the minimum number of trips he needs and is where he should be to be certified for exam. He may be ready for exam in early March 2010.

2) Captain Barnaby will be ready to test in Block Island Sound in the following week.

3) Captain Merrigan is progressing.

B. Pilot Medical forms for 2010

1) Mike Scanlon stated that most of the pilots have sent in their medical forms for this year.

C. Western Singapore

1) M. Scanlon notified the commission that RIDEM has received the check for the fine (\$1,000) imposed on the Western Singapore. He also stated that he would like to look into having the fine amounts raised considering how costly it would be to the state in the event that any catastrophic incident occurred.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sea Ahmed

1) M. Scanlon reported that an incident took place at the Port of Providence with the foreign vessel Sea Ahmed as the ship was leaving port. He explained that he received an email from Captain

Walker about the incident. He continued on and stated that he requested a meeting be scheduled with the Coast Guard to discuss his concerns of future foreign vessels coming into port and how incidents/accidents can be prevented. He emphasized that similar incidents have occurred several times in the past with other foreign vessels.

2) M. Scanlon requested that Captain Walker give a brief overview to the Commission of the events that occurred on January 3, 2010 with the Sea Ahmed.

3) Captain Walker brought his computer that contained a stored version of the pilot program that recorded the vessel and tug's maneuvers. As the program was being shown, Captain Walker described to the commission and attendees the details as the Sea Ahmed was leaving port and then suddenly lost power causing the ship's anchors to be dragged and eventually losing one in the harbor.

4) M. Scanlon said that he forwarded a copy of the pilot's report with the coordinates to the Corp of Engineers. He also stated that he contacted the USCG and requested that they put an advisory out notifying incoming ships of the lost anchor. He requested the Corp of Engineers to conduct a survey to determine the location of the anchor.

B. Proposed recommendation:

1) Captain McVay advised the commission that NY has proposed that RI pilots give NY requirements to the master of incoming vessels

in Long Island Sound. He went on to state the NY Commission has asked that the pilots give the requirements to the master of the ship when the pilot boards the vessel. He also stated that he did not think it was necessary because the RI pilots' training and background is different from the other states, and he also felt it may interfere with piloting through congested or hazardous waters if the pilot is interrupted.

3) M. Scanlon was opposed to issuing the notification at this time; one reason being a language gap with foreign crews. A written notification may be interpreted incorrectly.

4) Captain Costabile stated that the captain of the vessel should be focused on navigating the ship and not focused on the notice.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Next Scheduled Meeting

The Commission plans to hold its next regularly scheduled meeting in the conference room of the Division of Law Enforcement at DEM headquarters located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI on February 4, 2010 starting at approximately 9:30 a.m.