

APPROVED MINUTES

RI STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING

December 1, 2011

held at 235 Promenade Street, Room 250

Providence, Rhode Island 02908

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Capt. E. Howard McVay Jr., Chair

Capt. J. Peter Fritz, Member

Chief Steve Hall, Member

Larry Mouradjian, Member

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Atty. Gary Powers

Capt. Paul Costabile, Ex. Director, NEMP

Joanne Scorpio, Recording Secretary

Ed LeBlanc, USCG

Tom Sullivan, Moran Shipping

I. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Quorum being present, the chair called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. Commissioners reviewed the November 3, 2011 minutes. The minutes were approved by assent.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

1) State Pilot Badge ID Update – Chief Hall stated that some of the pilots have had their photo taken for their ID.

2) Apprentice Pilot Update: Chair McVay stated that there was nothing to report this month. Next month will be the apprentice/program quarterly review.

3) Review of RI Statute §46-9-8 (Pilots -RI Sound, Narragansett Bay, Sakonnet River and Tributaries) Chair McVay advised the Commissioners that discussions will continue at next month's meeting.

4) Americas Cup - Ed LeBlanc (USCG) addressed the commissioners and stated that he will have more information on the Cup after the meeting in Newport on Friday, Dec 2. 2011.

5) USCG proposed regulation change and response for master oceans – The Commissioners continued to discussed the proposed regulation changes for master mariners. Chair McVay said that he will respond in a letter to the USCG explaining that the Commission is against lowering the standards for an unlimited ocean's master license. He went on and said that the Commission could also change the requirements for state pilots to attain a master's license. Ed LeBlanc advised the Commissioners that they could request a public meeting to discuss their concerns. Chair McVay stated he will

include in his letter a request for a meeting or conference call for clarification of the proposed regulation changes.

6) Sinking of Barge – Ed LeBlanc gave an update on the plans to recover the sunken barge. The preparations will be made to flip the sunken barge and then lift it to the surface. He said that an issue of concern is commercial lobster pots in the area. Member Chief Hall said that he would get notice out to all commercial fishermen. Member Mouradjian also suggested sending a notice out to fisheries.

Ed LeBlanc said that the operation will be completed by mid December and should not interfere with any commercial traffic.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

USCG Changes in Medical Review Policy – Chair McVay stated that the Coast Guard has been mandated to implement changes. He said that mariners are getting denied the right to work medically and explained the protocol for medical evaluations and how it's affecting mariners not being able to renew their license because of the review process. The members also talked about classifications of physicians and the possibility of state Pilots being tested for drugs and costs incurred for the tests. Chair McVay said he would send the FAA's guidelines to the members.

IV. NTSB REPORT:

Incident with Eagle Otome – Chair McVay explained an incident that

caused an oil spill in the Sabine River with the vessel Eagle Otome. The report determined that PILOT FATIGUE caused by untreated obstructive sleep apnea and work schedule contributed to the accident. He asked the commissioners whether or not they wanted to respond to the NTSB. He also discussed the possibility of implementing a fatigue policy regulated by the RIPC for state pilots. Member Mouradjian suggested reinforcing what is already in place. Member Chief Hall suggested sending a letter to the pilots reminding them of the Fatigue Policy mandated by the NEMP. Chair McVay said the he could CC that letter to the NTSB and the Governor. Member Mouradjian made a motion for the Commission to draft a letter to the pilots reiterating the current fatigue policy and then CC copies to the NTSB and Governor. Member Capt. Fritz seconded the motion. All in favor 3-0.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No executive session

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

VII. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

The RI Pilot Commission plans to hold the next regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the Division of Law Enforcement at DEM headquarters located at 235 Promenade Street, Rm. 250, Providence, RI on Thursday, January 12, 2012 starting at

approximately 9:30 a.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.