



## RI STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION

235 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908

### APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

#### RHODE ISLAND STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING

held on Thursday, April 6, 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  
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

### 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, April 6, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. After a roll call was taken, Chairman McNamee confirmed that a quorum was present. Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to accept the agenda. Capt. Kirby **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS, 4-0 to accept**.

### I. MARCH 2, 2023 MEETING MINUTES VOTE

Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the March 2, 2023 meeting. Chairman McNamee stated that he would like to make some revisions to the draft minutes and he would forward them to Ms. Dalton for approval at the May meeting. Ms. Dalton stated she would post the draft minutes to the Secretary of State's website.

### II. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION

Ms. Dalton stated that she received an email from Capt. David Gray dated March 20, 2023 announcing his plan to retire on or about July 1, 2025. Capt. Astles stated that the NEMP was already in the process of planning for his replacement. Chairman McNamee stated that this would be something to address in the future when there was more information from the NEMP.

### III. COMMUNICATIONS SENT BY THE COMMISSION

None.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

The Commission took an updated group photo for the RIDEM website. Ms. Dalton stated that she would send an email to the members requesting a headshot and bio to update the website.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Ms. Dalton stated there were no updates.

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

Capt. Astles advised that the NEMP has been working on applicants for Capt. Gray's replacement and there are possibly 4 candidates. He further advised that they are looking a new pilot boat less than 35' in length to meet the proposed right whale restrictions. The approximate cost is \$1.6 million for a 34' boat. Capt. Kirby stated that this is substantially smaller than the boats currently in use.

Capt. Murray stated that one of the pilot boats has undergone a major rebuild and would hopefully be back in service soon. He also provided documentation of the Providence work that the probationary pilots have completed. He advised that they have completed their trips in about 30 days as opposed to the allotted 60 and should be ready for advancement at the May Commission meeting.

### **c. Finalize Pilotage Commission advisory body definitions – PTAP and RIPAB**

Chairman McNamee stated that after the last meeting there was still a question regarding the membership of the Pilot Advisory Training Panel or PTAP. Vice Chairman Fritz stated that he would like to see the PTAP remain as it currently is. Capt. Astles confirmed that the state Pilot Board trains the apprentices separate from the PTAP. Ms. Giguere advised that a legal disclaimer should be included on the document that states that these entities service in a strictly advisory capacity to the Commission and she would forward the exact language to Ms. Dalton.

Capt. Kirby **MOVED** to approve the "RI State Pilotage Commission Advisory Entities" document to include the legal disclaimer. Vice Chairman Fritz **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS 4-0 to approve.**

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **a. Discuss legal review of Pilotage regulations in the context of *Ever Forward* incident**

Ms. Giguere stated that the statutes provide very broad authority and allow the RISPC to "take action" on the pilot's license in the case of negligence, misconduct or neglect to include suspension or revocation of the pilot's license. She further stated that Maryland did adopt a regulation in regard to cell phone use in response to the *Ever Forward*. Chairman McNamee confirmed that the NEMP has adopted a more specific cell phone policy.

### **b. Continued discussion on Coast Guard security report and suggestions for any Commission actions from the report findings**

The Commission discussed the fact that a distress code between the pilot boat and the ship is almost impossible to keep covert.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m. Capt. Kirby **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS 4-0** to adjourn.

### **2023 Meeting Schedule:**

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| May 4 <sup>th</sup>       |
| 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