

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
October 16, 2025

CLOSED SESSION

A Closed Session of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Sheri Tonn online via Microsoft Teams to discuss matters relative to the 2026 Pilot Exam.

Present via Teams:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Mike Anthony (Pilot), Lee Tyler (Foreign Flag Shipping), Tom Buroker (Ecology), Jason Hamilton (Public), Tim Farrell (Public), Severin Knutsen (Pilot)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

AAG: Lauren Jaech

REGULAR MEETING – Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was convened at 11:00 a.m. by Chair Sheri Tonn online via Microsoft Teams only.

Present via Teams:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Mike Anthony (Pilot), Lee Tyler (Foreign Flag Shipping), Tom Buroker (Ecology), Jason Hamilton (Public), Tim Farrell (Public), Severin Knutsen (Pilot)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

AAG: Albert Wang, Lauren Jaech

Puget Sound Pilots: Ivan Carlson, Ken Grieser, Travis McGrath, Eric Klapperich, Scott Brewen

PSP Licensure Candidate: Captain Harlow Wood & Family

USCG: CDR Sarah Rodino, Genaro Villejo (VTS), CDR Ian McPhillips

Port of Grays Harbor: Mike Folkers

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association: Mike Moore, Jordan Royer

The Northwest Seaport Alliance: Lindsay Wolpa

Oil Transportation Safety Committee: Fred Felleman

Public: Scott Sevall, Ann LaRue, Kris Faucett, Terry Hall

BPC Staff Report.

- The BPC Fall 2025 newsletter has been distributed and posted. It contained a highlight of the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound and the excellent services they provide the maritime community. Patrick Gallagher, Executive Director of the Marine Exchange, has been invited to the January Board meeting to present further on their services.
- The newsletter also featured Jolene Hamel, Training Program Manager, out and about, who in addition to attending the recent Women Offshore Conference, was invited by the USCG to a Leadership Mentoring event, along with PSP President Ivan Carlson. Both Ivan and Jolene thanked the USCG for their invitation to participate and Jolene also thanked them for a tour of Sector Puget Sound, including the VTS.
- BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki provided both the KPI quarterly dashboard as well as the monthly dashboard and was available for questions on any of the data.

BPC Chair Report.

- BPC Chair Sheri Tonn announced the recent retirement of Puget Sound pilot Captain Don Soriano. The Board wishes Captain Soriano all the best in his retirement and thanks him for his 40 years of impeccable service to the State of Washington.
- Sheri also reported on the recent government-to-government meeting that was held at the Lummi Nation, which included members of Lummi Nation Natural Resources, BPC, and members of the Ecology Rulemaking Team as well as the Ecology Spills Program Manager. The Board thanks Lummi Nation for the gracious hosting of the meeting. It was good and important conversation.

Activity Reports. Mike Moore representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), Lindsay Wolpa representing The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), Ivan Carlson representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), Mike Folkers representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH) and CDR Sarah Rodino, CDR

Ian McPhillips and VTS Director Genaro Villejo representing United State Coast Guard (USCG), offered current and projected statistical data as well as updates on current maritime issues and activities.

Dainis & Co – Presentation regarding 2026 Exam – Amanda Dainis, Dainis & Co.

2026 Exam Psychometrician Dr. Amanda Dainis presented an overview of the 2026 exam process. The presentation was followed by Q&A with the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *TERMINAL CRANES PIER 18, 08/31/2025*

Inbound Pier 18 - 3	Inbound to the pier, the pilot noted cranes in incorrect position even though repeatedly told by the line boss that it was safe to come in. Terminals need to be reminded of crane and other requirements outlined in Harbor Safety Plan as well as other recommendations made by the pilot for preventing future occurrences. MSO forwarded to PSC and TOWG.	<u>Motion:</u> Knutsen/Tyler – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *TERMINAL CRANES PIER 18, 09/07/2025*

On arrival at Pier 18-1	On arrival to the pier, the pilot noted that the ship-to-shore cranes were in incorrect position. Terminals need to be reminded of crane and other requirements outlined in Harbor Safety Plan. MSO forwarded to PSC and TOWG.	<u>Motion:</u> Knutsen/Anthony – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *VIENNA EXPRESS, 09/10/2025*

Transiting from Tacoma Blair WW to Yukon Harbor Anchorage	After backing out of Terminal 4, pilot observed that bow thruster was stuck at 50% to port. Pilot brought vessel under control and got bow thruster successfully stopped and contacted VTS.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Lee – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *HAFINA EGRET 09/11/2025*

Underway at Pilot Station	While transiting from the Pilot Station to Vendovi Anchorage, vessel experienced a steering failure that ultimately required proceeding back to anchor for repairs.	<u>Motion:</u> Knutsen/Farrell – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *TUG WESTRAC (NACC Poros), 09/16/2025*

Outbound in the Duwamish River	Upon starting turn at Fishers, pilot received call from tug <i>Westrac</i> advising that they were experiencing problems. Tug folded up and eventually line parted. Pilot was able to maintain vessel and no damage done to either tug or vessel.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Hamilton – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *TUG PROTECTOR (OOCL NY), 09/18/2025*

Approaching Seattle Pier 18-1	Pilot had communication issues with Tug <i>Protector</i> and as a result had them closing in stern on dock. Pilot tried all communication measures including flashlights. Pilot was able to get closure arrested just over edge of dock but no contact made. Remainder of berthing made without incident once <i>Protector</i> got communication channels on again. MSO forwarded to PSC and TOWG.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Hamilton – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *CYNTHIA R (Norwegian Joy), 09/29/2025*

Between Buoy SG and SF in Northbound TSS Lanes	Pleasure craft <i>Cynthia R</i> , repeatedly crossed from west to east lanes in front of cruise ship <i>Norwegian Joy</i> . Pilot was finally able to get them on radio and they thought they had the right of way. Pilot reminded them of Rule 10 and then asked VTS to broadcast Rule 10 Regulations, which they did.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Farrell – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *STAR LYGRA*, 09/28/2025

Underway West of Ketron Island	While underway main engine was required to go to half power due to exhaust gas temperature deviation. After troubleshooting, pilot directed vessel to anchor for repairs rather than continuing to transit with limited power. Repairs made and vessel continued on without incident.	<u>Motion</u> : Farrell/Anthony – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *BREST*, 10/01/2025

Vendovi Island East Anchorage, Anacortes	While still in the vicinity of the anchorage, vessel experienced propulsion failure. Pilot utilized tug <i>Tanquerliq</i> which made fast to stern to tow vessel to the center of the anchorage without incident.	<u>Motion</u> : Farrell/Knutsen – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Kirtley/Hamilton – approve the September 18, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes as presented with minor grammatical revisions – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- **Consideration of Licensure of PSPD Pilot Candidate: Captain Harlow Wood.** On behalf of the Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC), TEC Chair Commissioner Knutsen stated that Captain Harlow Wood has completed all sections of his Training Program Agreement including successful Portable Piloting Unit (PPU) training and completion of his federal licensing requirements. The Board has received his TPTR Summary and all training comments. Captain Wood started training in September 2023 and completed 267 trips.
Motion: Knutsen/Farrell – issue Captain Harlow Wood state pilot license #231 for the Puget Sound Pilotage District – Carried.
After he was licensed, Captain Wood introduced his family to the Board and thanked all of those who helped him in the Training Program over the past twenty-five months.
- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains Mann & Riddle.** TEC Chair Knutsen reported that the TEC met yesterday and reviewed the letters for Captains Mann and Riddle and made a few minor changes to Captain Riddle's letter. He also reported that Captains Siddell, Hannuksela, and Scott have finished their upgrades leaving 9 pilots in their upgrading windows.
Motion: Knutsen/Anthony – approve the pilot license upgrade program for Captains Mann & Riddle – Carried.
- With today's licensure, there are now 9 trainees in Puget Sound. There are currently 6 trainees in Training, although 2 have been approved for Evaluation after a short list of jobs are finished, and 3 in Familiarization/Observation. A trainee attended the TEC yesterday and was approved to enter Evaluation after completing a short list of jobs. There is also 1 trainee in Grays Harbor in Training. He also attended the TEC meeting and will be returning in November to get approval to move into Evaluation. All the trainees are making good progress.
- The 4 trainees who were previously approved for Simulator Training at the last meeting: Captains Shuler, Britton, Boullion and Woodworth attended that training at Mitags West on November 13 & 14. A big thank you to Captains Anthony and Knutsen who volunteered their time to lead the simulations.
- TEC Chair Knutsen reported that the REC continues to be shut down as a part of the government shutdown and this could start to affect the training program if it continues much longer. The TEC will need to give some trainees grace if it impacts the trainee's ability to meet the 8-month timeline for 6 federal charts drawn.
- TEC Chair Knutsen also addressed the need for trainees in the Training Program. He reminded the Board that while it typically takes about 2 years (up to a maximum of 3 years) to become licensed, it then takes 5 years to become unlimited to move the largest ships and cruise ships in Puget Sound. There are 16 current PS Pilots who are within the average 5-year window for retirement and the TEC is monitoring when the best time is to bring in the remaining 3 Captains on the 2024 Exam list.

Pilot Exam Committee (PEC)

- **Consideration of Exam Application Packet.** The Board has reviewed the application packet for the 2026 exam and had an opportunity to ask any questions. This year applicants can fill out and submit their applications online, via mail, or make an appointment to deliver it in person.
Motion: Anthony/Farrell – approve the 2026 exam application as written in version one – Carried.
- The application packet, along with the exam bibliography, will be available starting Nov 13. The preliminary bibliography is currently available on the BPC website.
- Dainis & Company will be here in early November working on simulator development and will be meeting with subject matter experts.

Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Knutsen/Anthony – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains M.N. Hannuksela and S.W. Scott for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

Motion: Knutsen/Anthony – approve the physical examination report for Captain R.M. Boullion for his annual trainee license renewal – Carried.

It was noted that there is still one pilot not fit for duty.

Tug Escort Rulemaking Updates. As reported earlier, the Lummi Nation had requested government-to-government consultation with the BPC and Ecology. That meeting took place on October 2. They were interested in finding the right audience to address damage that occurred to their fishing and netting gear, and both the BPC and Ecology were able to recommend resources and share information with them. Proceeding with the rulemaking language requires a CR 103 and a special meeting of the Board is scheduled for November 12 at 11am. This meeting will be via Microsoft teams only.

Committee Updates.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- The PSC will meet next on December 3.

Pilotage Act Advisory Committee (PAAC)

- The PAAC will meet next on November 12.
- Jaimie Bever will be meeting with Brian Young, PPA, tomorrow to discuss incident reporting and MSO's.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

- Jolene Hamel reported out on the recent Women Offshore Conference held in Houston in early October. She was joined by two Puget Sound Pilots who were of great assistance in sharing the piloting perspective with conference attendees and thanked both the BPC and PSP for sponsoring this worthwhile event.
- Jaimie Bever shared that the BPC will be featuring upcoming social media clips developed in conjunction with our DEI Consultant, Dr. Jen O'Ryan, that highlights the pathway to pilotage as described by several Puget Sound Pilots. First up will feature the WSF pathway and the two most recent pilots, Captains Michelson & Wood.

Terminal Operations Work Group (TOWG)

- The TOWG will meet again on Monday.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reminded everyone of the two November meetings, a special meeting on Teams only on November 12 at 11 a.m., and the regular November meeting on November 20. If a December meeting is needed, it will be on December 11. BPC Regular Meetings continue to be hybrid, and all are invited and encouraged to attend in person or online.

Public Comment. Chair Tonn asked for public comment, and none was offered.

Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Tonn at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaimie C. Bever, Executive Director

Sheri J. Tonn, Chair

Eleanor Kirtley, Vice Chair

Commissioner Andrew Drennen

Commissioner Severin Knutsen

Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton

Commissioner Timothy J. Farrell

Commissioner Lee Tyler

Commissioner Michael Anthony

Commissioner Tom Buroker