

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS**  
**November 20, 2025**

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**REGULAR MEETING – Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by both Chair Sheri Tonn (virtually) and Vice Chair Eleanor Kirtley in the Agate Conference Room, 2901 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA and online via Microsoft Teams.

Present In person:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Mike Anthony (Pilot), Severin Knutsen (Pilot)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Puget Sound Pilots: Matt Hannuksela, Steve Scott, Scott Brewen

Present via Teams:

Commissioners: Jason Hamilton (Public), Tim Farrell (Public), Tom Buroker (Ecology),

Lee Tyler (Foreign-Flag Shipping), Andrew Drennen (U.S.-Flag Shipping)

AAG: Albert Wang, Lauren Jaech

Port of Grays Harbor: Mike Folkers

USCG: LCDR Ian McPhillips

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association: Mike Moore, Jordan Royer

The Northwest Seaport Alliance: Lindsay Wolpa

BPC Oil Transportation Safety Committee: Fred Felleman, Rein Attemann

Public: Ann LaRue, Kris Faucett, Terry Hall, Curt Wallace, Jay Jennings

**BPC Staff Report.**

- BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever expressed gratitude for those who filled in for her while she was out with pneumonia.
- BPC Training Program Manager Jolene Hamel acknowledged the November 1 work anniversaries for Jaimie, who has been with the BPC for 10 years, and BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki, who has been with the BPC for 6 years. The BPC thanks them for all they do for Washington state pilotage.

**BPC Chair Report.**

- BPC Chair Sheri Tonn thanked the Ecology team for all of their work during Jaimie's absence. Sheri attended a meeting with Ecology Director Casey Sixkiller and Spills Program Manager Carlos Clement, and they were both pleased with the work that occurred during the tug escort rulemaking.
- Sheri also reported that Jay Jennings, VP of Northwest Marine Trade Association would like to meet to discuss pilotage and hoped to get that meeting scheduled soon.

**Activity Reports.** LCDR Ian McPhillips representing United State Coast Guard (USCG), Captain Matt Hannuksela representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), Mike Folkers representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH), Lindsay Wolpa representing The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) and Captain Mike Moore representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), offered current and projected statistical data as well as updates on current maritime issues and activities.

BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki provided the monthly dashboard and was available for questions on any of the data provided.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Pilots Report of Incident – PACIFIC CHAMP**

Commissioner Anthony reported that a soft grounding had taken place in Grays Harbor on the bulker PACIFIC CHAMP due to a significant change in depth in the anchorage area. and that there was great work from Captains D'Angelo and Leo. The Army Corps of Engineers has been out to survey the area. There were no injuries or damage, and the investigation is still ongoing. The BPC investigation report will be presented to the Board in January 2026. Commissioner Anthony thanked both Captain Bobby D'Angelo and Captain Ryan Leo for the great reporting and assistance.

**Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *ULTRA OCELOT*, 10/14/2025**

Underway at Pilot Station	Upon boarding vessel and doing MPX, pilot found that the engine was not functioning correctly and the vessel could not go faster than half ahead. Pilot arranged for assist tug to help anchor and proceeded to anchor without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Knutsen/Kirtley – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *CAPE GATA*, 11/07/2025**

Underway in Tacoma, Commencement Bay	While transiting Commencement Bay, the main engine failed to start astern. Two tugs were in the area, and they were called to assist getting vessel to anchor. Proceeded to anchor without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Anthony/Knutsen – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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**Meeting Minutes.**

Motion: Knutsen/Kirtley – approve the October 16, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes as presented with minor grammatical revisions – Carried.

**Committee Actions.**

**Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)**

- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains Michael & Fleischfresser.** TEC Chair Knutsen reported that the TEC met yesterday and reviewed the letters for Captains Michael and Fleischfresser. He also reported that Captains McGourty and Moore have received lift letters and Captains Cassee and Leo have finished their upgrades but will receive their letters in December leaving 8 pilots in their upgrading windows.  
Motion: Knutsen/Kirtley – approve the pilot license upgrade program for Captains Michael & Fleischfresser – Carried.
- **Consideration of 8-week extension on 8-month timeframe for 6 Federal Charts.** TEC Chair Commissioner Knutsen stated that considering the REC reopening services, the TEC feels it is appropriate to offer an extension to those trainees who were unable to work on their federal pilotage for the last two months due to the federal shutdown. This would give them an extension to 10 months from the previous 8-month timeframe in which they must have 6 federal charts completed.  
Motion: Knutsen/Anthony – approve the 8-week extension as recommended by the TEC – Carried.
- There are currently 9 trainees in Puget Sound. Six of those trainees are in Training, although 2 have been approved for Evaluation after a short list of jobs are finished, and 3 in Familiarization/Observation. The 3 trainees in Familiarization attended the TEC yesterday and were approved to enter Training/Observation as soon as they each complete a few more jobs. Additionally, another trainee attended to get approval to enter Evaluation when they have finished a few more jobs. One other trainee attended the meeting for their 6-month review. There is also 1 trainee in Grays Harbor, currently in Training. He also attended the TEC meeting and was given approval to move into Evaluation. All the trainees are making good progress.
- Grays Harbor pilots and the trainee recently did their required simulator training at MITAGS West and were very pleased with the newly built Grays Harbor simulation exercises.
- TEC Chair Knutsen reported that the Dainis & Company team were here in Seattle at the beginning of November to kick off psychometric review of the Training Program. The process is scheduled to last for the next year.

**Pilot Exam Committee (PEC)**

- **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (CR102): WAC 363-116-083 Written examination protest and appeals procedure and WAC 363-116-084 Simulator evaluation protest and appeal procedures.** The purpose of this rulemaking is to update the protest process for both the Knowledge Test (Written Exam) and the Skills Test (Simulator Evaluation). The proposed changes will clarify and simplify the protest and appeals process for pilot applicants, the exam consultants, and the BPC. They will also align with the current psychometrically validated pilot exam process.  
Motion: Knutsen/Kirtley – approve the filing of the CR102 as proposed – Carried.

- Captain Bendixen, Co-chair of the Exam Committee along with PGH Captain Ryan Leo, joined the meeting to give some exam updates which included having Dainis & Company here to work on simulator development, and scheduled dates for future simulator work.
- Work also continues on exam development and question writing. The Exam Bibliography has been released and is on the BPC website at <https://pilotage.wa.gov/2026-exam-resources>.
- Co-chair Bendixen also reiterated the important dates for the upcoming exam process that involve Board action.

#### **Exemptions from Pilotage.**

**Motor Yacht FALCON** – 70', 57 gt, Cayman Island registry, Captains Bogachev Stanislav and Drazen Genda.

Motion: Anthony/Drennen – concur with Chair Tonn's granting of the interim annual exemption with the condition of no Locks without an orientation session in the Locks - Carried.

**Motor Yacht AFTER EIGHT** – 151', 498 gt, Isle of Man registry, Captains David Holliss and Grant Lindsay.

Motion: Anthony/Farrell – grant an annual exemption with no conditions - Carried.

#### **Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.**

Motion: Farrell/Drennen – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains M.B. Cassee, T.D. Coryell, N.K. McGourty, B.R. Jensen, J.T. Galvin, R.A. Myers and N.K. Moore for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

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

#### **Proposed 2026 Board Meeting Dates.**

Motion: Farrell/Tyler – accept the proposed calendar dates for the 2026 Board meetings on the third Thursday of each month except for December which will be the second Thursday, along with a change to the start time to 11:00am - Carried.

#### **Cancellation of December BPC Meeting.**

Motion: Anthony/Farrell – accept the recommendation to cancel the December 11 Board meeting - Carried.

#### **Tug Escort Rulemaking**

**Implementation.** OTSC Chair Jaimie Bever was pleased to announce that the CR 103 that was approved at the special meeting of the Board on November 12, 2025 was filed this morning and later today both the website and the distribution list will be updated. The filing is for a new section of Chapter 363-116 WAC, Pilotage Rules, to establish tug escort requirements for laden oil tankers between 5,000 and 40,000 deadweight tons, barges and articulated tug barges greater than 5,000 deadweight tons. It is scheduled to be effective December 21, 2025. She is proposing that the BPC do an open letter to affected parties and utilize both PSP and PMSA distribution lists to get the word out to our maritime partners. This will also remain an agenda item for the first few months of implementation. Additional information regarding implementation of the rule is available on the BPC website at <https://pilotage.wa.gov/tug-escort-implementation>. She then answered both Board and public questions.

**Interagency Agreement between BPC and Ecology – 2028 Tug Escort Rule Review.** The Board received Amendment #1 to the original Tug Escort Rulemaking Interagency Agreement which removes the old scope of work and replaces with the new scope of work. This amendment document outlines the terms and responsibilities of each party for the 2028 rule review required by the 2019 legislation that is now codified in statute. The process will be very similar to the modeling work done for the rulemaking in terms of the coordination of the work. The decision-making responsibilities are similar to the model development work in that the Board will review and approve the scope of work and make policy decisions within the Board's authority. Ecology will make the technical decision pertaining to their model with updates to the Board. The agencies will work together on outreach and consultation requirements. Ecology will not be requesting additional funding from the legislature unless the review results in the BPC initiating another rulemaking.

Motion: Farrell/Hamilton – approve the amendment #1 of the Interagency Agreement as written – Carried, with one abstention by Commissioner Buroker.

#### **Puget Sound Pilots – Presentation: New Electronic Navigation Charts – Captain Steve Scott.**

PSP Pilot Captain Steve Scott presented on the new electronic navigation charts being developed and implemented by NOAA. A Q&A with the Board followed the presentation. PSP asked for a letter from the

BPC to support additional chart requests made by PSP to NOAA regarding the separate pilotage charts also being developed.

**2026 Legislative Session – Agency Request Legislation – An ACT relating to requirements of oil tankers operating in restricted waters; and amending RCW 88.16.190.** This proposed legislation is the technical fix to the discrepancy in escort tug requirements that will be created by the tug escort rulemaking. It covers the 40,000 – 60,000 DWT tank vessels that currently would require smaller tugs than the smaller vessels covered by the rulemaking. This request is currently under review with OFM. The feedback is generally positive. After OFM approval, the next step will be to look for legislative sponsors. There is no action needed from the Board today. This technical fix will have no financial impact as it is already in practice.

### **Committee Updates.**

#### **Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)**

- The OTSC will likely come back together in 2026 to discuss voluntary mitigation measures.
- The Board will need to determine the role of the OTSC on the 2028 rule review.

#### **Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)**

- The PSC will meet next on December 3.

#### **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)**

- Jaimie Bever shared that the DEIC will be getting back together and will be looking at messaging as well as focus areas for 2026.
- Previously we have been working with a steering committee but having lost both Commissioners Bendixen and Irwin from the committee. The committee is looking for new membership. Thanks to Commissioners Kirtley and Knutsen for volunteering.

#### **Pilotage Act Advisory Committee (PAAC)**

- The PAAC meeting that was scheduled on November 12 was cancelled. The next scheduled meeting is February 11.
- Jaimie Bever met with Brian Young, Pacific Pilotage Authority, to discuss incident reporting and MSO's in Canada. She will share this information with the PAAC at the February meeting.

#### **Terminal Operations Work Group (TOWG)**

- The TOWG had an excellent meeting last week with several marine terminal operators, longshoreman and others at the meeting. They will be looking at both lighting and numbering at the terminals. They also discussed getting agents involved in this work group. They also reviewed the MSO's from last month involving terminal cranes.

**Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates.** Chair Tonn reminded everyone that the December meeting was cancelled earlier in the meeting. The next meeting will be January 15 at the newly scheduled time of 11:00am. 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 by the public. Commissioner Farrell wanted to express his gratitude to Commissioner Tyler, for his role in both the TOWG and the TEC. He appreciates what Commissioner Lee brings to the table. BPC Executive Director Bever also let the Board know that a BPC contact list was sent out and asked to have Board members send in a brief bio about themselves, which will be added to the BPC website.

**Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned by Chair Tonn at 1:25 p.m. after wishing everyone happy holidays.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jaimie C. Bever, Executive Director

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Sheri J. Tonn, Chair

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Eleanor Kirtley, Vice Chair

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Commissioner Andrew Drennen

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Commissioner Severin Knutsen

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Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton

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Commissioner Timothy J. Farrell

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Commissioner Lee Tyler

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Commissioner Michael Anthony

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Commissioner Tom Buroker