

**BOARD OF COMMISSONERS OF PILOTS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of 4 June 2024**

The following Commissioners were present:

James Mercante, President  
Lucienne Bulow  
Richard Hendrick  
Joseph Ahlstrom  
William Rowland  
Jeffrey Loechner

**UPON MOTION DULY MADE, SECONDED AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED UPON, (EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE MINUTED) IN A PUBLIC MEETING, WHICH CONVENED AT 10:30 A.M., THE BOARD CONDUCTED THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS:**

1. The President called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
2. Appearances in Public Session: Mr. Charles Corso.
3. The Draft Minutes of the 28 May 2024 Board Meeting were reviewed, amended, and approved.
4. Adjournment to Executive Session for personnel, legal advice of counsel, medical, and/or official investigative matters, as necessary:

Pilot sick leave/other leave.

5. Return to Public Session from Executive Session.
6. Renewed, for a period of one year (unless otherwise noted), the following New York State pilot license(s) following a personal interview and review of work performance data, training, and medical/health records:

Robert Blake – Limited Branch SHP (6-month renewal)  
Paul Chevalier – FBHRP

7. Other Pilot/Personnel Matters: Continued on the docket.
8. Sandy Hook Pilots Association:
  - 8a. The Board will hold its 16 July 2024 weekly meeting at the Sandy Hook Pilot Association, 201 Edgewater St, Staten Island, NY. Continued on the docket.
  - 8b. Proposed Pilotage Fee Legislation: At the 12 March 2024 meeting, the Board discussed its response to an email from the New York State Assembly requesting information. At the 21 May 2024 meeting, the Board was advised that the legislation has passed the NYS Senate and Assembly. Continued on the docket.
  - 8c. Apprentice Selection: At the 8 November 2022 meeting, the Board discussed the apprentice candidate selection process used by various pilot associations. At the 23 January 2024 meeting, the Board approved an ad to be published in gCaptain for the 2024 Apprentice selection. At the 30 January 2024 and 6 February 2024 meetings, the Board reviewed the draft 2024 Apprentice Application. At the 13 February 2024 meeting and 30 April 2024 meeting, the Board was briefed on Apprentice Selection Committee Meetings attended by Executive Director Garger. At the 20 February 2024 meeting, the Board was advised that the Apprentice Application has been finalized. At the 30 April 2024 meeting, the Board was provided an update regarding the 24 April 2024 Selection Committee Meeting. Continued on the docket.
  - 8d. Mandatory reduction in pilot grade for pilots that reach 68 years of age: At the 19 December 2023 meeting, the Board reviewed the New Jersey Regulations addressing reduction in grade. Continued on the docket.

8e. At the 27 June 2023 meeting, the Board approved changes to the SHPA's Deputy Pilot grade structure as proposed and set forth by the SHPA NY President Captain James Mahlmann in his 26 June 2023 letter to the Board. At the 5 July 2023 meeting, the Board finalized a letter advising the SHPA of its approval. At the 16 April 2024 meeting, the Board discussed implementation of the changes. At the 23 April 2024 meeting, the Board approved the SHPA's recommendation regarding the deputy license upgrade schedule for Captain Stuebe and Captain Healy. Continued on the docket.

8f. At the 12 December 2023 meeting, the Board discussed the continuing education curriculum at MITAGS for 2024 pilot training courses. At the 16 January 2024 meeting, Commissioner Mercante briefed the Board on the 10 January 2024 meeting with the APA and SHPA regarding the curriculum. At the 30 January 2024 meeting, the Board discussed Board Opinions and Orders that will be addressed in the training courses. Continued on the docket.

8g. At the 26 December 2023 meeting, the Board reviewed the Apprentice Training Program Proposal prepared by the SHPA. At the 12 March 2024 meeting, the Board met with the NY and NJ SHPA Presidents Captain Mahlmann and Captain Ferrie to discuss the proposal. At subsequent meetings, the Board has continued to discuss the proposal. Continued on the docket.

8h. At the 19 September 2023 meeting, the Board discussed preparation of additional questions for the state licensing exam. At the 19 March 2024 meeting, the Board reviewed licensing exam questions. At the 2 April 2024 meeting, Commission Ahlstrom updated the Board on his review of the questions. Continued on the docket.

8i. The Board has reviewed correspondence from the SHPA regarding the proposed North Atlantic Right Whale Seasonal Speed Zones regulations. At the 8 November 2022 meeting, the Board noted comments submitted by the SHPA regarding the regulations. At the 28 March 2023 meeting, the Board discussed the Seasonal Speed Zone Regulations with NYSHPA President Captain James Mahlmann. At the 26 December 2023 meeting, Commissioner Hendrick updated the Board regarding proposed legislation addressing the regulations. Continued on the docket.

8j. The Board was advised that the SHPA implemented a shipboard pilot ladder training program for apprentices and pilots at a climbing facility in Northvale, New Jersey. The minutes of the 15 March 2022 meeting on this issue are incorporated herein by reference. Continued on the docket.

8k. State Licensed Pilot Security Training and Communications/FEMA Port Security Grants: The 2020 Port Security Grant (PSG) awarded to the Board by FEMA supported a pilot security training and communications course at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS). Training was completed in Spring of 2023. The 2021 Port Security Grant awarded to the Board was used to fund CCTV cameras for the SHPA's new Pilot Boat NEW YORK. At the 7 May 2024 meeting, the Board was advised that all of the financial and reporting requirements on the 2020 and 2021 grants have been met and the grants have been closed by FEMA. The Minutes of the 7 February 2023 meeting and 5 July 2023 meeting on these issues are incorporated herein by reference. Continued on the docket.

8l. The SHPA's Apprentice Assessment forms have been reviewed and discussed by the Board. Continued on the docket.

9. Hudson River Pilots Association:

9a. Champlain Hudson Power Express Project (CHPE): At the 5 December 2023 meeting, the Board reviewed information provided by HRPDA President Captain Ian Corcoran. At the 30 January 2024 meeting and the 5 March 2024 meeting, Commissioner Hendrick updated the Board on additional information received from Captain Corcoran. At the 16 April 2024 meeting, Captain Corcoran updated the Board regarding the CHPE project. At the 30 April 2024 meeting, the Board was briefed by Executive Director Garger regarding his meeting with the operators of the project vessels. At the 7 May 2024 meeting, the Board reviewed a pilotage proposal from the vessel operators. At the 28 May 2024 meeting, the Board discussed the proposal. Continued on the docket.

9b. At the 7 May 2024 meeting, Commissioner Hendrick briefed the Board on the M/V VICTORIA T port call at Albany. At the 21 May 2024 meeting the Board was updated on the port call. Continued on the docket.

9c. At the 31 October 2023 meeting, the HSPA membership met with the Board to discuss various Hudson River pilotage issues.

At the 13 February 2024 meeting, the HSPA membership, NYSHPA President Captain James Mahlmann and NJSHPA President Tim Ferrie met with the Board to discuss pilotage rates. At the 20 February 2024 meeting, the Board reviewed the HSPA's request to amend docking fees and the pension surcharge. At the 16 April 2024 meeting, Captain Corcoran appeared and updated the Board regarding these requests. At the 30 April 2024 meeting, the Board discussed the SHPA-HSPA MOU with Captain Mahlmann. Continued on the docket.

9d. At the 14 March 2023 meeting and 2 May 2023 meeting, the Board discussed the status of Hudson River dredging by the Army Corps of Engineers. At the 30 May 2023 meeting, the Board was updated on Hudson River dredging by HSPA President Captain Corcoran. At the 12 December 2023 meeting, the Board reviewed additional information provided by Captain Corcoran. Continued on the docket.

9e. Following the formation of the Hudson River Safety and Navigation Operations Committee (HR Committee) to address issues raised in the Port and Waterways Safety Assessment study of the Hudson River, the Board has been regularly briefed by Commissioner Hendrick on the HR Committee's activities, including its review of legislation regarding the establishment of anchorages on the Hudson River. At the 12 January 2021 meeting, the Board was advised that the United States Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2020 was passed by Congress and contained provisions that address the establishment of anchorages on the Hudson River and circumstances when vessels can be anchored outside established anchorage grounds. At the 2 May 2023 meeting, the Board discussed the issuance of the Coast Guard report on Hudson River anchorages. At the 30 May 2023 meeting, the Board discussed the status of the establishment of Hudson River anchorages with Captain Corcoran. At the 21 November 2023 meeting, the Board reviewed US Coast Guard MSIB 2023-03 dated 8 November 2023 regarding Hudson River anchorages. At the 5 December 2023 meeting, the Board reviewed additional information provided by Captain Corcoran. At the 28 May 2024 meeting, the Board reviewed a press release from Congressman Pat Ryan regarding the proposed legislation regarding anchorages. Continued on the docket.

10. Long Island Sound/Block Island Sound Pilotage:

10a. At the 20 February 2024 meeting, the Board reviewed correspondence from the Northeast Marine Pilots regarding proposed docking restrictions at New Haven Terminal. At the 27 February 2024 meeting, the Board reviewed additional correspondence received from NMPA. At the 23 April 2024 meeting, the Board discussed the docking restrictions with NMPA President Captain Astles. Continued on the docket.

10b. At the 13 February 2024 meeting, the Board reviewed a Coast Guard MSIB regarding federal pilotage requirements in Sector Long Island Sound waters. Continued on the docket.

10c. At the request of the NMPA, the Board filed proposed rate changes with the NY Department of State in January 2023. At the 16 May 2023 meeting, the Board was advised that the new Pilotage rates went into effect on 10 May 2023.

10d. Pilotage Requirements for offshore wind project vessels: The Board has reviewed and responded to several inquiries regarding New York State pilotage requirements for vessels operating in Long Island Sound and Block Island Sound. At the 14 February 2023 meeting, the Board approved a letter to DEME regarding the operation of the vessel LIVING STONE. At the 11 April 2023 and 18 April 2023 meeting, the Board discussed a request received from vessel operator Boskalis regarding pilotage requirements and discussed the request with Northeast Marine Pilots Association President Captain Richard Astles at the 2 May 2023 meeting. At the 9 May 2023 meeting, the Board was updated on the Rhode Island Pilot Commission's discussions regarding Boskalis' request. At today's meeting, the Board reviewed information regarding the M/V JAY transit. The minutes of the 25 January 2022 and 24 October 2023 Board Meeting are incorporated herein by reference. Continued on the docket.

10e. The Board has discussed correspondence from the Northeast Marine Pilots Association regarding the proposed North Atlantic Right Whale Seasonal Speed Zones regulations. At the 1 November 2022 meeting, the Board noted the response to the NMPA's request for comments regarding the proposed rule. At the 26 December 2023 meeting, Commissioner Hendrick updated the Board regarding proposed legislation addressing the regulations. Continued on the docket.

10f. At the 5 July 2023 and subsequent meetings, the Board discussed documentation for LIS/BIS license renewals. Continued on the docket.

11. The New York State pilot associations utilize Pilot Boarding Deficiency Report forms when a deficiency is found. The following reports from the previous three months have been provided to and reviewed by the Board (prior reports on file):

M/V MAERSK GARONNE (Singapore Registered Containership, Built 2003) 5 May 2024: New York SHP Matthew Haley reported an improperly rigged pilot ladder that had to be re-rigged before he departed the vessel.

12. REPORT(S) OF MARINE ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS UNDER INVESTIGATION:

12a. M/V MARE SICULUM (Italian Registered Tanker, Built 2011) 24 May 2024. After beginning an inbound passage on the MARE SICULUM from Ambrose sea buoy, Sandy Hook Pilot Stephen Feminella was advised by the ship's captain that there was an issue with the one of the fuel injectors and that the vessel would have to proceed at a reduced speed of half ahead. VTS was advised and the vessel proceeded to Stapleton Anchorage. Continued on the docket.

12b. M/V EUROPA 2 (Maltese Registered Passenger Ship, Built 2023) 23 May 2024. Upon boarding the vessel for an outbound passage, Sandy Hook Pilot Aldean Codling was advised by the ship's captain that there was a communication module issue with the starboard azipod. The pilot reported the issue to the Coast Guard. A class inspection was conducted and the vessel was cleared to sail. Continued on the docket.

12c. M/V FRONT THOR (Marshall Islands Registered Tanker, Built 2010) 11 May 2024. Vessel was letting go lines when there was a power loss due to a generator failure. Sandy Hook Pilot Andrew Glassing was on board but had not assumed the conn. Coast Guard was notified. Lines were put back out and repairs made. The vessel sailed on 12 May 2024. Continued on the docket.

12d. M/V STELLA (Panamanian Registered Containership, Built 2004) 10 May 2024. After backing out from Berth #57 Port Newark under the assist of 3 tugs, docking pilot Ken Barsch ordered a dead slow ahead bell but there was no response from the engine using bridge controls. Engine control was given to the engine room and the vessel was able to proceed to Stapleton Anchorage with tug assistance where repairs were made to solenoid valves. Sandy Hook pilot John DeCruz was on the vessel but had not assumed the conn. The Coast Guard was notified. The Vessel departed New York Harbor on 11 May 2024. No violation of the New York Navigation Law or the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations. No pollution or personal injury. The Board voted to close the case.

12e. M/V MSC MERAVIDILIA (Malta Registered Passenger Ship, Built 2017) 5 May 2024. Sandy Hook Pilot Robert Dobrowolski boarded the MSC MERAVIDILIA near Ambrose Pilot Station and proceeded inbound to Pier 12 Passenger Terminal in Brooklyn. After the ship's captain assumed the conn for the docking maneuvers, the forward mooring station reported a whale carcass wrapped around the bow. The Coast Guard was notified. The necropsy determined that the whale was not alive when it was struck by the ship. No violation of the New York Navigation Law or the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations. No pollution or personal injury. The Board voted to close the case.

12f. M/V ANTWERP EAGLE (Marshall Islands Registered Bulk Carrier, Built 2015): 15 April 2024. While transiting outbound New Haven Harbor, under the conn of Long Island Sound/Block Island Sound Pilot Matthew Stevens, the M/V ANTWERP EAGLE lost main propulsion. It regained propulsion approximately 1-2 minutes later and the vessel remained in the channel. Additionally, the port anchor failed to let go at the anchorage and the starboard anchor had to be walked out under power. The Coast Guard was notified and the vessel was safely anchored in New Haven North Anchorage. No violation of

the New York Navigation Law or the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations. No pollution or personal injury. The Board voted to close the case.

12g. M/V PORTO LEONE (Panamanian Registered Bulk Carrier, Built 2014): 10 September 2023. While under the conn of Hudson River Pilot Samuel Zapadinsky southbound in the Hudson River off of the Tri-City Yacht Club, the M/V PORTO LEONE received a call from the yacht club claiming that a wake hit their dock. The ship's captain, chief mate, and the pilot investigated by observing the docks from the bridge wing of the vessel and saw no damage. At subsequent meetings, the Board continued to review the incident. The Board issued its Opinion and Order on 23 April 2024. No violation of the New York Navigation Law or the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations. No pollution or personal injury. The Board voted to close the case.

12h. M/V EAGLE TURIN (Singapore Registered Tanker, Built 2008): 5 August 2020. This incident involves the tragic fatality of Sandy Hook Pilot Timothy Murray resulting from a fall off a pilot ladder and onto the Pilot Launch AMERICA while boarding the M/V EAGLE TURIN at approximately 2230 upon its arrival at Ambrose Pilot Station. The P/L AMERICA then immediately proceeded back to the Pilot Boat NEW JERSEY (a three-minute transit) to pick up medical supplies, a stokes litter, and crew with paramedic training before departing for Staten Island. The U.S. Coast Guard, New York City Fire Department, and New York City Police Department were all notified. Crew personnel administered CPR and used the AED unit while proceeding to Staten Island. New York City Police Department Personnel were waiting at the Sandy Hook Pilot Base where Captain Murray was transferred to an ambulance and taken to Staten Island University Hospital.

After the incident, the EAGLE TURIN proceeded to anchor at the direction of the U.S. Coast Guard. On the morning of 6 August 2020, Sandy Hook Pilot Kevin Walsh piloted the vessel to Stapleton Anchorage where a further investigation ensued with the U.S. Coast Guard, Sandy Hook Pilot Association, and Executive Director Garger. The Board was designated as a Party in Interest by the U.S. Coast Guard. At the 10 January 2023 meeting, the Board was updated on the status of ongoing litigation against the vessel owner arising out of the incident. At the 17 January 2023 meeting, the Board reviewed the Third-Party Complaint filed by the vessel owner against the Sandy Hook Pilot Association. At the 21 March 2023 meeting, the Board reviewed the Sandy Hook Pilot Association's Answer to the Third-Party Complaint. At the 9 May 2023 meeting, the Board discussed the Coast Guard's Report of Investigation. At the 23 May 2023 meeting, the Board discussed the status of the litigation. At the 5 July 2023 and subsequent meetings, the Board discussed the Subpoenas served on the Board. At the 3 October 2023 meeting, the Board noted the Confidentiality Order entered by the Court. Continued on the docket.

### 13. SAFETY AND SECURITY IN PILOTAGE WATERS:

13a. M/V DALI Collision with the Francis Scott Key Bridge: At approximately 0129 hours on 26 March the Singapore registered containership M/V DALI was transiting to sea out of Baltimore Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland, when it experienced a loss of electrical power and propulsion, veered off course, and struck the Francis Scott Key Bridge (Key Bridge), causing part of the bridge to collapse onto the vessel and also into the Patapsco River. The casualty, which resulted in 6 fatalities and closure of the Baltimore Harbor shipping channel, is currently under investigation by several government agencies, including the National Transportation Safety Board, United States Coast Guard, and the FBI.

At the 2 April 2024 meeting, the Board discussed the M/V DALI collision and will continue to discuss the incident at subsequent meetings. At today's meeting, the Board discussed procedures for pre-departure and arrival testing requirements and the master-pilot exchange. Continued on the docket.

13b. The Board has previously reviewed cruise ship pier allisions in the Port of New York/New Jersey and elsewhere. The Board has also reviewed 46 U.S.C. Section 8501 regarding the coordination of federal and state law requirements with respect to pilotage of cruise ships when the master docks the vessel and has noted incidents in Alaska where cruise ships were docked by the ship's master with a compulsory state pilot aboard. In light of the foregoing, the Board recommended that the SHPA work with cruise lines calling at the Port of New York to develop a joint training program that would improve communications between state licensed pilots and cruise ship masters. At the 28 March 2023 meeting, the Board discussed cruise ship dockings with NYSHPA President Captain James Mahlmann. Continued on the docket.

13c. The Board has previously advised the Army Corps of Engineers New York District (ACOE) of its concerns with the lack of visibility of large, unlit mooring buoys, especially during periods of darkness, located within certain designated federal anchorages in New York Harbor. Continued on the docket.

14. In view of several ship pilot ladder boarding accidents involving both New York and New Jersey State Pilots in the Port of New York, the Board of Commissioners formed a special Pilot Transfer Subcommittee. The Subcommittee consists of the Board President (Mercante), Executive Director (Garger), and members of the Board (Ahlstrom and Rowland). At the 22 February 2022 meeting, the Board reviewed the revised International Chamber of Shipping Industry Guidance on Pilot Transfer Arrangements. The New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Commission also formed a Pilot Safety Committee to evaluate pilot transfer arrangements and issued its report on 6 November 2020. The minutes of the 21 December 2021 Board Meeting are incorporated herein by reference. At the 15 November 2022 meeting, the Board was advised that the IMO Safety Committee will open the SOLAS Convention for amendment with respect to pilot boarding arrangements. At the 17 January 2023 meeting, the Board reviewed the notice issued by the UK Maritime Pilots Association regarding a recent pilot fatality. At the 9 May 2023 meeting, the Board discussed the Coast Guard's Reports of Investigation for the EAGLE TURIN and the MAERSK Kensington. At the 16 May 2023 meeting, the Board discussed the article regarding the 5 May 2023 Japanese pilot fatality. At the 6 June 2023 meeting, the Board reviewed article regarding the conviction of ship operator and master after a pilot ladder fall injury in Perth Australia in August 2022. At the 20 June 2023 meeting, the Board discussed NY SHP President Captain James Mahlmann's attendance at the Maritime Pilots Institute in Covington, LA. Continued on the docket.

15. At the 4 April 2023 meeting, the Board was advised that legislation regarding New York State Commissions was signed by Governor Hochul. At the 5 September 2023 meeting the Board received an update on the legislation by Andy Roffe of Robinson and Cole. At the 16 April 2024 and 7 May 2024 meetings the Board reviewed recommended updates to its website. At today's meeting, the Board approved the updates to the website. Continued on the docket.

16. At the 28 May 2024 meeting, the Board discussed parameters for charitable donations to maritime schools. Continued on the docket.

17. At the 7 May 2024 meeting, the Board reviewed and discussed a video shoot proposal involving the SHPA. Continued on the docket.

18. 2023 Annual Report: Continued on the docket.

19. The Board noted the invitation to the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission Harbor Inspection Tour. Continued on the docket.

20. At the 4 April 2023 meeting, the Board noted the proposed legislation reintroduced in the New York State Legislature (S 5424 and A 3380) that provides for the revocation of a person's driver's license after a conviction for operating a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. At the 2 April 2024 meeting, the Board was updated on the status of the legislation. Continued on the docket.

21. APA 2024 Convention in New Orleans 20 October to 25 October 2024: Continued on the docket.

22. There being no further business to conduct, or public comment, the Board meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.



Andrew Garger  
Secretary