

**BOARD FOR BRANCH PILOTS MEETING  
MINUTES**

The Virginia Board for Branch Pilots met on Thursday, January 29, 2015, at the Virginia Port Authority, 600 World Trade Center, Norfolk, Virginia, with the following members present:

Captain Robert H. Callis III  
Captain J.W. Whiting Chisman III  
Captain J. William Cofer  
Thomas P. Host, III  
Captain John A. Morgan, Jr.  
Christine N. Piersall

Board members Charles R. Amory, Jr., Patrick B. McDermott, and Meade G. Stone, Jr. were not present for the meeting.

Staff present for the meeting was:

Jay DeBoer, Director  
Kathleen R. Nosbisch, Executive Director

James Flaherty, Assistant attorney general was present from the Office of the Attorney General.

Captain Cofer, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Captain Cofer informed the Board that Mr. Stone, President, was unable to attend the meeting and he will chair the meeting in his absence. Captain Cofer further informed the Board that, due to a family emergency, Mr. Amory would be unable to attend the meeting and Mr. McDermott may also be unable to attend.

**Call to Order**

Captain Cofer confirmed there was a quorum of the Board present.

Captain Callis moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Host seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs., Mme. and Captains: Callis, Chisman, Cofer, Host, Morgan and Piersall.

**Approval of  
Agenda**

Ms. Piersall moved to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2014, board meeting as amended. Captain Chisman seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs., Mme. and Captains: Callis, Chisman, Cofer, Host, Morgan and Piersall.

**Approval of  
Minutes**

There were no public comments.

**Public Comment  
Period**

Captain Callis provided the Board with a report of the examinations conducted by the Examination Administrators on January 29, 2015. The following report was made:

**Exam  
Administrators  
Report**

Christopher H. Behm

Christopher H. Behm answered oral questions related to the raise in grade. The subjects included: safe anchoring positions in Lynnhaven, Sewell's Point and Cape Charles, anchoring deep loaded vessels, inner harbor transits, proper positioning of towboats in special situations, usage of the deep water route, traffic management, block coefficient displacement, timed arrivals and safe vessel speed.

Captain Behm stood a good examination and was found to be qualified. Captain Callis moved that Captain Behm be raised from a Foxtrot classification (46,000 gross tons and 40 feet maximum draft) to a Golf classification (55,000 gross tons and 42 feet maximum draft). Mr. Host seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs., Mme. and Captains: Callis, Chisman, Cofer, Host, Morgan and Piersall.

Gregory R. Willson

Gregory R. Willson answered oral questions related to the raise in grade. The subjects included: safe anchoring positions in Lynnhaven, Sewell's Point and Cape Charles, anchoring deep loaded vessels, inner harbor transits, proper positioning of towboats in special situations, usage of the deep water route, traffic management, block coefficient displacement, timed arrivals and safe vessel speed.

Captain Willson stood a good examination and was found to be qualified. Captain Callis moved that Captain Willson be raised from a Foxtrot classification (46,000 gross tons and 40 feet maximum draft) to a Golf classification (55,000 gross tons and 42 feet maximum draft). Ms. Piersall seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs., Mme. and Captains: Callis, Chisman, Cofer, Host, Morgan and Piersall.

Captain Callis informed the Board that the raise in grade would be effective February 1, 2015.

Board members reviewed tentative 2015 meeting dates. Ms. Nobsch explained that when scheduling board meeting dates, the scheduler select dates that are not in conflict with other board meetings. However, the Board for Branch Pilot meetings are set in accordance with the exam schedule. Ms. Nobsch stated that there is a conflict with the meeting scheduled for December 16. Ms. Nobsch requested the Board consider an alternative date as there are no exams scheduled on December 16. Ms. Nobsch will contact Board members with suggested dates.

**2015 Meeting  
Dates**



Conflict of Interest forms and travel vouchers were completed by all members present. **Conflict of Interest Forms**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m. **Adjourn**

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Meade G. Stone, Jr., President

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Jay W. DeBoer, Secretary

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