

**BOARD FOR BRANCH PILOTS MEETING  
MINUTES**

The Virginia Board for Branch Pilots met on Tuesday, November 2, 2010, at the Virginia Port Authority, 600 World Trade Center, Norfolk, Virginia, with the following members present:

Captain Robert H. Callis, III  
Bruce R. Cherry  
Captain J. William Cofer  
Captain Milton B. Edmunds  
Thomas P. Host, III  
Captain John A. Morgan, Jr.  
Meade G. Stone, Jr.

Board members Charles R. Amory, Jr. William M. Martin III, were not present at the meeting.

Staff present for the meeting were:

Gordon N. Dixon, Director  
Mark N. Courtney, Deputy Director of Licensing and Regulation  
Kathleen R. Nosbisch, Executive Director  
Justin Garofalo, Board Administrator  
Amy Goobic, Administrative Assistant

There was no representative present from the Office of the Attorney General.

Finding a quorum of the Board present, Mr. Cherry, President, called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

**Call to Order**

Captain Callis moved to approve the agenda. Captain Morgan seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Host, Morgan and Stone.

**Approval of  
Agenda**

Mr. Stone moved to have the minutes approved as amended. Captain Callis seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Host, Morgan and Stone.

**Approval of  
Minutes**

Captain Callis provided the Board with a report of the examinations conducted by the Examination Administrators on November 2, 2010. The following report was made:

**Exam  
Administration  
Report**

**William G. Saunders, Jr.**

William G. Saunders, Jr. answered oral questions related to the raise in grade. The subjects included safe anchoring positions in Lynnhaven, Sewell's Point and Newport News, overtaking situations, bank suction and cushion, under keel clearance, efficient use of bow and stern thrusters, timed

arrivals and safe vessel speed.

Mr. Saunders stood a good examination and was found to be qualified. Captain Callis moved that Mr. Saunders be raised from an Alpha classification (16,000 gross tons and 25 feet maximum draft) to a Bravo classification (24,000 gross tons and 28 feet maximum draft) to be retroactively dated November 1, 2010. Mr. Host seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Host, Morgan and Stone.

### Joseph M. Schacherer III

Joseph M. Schacherer III answered oral questions related to the raise in grade. The subjects included safe anchoring positions in Lynnhaven, Sewell's Point and Newport News, overtaking situations, bank suction and cushion, under keel clearance, efficient use of bow and stern thrusters, timed arrivals and safe vessel speed.

Mr. Schacherer stood a good examination and was found to be qualified. Captain Callis moved that Mr. Schacherer be raised from an Alpha classification (16,000 gross tons and 25 feet maximum draft) to a Bravo classification (24,000 gross tons and 28 feet maximum draft) to be retroactively dated November 1, 2010. Mr. Stone seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Host, Morgan and Stone.

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that the proposed regulations are at the Governor's office for approval. Once the regulations are approved, they will go to the Registrar's office to be published. There will be a 60 comment period, and then it is up to the Board to adopt the proposed regulations.

### Regulatory Review

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that the emergency regulation regarding temporary licensure voted on at the July 30, 2010, meeting needed to be reconsidered. Captain Morgan moved to reconsider the emergency regulation. Mr. Host seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Host, Morgan and Stone.

Captain Morgan moved to withdraw the emergency regulation package. Captain Cofer seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Host, Morgan and Stone.

Captain Cofer addressed the Board on behalf of the Virginia Pilot Association asking that the Board consider increasing the gross tonnage and draft on limited licenses. Due to the increasing size of ships transiting Virginia waters, the numbers as they stand now, limits the number of ships

### Other Business

for a limited license pilot.

Mr. Cherry recommended that a committee, comprised of Mr. Stone and Captain Callis, review the information and bring a recommendation to the December 14, 2010 board meeting. Mr. Cherry added that if the committee did not reach a recommendation by the December board meeting, the matter could be deferred to the February 2011 board meeting as any approved changes would not be implemented until Summer 2011. Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that staff would be present to assist during the committee meeting and that the meeting would have to be noticed.

Captain Cofer reported that there would be a presentation at the next board meeting on the Branch Pilot's utilization of Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS).

Captain Cofer also offered Board members the opportunity to participate in a harbor tour after the board meeting.

Conflict of Interest forms 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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Bruce R. Cherry, President

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Gordon N. Dixon, Secretary