

## **BOARD FOR BRANCH PILOTS MEETING MINUTES**

The Virginia Board for Branch Pilots met on Wednesday, December 17, 2013, at the Virginia Port Authority, 600 World Trade Center, Norfolk, Virginia, with the following members present:

Charles R. Amory, Jr.  
Captain Robert H. Callis, III  
Captain J. William Cofer  
Captain Milton B. Edmunds  
Patrick B. McDermott  
Captain John A. Morgan, Jr.  
Christine N. Piersall  
Meade G. Stone, Jr.

Board member Thomas P. Host, III, was not present for the meeting.

Staff present for the meeting was:

Kathleen R. Nosbisch, Executive Director

Joshua Lief, Senior Assistant Attorney General, was present from the Office of the Attorney General.

Finding a quorum of the Board present, Mr. Stone, President, called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.

**Call to Order**

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

**Approval of  
Agenda**

Captain Callis moved to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2013, board meeting. Captain Morgan seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs., Mme. and Captains: Amory, Callis, Cofer, Edmunds, Morgan, Piersall and Stone.

**Approval of  
Minutes**

There were no public comments.

**Public Comment  
Period**

Ms. Nosbisch relayed a message from Mr. Host, expressing his regret at not being able to attend the meeting.

Captain Callis provided the Board with a report of the examination conducted by the Examination Administrators on December 11, 2012. The following report was made:

**Exam  
Administrators  
Report**

Charles A. Huffman V

Charles A. Huffman V answered oral questions related to the extension of route. The subjects included the courses and distances from the James River

Bridge to Hopewell with regard to safe vessel placement in anticipation of bank cushion and suction in narrow turns, local traffic, tidal situations, detailed descriptions of each berth, docking and undocking at all berths in different stages of current, bridge clearances, emergency anchoring positions and safe vessel speed. Captain Callis moved that Captain Huffman be granted an extension of route from the James River Bridge to City Point, Hopewell upon the James River. Mr. Amory seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs., Mme. and Captains: Amory, Callis, Cofer, Edmunds, McDermott, Morgan, Piersall and Stone. Captain Callis announced that the extension of route had been changed and would only be licensed to Hopewell, due to lack of traffic to Richmond.

Captain Edmunds provided the Board with a report of the meeting of Examination Administrators from December 10 and 11, 2013. The Examination Administrators reviewed the renewal applications for the 2014 calendar year and presented the following report:

**Renewal of  
Licenses**

The following branch pilot licenses were presented for renewal: Lorenzo D. Amory, III; E. Waightstill Avery; John Brockington Beasley, Jr.; Charles I. Boggs, Jr.; Robert H. Callis, III; Julian Wythe Whiting Chisman, III; James William Cofer; January N. Collins; William G. Diggs; Ernest W. Dodson, Jr.; Robert Henley Dozier, III; Milton B. Edmunds; Michael S. Eubanks; Mark S. Evans; Tazewell Fitzgerald; Nelson Turner Gray; Herbert R. Green, III; Nathaniel T. Green, II; Adam L. Halstead; Kevin D. Hartz; Wallace S. Harwood, III; David H. Heath; Charles H. Hoffman; Richard Keith Hope; Brian Keith Hudgins; Charles A. Huffman; Chadwick M. Jamison; Jacob R. Johnson; John Allison Jones, Jr.; Benjamin B. Lee; Joseph R. McKnew; Dale Allen Meyer, Jr.; John A. Morgan, Jr.; John G. Phillips, Jr.; Robert L. Prodan, II; Frank M. Rabena; Roy A. Rector, Jr.; Torrence A. Rogers; Thomas D. Rutter; William G. Saunders, Jr.; Joseph M. Schacherer III; Gustave B. Schill; Benjamin L. Speckhart; Luther J. Stallings, III; Gilbert R. Swink, III; James South Trimble; David B. Ware; Jonathan D. Worth; and Clarence M. Young.

The members of the Examination Administrators Committee reviewed the renewal application paperwork and deemed the individuals qualified pursuant to § 54.1-906 of the *Code of Virginia*. Captain Morgan moved to approve the renewal applications of the above-listed unlimited licensees. Mr. Amory seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs., Mme. and Captains: Amory, Callis, Cofer, Edmunds, McDermott, Morgan, Piersall and Stone. Captains Callis, Cofer, Edmunds, and Morgan abstained from voting on their respective licenses. Mr. Amory abstained from voting on the license of Captain Lorenzo D. Amory III, as they are brothers.

The following limited branch pilot licenses were also presented for renewal: Christopher H. Behm; and Gregory R. Willson.

The members of the Examination Administrators Committee reviewed the

renewal application paperwork and deemed the individuals qualified pursuant to § 54.1-906 of the *Code of Virginia*. Captain Morgan moved to approve the renewal applications of the above-listed limited licensees at their respective limitations as of December 31, 2013. Mr. Amory seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs., Mme. and Captains: Amory, Callis, Cofer, Edmunds, McDermott, Morgan, Piersall and Stone.

Captain Edmunds moved to waive the requirements of subsection C.3 of regulation 18VAC45-20-20, pursuant to subsection C.4 of regulation 18VAC45-20-20, for transit on the Potomac River for the following branch pilot due to no ship traffic: John Brockington Beasley, Jr. Captain Morgan seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs., Mme. and Captains: Amory, Callis, Cofer, Edmunds, Host, McDermott, Morgan, Piersall and Stone.

Captain Edmunds moved to waive the requirements of subsection C.3 of regulation 18VAC45-20-20, pursuant to subsection C.4 of regulation 18VAC45-20-20, for transit on the Lower Chesapeake Bay from Cape Charles to Piney Point for the following branch pilot due to no ship traffic: Wallace S. Harwood III. Captain Morgan seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs., Mme. and Captains: Amory, Callis, Cofer, Edmunds, Host, McDermott, Morgan, Piersall and Stone.

Board members reviewed the apprenticeship program manual provided by the Apprenticeship Committee. Discussion was held on the changes to the program. Captain Cofer stated that revisions will need to be made in the next year due to changes in electronics and continuing education. Captain Cofer also stated they are working with the Coast Guard to clarify boundaries for chart drawings

**Review of  
Virginia Pilot  
Association's  
Apprenticeship  
Program**

Ms. Piersall asked about the training time frame, whether it was 20 or 22 weeks. Capatin Cofer will confirm and clarify the minimum standards in learning objectives.

Mr. McDermott inquired about weather learning objectives. Captain Cofer indicated the Apprenticeship Committee would present an overview of the weather learning objectives at a future board meeting.

Mr. Lief informed the Board that pursuant to § 54.1-100 of the *Code of Virginia*, a review of the Board's regulations had been conducted and there were no conflicts in its regulations with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Virginia, the laws of the United States, or the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Review of  
Regulations  
Pursuant to  
§54.1-100 of the  
Code of Virginia**

The Board agreed by consensus to table the discussion on regulatory review until the January 30, 2014, Board meeting. Ms. Nosbisch requested Board members provide feedback to Mr. Lief regarding the proposed changes to the

**Regulatory  
Update**

regulations.

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that the board liaison from the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation, Elizabeth Cake, was rotating off the board. Her seat will be filled by Mr. Matthew Benke, however, he may not be the board member assigned as liaison to the Board for Branch Pilots.

**Other Business**

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 11:23 p.m.

**Adjourn**

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Meade G. Stone, Jr., President

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Gordon N. Dixon, Secretary