

Maine Pilotage Commission



MaineDOT ~ Room 227 Conference Room
April 26, 2019

Minutes of Workshop

In considering a pilot rate adjustment proposed by the Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association on March 29, 2019 as well as Quoddy Pilots on April 24, 2019 a Workshop was convened to examine and analyze the respective proposed rates on April 26, 2019 in Augusta, Maine.

The Maine Pilotage Commission members comprising the Workshop were:

Captain Shawn Moody	– Maritime Industry Member
Captain John Worth	– Public Member (telephonically)
Mr. Tom Dobbins	– Public Member
Brian Downey	– Pilotage Commission Administrator (Workshop Facilitator)

Maine Pilotage Commission Interested Parties present were:

Captain Charles Weeks	– Chair of the Commission
Captain David Gelinis	– Pilot Member
Captain Mark Klopp	– Pilot Member
Captain Adam Philbrook	– Penobscot Bay and River Pilot
Susan Klopp	– Public Member

Maine DOT staff present were:

Mr. Brian Willing	– Maine DOT
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Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Mr. Downey opened the meeting at 1000 and acknowledged a quorum. Mr. Downey reviewed the legal statute requiring the Commission to establish pilotage rates. He further reviewed the process which the Commission will follow to effect any new rates, if approved. He also explained that he requested the three Workshop participants specifically to volunteer due to their public or industry Commission status.

In order to organize discussion and deliberation of the two pilotage organizations' proposals he anecdotally split the analysis conversations into four parts – namely:

Eastport Pilots Proposal

- Eastport Rate adjustment discussion;
- Eastport Pilot boat Fee adjustment discussion;

Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Proposal

- Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Rate adjustment discussion;
- New Ferry Rate discussion.

The Workshop concluded its analysis with recommendations to the full Maine Pilotage Commission as noted below. The next step in the process will be the Public Meeting where the public may attend and speak directly to the Maine Pilotage Commission or submit written comments for consideration. The final step will occur on June 24, 2019 at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting where a final full vote regarding the rate adjustments will be conducted.

Agenda Item 2 – Eastport Pilots Proposal

The Workshop reviewed the written proposal to adjust rates in Eastport/Cobscook Bay by approximately 5% (one-time increase) starting in January 2020. The Workshop discussed the rate adjustment and examined the 2019 rates of other ports to judge parity. Further, the group reviewed the Cost of Living Adjustment issued by the Social Security Administration as supported by the Consumer Price Index prepared by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics to assure that the proposed adjustment was/is fair and reasonable.

The Workshop went on to review the proposed increase in pilot boat fees from \$450 (each way) to \$600 (each way).

RECOMMENDATION 1: The Workshop recommends that the full Maine Pilotage Commission affirm/approve the Eastport Pilot's proposed rate adjustment.

RECOMMENDATION 2: The Workshop recommends that the full Maine Pilotage Commission affirm/approve the Eastport Pilot's proposed Pilot Boat Fee adjustment.

Agenda Item 3 – Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Proposal

The Workshop reviewed the written proposal to adjust rates in Penobscot Bay (and associated ports and harbors) and the Penobscot River, as well as Frenchman Bay (and Somes Sound, Eastern Way and Blue Hill Bay) by approximately 6% (approximately 2% annual increase over three years) starting in January 2020. The Workshop discussed the rate adjustment and examined the 2019 rates of other ports to judge parity. Further, the group reviewed the Cost of Living Adjustment issued by the Social Security Administration as supported by the Consumer Price Index prepared by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics to assure that the proposed adjustment was/is fair and reasonable.

The Workshop went on to review the proposed new Ferry Rate which was requested to become effective in 2019.

RECOMMENDATION 3: The Workshop recommends that the full Maine Pilotage Commission affirm/approve the Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association's proposed rate adjustment as proposed.

RECOMMENDATION 4: The Workshop does not recommend that the full Maine Pilotage Commission affirm/approve the Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association's proposed ferry rate for Frenchman Bay.

Agenda Item 4 – Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Workshop Facilitator, Brian Downey at 1210.

Next Meeting:

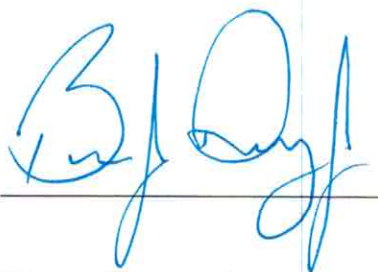
The next meeting regarding rate adjustments will be a Public Rate Adjustment Meeting held on May 23, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the Maine DOT Building

Room 216
24 Child Street
Augusta, ME 04330

A final vote on the rate adjustments is anticipated to occur at the Maine Pilotage Commission meeting on June 24, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at the Maine DOT Building

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Respectfully submitted:



Brian J. Downey Jr.
Maine Pilotage Commission Administrator