

GREAT LAKES PILOTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes / Summary Record
September 7, 2023
Lake Superior State University – Cisler Conference Center
650 W. Easterday Ave
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

On the call of the Sponsor, a meeting of the Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee was held on September 7, 2023, at the Lake Superior State University – Cisler Conference Center, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. This record is a summary of the meeting and transcript taken during the session and summarizes the committee's deliberations, conclusions, and actions. Documents are available for public inspection and printing online at www.regulations.gov or <https://dco.uscg.afpims.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Marine-Transportation-Systems-CG-5PW/Office-of-Waterways-and-Ocean-Policy/Office-of-Waterways-and-Ocean-Policy-Great-Lakes-Pilotage-Div/>

The Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee held a meeting on September 7, 2023 at the Lake Superior State University – Cisler Conference Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan at the request of the Sponsor. The Coast Guard convened this meeting to consult with the Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee on the following topics:

1. Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee Meeting Practices and Procedures.
2. Staffing Model.
3. Winter Navigation.
4. Pilots Providing ETA to Change Points.
5. Ratemaking Methodology.
6. Great Lakes Pilotage and American Pilots Association Best Practices.
7. 2024 Annual Rulemaking Update.
8. Projects and Current Staffing.
9. 2013 Memorandum of Understanding between U.S. Coast Guard and Canadian Great Lakes Pilotage Authority.
10. Double Pilotage and Daytime Only Navigation.
11. Expense and Revenue Reports for Rulemaking.
12. Public Comments.

The Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee forwarded five (5) recommendations for Coast Guard consideration.

1. Recommend the office of Great Lakes Pilotage continue its auditing with the current auditing firm.
Motion passed with 5 GLPAC members approving the recommendation and 1 member abstaining.
2. Recommend the conduct of GLPAC meetings occur in-person with an in-person court reporter.
Motion passed with 5 GLPAC members approving the recommendation and 1 member opposing.
3. Recommend for the 2024 shipping season one additional pilot for District 2 and one additional pilot for District 3.
Motion unanimously passed.
4. Recommend for the post-2024 shipping season, Director, Great Lakes Pilotage, be given discretion to increase the staffing model plus three, based on industry demand and to ensure shipping reliability.
Motion unanimously passed.
5. Recommend that a pilot who becomes qualified on or before August 1st shall be included in the rate.
Motion unanimously passed.

GLPAC COMMITTEE, USCG and PUBLIC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

1. Captain Danny Gallagher, Chair, GLPAC; President Lake Pilots Association
2. Captain John Boyce, Vice Chair, GLPAC; St. Lawrence Seaway Pilots Association
3. Captain Christopher Edyvean, President, Western Great Lakes Pilots Association
4. Mr. John Baker, Jr., President, Great Lakes District Council, International Longshoremen's Association
5. Captain Paul LaMarre, Director Port Monroe, Michigan
6. Mr. John Crowley, Executive Director United States Great Lakes Shipping Association
7. Mr. Kevin Kiefer, United States Coast Guard, Designated Federal Officer
8. Mr. Todd Haviland, United States Coast Guard, Director of Great Lakes Pilotage
9. Mr. Francis Levesque, United States Coast Guard, Alternate Designated Federal Officer
10. Ms. Melanee Libby, United States Coast Guard, Group Federal Officer
11. Mr. Vince Berg, United States Coast Guard, Compliance Officer, Great Lakes Pilotage Division
12. Mr. Spencer Phillip, United States Coast Guard, Legal Counsel
13. Captain Kenneth Boda, United States Coast Guard
14. Mr. Nathaniel Turner, CohnReznick
15. Ms. Julie Mitchell, CohnReznick
16. Mr. Todd Muehlenbeck, United States Coast Guard
17. Mr. Jorge Viso, President American Pilots Association
18. Mr. Clay Diamond, Executive Director/General Counsel, American Pilots Association
19. Captain Patrick Broderick, Saint Lawrence Seaway Pilot Association
20. Mr. Mark Rohn, Port of Monroe
21. Mr. Jon Olney
22. Mr. Don Willecke
23. Mr. Steve Fisher, American Great Lakes Ports Association
24. Mr. Robert Turner, Chamber of Marine Commerce
25. Mr. Bill Yawkey, International Longshoremen's Association
26. Mr. Eric Peace, Lake Carriers Association
27. Mr. Nathan Wertz, Lake Pilots Association
28. Mr. Tony Brandano, Lake Pilots Association
29. Mr. Robert Moore, Lake Pilots Association
30. Mr. Scott Skyrzypczak, Lake Pilots Association
31. Mr. Dean Haen, Port of Green Bay
32. Mr. Bryan Swintek, United States Coast Guard
33. Mr. David Evans, United States Coast Guard
34. Ms. Rebecca Simpson, United States Coast Guard
35. Mr. Dan Manning, Pilot, Western Great Lakes Pilot Association
36. Mr. Ted Johnson, Business Manager, Western Great Lakes Pilot Association
37. Mr. Brad Szczotka, Western Great Lakes Pilot Association
38. Mr. Charles Schopp, Western Great Lakes Pilot Association
39. Ms. Natalie Laroursiere, Assistant Business Manager, Western Great Lakes Pilot Association
40. Mr. Christian Ouellet, Chief Operating Officer, Great Lakes Pilotage Association (Canada)
41. Mr. Seann O'Donooghue, Great Lakes Pilotage Association (Canada)
42. Mr. Chad Allen, ShipFed (Canada)
43. Mr. Raphael Gagnon, FedNav (Canada)
44. Ms. Jennifer Payne Kaelin, Word for Word, GLPAC official reporter

Thursday, September 7, 2023

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

The Designated Federal Officer, Mr. Kevin Kiefer, opened the meeting at 8:30 A.M. with welcoming remarks and offered introductions to the Committee and public attendees. Captain Gallagher, chairman, offered opening remarks, reviewed the administrative details, approved the previous GLPAC minutes, and offered a welcome. Topics begin on page 17 of the transcript.

Previous GLPAC meeting minutes: Unanimously passed the minutes from the 2022 GLPAC meeting.

Topic: Expense and Revenue Reports for Rulemaking:

This discussion begins and ends on pages 17 and 30 of the transcript. The Committee received information from a CohnReznick representative on the processes used to determine the Expenses and Revenue Reports for Rulemaking.

Committee recommendation: Continue and maintain the auditing services of the current firm.

Motion passed with 5 GLPAC members approving the recommendation and 1 member abstaining.

Topic: Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee Meeting Practices and Procedures:

This discussion was broken down into two parts and begins and ends on pages 30 and 54 of the transcript.

Part one discussed pros/cons of 1) in-person meetings, 2) use of Microsoft Teams, and 3) in-person court reporter.

Committee recommendation: Conduct GLPAC meetings in-person with an in-person court reporter.

Motion passed with 5 GLPAC members approving the recommendation and 1 member opposing.

Part two consisted of suggestions to improve the Committee's effectiveness.

Committee recommendation: None

Topic: 2024 Annual Ratemaking Update with Staffing Model:

This discussion begins and ends on pages 54 and 98 of the transcript. The committee combined the 2024 Ratemaking Update and Staffing Model discussions.

Committee recommendations:

- 1) Recommend for the 2024 shipping season, one additional pilot for District 2 and one additional pilot for District 3.

Motion unanimously passed.

- 2) The post-2024 shipping season, Director is given discretion to increase the staffing model plus three, based on industry demand and to ensure shipping reliability.

Motion unanimously passed.

- 3) A pilot who becomes qualified on or before August 1st shall be included in the rate.

Motion unanimously passed.

Topic: Projects and Current Staffing

This discussion begins and ends on pages 98 and 120 of the transcript. The Presidents of each District provided a summary of their projects and current staffing numbers.

Committee recommendation: None.

Topic: Ratemaking Methodology:

This discussion begins and ends on pages 120 and 133 of the transcript. The Director of Great Lakes Pilotage provided a briefing on the 10-step methodology used for ratemaking.

Committee recommendation: None

Topic: 2013 Memorandum of Understanding between U.S. Coast Guard and Canadian Great Lakes Pilotage Authority & Great Lakes Pilotage and American Pilots Association Best Practices.

This discussion begins and ends on pages 133 and 149 of the transcript. Dialogue on possible ways-ahead occurred with no recommendations.

Committee recommendation: None.

Topic: Winter Navigation: This discussion begins and ends on pages 149 and 154 of the transcript.

Committee recommendation: None.

Topic: Daylight Navigation Only and Double Pilotage: This discussion begins and ends on pages 154 and 168 of the transcript.

Committee recommendation: None.

Topic: Pilots Providing ETA to Change Points. This discussion begins and ends on pages 168 and 173 of the transcript.

Committee recommendation: None.

Topic: Public Comments. This discussion begins and ends on page 173 of the transcript.

Committee recommendation: None.

Meeting Closing:

Closing remarks begin and end on page 174 of the transcript. Meeting adjourned 2:43 P.M. / Sept 7, 2023