

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission
August 19, 2025**

Audit Committee Meeting

The Committee met and reviewed the proposals submitted by Kayode Agunbiade Inc and Yusufali and Associates, LLC to perform an audit of their FY25 financial records. Both companies gave a estimate of \$7500.00. Kayode Agunbiade Inc has performed an audit of the Commission's financial records for 3 years. The Committee chose the firm of Yusufali and Associate's, LLC to perform the audit and directed Ms. Stuckey to encourage the firm of Kayode Agunbiade Inc. to continue to bid for future audits opportunities.

A hybrid meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on August 19, 2025

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Ms. Andre Stuckey read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement into the record at 10:05 A.M.

Andre Stuckey Read Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey (via ZOOM); Commissioner Nicholas Fixmer (Absent); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (via ZOOM); Commissioner Dana Martinotti (via ZOOM); Commissioner Brendan Roberts (via ZOOM); Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (Absent).

Also included in the meeting were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director, (present); Shahima Hudson, Administrative Assistant (present); Captain Adam Richardson President, Interport Pilots Association (present); Captain Jon Miller, President, Harbor Pilots Association (via ZOOM); Captain Timothy Ferrie, President, New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots Association (via ZOOM), Captain Russel Henchmann, President Harbor Pilots Association (via ZOOM).

The following Pilots and Apprentices were in attendance for their annual appearance. Apprentice Steven Altini (via ZOOM), Captain Kevin Walsh (via ZOOM), Captain Mark Hershey (via ZOOM), Captain Mark Wanderer (via ZOOM), Captain William Speiser (via ZOOM), Captain Ryan Pakalik (via ZOOM).

Approval of July 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti to approve the July 15, 2025, meeting minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-17 to Approve the August 19, 2025 Treasures Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Kils to approve the August 2025 treasurers Report.

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Directors Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that Commissioner Wowkanech sends his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. He is presenting at a conference in New York.

Ms. Stuckey reported that The Sandy Hook Pilots Association located a manufacturer for the carabiner holder created by Commissioner Kils. They will make any necessary modifications to the holder and manufacture it under their company name so there is

no liability risk to Commissioner Kils. They requested an initial payment of \$2500.00 to begin design study. Once they have a prototype available for review there will be a meeting with Ms. Stuckey, Kyle Weist from New York and pilot representatives. The New York Commission is providing a grant to offset the cost of production for the pilots under their regulatory authority. Ms. Stuckey asked the Commission to consider providing a grant for all New Jersey Pilots however before a decision is made the Commission should review the finished product.

Ms. Stuckey sent the Commission a copy of the most recent pilot ladder deficiency report from Sandy Hook. She reminded the Commission that OSHA is interested in meeting with the Commissions and pilots to discuss the issue. The issue will also be addressed at tomorrow's Bulk Liquid /Pilot Terminal roundtable meeting.

Ms. Stuckey is hopeful that with all the interest the issue is getting that the problematic terminals will begin to address the problems and provide a safe working environment for the Pilots and apprentices.

Ms. Stuckey informed the Commission that the Coast Guard notified her that they are at a standstill with the Cuauhtémoc investigation. After being allowed to board the vessel and speak to some of the crew they have not found a smoking gun. They plan to close out the investigation with similar conclusions to the Commission's report. She has not heard from the NTSB concerning their investigation.

The Coast Guard updated, completed, and published their final rules for maritime security safety regulations which include a new section establishing minimum cybersecurity requirements for US flagged vessels. The regulations were printed in the New Jersey Register and became effective on July 16, 2025, with a compliance date of January 12, 2026. Ms. Stuckey advised any Commissioners interested in getting a copy of the regulations to let her know, she will have them printed and mailed. She did not email the document because it is over 200 pages.

Ms. Stuckey reported that New York Commissioner Lucianne Bulow is retiring at the end of the month. She is from the Insurance Industry, and her replacement has not been identified. She will be honored at the New Yorks Commissioners August 26, 2025, meeting. Ms. Stuckey will attend the meeting and present her with a gift from the New Jersey Commission.

Ms. Stuckey reported that Apprentice Kyle Sammis tested the week of August 4TH and passed the exam. He is not scheduled to join the Sandy Hook rotation board until November 1st; therefore, he will attend the Commissions October 21st meeting for his swearing in ceremony. He was tested early because he is scheduled for his reserve duty in early September, and he is also getting married in early October. Apprentice Stephen Doherty with Metro Pilots is scheduled to test on August 25th. Assuming he passes, he will be at the Commissions September 16th meeting for his swearing in ceremony. Apprentice Matthew Keenan with Harbor Pilots is scheduled to test on August 28th. Assuming he passes he will also be at the September 6th meeting for his swearing in ceremony.

Ms. Stuckey reported The New York Commission's Executive Director, Kyle Weist is working to make sure their practices mirror New Jerseys. She and Mr. Weist will meet at Edgewater Street with the presidents of the New Jersey and New York Associations and the Chair of the Apprentice Training Committee to go over the test, administering practices, grading and chart requirements. Ms. Stuckey reported to the Commission that the New York Commission previously changed their occurrence reporting requirements to mirror New Jersey's. She will come back with any proposed changes that may be discussed.

Ms. Stuckey is scheduled to travel to MITAGS September 3-4 with Kyle Weist, the presidents of the Associations and Chris Maglin to review a proposed ladder beta training course. If the course is acceptable, Sandy Hook will submit the information to the Commission for approval as recurrent training for their pilots. The Docking Pilots have recently completed a round of

recurrent training and are not due to submit another proposal until 2026.

Ms. Stuckey reminded the Commissioners that there is still time for any Commissioner available to attend SUNY Admiral's Scholarship dinner. Captain Tim Ferrie will be honored at the dinner. Commissioner Kils and Ms. Stuckey are scheduled to attend.

Ms. Stuckey announced that the annual Liberty Nautical Education Centers dinner is scheduled for October 16, 2025. Commissioner's Dacey, Kils, and Ms. Stuckey normally attend the dinner. If anyone is interested in attending, please email Ms. Stuckey.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the New York Ferry published a proposal for route changes. She sent copies of the notice to the Commissioners that outlines the proposed changes. She asked anyone interested in viewing the complete document to let her know and she will print the full proposal and send it via regular mail. The Commission did not submit comments because the proposed changes will not impede commercial traffic.

Ms. Stuckey sent copies of the 2 most recent boater safety alerts for the new tunnel project. Construction should be closing in September for the winter and will resume in early spring.

Ms. Stuckey sent a couple of articles of interest to the Commissioners and encouraged them to read them at their leisure. She pointed out the article regarding the NTSB's report on the tug operator using a cell phone. When this incident occurred, the Commission updated its cell phone policy. The policy is being used as a model for other agencies nationally, an accomplishment to be proud of.

Ms. Stuckey sent the Commissioners copies of the 2025 Transportation Annual. Extra copies were received, and she advised

if there is anyone the Commission would like to send a copy to, please email their name and address.

Ms. Stuckey is scheduled to take a vacation day on September 2nd. During that time, she will be available vial cellphone and email.

Committee

Investigation Committee

1.MSC Vanessa – May 8, 2025

Based on the attached investigation report Ms. Stuckey recommended that the file be closed with no fault found on the part of the Docking Pilot. She also recommended that the report be sent to the Coast Guard vessel agent and owner.

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Kils.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Comments from Captain Timothy Ferrie, President, New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain Ferrie stated that all equipment is in excellent condition.

Captain Ferrie reported that the Yankee is currently undergoing maintenance at the North River shipyard and is expected to be back online within a week.

Captain Ferrie reported that the pilot boat New York will have its two main generators replaced shortly and should return to service next month. Captain Ferrie reported that Sandy Hook is closely monitoring weather conditions and does not foresee any disruptions to pilot services.

Captain Ferrie reported the sea trials for the Rover will be delayed until late September.

Captain Ferrie congratulated Kyle Sammis on successfully completing his exam and looks forward to seeing him sworn in at the October 2025 meeting.

Comments from Captain Jon Miller, President, Metro Pilots Association:

Captain Miller reported that Moran received 2 of the 3 new tractors tugs they ordered.

Captain Miller reported that he met with the Port Authority to discuss safety issues regarding bridges. The Deep Draft Committee finds that there is no immediate need for drastic change.

Captain Miller reported that the latest Deep Draft Advisory was amended to address previous discrepancies. He will provide the Commission with the updated advisory.

Captain Miller reported that the Port Authority and Army Corp are advancing on the 55 Foot Project.

Captain Miller reported that they are working through issues with the ILA regarding the line handlers and crane issues. The terminal managers are working with the pilots to try and get the issues recertified.

Comments from Captain Adam Richardson, President, Interport Pilots Association:

Captain Richardson reported that all their New York boats are finished with their maintenance period. Interport installed a new light system on one of their boats last year and plan to install a similar one on another boat this year.

Captain Richardson reported that they will discuss the need for additional apprentices at their annual meeting in November.

Comments from Captain Russel Henschman, President, Harbor Pilots Association:

Captain Henschman reported that his team is operating at full capacity. Matthew Keenan is scheduled for testing and anticipates him joining the board the end of the year.

Captain Henschman reported that they have 3 applicants on the current list and the Association will meet to discuss when to bring them in as apprentices.

Resolution #25-20 to Award an Audit Contract

Commissioner Dacey reported that the Committee met prior to the meeting to review the proposals submitted to compete an audit of the financial records for fiscal year 20525. The Committee choose the firm of Yusufali and Associates, LLC to complete the audit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils; seconded by Commissioner Roberts to approve resolution 25-20 to contract the firm of Yusufali and Associates to perform the FY 25 audit of the Commissions financial records. The contract is not to exceed \$7,500.00

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-21 To Approve the Upgrade of Zachary Dietrich

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; seconded by Commissioner Roberts. To approve Resolution #25-21 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Zachary Dietrich.

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Dacey; Seconded by Commissioner Kils that the Commission enter Executive Session.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Stuckey read the following statement into the record:

Whereas, the open public meetings Act provides that a public body such as the New Jersey maritime pilot and docking pilot commission may meet in closed session to discuss personnel and legal matters, whereas the commission desires to meet in closed session to discuss such matters, now, therefore be it resolved that the commission shall at this time, meet in closed session to discuss such matters.

Whereas, the substance of the closed session will be disclosed publicly only if it would not constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy.

Commissioner Dacey announced that the Commission will interview one apprentice and five pilots, have a legal and personal discussion. It is anticipated that no action will be taken when they return to open session.

The Commission entered Executive Session at 10:36 am.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; seconded by Commissioner Kils, that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12am.