

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS
Hampton Inn & Suites Tampa Northwest/Oldsmar
4017 Tampa Rd, Oldsmar, FL 34677
Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 8:30 a.m. EST
APPROVED**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Jaccoma at 8:31 am EST.

Members Present:

Commissioner Jaccoma, Chair
Commissioner Hodge
Commissioner Phipps
Commissioner Cumings
Commissioner Seuter
Commissioner Assal
Commissioner Gramling

Members Absent:

Commissioner Darienzo - excused
Commissioner LaMarca - excused

Others Present

Stacey Buccieri, Executive Director
Dillon O'Brien, Government Analyst
Donna McNulty, Board of Pilot Commissioners Counsel
Captain Tom Bushy, Board Consultant
For the Record, Court Reporter
Geoffrey Pool, Florida Harbor Pilots Association
Gretchen Winters, Florida Harbor Pilots Association

Approval of BOPC Meeting Minutes

- January 28, 2026

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve the January 28, 2026, BOPC Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Seuter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Changes to Deputy Pilot Training Program

- St. Johns Bar Pilot Association

Commissioner Cumings made a motion to approve the changes to St. Johns Bar Pilot Association's Deputy Pilot Training Program. Commissioner Phipps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Request for State Pilot Examination

- Captain Joseph Purcell – Biscayne Bay Pilots Association
- Captain Zachary Sherman – Biscayne Bay Pilots Association

A motion was made by Commissioner Cumings and seconded by Commissioner Assal to approve Captain Joseph Purcell and Captain Zachary Sherman to sit for the State Pilot Examination for Miami. Motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Request for Deputy Pilot for Port of Panama City

A motion was made by Commissioner Phipps and seconded by Commissioner Hodge to approve the Emergency Request for a Deputy Pilot for Port of Panama City. Motion carried unanimously.

2026 Deputy Pilot Examination Statistical Analysis – Captain Thomas Bushy

No comments or questions.

Petition for Variance or Waiver

- Captain Adam Paul, Applicant for Tampa Bay

Motion made by Commissioner Phipps and seconded by Commissioner Seuter to deny applicant Adam Paul's Petition for Variance or Waiver for not being in substantial compliance with the provisions of Section 120.542, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 28-104, Florida Administrative Code, and for failing to establish that the Board's application of Rule 61G14-11.002, Florida Administrative Code, to his circumstances would violate principles of fairness or would impose a substantial hardship on him. Motion carried unanimously.

Review and Approval of Applicants for the Deputy Pilot Openings for the Port Jacksonville/Fernandina, Port of Key West, and Port of Tampa Bay

Motion made by Commissioner Assal and seconded by Commissioner Hodge to approve the following applicants to sit for the March 2026 exam for the Port of Jacksonville/Fernandina:

Conor D. Boyce
Kyle A. Cox
Zachary B. Jonsson
Joseph M. Mainella
Emily L. McDonald
Charles R. Schnebel
Aaron K. Scott

BOPC Meeting
February 11, 2026
Page 2

William R. Scott
Michael J. Syler
Devin W. Tucker
Benjamin L. Van Der Like

Motion made by Commissioner Cumings and seconded by Commissioner Hodge to approve the following applicants to sit for the March 2026 exam for the Port of Key West:

Grant A. Begley III
Patrick C. Deegan
Joseph M. Gasecki
Dylan L. Hoffman
Jacob Kohn
Samuel A. Kraus
Chalmers S. Pierce
Joshua D. Pierce
Erik P. Thompson

Motion made by Commissioner Phipps and seconded by Commissioner Seuter to approve the following applicants to sit for the March 2026 exam for the Port of Tampa Bay:

Jonathan L. Agliata
John E. Brower III
Kenneth K. Bryant
Patrick A. Clarke Jr.
Samuel A. Cuva
Daniel G. Hanson
Alex C. Hermes
Gerald D. Jordan
Garret J. Lawlor
John M. Lorenz
Javon McCravey
Slade P. McPherson
Edward R. Melvin Jr.
Jevgenij E. Narubin
Kyle R. Scannell
Jarom L. Sims
Alfred R. Warmbier II

Motion to deny applicant Matthew J. Scalera for the Port of Jacksonville/Fernandina for not meeting the requirements in Section 310.071, Florida Statutes, and Rule 61G14-11.002, Florida Administrative Code, made by Commissioner Phipps and seconded by Commissioner Cumings. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to deny applicant Corey E.V. Burke for the Port of Key West for not meeting the requirements in Section 310.071(1)(d), Florida Statutes, and Rule 61G14-11.002(2), Florida Administrative Code, made by Commissioner Assal and seconded by Commissioner Cumings. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to deny applicant Colin R. Davis for the Port of Key West for not meeting the requirements in Section 310.071, Florida Statutes, and Rule 61G14-11.002, Florida Administrative Code, made by Commissioner Cumings and seconded by Commissioner Hodge. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to deny applicant Brian Bristol for the Port of Tampa Bay for not meeting the requirements in Section 310.071, Florida Statutes, and Rule 61G14-11.002, Florida Administrative Code, made by Commissioner Cumings and seconded by Commissioner Hodge. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to deny applicant Jade W.M. Francis for the Port of Tampa Bay for not meeting the requirements in Section 310.071, Florida Statutes, and Rule 61G14-11.002, Florida Administrative Code, made by Commissioner Assal and seconded by Commissioner Seuter. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to deny applicant Adam A.D. Paul for the Port of Tampa Bay for not meeting the requirements in Section 310.071(1)(d), Florida Statutes, and Rule 61G14-11.002(2), Florida Administrative Code, made by Commissioner Hodge and seconded by Commissioner Cumings. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Reports – Commissioner Jaccoma

Commissioner Jaccoma reported that he will be retiring when his license expires on January 31, 2027.

Commissioner Jaccoma offered his condolences for the death of Captain Phillip Brady earlier this year.

Deputy Pilot Advancement Committee

- Ratification of January 20, 2026, minutes

Commissioner Phipps approved the January 20, 2026, DPAC minutes as written. Motion by Commissioner Cumings and seconded by Commissioner Assal to ratify the Deputy Pilot advancements. Motion carried unanimously.

Rules Report – Donna McNulty

- January 2026 Rules Report

The legislature is now requiring comprehensive rules reviews for all boards and agencies.

- 20.001, F.A.C.

Motion to amend the rule with the strikes and additions provided made by Commissioner Seuter and seconded by Commissioner Assal. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion stating proposed rule amendments will not have an adverse impact on small business and are not likely to directly or indirectly increase regulatory costs to any entity in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate in Florida within one year after implementation of the rule made by Commissioner Phipps and seconded by Commissioner Hodge. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion stating that a violation of this rule or any part of this rule should not be designated a minor violation made by Commissioner Phipps and seconded by Commissioner Seuter. Motion carried unanimously.

- 22.006, F.A.C.

Motion to approve the proposed provision made by Commissioner Cumings and seconded by Commissioner Hodge. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion stating proposed rule amendments will not have an adverse impact on small business and are not likely to directly or indirectly increase regulatory costs to any entity in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate in Florida within one year after implementation of the rule made by Commissioner Cumings and seconded by Commissioner Seuter. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion stating that a violation of this rule or any part of this rule should not be designated a minor violation made by Commissioner Hodge and seconded by Commissioner Seuter. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. McNulty told the Board to expect more rule amendments to come soon as they continue to be reviewed.

Executive Director's Report – Stacey Buccieri

Ms. Buccieri discussed HB 607, the de-boarding Bill, which seems to be unlikely to be passed into law. SB 1666, the Department's Bill, also seems unlikely to be passed into law.

Florida Harbor Pilots Association 2025 Internship Program -- For Informational Purposes Only

Gretchen Winters of the Florida Harbor Pilots Association mentioned the expansion of their internship program, and that a former FHPA intern became the first of which to

become a Harbor Pilot in the state of Florida. Commissioner Jaccoma welcomed Geoffrey Pool as the new president of FHPA.

Election of Officers

- Chair

Motion to keep Commissioner Jaccoma as Chair made by Commissioner Seuter and seconded by Commissioner Cumings. Motion carried unanimously.

- Vice Chair

Motion to appoint Commissioner Hodge as Vice Chair made by Commissioner Seuter and seconded by

New Business – Captain Bushy gave updates on the changes being made by the Board of Education and Testing to revamp the Deputy Pilot exam and have contracted Professional Testing Incorporated to do so. The goal is to reduce the number of questions that are challenged.

Old Business – None

Public Comments – None

Discussion of Panama City Cross License Deputy Pilot

Ms. Buccieri requested the Board's approval for the opening for a second Cross License Deputy Pilot in Panama City considering the death of Captain Phillip Brady.

Motion made by Commissioner Seuter and seconded by Commissioner Phipps to approve a second Cross License Deputy Pilot for Port of Panama City. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment – Commissioner Jaccoma adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m. EST.