

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS  
Telephone Conference Call  
1-571-317-3116  
Participant Passcode: 337217893  
Friday, September 08, 2023, 10:00 a.m.  
GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS  
APPROVED**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Kurtz at 10:02 am EST.

**Members Present:**

Commissioner Kurtz – Chair  
Commissioner Jaccoma, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Cumings  
Commissioner Phipps  
Commissioner Seuter  
Commissioner Benson  
Commissioner Hodge

**Members Absent**

Commissioner Assal - unexcused

**Others Present**

Stacey Buccieri, Executive Director  
Mandi Matthews, Government Analyst  
Marlene Stern, Board of Pilot Commissioners Counsel  
Captain Tom Bushy, Board Consultant  
Ben Borgie, Florida Harbor Pilots Association  
Gretchen Winters, Florida Harbor Pilots Association

**Request for State Pilot Examination**– A request was made for Captain James G. Walley of Port Everglades to sit for the State Pilot Examination.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Cumings and seconded by Commissioner Phipps.  
Motion carried.

**Approval of changes to the Deputy Pilot Training Program** – Commissioner Kurtz opened the floor for questions or comments; there were none. Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Cumings. Motion carried.

**Deputy Pilot Advancement Committee**

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- Approval of May 22, 2023, minutes
- Approval of July 28, 2023, minutes
- Approval of August 14, 2023, minutes

After removing Laurie Bodine and Captain Sweeny from the attendance list, a motion was made by Commissioner Kurtz to ratify all minutes, seconded by Commissioner Jaccoma. Motion carried.

**Ratification of the Annual Regulatory Plan** – Marlene Stern stated every year, each board is required to propose a list of rules they anticipate working on and/or rules they need to work on due to legislative changes as well as previously listed rules that are still in progress. The Board of Pilot Commissioners has no rules; what you see on the agenda is what was sent to the Governor’s Office. Motion to ratify by Commissioner Phipps and seconded by Commissioner Cumings. Motion carried.

**Rules Report** – Commissioner Phipps asked if 61G14 -11.005, F.A.C., examination review has been reworded.

Marlene Stern stated our rule overlaps with the rule of the Department, except for the cost of an examination review. We could move forward with the changing of our rule, but that will not solve the problem with the examination review because that falls under the rule making authority of the Department. Amending our rule is the right thing to do.

Commissioner Phipps inquired what exactly Ms. Stern recommends striking from our rule. Ms. Stern stated we would strike paragraphs one, three, and four, keeping paragraph two.

Motion to amend 61G14-11.005 made by Commissioner Phipps, seconded by Commissioner Hodge. Motion carried.

Marlene Stern stated there are questions regarding rules:

1. Will the proposed rule amendment have an adverse reaction to small businesses?

Marlene stated there will not be an impact to small businesses.

Motion by Commissioner Kurtz, seconded by Commissioner Hodge. Motion passed.

2. Is the proposed rule amendment likely to directly or indirectly, increase regulatory cost to any entity, including government, more than \$200,000 in the aggregate in Florida within one year after the implementation of the rule? Motion by Commissioner Kurtz, seconded by Commissioner Jaccoma. Motion carried.

3. Do you want there to be a 5-year review provision in the rule? Commissioner Hodge asked who would oversee keeping track of the review? Ms. Stern stated that the Attorney General's office will be the responsible party. Commissioner Jaccoma stated that since this is a part of the Bureau of Education & Testing, he doesn't see a need for

a five-year review. Motion for no 5-year review by Commissioner Cumings, seconded by Commissioner Jaccoma. Motion Carried.

**Election of Officers** - Commissioner Kurtz stated that she will be retiring with her last day being September 30, 2023, and made a motion to elect Commissioner Michael Jaccoma as the new Board Chair. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Phipps made a motion for Commissioner Benson as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Benson accepts the nomination. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Kurtz stated what an honor it has been to serve as Chair for the BOPC for the last 8 years. She thanked Mandie Ackermann and Mollie Peck for all their hard work and support to her and the Board. She also thanked Captain Tom Bushy for being such an asset to the department and a good friend. Thanks to Marlene Stern for her invaluable guidance to her and the Board. Thank you to Commissioner Cheryl Phipps, I couldn't have done this without your help. And, to Commissioner Benson, thank you for all your support and friendship you have provided to the Board.

**New Business** - Commissioner Jaccoma asked about the Deputy Pilot exams taken in March 2023 and when appointments will be made. Stacey Buccieri, Executive Director, stated we are still waiting on the amended grades to be finalized and we should hear something soon.

Commissioner Benson stated that the minutes would be incomplete without sharing our thanks to Commissioner Kurtz for her leadership and guidance. We all owe her a great deal of gratitude for all the work she has done.

**Old Business** – None

**Public Comment:** Captain Ben Borgie with the Florida Harbor Pilots Association wants to thank Commissioner Kurtz on behalf of all Harbor Pilots and the Florida Harbor Pilots Association for the leadership and for the time she has spent mentoring younger pilots, especially young women in the industry. We are sad to see her leave, but we are proud to say that we have worked with her.

Gretchen Winters with the Florida Harbor Pilots Association reiterated Captain Borgie's comments and stated Commissioner Kurtz has been a friend for many, many years. Thank you for your leadership and advocacy for the pilots in Florida. You will be missed!

**Adjournment** – This meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Kurtz at 10:30 a.m. EST.