

Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun

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PILOT FITNESS COMMITTEE MEETING
May 15, 2012
MINUTES

The Board of Pilot Commissioners Pilot Fitness Committee met on May 15, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the Board of Pilot Commissioners office, 660 Davis Street, San Francisco, California. Chairman Steve Roberts presided over the meeting with Committee members Barbara Price, Brigadier General Chester Ward, MD, MPH and University of California Associate Clinical Professor Dr. Robert Kosnik present. Members of staff present were Executive Director Allen Garfinkle and Staff Services Analyst Kelly Dolcini.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chairman Roberts called the meeting into order at 10:02' a.m. Barbara Price, General Ward and Dr. Kosnik were present constituting a quorum.

2. Approval of minutes of March 14 and April 13, 2012 meetings.

Chairman Roberts requested approval of the minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting. Dr. Ward moved for approval. Dr. Kosnik seconded the motion which passed unanimously on a voice vote, with Barbara Price abstaining.

Chairman Roberts requested approval of the minutes of the April 13, 2012 meeting. Dr. Ward moved for approval. Dr. Kosnik seconded the motion which passed unanimously on a voice vote, with Barbara Price abstaining.

3. Review and discuss correspondence from Business, Transportation and Housing (BTH) Acting Secretary Traci Stevens to Executive Director referring the Safety Recommendations to the Board for further review and consideration. Also review and discuss correspondence from BTH Acting Secretary Traci Stevens to National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Chairman Hersman.

Due to the similarities between agenda items 3 and 4, Chairman Roberts announced that the committee would address both items in one discussion.

4. Review and discuss any new correspondence from interested parties responding to the NTSB recommendations and any other correspondence on the same subject that may be received prior to the meeting date.

The Committee has reviewed many of the outstanding letters to the National Transportation Safety Board that Committee has been provided with. Chairman Roberts suggested that the Committee continue to monitor the situation and make recommendations to the Board if needed.

The Committee moved on to discuss fatigue in relation to Senate Bill 1408 which, if passed, will require a sleep study to be initiated by the Board.

Dr. Kosnik reported that he had discussed fatigue issues with colleagues and evidence suggests that fatigue affects technical abilities but not necessarily cognition. He also recommended documenting the analysis done by the Pilot Fitness Committee with a document outlining the various ways in which the Committee examined the issue and what the Board and SFBP is currently doing in the area of fatigue management.

The Committee discussed the uniqueness of the San Francisco Bay and tributaries as a pilotage ground. It was mentioned that the Manalytics study that was performed in 1986 was a common sense approach which gave some guidance to scheduling. Drs. Kosnik and Ward suggested building on the study and incorporating new information relating to circadian rhythms and traffic flow within the bay.

5. Review and discuss “Additional Minimum Rest Period (MRP) Reporting to the Board” draft rule, as edited at the last meeting that adds additional reporting requirements to the Port Agent report to the Board.

Chairman Roberts provided Committee members with an outline of information to be provided by the Port Agent under proposed MRP guidelines.

Committee members discussed MRP exceptions with relation to Port Agent duties and determined that most of the information required would be easy to obtain (date, time, number of hours rest, number of pilots on the board, and ship movements for the day) and should be provided for all MRP exceptions. It was suggested that when MRP exceptions fall to 10 hours or less, more information be required, including length of assignment prior to MRP exception, length of subsequent assignment, nature of job and type of vessel moved subsequent to MRP exception and the relation of the MRP in the duty cycle of the pilot.

Subsequent to discussion, Chairman Roberts agreed to re-draft the requirements and present them at the next meeting.

6. Review, discuss and draft “pull notice” policy for routinely obtaining Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) records as supplemental information for the medical assessment and policy of how these records should be utilized.

The committee discussed the concept of “pull notice,” and the various reasons for requiring trainees and licensees to submit to a DMV record check.

Some Committee members were in favor of utilizing a "pull notice" program, arguing that viewing driving records would give the board doctors psychological insight in to trainees and pilots and would assist in the discovery of dangerous patterns. Other Committee members raised concerns about the propriety of such a requirement, stating that human error is not necessarily an indicator of problems or addictions that affect piloting. It was pointed out that the USCG looks at driving records at least once every five years.

The Committee also discussed what the Board would do with the information once it was in possession of the information, and the most favored response was that the Board appointed physician would review the information.

The pull notice discussion was tabled in anticipation of the Senate vote on S.B. 1408 which, if passed, would require the pull notice. The proposed legislation does not require the Board to act on the information nor provide guidance on what the Board should do with the information.

7. Public Comments on matters not on the agenda.

Chairman Roberts thanked the Committee members for their hard work and thoughtful contributions.

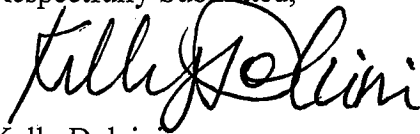
8. Proposals for additions to next committee meeting agenda.

It was suggested that the Committee work to produce a document that summarizes the Committee's information flow on fatigue issues thus far.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Dolcini
Staff Services Analyst