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ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present via Webex:

Sam Rodriguez, Committee Chair

Mike Jacob, President, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA)

Captain Anne McIntyre, Business Director, San Francisco Bar Pilots (SFBP)

Committee Members Absent:

None.

Staff Present via Webex:

Allen Garfinkle, Executive Director

Matthew Millspaugh, Assistant Director

Mari McNeill, Board Administrative Coordinator

Greg Shepherd, Records Management and Program Support Coordinator

Roma Cristia-Plant, Consultant to the Board

Public Via Webex:

Captain John Carlier, SFBP President and Port Agent

Kevin Baldwin, SFBP General Counsel

Captain William Benedict, SFBP

OPEN MEETING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. (Chair Rodriguez)

Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Board Administrative Coordinator McNeill called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

2. Approval of the minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on February 11, 2025. Possible Committee action to approve minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on February 11, 2025. (Chair)

MOTION: Chair Rodriguez moved to approve the draft minutes from the February 11, 2025, meeting. Committee Member Jacob seconded the motion.

VOTE: YES: Jacob, McIntyre, and Rodriguez.

NO: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ACTION: The motion was approved.

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3. Review and Discussion of current Pilot Trainee stipend, currently set at \$8,000/per month per trainee. Possible committee action on a recommendation to the Board concerning the monthly Trainee stipend. (Assistant Director Millspaugh)

Assistant Director Millspaugh summarized information provided in the meeting document contents, including information on:

- The staff report on the trainee stipend, and data on stipend options set at levels between \$8000/month and \$10,000/mo.
- An overview of the trainee surcharge revenue and expenditures.
- Assistant Director Millspaugh offered to adjust the revenue and expenditure projections during the meeting as needed as the data provided was compiled before the Board received the March 2025 surcharge information from SFBP, which reflected a decline in moves.

4. Review Trainee Training Surcharge rate (currently at \$20/trainee/move, effective January 1, 2025), and the revenues, expenditures, and reserve balance. Possible committee action on a recommendation to the Board to adjust the Trainee Training Surcharge rate, if warranted. (Assistant Director Millspaugh)

Assistant Director Millspaugh highlighted the key points to consider in the meeting documents and, per the committee's request, adjusted the surcharge projections down by 10% to provide a more conservative estimate of revenue. The Committee discussed the factors that most effect trainee surcharge revenue which included the number of trainees in the program and the number of moves completed each month. BOPC staff noted the number of trainees increased from five in July 2024 to six in December 2024 and Board staff anticipate six trainees to remain in the trainee program for the rest of the year.

Executive Director Garfinkle stated that it is rare for trainees to withdraw from the program once they have started. In the last three or four years, only one trainee has withdrawn from the program.

Committee Members and Board staff discussed various scenarios of stipend levels set at levels between \$8000 and \$10,000 and discussed the uncertainty in shipping volumes in the coming months due to trade policy.

Since agenda items 3 and 4 were closely tied together, the committee discussion went back and forth between the two agenda items.

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3. Review and Discussion of current Pilot Trainee stipend, currently set at \$8,000/per month per trainee. Possible committee action on a recommendation to the Board concerning the monthly Trainee stipend. (Assistant Director Millspaugh)

Committee members discussed a conservative approach to raising the trainee stipend and some stated the desire to have a consistent standard annual review process of trainee stipends vs. an ad hoc process in the future.

MOTION: Committee Member McIntyre moved to recommend to the Board to change the Pilot Trainee stipend from \$8,000 to \$8,500/per month per trainee, effective July 1, 2025. Committee Member Jacob seconded the motion.

VOTE: YES: Jacob, McIntyre, and Rodriguez.
NO: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

ACTION: The motion was approved.

Committee members and Executive Director Garfinkle discussed other pilotage authorities, and similarities or differences in pilotage models in relation to recruiting pilots.

- Puget Sound has a similar pilotage model and pilotage training program, cost of living can be less in the greater Seattle area. Columbia River Pilots have a different pilotage model, and the Ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach have, in general, less technical pilotage work.

4. Review Trainee Training Surcharge rate (currently at \$20/trainee/move, effective January 1, 2025), and the revenues, expenditures, and reserve balance. Possible committee action on a recommendation to the Board to adjust the Trainee Training Surcharge rate, if warranted. (Assistant Director Millspaugh)

MOTION: Committee Member McIntyre moved to delay the discussion regarding changes the Trainee Training Surcharge rate (currently at \$20/trainee/move, effective January 1, 2025) until the next Finance Committee Meeting, on May 12, 2025. Chair Rodriguez seconded the motion.

VOTE: YES: Jacob, McIntyre, and Rodriguez.
NO: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

ACTION: The motion was approved.

Committee Members discussed agenda item 6 prior to agenda item 5.

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6. Schedule the next Committee meeting, and proposals for the next Committee meeting agenda. (Chairperson)

Committee Members agreed to schedule the next Finance Committee meeting for Monday, May 12, 2025, 1:00 p.m. via Webex.

5. Comments from the public and Committee members on matters not on the agenda. (Chairperson)

Executive Director Garfinkle stated the Marine Exchange May Day party is Wednesday, May 28, 2025.

The Committee discussed tariff and ship fee related issues, including:

- The Federal Government imposing fees on Chinese-linked vessels entering U.S. ports, to counter China's dominance in the maritime sector and possible effects on the shipping industry. The Committee noted, based on comments made by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) at a U.S. Senate hearing on April 8, 2025, and testimony provided by shipping and other industry groups the fees may be adjusted from the USTR's original proposal.
- Governor Gavin Newsom's discussions with economic ministers from various countries, including China, requesting they not impose tariffs on California produced agricultural goods, such as pistachios and almonds.
- The possible negative impacts to the shipping industry and the uncertainty created in decision-making regarding the movement of goods.

6. Schedule the next Committee meeting, and proposals for the next Committee meeting agenda. (Chairperson)

Committee Members requested an agenda item to review and discuss SFBP's and SFBP Benevolent and Protective Association's (SFBP B&P) Consolidated Financial Statement, in addition to the standard agenda items to discuss all surcharges, be included in the next Finance Committee meeting, on Monday, May 12, 2025, 1:00 p.m., via Webex.

7. Adjournment.

Chair Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Submitted by:



Allen Garfinkle
Executive Director

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ACRONYM INDEX

Acronyms / Abbreviations	Definition
BOPC/Board	Board of Pilot Commissioners
CA	California
PMSA	Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
SFBP	San Francisco Bar Pilots
USTR	Office of the United States Trade Representative

This and other documents for this meeting can be found on the Board's website

<https://bopc.ca.gov/finance/>.

