

STATE OF LOUISIANA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
NEW ORLEANS - BATON ROUGE STEAMSHIP
PILOTS FOR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

QUARTERLY MEETING HELD
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025

At the offices of New Orleans - Baton
Rouge Steamship Pilots Association, 2805 Harvard
Avenue, Suite 101, Metairie, Louisiana 70006,
commencing at 10:00 a.m.

REPORTED BY:
LESLIE L. NICOSIA
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

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CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON
CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTNER
CAPTAIN JEREMY WHITTEMORE

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COUNSEL FOR THE STATE OF LOUISIANA
NEW ORLEANS - BATON ROUGE STEAMSHIP PILOTS:

9

MICHAEL THOMAS, ESQUIRE
RICK WARD, ESQUIRE

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ALSO PRESENT:

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Brian Eiselen, Esquire
Anthony Billiot
Ian Grue
John Macaluso
Tim Rieder

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2 Leslie L. Nicosia, a Certified Court Reporter in
3 and for the State of Louisiana,
4 did report the following:

5 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

6 We will call the Board of
7 Examiners New Orleans - Baton Rouge
8 Steamship Pilots for the Mississippi
9 River meeting to order.

10 As per the agenda, let's do a
11 roll call. Lee Jackson, Examiner.

12 BY CAPTAIN WHITTEMORE:

13 Jeremy Whittemore,
14 Commissioner.

15 BY CAPTAIN RITTNER:

16 Chris Rittner, Commissioner.

17 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

18 Prior to the meeting, I sent
19 out the minutes from the last meeting
20 for you guys to review. Any thoughts
21 on that, edits? If not, I entertain a
22 motion to approve the minutes.

23 BY CAPTAIN RITTNER:

24 I make a motion to approve the
25 minutes.

1 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

2 All right. Sounds good. A
3 second on that?

4 BY CAPTAIN WHITTEMORE:

5 I second.

6 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

7 Let's do a roll call.

8 Chris, you want to start a roll
9 call on approval of the minutes? We
10 are going to record everybody's vote.

11 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

12 Aye.

13 BY CAPTAIN WHITTEMORE:

14 Aye.

15 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

16 Aye.

17 All right. Next item is public
18 comments. Anyone in the public want
19 to make any comments?

20 BY MR. BILLIOT:

21 The letter that y'all sent out
22 as far as the medical card isn't up to
23 date, anybody's medical card is not up
24 to date, you are not supposed to be on
25 the books?

1 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

2 That's right. Well, let me be
3 clear. The rules of the Board of
4 Examiners is we are not the policing
5 authority. It's the individual
6 responsibility to ensure that their
7 medical certificate as well as their
8 physicals are annually done.

9 BY MR. BILLIOT:

10 Correct. If one or both is
11 invalid, that person cannot work?

12 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

13 That person should let the
14 Board of Examiners know, and at that
15 point, they will be removed.

16 BY MR. BILLIOT:

17 You cannot use sick leave? You
18 cannot get somebody else to work for
19 you?

20 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

21 You cannot pilot a ship or take
22 vessel traffic.

23 BY MR. BILLIOT:

24 You can't get anybody to work
25 for you?

1 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

2 You cannot pilot a ship or take
3 vessel traffic.

4 BY MR. BILLIOT:

5 Don't we have somebody
6 presently doing that right now?

7 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

8 I don't know. Do you have
9 information you want to bring to the
10 board?

11 BY MR. BILLIOT:

12 I'm being told Victor Calvaruso
13 doesn't have a medical card and he's
14 still working VTC, or he has somebody
15 working for him.

16 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

17 We are not aware of that.

18 BY MR. BILLIOT:

19 Okay.

20 BY MR. GRUE:

21 How would you become aware of
22 that? You are saying the person
23 should step forward --

24 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

25 Yes.

1 BY MR. GRUE:

2 -- but if they arent, then you
3 will just -- they just get the ride?

4 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

5 Here's what happens. If you
6 read the rules -- If you read the
7 Board of Examiners' rules, it's
8 extremely clear. It's incumbent upon
9 the individual.

10 If that individual is doing
11 something unlawfully and they are
12 absolutely not notifying the proper
13 authorities, the Coast Guard or the
14 Board of Examiners, that individual is
15 in peril of losing their commission as
16 well as being put in jail. That is
17 just -- That's just it.

18 BY MR. BILLIOT:

19 I would like that to be checked
20 out. Is that true about Victor
21 Calvaruso?

22 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

23 Are you making a formal
24 complaint?

25 BY MR. BILLIOT:

1 No, I'm not going to make a
2 formal complaint. That's ridiculous.
3 The way y'all presenting it, I mean,
4 if I don't have one of these
5 credentials, I'm going to keep my
6 mouth shut. If nobody's going to
7 police it, then what's the point?

8 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

9 If you choose -- I'm just
10 telling you what the rules say right
11 now. The rules have been in place,
12 Tony, for years. This board hasn't
13 changed any rule whatsoever. I don't
14 understand. This is no new
15 information here.

16 BY MR. BILLIOT:

17 Okay. The way I feel about the
18 situation, if it's true -- I don't
19 know if it's true. I'm hearing about
20 it. People are talking about it.
21 That makes me want to go find out.
22 How do I find out that information,
23 whether anybody in this room's
24 information is correct?

25 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

1 Again, this board is not going
2 to work on rumors and innuendos. If
3 you want to bring it to the board in a
4 formal complaint, we will do our duty.

5 BY MR. BILLIOT:

6 Okay.

7 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

8 We will do our duty. Is that
9 -- Am I speaking out of turn, the
10 attorneys?

11 BY MR. WARD:

12 That's correct. I think our
13 first step comes whenever a formal a
14 complaint is lodged.

15 BY MR. BILLIOT:

16 So, nobody has brought this to
17 the table? Obviously, nobody's
18 brought it to the table?

19 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

20 Uh-uh (NEGATIVE RESPONSE). Are
21 you good?

22 BY MR. GRUE:

23 It appears that you are, by
24 legal counsel, hiding behind that,
25 where I had understood the

1 commission's purpose was to ensure the
2 safety of our waterway by managing the
3 pilots, right?

4 And by you saying you only move
5 forward by formal complaint, though
6 you require these documents from us in
7 a timely manner before they sunset,
8 you have evidence whether my physical
9 is up to date or my license is up to
10 date, but you are not really enforcing
11 it until Tony says Ian hasn't -- How
12 is Tony going to know when I renew my
13 license?

14 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

15 Again, I want you to follow the
16 rules. Look at the rules. I'm not
17 going to get into a debate with you
18 about it. Follow the rules. Look at
19 the rules. If there is a questionable
20 action by a particular said pilot,
21 please bring it forth in a formal
22 complaint and we will look at it.

23 BY MR. BILLIOT:

24 Let me ask you this. If
25 something like that is going on, and

1 say you find out two months ago his
2 physical has been out of date, but for
3 two months he's been working, what's
4 the possibility of getting that money
5 back?

6 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

7 That will be an association
8 issue. That's not the Board of
9 Examiners.

10 BY MR. BILLIOT:

11 To me, this is a situation
12 that, if it's true, I'm going to
13 investigate. This is like breaking
14 rules. You are breaking a rule.
15 You're stealing money from me. If you
16 don't have a valid license, a valid
17 physical, you're stealing money from
18 me. I don't like that.

19 If you as a pilot are doing it
20 and not doing what you are supposed to
21 do, to me, you are not a true NOBRA
22 pilot if you are going to steal and
23 screw your partners over.

24 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

25 Look --

1 BY MR. BILLIOT:

2 I don't like the way y'all --
3 You're saying you have to handle it
4 going by the rules, but you are
5 basically saying that a pilot don't
6 have to come forward and say anything.

7 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

8 Well, have you read the statute
9 for the Board of Examiners?

10 BY MR. BILLIOT:

11 I've read it before. Do I know
12 exactly what it says? No. I didn't
13 go back and read it again.

14 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

15 When you do that, I think you
16 will see our hands are tied, right? I
17 think we can only work on an effort by
18 someone to do what I would call and
19 what Rick just confirmed, a formal
20 complaint. If you do that, we will
21 respond timely to your request; same
22 with you.

23 As for returning funds or
24 whatever, that's an association
25 matter. If the association deems it

1 necessary, if a complaint is found to
2 be factual, we will forward it on to
3 the powers that be.

4 Obviously, a formal
5 investigation will have to happen
6 through the governor's office. When
7 we complete that, we will let the
8 association know.

9 BY MR. MACALUSO:

10 I don't think anybody does
11 anything maliciously or anything like
12 that. My only concern would be is
13 that, you know, sometimes time lapses
14 and people may not realize a license
15 has expired or is getting ready to
16 expire. Maybe proper paperwork wasn't
17 handed in.

18 So, if we are responsible for
19 having everything in a timely manner
20 and it isn't in a timely manner, will
21 someone from the board advise that
22 person to let them know that, "Hey,
23 your license has expired," or, "Hey,
24 you don't have a valid physical or
25 your card is -- We don't have a card

1 on file," or whatever the case may be?
2 Will the board notify that person at
3 that point?

4 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

5 Well, I can only tell you what
6 the rules say. It's the individual's
7 responsibility to ensure that his or
8 her certificates, physicals,
9 everything are in line.

10 As a -- I would say as a --
11 Over the years, I think what has
12 happened is Ms. Geraci or someone has
13 identified something and will give
14 you-all a heads-up. Really and truly,
15 that's not the Board of Examiners'
16 role.

17 BY MR. BILLIOT:

18 That's been going on for quite
19 a while. Sharon would send out a --

20 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

21 That was a courtesy she was
22 doing.

23 BY MR. MACALUSO:

24 That courtesy probably put some
25 people in a position because they

1 relied on that courtesy. Now, all of
2 a sudden, it's not there.

3 I'm not saying it's the board's
4 responsibility. What I'm saying is,
5 at that point in time when that
6 license or that certificate or
7 whatever is invalid -- It might even
8 be with something, say, you know,
9 continuing education.

10 Will the board at that point
11 let them know, "Hey, you are not in
12 compliance," so that person can come
13 in compliance at that point in time?
14 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

15 Maybe I think the question
16 should be, maybe as an organization,
17 the association can develop something
18 where it can be put together. If we
19 have to change our rules, we would
20 have to basically put in a statute
21 that we are going to shift from where
22 the policy is now.

23 I'm not saying I'm opposed to
24 it. I don't know where the other two
25 commissioners are. My point is, in

1 the interim, it seems like a safety
2 net should be established for the
3 pilots to keep them in line with their
4 license as well as with their
5 physicals and medical cards.

6 BY MR. MACALUSO:

7 I think MPI was kind of onboard
8 to do that, correct?

9 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

10 I do believe the association
11 has a contract with them. The
12 challenge has been, I believe -- I
13 won't speak out of school. I think
14 the challenge has been compliance by
15 the pilots to get the system up and
16 running. That's what you-all --

17 BY CAPTAIN RITTNER:

18 I just think I remember back it
19 was because of the nature of the
20 physical prior to everybody turning in
21 the entire physical, so it became a
22 privacy issue, comparatively.

23 I think just a conversation
24 with the other board, with the
25 association, it could probably solve

1 some of the issue, or maybe we can be
2 more in communication with them to
3 maybe pass on on a yearly basis maybe
4 these are the physicals we need. I
5 don't know.

6 BY MR. MACALUSO:

7 I'm not here to say that y'all
8 need to police as far as letting us
9 know, "Hey, you're three months out."
10 I'm here to say if I'm not in
11 compliance -- Because it's also
12 detrimental to the association and
13 also that pilot himself. You know
14 what I'm saying?

15 At that point in time, he may
16 not -- willingly knowing he is not in
17 compliance. You understand what I'm
18 saying?

19 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

20 I understand.

21 BY MR. MACALUSO:

22 If the board requires us to
23 have all of these credentials in a
24 timely manner, and if they are not up
25 to date, then I would think at that

1 point in time, the commissioners
2 should advise that person, "Hey, you
3 are out of compliance." From that
4 point, whatever needs to be done needs
5 to be done until they come back into
6 compliance.

7 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

8 This is just devil's advocate.
9 What responsibility or role should the
10 individual pilot have, responsibility
11 of his or her license? I can tell you
12 to the date when mine expires.

13 BY MR. MACALUSO:

14 Me too, all my stuff.

15 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

16 I can tell you my physical, my
17 medical cert. It is incumbent upon
18 the individual to take some level of
19 responsibility, although I will agree
20 with you.

21 BY MR. MACALUSO:

22 I'm not saying it's not the
23 pilot's responsibility, Lee. I'm
24 saying, if they are not in compliance,
25 to be advised you are not in

1 compliance, because that could be
2 detrimental to everybody on hand.

3 I'm not telling you to, you
4 know, police me and say, "Johnny, your
5 physical, you don't have one on file.
6 At the end of this month, you need to"
7 -- I'm saying come April 30th or May
8 1st, I don't have it, you know, I mean
9 --

10 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

11 Understood.

12 BY MR. MACALUSO:

13 Any organization, if you are
14 not in compliance, then, you know, the
15 powers that be is going to say,
16 "That's it."

17 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

18 Okay.

19 BY MR. MACALUSO:

20 That's all I'm saying. Like
21 you said, Sharon has done this for
22 years. You know, I take full
23 responsibility for my stuff. I make
24 sure.

25 We already had an issue before

1 with something. I came to you about
2 it because there was a little mix-up
3 and everything else. Bottom line is
4 is that this is my responsibility, but
5 I can't speak for everybody else.

6 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

7 That's fair.

8 BY MR. MACALUSO:

9 I'm speaking in the sense that
10 an organization is being put in a
11 position if something was to become of
12 it. If we're giving this in a timely
13 manner and it's not done in a timely
14 manner, then that's where I would
15 think the commission would have to
16 say, "Look. The deadline has passed."

17 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

18 I think that was really and
19 truly about the letter and letting
20 everyone know the challenges that we
21 have had with the Coast Guard and the
22 delay in getting things processed,
23 things of that nature.

24 This was just a little
25 reminder, like we have done in the

1 past, to let everyone know don't wait
2 until the last minute to get your
3 stuff put in. The government doesn't
4 work that way.

5 Unfortunately, folks, you know,
6 through life, they wait until the last
7 minute. Then we have these
8 challenges. Your thoughts and points
9 are well taken. I think, you know, as
10 a board we are going to continue to
11 look at it and see maybe if there are
12 some things we can do.

13 BY MR. MACALUSO:

14 I'm not saying nobody is
15 malicious, Lee.

16 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

17 That's fair. That's a good
18 point.

19 BY MR. MACALUSO:

20 It's not about malicious. It's
21 not about any of that stuff, you know.
22 I know some people have been caught
23 because of, you know, the way things
24 used to be, the courtesies and
25 everything else.

1 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

2 That's correct. For years,
3 there was a courtesy.

4 BY MR. MACALUSO:

5 That's right. Exactly. I'm
6 just saying, at that point in time,
7 you know, once it's found the deadline
8 is met, that person can go ahead and
9 work hard to get their stuff in line
10 and do what they need to do.

11 That way, they can be back on
12 the route again, hopefully, and life
13 goes on like it should.

14 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

15 Cool.

16 BY MR. RIEDER:

17 Captain Lee, I have a question.
18 So, the pilots serving the vessel
19 traffic are in a pilot capacity,
20 serving as a pilot capacity or --

21 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

22 Yeah.

23 BY MR. RIEDER:

24 -- a facilitator?

25 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

1 No.

2 BY MR. RIEDER:

3 So, if their medical card or
4 license is expired or in a lull, is
5 there a grace period after that, or
6 y'all make him cease operations?

7 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

8 I don't know of a grace period
9 that the Coast Guard provides.

10 BY MR. RIEDER:

11 Once that medical card is
12 invalid or their license is in a lull,
13 they can't serve the vessel traffic?

14 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

15 I don't know of -- You cannot
16 serve in any capacity as a pilot.

17 BY MR. RIEDER:

18 So, the difference between
19 serving as a pilot on a ship and
20 vessel traffic, same responsibility,
21 correct?

22 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

23 There is no -- There is no --
24 As far as I can tell you, there is no
25 deviation.

1 BY MR. RIEDER:

2 No deviation. Thank you.

3 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

4 You're welcome.

5 Anything else from the
6 public?

7 (NO RESPONSE)

8 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

9 Going once, twice.

10 On to the next agenda, which
11 speaks a little bit about some of the
12 public comments. Counsel sent out
13 this letter to the association to
14 basically lay out some of the
15 responsibilities and requirements for
16 a particular pilot. Basically, we
17 just wanted to remind everyone what
18 the rules are and how they are laid
19 out.

20 The rules are as such, so that
21 everyone is clear. Once a year, you
22 are to take a physical. On your
23 fifth-year anniversary, that physical
24 is to be sent to the United States
25 Coast Guard.

1 If at any point through one
2 year to five years there is a
3 significant deviation in your medical
4 history, you are required -- the pilot
5 is required to notify the Coast Guard
6 of that change, because that means
7 your medical cert shifts in a waiver
8 or something.

9 So, we want to make sure that
10 everyone understands and appreciates
11 what the rule is when it comes to
12 that. You do not have to turn your
13 physical in to the Coast Guard every
14 year. It is once at your fifth-year
15 anniversary.

16 What they're trying to do,
17 they're trying to align your license
18 with your medical cert until
19 everything expires at one time. That
20 way, it's an easy deal. Again, if you
21 encounter some sort of medical issue
22 that's impactful, I'm not going to say
23 -- I'm not going to determine what
24 that is, but you have to notify the
25 Coast Guard so they can weigh in.

1 This was the whole purpose of
2 this going out. This was why we sent
3 this out, to make sure everyone was
4 aware of it.

5 Next item on the list, old
6 business, alcohol and drug tests.
7 Things have been going well there. We
8 haven't had any incidents from an
9 alcohol and drug issue. So, we will
10 continue to monitor the program.

11 We will be going out for hair
12 tests again next quarter for all
13 pilots to adhere to. We will be
14 sending those out to -- beginning next
15 -- Well, October, we will start that
16 process.

17 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

18 Any complaints or anything?

19 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

20 I haven't heard anything.

21 Next issue is pilot incident/
22 accident review. It's -- You will see
23 it in your packet, commissioners.
24 Really and truly, the pilots have done
25 a great job to manage incidents. We

1 only have one new incident. Really
2 and truly, it was an engine loss by
3 Commissioner Whittemore. That was the
4 only thing that was clocked in from
5 our last meeting to now.

6 I've had no follow-ups with
7 industry attorneys on either side on
8 the issue, so I think it's a moot
9 point. We will keep it lodged in on
10 our -- in our Excel spreadsheet.

11 The only other items we need to
12 address on the incident review sheet
13 is -- we have one issue that we can
14 look at. Taking off, it's been 12
15 months from 7/22/24. That was a soft
16 grounding. I would absolutely look at
17 removing that from -- Again, no
18 follow-up from attorneys on either
19 side, the ship's side or anything.

20 It's one of those things where
21 we have had multiple groundings when
22 the river was down during that time.
23 I suspect we are probably going to see
24 a little bit more groundings now that
25 we are at a low point now. With the

1 board's approval, we will look at --

2 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

3 You need a motion?

4 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

5 Yes, absolutely.

6 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

7 I'll create the motion to
8 strike that one from the record.

9 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

10 Do I have a second?

11 BY CAPTAIN WHITTEMORE:

12 Second.

13 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

14 Jeremy seconds. We will do
15 roll call. Roll call is to remove
16 7/22/24, the GOLDEN GRACE. Captain
17 Rochelle was the soft grounding from
18 our list of incidents. It's been over
19 12 months.

20 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

21 Aye.

22 BY CAPTAIN WHITTEMORE:

23 Aye.

24 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

25 We will get that one removed,

1 and we will keep monitoring the new
2 one on the roster. We will keep the
3 board apprised of anything that comes
4 from that.

5 Next item on the agenda is
6 executive session. That's the BOE
7 Pilot Development Program,
8 apprentices' qualifications, progress
9 discussion. We will need a motion to
10 go into executive session.

11 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

12 I'll make the motion to go into
13 executive session.

14 BY CAPTAIN WHITTEMORE:

15 Second.

16 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

17 We will go down the roll call.

18 I vote aye on that.

19 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

20 I second.

21 BY CAPTAIN WHITTEMORE:

22 Aye.

23 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

24 We are now in executive
25 session.

1 (BREAK TAKEN FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION)

2 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

3 We need to vote coming out of
4 executive session.

5 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

6 I make a motion to come out of
7 executive session.

8 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

9 Second.

10 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

11 Aye.

12 BY CAPTAIN WHITTEMORE:

13 Aye.

14 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

15 We are back in regular session.
16 The board met in executive session to
17 discuss matters pertaining to the
18 apprentices and a path forward. Do we
19 have any motions?

20 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

21 We do. I can make a motion to
22 move all apprentices -- to advance all
23 apprentices to the deputy pilot phase
24 of the Pilot Development Program,
25 except Apprentices 224 and 238. 224

1 and 238 will be given an additional
2 year in the apprentice phase of the
3 Pilot Development Program.

4 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

5 I second that motion. Go for a
6 vote.

7 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

8 Aye.

9 BY CAPTAIN WHITTEMORE:

10 Abstaining from vote.

11 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

12 Aye.

13 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

14 Next motion is for
15 restrictions. Restrictions for the
16 deputy pilot phase will start all
17 vessels 656 in length or less, all
18 vessels 39 feet and less. There will
19 be no riders on vessels.

20 During the deputy pilot
21 program, the deputy pilot can only act
22 as a resource pilot for all two-pilot
23 ships in said restriction.

24 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

25 I will second.

1 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

2 Aye.

3 BY CAPTAIN WHITTEMORE:

4 Aye.

5 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

6 Aye.

7 Any other votes in front of the
8 commission?

9 (NO RESPONSE)

10 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

11 That's the last item on the
12 agenda. I'll entertain a motion to
13 adjourn.

14 BY MR. BILLIOT:

15 No more comments from the
16 public?

17 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

18 Public comment was earlier.

19 BY CAPTAIN RITTINER:

20 Aye.

21 BY CAPTAIN WHITTEMORE:

22 Aye.

23 BY CAPTAIN JACKSON:

24 Meeting adjourned.

25 [WHEREUPON THE MEETING WAS

1 CONCLUDED AT 11:20 A.M.]
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1 REPORTER'S PAGE

2

3 I, Leslie L. Nicosia, Certified Court
4 Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, the
5 officer, as defined in Rule 28 of the Federal
6 Rules of Civil Procedure and/or Article 1434 (B)
7 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, before
8 whom this sworn testimony was taken, do hereby
9 state on the record;

10 That due to the interaction and the
11 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding, dashes
12 (--) have been used to indicate pauses, changes
13 in thought, and/or talk-overs; that same is the
14 proper method for a court reporter's
15 transcription of proceeding, and that the dashes
16 (--) do not indicate that words or phrases have
17 been left out of this transcript; that any words
18 and/or names which could not be verified through
19 reference material have been denoted with the
20 phrase "phonetically spelled."

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Leslie L. Nicosia, C.C.R.

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 This certification is valid only for a transcript with my
3 original signature and original required seal on this page.

4 I, LESLIE L. NICOSIA, Certified Court Reporter in and for
5 the State of Louisiana, the "Officer" before whom this
6 testimony was taken, do hereby certify:

7 That this proceeding and testimony was reported by me in
8 stenotype method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under
9 my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and
10 correct transcript to the best of my ability and
11 understanding;

12 That this transcript has been prepared in compliance with
13 transcript format guidelines required by statute or rules of
14 the Board, and I am informed about the complete arrangement,
15 financial or otherwise, with the person or entity making
16 arrangements for deposition services;

17 That I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on
18 contractual relationships as defined by Louisiana Code of
19 Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules and advisory
20 opinions of the Board;

21 That I have no actual knowledge of any prohibited
22 employment or contractual relationship, direct or indirect,
23 between a court reporting firm and any party litigant in this
24 matter, nor is there any such relationship between myself and
25 a party litigant in this matter;

26 That I am not related to counsel or to the parties
27 herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this
28 matter.

29

30 _____
31 LESLIE L. NICOSIA, CCR
32 Cert. No. 95004
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