

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

QUARTERLY MEETING HELD
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026

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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1 A P P E A R A N C E S

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3 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

4

5 CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON
6 CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTNER
7 CAPTAIN JEREMY WHITTEMORE

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

12 MICHAEL THOMAS, ESQUIRE
13 RICK WARD, ESQUIRE

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17 ALSO PRESENT:

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19 Brian Eiselen, Esquire
20 Ian Grue
21 Steve Wall
22 Captain Caillouet
23 Eli Calliouet
24 Mark Pivach, Esquire
25 Pat Brown

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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 COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

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

10 Let's do a roll call. Lee
11 Jackson, Commissioner.

12 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

13 Jeremy Whittemore,
14 Commissioner.

15 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTINER:

16 Chris Rittiner, Commissioner.

17 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

18 All present in a quorum.

19 Next item, adoption of minutes
20 from the last meeting. I sent that
21 out to everyone for review. If all
22 seems to be in order, I entertain a
23 motion to adopt those minutes.

24 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTINER:

25 I present a motion to adopt the

1 minutes from the last meeting.

2 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

3 Commissioner Rittiner presents
4 a motion. Do we get a second?

5 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

6 I second.

7 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

8 Let's do a roll call. Lee
9 Jackson, aye.

10 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

11 Jeremy Whittemore, aye.

12 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTINER:

13 Chris Rittiner, aye.

14 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

15 That motion, the adoption of
16 minutes have been approved.

17 Next item on the agenda is
18 public comments. Anyone in the
19 audience has public comments? Going
20 once, twice, gone.

21 New business. Next item is
22 recency discussion. I think, Rick,
23 you have some information.

24 BY MR. RICK WARD:

25 I do. I'm going to need to get

1 this back after we have the
2 discussion. This is some information
3 given by the association. I'm going
4 to hand it out for everybody to see.

5 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

6 The purpose of this discussion,
7 basically, is just to see how we are
8 trending with recency. And knowing
9 that we brought on an additional 31
10 new pilots, the board has to take a
11 close look at this to see if there's
12 any adjustments that will need to be
13 made.

14 I think you all -- If you just
15 do a quick glance at the report, which
16 was pulled down on 5/6 of 2026, it's
17 quite obvious that the association is
18 making -- there's more turns
19 happening, because just from -- if you
20 look at the data, the average person
21 is in the -- even restricted
22 individuals are in the high 20s to low
23 30s. That's over 20 miles.

24 So, that's not to say that the
25 board will not have to make some

1 adjustments at some point. But based
2 on the information that I'm looking at
3 and you all have as well, it appears
4 that we are trending in the right
5 direction. This is just a Q2 for us.
6 We will have Q3 and an early Q4 to
7 look at it again if there's any
8 adjustments that we will need to make.

9 Any thoughts? I just wanted to
10 show you that data from the last
11 meeting. I promised I would give you
12 all something to look at.

13 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTINER:

14 It looks -- The data looks good
15 to where pilots will get their 60
16 turns without having to change
17 anything.

18 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

19 It appears that's the case. We
20 need to remain open. If, in fact,
21 something shifts, we'll be there to
22 pivot. Even if you look at the
23 restricted -- Take one of the
24 restricted guys or individuals. You
25 got Brown, 27. You got Eli Caillouet,

1 29; Hannah, 22.

2 I mean, it's -- Even with their
3 restriction, they are still getting
4 over 20 miles. So, I just say we
5 continue to monitor it for now, and
6 then we will address it at the
7 appropriate time if we have to.

8 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTINER:

9 Sounds good to me.

10 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

11 Anything from you?

12 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITEMORE:

13 No.

14 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

15 Old business. I just want to
16 make the board aware that we -- our
17 renewal for our errors and omissions
18 policy is up, which is an annual
19 thing. As you will recall, there was
20 a significant jump in the cost of our
21 errors and omissions. It was based
22 upon our loss ratio when we had those
23 lawsuits. It doubled.

24 So, my hope is that this
25 renewal will be at least on par

1 because we didn't have any new
2 lawsuits. The insurance company
3 didn't have to put out any settlement
4 money. We will see. I will keep the
5 board apprised of any new developments
6 there.

7 Next discussion also was one
8 leading -- Next discussion is about
9 the deputy pilots. I had the --
10 Again, we requested the association to
11 give us some information on some
12 guidelines on type of ships, different
13 scenarios.

14 And what you will see here, if
15 you look off to the left, you will see
16 Scenario A, which is where they
17 currently are. The restricted pilots
18 are 656 and 39 feet. That's probably
19 -- This was a seven-month swap when
20 they came on. You'll see the amount
21 of ships total that was in that area.
22 That was 5,147 ships. They did a
23 tremendous amount of moves.

24 I think the question is, what
25 makes sense for their next move up?

1 What I've come up with is a few
2 scenarios, Scenario B, C. And D is
3 just there just to hold the place
4 because D is really and truly -- it
5 looks to be like the last stage. You
6 have to do something.

7 Right now, what we are looking
8 at, in my opinion, is based on the
9 data, if you look at it, what will
10 give us the biggest bang for our buck
11 and also keep the restricted pilots in
12 a safe place, but also give them more
13 exposure to move more tonnage, but not
14 to the detriment of safety.

15 So, Option B is what I'm
16 proposing, and C. B would be 740 and
17 43 feet. C would be 750 and 43 feet.
18 I would submit to you all that after
19 looking at the data, I think you can
20 collapse B and C together, if that
21 makes sense.

22 Because if you look at it, 740
23 and 43, that exposes them to another
24 789 ships. 750 and 43 exposes them to
25 another 129. If you collapse those

1 two, why not just go with 750 and 43
2 feet? That would be my suggestion for
3 the board to consider. 820 and 45
4 feet, that clearly looks like a final
5 phase. Or maybe we can dial that back
6 a little bit and keep the draft, but
7 dial that back.

8 I think D is not an option,
9 obviously. I just want to give you
10 another example of something just to
11 review. As you can see, we have to
12 consider post Panamax. And we are
13 moving more ships with more draft. We
14 don't want to put them in a posture.

15 There was one argument, why
16 don't you take draft away. I think
17 that's a recipe for disaster. That's
18 what's on the table right now. Some
19 other things to consider -- the board
20 needs to consider is also what will
21 remain in place, no riders in this
22 next phase, no observers, no riders.
23 Vessel traffic is still a no-no.

24 Right now, what we are looking
25 at is, basically, would you all agree?

1 This has to be in the form of a
2 motion. I would like for us to talk
3 through it a little bit before you all
4 -- we make that decision.

5 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTINER:

6 Just looking at the numbers,
7 that definitely makes sense by keeping
8 them at 750 where the needle is
9 moving, they are progressing, still
10 getting -- navigating bigger ships,
11 more draft. This is at 656. Is the
12 number missing from 656 and 740 for
13 the amount of ships?

14 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

15 What do you mean?

16 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

17 5,147 is --

18 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

19 Yep, yep, yep. That's the
20 total moves. That's the total exposed
21 vessels in that seven-month period
22 that, let's say, they had access to.
23 It's not just restricted. It's
24 unrestricted. It's just the total
25 moves. Let's look at it from a

1 standpoint of total available turns in
2 that particular parameter is 5,147.

3 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTINER:

4 Now the exposure is an extra
5 thousand?

6 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

7 Yeah. Basically, you are
8 exposing them now to an additional --
9 If you collapse 740 and 43 feet, you
10 have to add another -- that would have
11 given them exposure to another 789
12 ships. If you go a little further,
13 you have to add another 126 ships.
14 Total ships moves in that seven-month
15 span 8,329 turns, does that make
16 sense?

17 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

18 Yeah. I think this is a good
19 progression. We are not quite
20 exposing them to the full Panamax yet
21 to have them develop further. This
22 will appease the industry with the
23 draft settling at certain docks.

24 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

25 Yeah, yeah. I will submit to

1 the board too, we've had very minimal
2 issues. We had maybe one or two where
3 we had to ship a guy out, because
4 between dispatch and the actual draft
5 upon arrival, it moved by a few
6 inches.

7 Some of that was attributed to
8 last-minute negotiations with the
9 agent, with the dock, and the buy of
10 the product. From dispatch to pilot
11 arrival, the parameters changed or the
12 draft changed. That's more of a
13 commercial issue that happened last
14 minute, more product.

15 So, the industry has been --
16 thus far, they have been very
17 accommodating. I think we made it
18 crystal clear it is this and not that.
19 So, again, what's on the table is
20 everything, including 750 feet. I
21 have to stress that, because I get
22 calls sometimes about does 656 count.
23 Yes, it counts. It just can't be over
24 656, not 656 and 1, 2, 3.

25 There's an argument about where

1 do you cut it off. What's on the
2 table, if I'm reading you all right,
3 is you are in agreement that it will
4 be -- the next progression will be 750
5 -- up to 750 and up to 43 feet.

6 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTINER:

7 Agree.

8 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

9 That's fine.

10 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTINER:

11 I will present the motion to
12 increase the deputy pilots to the next
13 phase, 29 pilots to the next phase
14 starting June 1st to the 750 feet in
15 length and 43 feet in draft, and on
16 July 1st, the following deputy pilots
17 to also be increased to the same
18 restriction.

19 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

20 For context, we have two deputy
21 pilots that are around 30 days behind
22 from the initial -- So, that's just
23 good order, keeping them in line,
24 getting them the appropriate amount of
25 time under their belt at that

1 particular restriction.

2 BY MR. MICHAEL THOMAS:

3 One comment. The resolution,
4 if you can say no greater than 750 to
5 give you some --

6 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

7 Good. So, the motion would be
8 by Chris to move the next restriction
9 up to no greater than 750 feet and no
10 greater than 50 feet in length and no
11 greater than 43 feet of draft for 29
12 said pilots starting June 1st and the
13 balance July 1st. Second?

14 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

15 I second.

16 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

17 We'll do a roll call on that.
18 Lee Jackson, aye.

19 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

20 Aye.

21 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTINER:

22 Aye.

23 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

24 That motion has passed. That
25 will be the next phase for the deputy

1 pilots. I think thus far they have
2 been doing well. Like anything, they
3 are progressing in their journey. I
4 think they are learning a little bit
5 more about themselves as they are
6 going through it. So, the only
7 downside, I don't see us getting a lot
8 of water. I think we are getting
9 ready to bottom out.

10 I will express to the board
11 that -- I know President Wall is here.
12 There have been discussions with some
13 industry that are looking at ways of
14 pushing the boundaries on draft if the
15 scenarios are right.

16 Steve, you want to comment any
17 on that?

18 BY STEVE WALL:

19 We had 45 feet out of Baton
20 Rouge for a long time. Some of the
21 oil refineries inquire about their
22 ability if the water is right, if we
23 have enough water, daylight, et cetera
24 to sail with another foot, another 2
25 feet of draft. They haven't done it

1 yet.

2 We have been watching the ships
3 that are sailing at 45 feet, checking
4 how those transits go, where we think
5 we can do it when the conditions are
6 right. It's a case-by-case basis.

7 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

8 Again, another reason why we
9 want to pull back on the deputy pilots
10 and let the older pilots kind of
11 handle some of that. I don't want to
12 open the door for them, not old as in
13 age, but old as in experience. I just
14 want to throw that in there.

15 Before we move into executive
16 session, anything else you-all want to
17 discuss?

18 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTNER:

19 I'm good.

20 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

21 I will entertain a motion to go
22 into executive session.

23 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

24 I second.

25 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTNER:

1 I'll present the motion to go
2 into executive session.

3 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

4 We have a second by
5 Commissioner Whittemore. All in
6 favor? Lee Jackson. Aye.

7 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

8 Aye.

9 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTNER:

10 Aye.

11 (OFF THE RECORD FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION)

12 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

13 I need a motion to go back into
14 regular session.

15 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

16 Motion to resume regular
17 session.

18 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

19 The motion, do I have a second?

20 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTNER:

21 I second the motion.

22 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

23 Back into regular session.

24 There were a few things discussed in
25 executive session. So, do I have any

1 motions?

2 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTINER:

3 First motion coming out of
4 executive session, I will create a
5 motion to remove up to April 29, '25
6 the CAPTAIN PORT ARTHUR ship and all
7 the ships above, to remove it from the
8 BOE incident review.

9 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

10 A second?

11 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

12 I second the motion.

13 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

14 Let's do a roll call. Lee
15 Jackson, aye.

16 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

17 Aye.

18 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTINER:

19 Aye.

20 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

21 That motion passed. We will
22 remove 429 on up to 44. We will keep
23 monitoring the balance of the
24 incidents currently on record.

25 Any other motions?

1 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

2 Motion to put Captain Brown
3 into remediation training, MPI, as a
4 result of the incident.

5 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

6 Do we have -- So I'm clear,
7 this motion is -- once he completes
8 the training, we are in agreement he
9 will go back into rotation?

10 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

11 Rotation.

12 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

13 We have a motion to approve the
14 remediation for Captain Pat Brown. Do
15 we have a second?

16 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTINER:

17 I second.

18 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

19 We'll do a roll call. Lee
20 Jackson, aye.

21 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITTEMORE:

22 Jeremy Whittemore, aye.

23 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTINER:

24 Chris Rittiner, aye.

25 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

1 That motion passed.

2 Rick, you will put something
3 together and get with Captain Brown's
4 counsel to get that moving.

5 Is there any other discussion
6 for the board?

7 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTNER:

8 Table recency for the next
9 meeting?

10 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

11 Absolutely. We will continue
12 to monitor it. It's trending in the
13 right direction. We don't know what
14 kind of summer we will have. I think
15 if the summer falls off like it
16 historically does -- Are you hearing
17 anything about --

18 BY MR. MICHAEL THOMAS:

19 No.

20 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

21 We will keep monitoring. We'll
22 have to make adjustments, if
23 necessary. I will see. We do have
24 some time, so --

25 BY MR. RICK WARD:

1 One question on the 80 hours.

2 I know he said he's been working with
3 MPI. I don't know if they've been
4 keeping up with hours. If they have,
5 does any of that that's already been
6 done count, or is it new hours
7 starting now?

8 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

9 I would not like to see him
10 duplicate anything. If he's done
11 something on his own and if it aligns
12 with what the board approved, you know
13 -- I don't know. I mean --

14 BY MR. RICK WARD:

15 I can just see that question
16 coming.

17 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

18 That's fair. I don't know that
19 he has. But if he has done anything
20 that aligns with what the board
21 approved, then I think we should
22 accept it. For the most part, here's
23 the guideline.

24 I will tender a motion to
25 adjourn.

1 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTNER:

2 Second the motion.

3 BY COMMISSIONER LEE JACKSON:

4 All in favor?

5 BY COMMISSIONER JEREMY WHITEMORE:

6 Aye.

7 BY COMMISSIONER CHRIS RITTNER:

8 Aye.

9 (WHEREUPON THE MEETING WAS
10 CONCLUDED AT 11:25 A.M.)

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1 REPORTER'S PAGE

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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."

21

22

Leslie L. Nicosia, C.C.R.

23

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25

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
herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this
matter.

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20 _____
LESLIE L. NICOSIA, CCR
Cert. No. 95004

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