

**Maryland Board of Pilots**  
**Business Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** January 9, 2026

**TIME:** 10:30 AM

**LOCATION:** 100 S. Charles Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Tower 1, Baltimore, MD 21201  
(Video Teleconferencing via:  
<https://meet.google.com/ebw-pykh-osg>  
(Phone Number: (US +1 321-558-2498 PIN: 429 006 324#)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michael Derby, Chair  
John Dove, Commissioner O&P, Ex Officio  
Captain Eric Nielsen  
Captain Alison Marie Buckler  
Captain Walter L. James III  
Captain Ryan T. Merritt  
Ben John Aunan  
Michael R. Reagoso  
Rashida I. Sims, Esq.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Zevi Thomas, Executive Director  
Raquel Meyers, Assistant Executive Director  
Ajah Harris, Policy Director, Division of O&P Licensing  
Kenneth Sigman, Board Counsel  
Noraida Lozano, Administrative Specialist

**CALLED TO ORDER**

Michael Derby, Chair, called the Business Meeting of the Maryland Pilots Board to order at 10:30 a.m., virtually via <https://meet.google.com/ebw-pykh-osg>. Phone # (US) +1 321-558-2498 PIN: 429 006 324#.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the Business Meeting held on October 10, 2025. Motion (I) was made by Capt. Nielsen, seconded by Capt. Buckler, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the minutes without corrections.

## **INCIDENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Capt. James reported the following on behalf of the Incident Committee:

**Incident # 03-BP-24** - Recommended closure.

**Incident # 01-BP-25** - Remains open, pending review by Federal agencies.

Motion (II) was made by Chair Derby, seconded by Capt. Nielsen, and unanimously carried by the Board to accept the Incident Committee report.

## **PILOT COMPLEMENT REPORT**

Captain Nielsen reported the following:

Arrivals – Up by 19%

Shifts – Up by 35%

Cargo – The data still shows 2024. The 2025 data might be available by March 2026.

Retiring Pilots – As previously reported, 3 pilots were scheduled to retire in 2025, but only one did. The other two will retire this year, increasing the total from two to four in 2026.

PIT - The association recommends postponing the start of new PITs until at least July 1<sup>st</sup> and perhaps until the new PIT list from the Selection Committee is finalized. The association will monitor the situation and present another recommendation in March.

Motion (III) was made by Capt. Nielsen, seconded by Ms. Sims, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the Pilot Complement reports.

## **WORK RULES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Motion (IV) was made by Capt. Nielsen, seconded by Mr. Aunan and unanimously carried by the Board, to approve the Pilot Work Rules changes under Appointments to Southbound LNG

Ships and Harbor List Fill-in Protocol, effective October 2025.

**PILOT-IN-TRAINING (PIT) SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Capt. Buckler reported there were 108 PIT applications for this cycle. The PIT Selection Committee will meet on February 27, 2026, to develop an interview list. There will perhaps be 30-40 PIT candidates selected for interviews. The interview list will be finalized before the March meeting. The committee will schedule four summer dates for interviews, with the final list completed by the end of September.

Motion (V) was made by Mr. Reagoso, seconded by Mr. James and unanimously carried by the Board, to accept the Pilot-In-Training Report.

**QUALIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Capt. Nielsen reported the following license upgrades on behalf of the Qualification Committee.

Name:	From:	To:	Effective:
Patrick Brow	1 <sup>st</sup> Year PIT	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year PIT	Starts February 1, 2026
Fintan Callinan	1 <sup>st</sup> Year PIT	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year PIT	Starts February 1, 2026
Patrick Hanna	1 <sup>st</sup> Year PIT	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year PIT	Starts February 1, 2026
Evan Siepert	1 <sup>st</sup> Year PIT	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year PIT	Starts February 1, 2026

The following votes were taken and recorded.

Aunan	Yes	Buckler	Yes
Reagoso	Yes	Neilsen	Yes
Sims	Yes	Dove	Yes
Merritt	Yes	Derby	Yes
James	Yes		

Name:	From:	To:	Effective:
Jason Stahl	PIT	32' LLP	Starts February 1, 2026
Lukas Sunkler	PIT	32' LLP	Starts February 1, 2026

The following votes were taken and recorded.

Aunan	Yes	Buckler	Yes
Reagoso	Yes	Neilsen	Yes
Sims	Yes	Dove	Yes
Merritt	Yes	Derby	Yes

James Yes

Name:	From:	To:	Effective:
Ryan Korb	36' LLP	40' LLP	February 1, 2026
Alexander Osborn	36' LLP	40' LLP	February 1, 2026

The following votes were taken and recorded.

Aunan	Yes	Buckler	Yes
Reagoso	Yes	Neilsen	Yes
Sims	Yes	Dove	Yes
Merritt	Yes	Derby	Yes
James	Yes		

Name:	From:	To:	Effective
Kevin Fink	40' LLP	Unlimited License	March 1, 2026

The following votes were taken and recorded.

Aunan	Yes	Buckler	Yes
Reagoso	Yes	Neilsen	Yes
Sims	Yes	Dove	Yes
Merritt	Yes	Derby	Yes
James	Yes		

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Thomas reported that the vote of confidence, which started on December 19, 2025, was concluded on December 30, 2025, and submitted to the Qualification Committee.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Motion (VI) was made by Chair Derby, seconded by Capt. Nielsen, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 6, 2026 at 10:30 am.

(Signature on File)

03/06/2026

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Michael Derby, Chair

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Date