



**Tuesday, January 27, 2015**  
**BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR HARRIS COUNTY PORTS**

**9:30 A.M.**  
**111 East Loop North**  
**Houston, TX 77029**  
**Fourth Floor Boardroom**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

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**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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1. December 16, 2014 Public Meeting

**C. APPEARANCES**

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1. Public Comment

**D. STAFF REPORTS**

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**E. PILOT MATTERS**

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1. Appointment of Pilot Board Investigation and Recommendation Committee (PBIRC) Members.
2. Appointment of Pilot Board Application Review Committee (ARC) Members.
3. Recommendation for renewal of Branch Pilot Commission for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain Elton S. Porter III.
4. Recommendation for renewal of Branch Pilot Commission for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain Stephen J. Conway.

5. Recommendation for renewal of Branch Pilot Commission for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain John C. Blomquist.

6. Recommendation for renewal of Branch Pilot Commission for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain Scott J. Browning.

7. Recommendation for Deputy Branch Pilot Certificate for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain Brandon M. Bass.

8. Recommendation for Deputy Branch Pilot Certificate for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain Darren W. Collins.

9. Recommendation for Deputy Branch Pilot Certificate for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain William Kern.

**F. RECESS OPEN MEETING**

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**G. CONVENE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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1. Consultation with Attorneys (Section 551.071, Texas Open Meetings Act), including consultation regarding Rules and Regulations Governing Pilots and Pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel between the Galveston Bar and Turning Basin.

2. Adjourn Executive Session

**H. RECONVENE OPEN MEETING**

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1. Announce any items from Executive Session requiring Pilot Board action

**I. ADJOURN MEETING**

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1. Next Meeting Requested - February 24, 2015

2. Adjourn Pilot Board Meeting

## **E. PILOT MATTERS**

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**Subject**            **1. Appointment of Pilot Board Investigation and Recommendation Committee (PBIRC) Members.**

Meeting            Jan 27, 2015 - BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR HARRIS COUNTY PORTS

Access            Public

Type                Action

Recommended Action    The Board of Pilot Commissioners, at its January 27, 2015 meeting, approve the appointment of the following nominees to the Pilot Board Investigation Recommendation Committee for the calendar year 2015 and thereafter until a replacement is named, and further authorize the Secretary of the Pilot Board to do any and all things in his opinion reasonable or necessary to give effect to the foregoing:

- (a) Captain Marcus Woodring - Port of Houston Authority - Chairman
- (b) Captain Michael Morris - Houston Pilots Association - Presiding Officer
- (c) Captain Michael Curtiss - Houston Pilots Association
- (d) Captain Sean Arbogast - Houston Pilots Association
- (e) Captain Richard Russell - Maritime Industry
- (f) Captain David Foret, Jr. - Maritime Industry
- (g) Captain Richard Ford - Maritime Industry
- (h) Paul Caruselle - Maritime Industry
- (i) Thomas Marian - Maritime Industry

**Category:**  
Pilot Matters

**Branch:**  
Pilot Administration

**Staff Contact:**  
Erik Eriksson

**Background:**  
Prior authorizing Port Commission Action: Minute No. 2014-0131-04

Pursuant to the Rules and Regulations Governing Pilots and Pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel between the Galveston Bar and the Turning Basin Houston, Texas (Rules), adopted August 25, 1993 by Minute No. 1881, amended by Minute No. 2007-1030-66, Minute No. 2010-0323-23, and Minute No. 2013-0723-08, the Pilot Board Investigation Recommendation Committee (PBIRC) investigates, holds hearings, and makes recommendations regarding certain accidents on the Houston Ship Channel and matters pertaining to the Rules. The Rules provide that the PBIRC is appointed annually by the Chairman of the Pilot Board, with the appointees subject to approval by the Pilot Board. The Rules provide that the PBIRC shall be composed of voting members from the Houston Pilots Association, Port of Houston maritime industry, and the Port Authority, and non-voting advisory members from the U.S. Coast Guard, and chaired by a Port Authority voting member.

**Staff Evaluation/Justification:**

Pursuant to the Rules, the Chairman of the Pilot Board appoints, subject to approval by the Pilot Board, the following as members of the Pilot Board Investigation and Recommendation Committee (PBIRC):

Captain Marcus Woodring - Port of Houston Authority - Chairman  
Captain Michael Morris - Houston Pilots Association - Presiding Officer  
Captain Michael Curtiss - Houston Pilots Association  
Captain Sean Arbogast - Houston Pilots Association

Captain Richard Russell - Maritime Industry  
Captain David Foret, Jr. - Maritime Industry  
Captain Richard Ford - Maritime Industry  
Paul Caruselle - Maritime Industry  
Thomas Marian - Maritime Industry

The Secretary of the Pilot Board requests that the Pilot Board approve each PBIRC member appointee, to serve for the calendar year 2015 and thereafter until a replacement is named.

## **E. PILOT MATTERS**

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**Subject**            **2. Appointment of Pilot Board Application Review Committee (ARC) Members.**

Meeting            Jan 27, 2015 - BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR HARRIS COUNTY PORTS

Access            Public

Type                Action

Recommended Action    The Board of Pilot Commissioners, at its January 27, 2015 meeting, approve the appointment of the following nominees to the Pilot Board Application Review Committee for the calendar year 2015 and thereafter until a replacement is named, and further authorize the Secretary of the Pilot Board to do any and all things in his opinion reasonable or necessary to give effect to the foregoing:

- (a) Captain Marcus Woodring - Port Authority - Chairman
- (b) Captain Michael Morris - Houston Pilots Association - Presiding Officer
- (c) Captain Gilberto Martinez - Houston Pilots Association
- (d) Captain Joe Hill - Maritime Industry
- (e) Pat Studdert - Maritime Industry
- (f) Brian Rego - At Large
- (g) Sarah Kay Janes - At Large

**Category:**  
Pilot Matters

**Department:**  
Pilot Administration

**Staff Contact:**  
Erik Eriksson

**Background:**  
Prior authorizing Pilot Board Action: Minute No. 2014-0131-03

Pursuant to the Rules and Regulations Governing Pilots and Pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel between the Galveston Bar and the Turning Basin Houston, Texas (Rules), adopted August 25, 1993 by Minute No. 1881, amended by Minute No. 2007-1030-66, Minute No. 2010-0323-23, and Minute No. 2013-0723-08, an Application Review Committee (ARC) is appointed annually by the Chairman of the Pilot Board, with the appointees subject to approval by the Pilot Board. The Rules provide that the ARC shall be composed of voting members from the Houston Pilots Association, the Port of Houston maritime industry, the Harris County community at large, and the Port Authority, and chaired by a Port Authority voting member.

**Staff Evaluation/Justification:**

Pursuant to the Rules, the Chairman of the Pilot Board appoints, subject to approval by the Pilot Board, the following as members of the Application Review Committee (ARC):

Captain Marcus Woodring - Port Authority - Chairman  
Captain Michael Morris - Houston Pilots Association - Presiding Officer  
Captain Gilberto Martinez - Houston Pilots Association  
Captain Joe Hill - Maritime Industry  
Pat Studdert - Maritime Industry  
Brian Rego - At Large  
Sarah Kay Janes - At Large

The Secretary of the Pilot Board requests that the Pilot Board approve each ARC member appointee, to

serve for the calendar year 2015 and thereafter until a replacement is named.

## **E. PILOT MATTERS**

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**Subject**           **3. Recommendation for renewal of Branch Pilot Commission for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain Elton S. Porter III.**

Meeting            Jan 27, 2015 - BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR HARRIS COUNTY PORTS

Access             Public

Type                Action

Recommended Action   The Pilot Board, at its January 27, 2015 meeting, recommend to the governor the renewal of the commission of Captain Elton S. Porter III as Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar for a four-year term effective April 28, 2015, and further authorize the Secretary of the Pilot Board to do any and all things in his opinion reasonable or necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

**Category:**  
Pilot Matters

**Branch:**  
Pilot Administration

**Staff Contact:**  
Erik Eriksson

**Background:**  
The Application Review Committee (ARC) of the Pilot Board considers whether applicants meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for pilots on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. Among other things, applicants undergo a physical examination to determine if an applicant is in good mental and physical health in order to perform the duties of pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar, and an investigation including a criminal background check and the applicant's accident history is conducted.

**Staff Evaluation/Justification:**  
Captain Elton S. Porter III has applied for renewal of his commission that expires April 28, 2015, as Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. The application includes proof of continued education training in Emergency Ship Handling, Incident Management for Pilots, Col-Regs for Pilots (Collision Regulations - Pilots), and a renewal request on his behalf from the Houston Pilots with evidence of his ability to enter into a faithful performance bond in the amount of \$25,000 payable to the Governor.

After an assessment of his qualifications and the documents filed with his application, the ARC determined that Captain Elton S. Porter III meets the requirements of Chapter 66 of the Texas Transportation Code, Houston Pilots Licensing and Regulatory Act, Section 66.041, and the Rules and Regulations governing Pilots and Pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar.

Accordingly, the ARC respectfully submits to the Pilot Board the application of Captain Elton S. Porter III to renew his commission as Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. Such commission is for a four-year term.





## **E. PILOT MATTERS**

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**Subject**            **4. Recommendation for renewal of Branch Pilot Commission for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain Stephen J. Conway.**

Meeting            Jan 27, 2015 - BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR HARRIS COUNTY PORTS

Access            Public

Type                Action

Recommended Action    The Pilot Board, at its January 27, 2015 meeting, recommend to the governor the renewal of the commission of Captain Stephen J. Conway as Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar for a four-year term effective April 28, 2015, and further authorize the Secretary of the Pilot Board to do any and all things in his opinion reasonable or necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

**Category:**  
Pilot Matters

**Branch:**  
Pilot Administration

**Staff Contact:**  
Erik Eriksson

**Background:**  
The Application Review Committee (ARC) of the Pilot Board considers whether applicants meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for pilots on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. Among other things, applicants undergo a physical examination to determine if an applicant is in good mental and physical health in order to perform the duties of pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar, and an investigation including a criminal background check and the applicant's accident history is conducted.

**Staff Evaluation/Justification:**  
Captain Stephen J. Conway has applied for renewal of his commission that expires April 28, 2015, as Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. The application includes proof of continued education training in Manned Model Ship Handling, Legal Aspects of Piloting, Raven Wheelhouse II pilot carry aboard navigation system & AIS (Automatic Information System), Col-Regs-Pilots (Collision Regulations - Pilots), Radar Observer (recertification), and a renewal request on his behalf from the Houston Pilots with evidence of his ability to enter into a faithful performance bond in the amount of \$25,000 payable to the Governor.

After an assessment of his qualifications and the documents filed with his application, the ARC determined that Captain Stephen J. Conway meets the requirements of Chapter 66 of the Texas Transportation Code, Houston Pilots Licensing and Regulatory Act, Section 66.041, and the Rules and Regulations governing Pilots and Pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar.



## **E. PILOT MATTERS**

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**Subject**            **5. Recommendation for renewal of Branch Pilot Commission for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain John C. Blomquist.**

Meeting            Jan 27, 2015 - BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR HARRIS COUNTY PORTS

Access             Public

Type                Action

Recommended Action    The Pilot Board, at its January 27, 2015 meeting, recommend to the governor the renewal of the commission of Captain John C. Blomquist as Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar for a four-year term effective April 28, 2015, and further authorize the Secretary of the Pilot Board to do any and all things in his opinion reasonable or necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

**Category:**  
Pilot Matters

**Branch:**  
Pilot Administration

**Staff Contact:**  
Erik Eriksson

**Background:**  
The Application Review Committee (ARC) of the Pilot Board considers whether applicants meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for pilots on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. Among other things, applicants undergo a physical examination to determine if an applicant is in good mental and physical health in order to perform the duties of pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar, and an investigation including a criminal background check and the applicant's accident history is conducted.

**Staff Evaluation/Justification:**  
Captain John C. Blomquist has applied for renewal of his commission that expires April 28, 2015, as Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. The application includes proof of continued education training in Manned Model Ship Handling, Legal Aspects of Piloting, Raven Wheelhouse II pilot carry aboard navigation system & AIS (Automatic Information System), Col-Regs-Pilots (Collision Regulations - Pilots), Radar Observer (recertification), Bayport flare turn using manned model, Restricted Visibility Navigation for Pilots, BRM-P (Bridge Resource Management - Pilots), Pilot Incident Management, Fatigue, Sleep and Medications, ECDIS (Electronic Chart Display Information System), Emergency Ship Handling, and a renewal request on his behalf from the Houston Pilots with evidence of his ability to enter into a faithful performance bond in the amount of \$25,000 payable to the Governor.

After an assessment of his qualifications and the documents filed with his application, the ARC determined that Captain John C. Blomquist meets the requirements of Chapter 66 of the Texas Transportation Code, Houston Pilots Licensing and Regulatory Act, Section 66.041, and the Rules and Regulations governing Pilots and Pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar.



## **E. PILOT MATTERS**

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**Subject**           **6. Recommendation for renewal of Branch Pilot Commission for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain Scott J. Browning.**

Meeting           Jan 27, 2015 - BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR HARRIS COUNTY PORTS

Access            Public

Type              Action

Recommended Action   The Pilot Board, at its January 27, 2015 meeting, recommend to the governor the renewal of the commission of Captain Scott J. Browning as Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar for a four-year term effective April 19, 2015, and further authorize the Secretary of the Pilot Board to do any and all things in his opinion reasonable or necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

**Category:**

Pilot Matters

**Branch:**

Pilot Administration

**Staff Contact:**

Erik Eriksson

**Background:**

The Application Review Committee (ARC) of the Pilot Board considers whether applicants meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for pilots on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. Among other things, applicants undergo a physical examination to determine if an applicant is in good mental and physical health in order to perform the duties of pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar, and an investigation including a criminal background check and the applicant's accident history is conducted.

**Staff Evaluation/Justification:**

Captain Scott J. Browning has applied for renewal of his commission that expires April 19, 2015, as Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. The application includes proof of continued education training in Radar Observer (recertification), Legal Aspects of Piloting, and a renewal request on his behalf from the Houston Pilots with evidence of his ability to enter into a faithful performance bond in the amount of \$25,000 payable to the Governor.

After an assessment of his qualifications and the documents filed with his application, the ARC determined that Captain Scott J. Browning meets the requirements of Chapter 66 of the Texas Transportation Code, Houston Pilots Licensing and Regulatory Act, Section 66.041, and the Rules and Regulations governing Pilots and Pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar.



## **E. PILOT MATTERS**

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**Subject**            **7. Recommendation for Deputy Branch Pilot Certificate for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain Brandon M. Bass.**

Meeting            Jan 27, 2015 - BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR HARRIS COUNTY PORTS

Access            Public

Type                Action

Recommended Action    The Pilot Board, at its January 27, 2015 meeting, approve the appointment of Captain Brandon M. Bass, after meeting full requirements, as Deputy Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar for a three-year term and further authorize the Secretary of the Pilot Board to do any and all things in his opinion reasonable or necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

**Category:**  
Pilot Matters

**Branch:**  
Pilot Administration

**Staff Contact:**  
Erik Eriksson

**Background:**  
The Application Review Committee (ARC) of the Pilot Board considers whether applicants meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for pilots on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. Among other things, applicants undergo a physical examination to determine if an applicant is in good mental and physical health in order to perform the duties of pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar, and an investigation including a criminal background check and the applicant's accident history is conducted.

**Staff Evaluation/Justification:**  
Captain Brandon M. Bass has applied for certificate as Deputy Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. The application includes a letter from Master Houston Branch Pilot Captain Arthur Tuttle expressing his willingness to appoint Captain Brandon M. Bass as Deputy Branch Pilot and to act as his Master for the proposed deputyship of three years, and evidence of his ability to enter into a faithful performance bond in the amount of \$25,000 payable to the Governor.

After an assessment of his qualifications and the documents filed with his application, the ARC determined that, upon U.S. Coast Guard issuance of his First Class Pilot's License, which is expected shortly, Captain Brandon M. Bass will meet the requirements of Chapter 66 of the Texas Transportation Code, Houston Pilots Licensing and Regulatory Act, Section 66.034, and the Rules and Regulations governing Pilots and Pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar.





## **E. PILOT MATTERS**

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**Subject**            **8. Recommendation for Deputy Branch Pilot Certificate for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain Darren W. Collins.**

Meeting            Jan 27, 2015 - BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR HARRIS COUNTY PORTS

Access            Public

Type                Action

Recommended Action    The Pilot Board, at its January 27, 2015 meeting, approve the appointment of Captain Darren W. Collins, after meeting full requirements, as Deputy Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar for a three-year term and further authorize the Secretary of the Pilot Board to do any and all things in his opinion reasonable or necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

**Category:**  
Pilot Matters

**Branch:**  
Pilot Administration

**Staff Contact:**  
Erik Eriksson

**Background:**  
The Application Review Committee (ARC) of the Pilot Board considers whether applicants meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for pilots on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. Among other things, applicants undergo a physical examination to determine if an applicant is in good mental and physical health in order to perform the duties of pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar, and an investigation including a criminal background check and the applicant's accident history is conducted.

**Staff Evaluation/Justification:**  
Captain Darren W. Collins has applied for certificate as Deputy Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. The application includes a letter from Master Houston Branch Pilot Captain Stephen Conway expressing his willingness to appoint Captain Darren W. Collins as Deputy Branch Pilot and to act as his Master for the proposed deputyship of three years, and evidence of his ability to enter into a faithful performance bond in the amount of \$25,000 payable to the Governor.

After an assessment of his qualifications and the documents filed with his application, the ARC determined that, upon U.S. Coast Guard issuance of his First Class Pilot's License, which is expected shortly, Captain Darren W. Collins will meet the requirements of Chapter 66 of the Texas Transportation Code, Houston Pilots Licensing and Regulatory Act, Section 66.034, and the Rules and Regulations governing Pilots and Pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar.



## **E. PILOT MATTERS**

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**Subject**            **9. Recommendation for Deputy Branch Pilot Certificate for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain William Kern.**

Meeting            Jan 27, 2015 - BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR HARRIS COUNTY PORTS

Access            Public

Type              Action

Recommended Action    The Pilot Board, at its January 27, 2015 meeting, approve the appointment of Captain William Kern, after meeting full requirements, as Deputy Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar for a three-year term and further authorize the Secretary of the Pilot Board to do any and all things in his opinion reasonable or necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

**Category:**

Pilot Matters

**Branch:**

Pilot Administration

**Staff Contact:**

Erik Eriksson

**Background:**

The Application Review Committee (ARC) of the Pilot Board considers whether applicants meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for pilots on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. Among other things, applicants undergo a physical examination to determine if an applicant is in good mental and physical health in order to perform the duties of pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar, and an investigation including a criminal background check and the applicant's accident history is conducted.

**Staff Evaluation/Justification:**

Captain William Kern has applied for certificate as Deputy Branch Pilot for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar. The application includes a letter from Master Houston Branch Pilot Captain Thomas Goodwin expressing his willingness to appoint Captain William Kern as Deputy Branch Pilot and to act as his Master for the proposed deputyship of three years, and evidence of his ability to enter into a faithful performance bond in the amount of \$25,000 payable to the Governor.

After an assessment of his qualifications and the documents filed with his application, the ARC determined that, upon U.S. Coast Guard issuance of his First Class Pilot's License, which is expected shortly, Captain William Kern will meet the requirements of Chapter 66 of the Texas Transportation Code, Houston Pilots Licensing and Regulatory Act, Section 66.034, and the Rules and Regulations governing Pilots and Pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar.

