

## AGENDA

Port Freeport  
Pilot Commission  
Special Meeting  
Thursday, April 14, 2022, 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm  
In Person & Videoconference - Administration Building - 1100 Cherry Street - Freeport

This meeting agenda with the agenda packet is posted online at [www.portfreeport.com](http://www.portfreeport.com)

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to Section 551.127 of the Texas Government Code titled "Videoconference Call." A quorum of the Pilot Commission, including the presiding officer, will be present at the Commissioner Meeting Room located at 1100 Cherry Street, Freeport, Texas. The public will be permitted to attend the meeting in person or by videoconference.

Public comment will be available at the beginning of the meeting during the agenda item devoted to public comment. Public comment may be communicated in person or by videoconference, but in either event public comment will be limited to 5 minutes per participant and must be communicated verbally. Following public comment, the public will not be permitted to communicate with the Pilot Commission.

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86282749338?pwd=V0o1ZkZoa1lSVXVOb3RydVQwM3c5UT09>

Meeting ID: 862 8274 9338

Passcode: 662320

### Dial by your location

1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 862 8274 9338

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcjWysOxSj>

1. CONVENE OPEN SESSION in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.001, et. seq., to review and consider the following:
2. Roll Call.
3. Public Comment. (Public comment will be limited to 5 minutes per participant and must be completed in person)
4. Approval of minutes from the Special Meeting held March 10, 2022.
5. Receive report from the Brazos Pilots Association regarding Communication/Dispatch.
6. Receive update and recommendation from the Channel User Advisory Group regarding the per vessel movement line item surcharge for Communication/Dispatch service.
7. Discussion regarding the Brazos Pilot Association's request for applications for Deputy Branch Pilot.
8. Adjourn.

***The Pilot Commission does not anticipate going into a closed session under Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code at this meeting for any other items on the agenda, however, if necessary, the Pilot Commission may go into a closed session as permitted by law regarding any item on the agenda.***

With this posted notice, Port Commissioners have been provided certain background information on the above listed agenda items. Copies of this information can be obtained by the public at the Port Administrative offices at 1100 Cherry Street, Freeport, TX.



---

Phyllis Saathoff, Executive Director/CEO

**PORT FREEPORT**

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the District will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending its functions. Requests should be received at least 24 hours in advance.*

Minutes of Pilot Commission  
Port Freeport  
March 10, 2022

A Special Meeting of the Pilot Commission of Port Freeport was held March 10, 2022, beginning at 9:36 AM at the Port Freeport Administration Building, 1100 Cherry Street, Freeport, Texas.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to Section 551.127 of the Texas Government Code titled "Videoconference Call." The quorum of the Pilot Commission, including the presiding officer, will be present at the Commissioner Meeting Room located at 1100 Cherry Street, Freeport, Texas. The public will be permitted to physically attend the meeting in person or by videoconference.

Public comment will be available at the beginning of the meeting during the agenda item devoted to public comment. Public comment may be communicated in person or by videoconference, but in either event public comment will be limited to 5 minutes per participant and must be communicated verbally. Following public comment, the public will not be permitted to communicate with the Pilot Commission.

This meeting agenda and agenda packet is posted online at [www.portfreeport.com](http://www.portfreeport.com)

The videoconference is available online as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81802102213?pwd=V3ArOHgvQ0FrWldzVWh3Q3A1WIFRUT09>

Meeting ID: 818 0210 2213

Passcode: 790571

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 818 0210 2213

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcUI54VLK>

Commissioners present in person:

Mr. John Hoss, Chairman

Mr. Rudy Santos, Vice Chairman

Mr. Dan Croft, Secretary

Mr. Rob Giesecke, Asst. Secretary

Mr. Shane Pirtle, Commissioner

Commissioners present virtually:

Mr. Ravi Singhania, Commissioner

Staff Members present:

Mr. Peter Nemeth, Interim Legal Counsel

Ms. Phyllis Saathoff, Executive Director/CEO  
Mr. Rob Lowe, Director of Administration/CFO  
Mr. Al Durel, Director of Operations  
Mr. Jason Hull, Director of Engineering  
Mr. Mike Wilson, Director of Economic Development  
Mr. Chris Hogan, Director of Protective Services  
Mr. Brandon Robertson, Network Systems Manager  
Ms. Missy Bevers, Executive Assistant  
Mr. Austin Seth, Operations Specialist  
Ms. Mary Campus, Controller  
Ms. Tricia Vela, Public Affairs Assistant

Also, present:

Capt. Daniel Blanton, Brazos Pilots Association  
Capt. Billy Burns, Brazos Pilots Association  
Capt. Matthew Krohn, Brazos Pilots Association  
Capt. Sean Kelly, Brazos Pilots Association  
Capt. Ross Coviello, Brazos Pilots Association  
Capt. Noah Niday, Brazos Pilots Association  
Ms. Taylor Niday  
Mr. Henry Chambless

1. CONVENE OPEN SESSION in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.001, et. seq., to review and consider the following:

2. Roll Call.

Commissioner Hoss noted that Commissioner Singhania is participating in the meeting virtually and Commission Pirtle is absent. All other Commissioners were present in the Board Room.

3. Public Comment.

There were no comments from the public.

4. Approval of minutes from the Special Meeting held February 17, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Croft to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Giesecke with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

5. Approval of changes to the Basic Operating Procedures for the Freeport Harbor Channel:

Capt. Krohn reported that since the February 17 presentation of proposed changes to the Basic Operating Procedures, the Pilots have not received any requested changes or opposition to the procedures. The modifications will eliminate the excess requests for waivers and improve traffic flow without the need of a waiver. Capt. Krohn briefly highlighted the changes to the Basic Operating Procedures as outlined below. He also noted the changes will be effective April 1, 2022, to allow dispatch to adjust to the new changes.

**Zone 1: 984ft, 170ft beam, 42ft draft  
(Entrance Channel & FLNG Basin)**

- Vessels >984ft waiver required
- Night transits >820ft LOA or beam >145ft waiver required

**Zone 2: 910ft, 160ft beam, 42ft draft  
(Dow & Seaway/Enterprise)**

- Vessels >910ft LOA or >160ft beam waiver required and DLR (Daylight Restricted)
- Night transit vessels >820ft LOA or >145ft beam waiver required
- SW2 (Seaway Terminal Berth 2) arrival in ballast not DLR
- Dow A14 >107ft waiver required
- No vessel in/out A14W with vessel at A8
- Tug/Barge on the wire DLR

**Zone 3: 820ft, 145ft, 42ft  
(P66 and Port Freeport 6, 7 & 8 Docks)**

- No waiver required >750ft LOA or >107ft beam or >700ft & >36ft draft for night transit in/out (Waiver required >820ft LOA or >145ft beam in/out)
- Ro/Ro type vessel sail at night without waiver
- Passing rule – combined beam <275ft (78.329m) of both the moored and passing vessel day/night
- Tug/Barge on the wire DLR

**Zone 4: Docks 1, 2 & 3 – 775ft, Dock 5 660ft, 135 ft beam, 36ft draft  
(BASF & Port Freeport 5, 1, 2 & 3 Docks)**

- Ro/Ro type vessel sail at night without waiver except Dock 5 is DLR
- Dock 5 >625ft LOA DLR and 2 pilots
- Tug/Barge on the wire DLR

**Zone 5: 300ft, 75ft, 14ft  
Freeport Launch & all berths upriver of Freeport Launch**

- >300ft LOA or >75ft beam required a waiver and DLR
- >14ft draft requires a waiver and DLR
- Tug/Barge on the wire DLR

A motion was made by Commissioner Santos to approve the Basic Operating Procedures as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Singhanian with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

6. Approval of Captain Noah Niday as Branch Pilot for the Ports of Brazoria County.

Mr. Durel stated that staff received the application of appointment for Captain Noah Niday to Branch Pilot and found all documentation to be in order. Mr. Durel added that the operations department communicates closely with the Pilots and Captain Niday is always a team player and very good at his job. Staff recommends approval of this appointment.

Captain Krohn spoke to the Commission stating that Captain Niday has exceeded all expectations and during his time as deputy has made more transits in the Freeport Ship Channel than any other deputy pilot before him, for a total of 1678, which is over 300 more than the

predecessors. Captain Krohn and the Pilots proudly recommend Captain Niday for appointment as a Branch Pilot for Brazoria County Ports.

Captain Niday thanked the Port Commission for the opportunity and support in appointing him Branch Pilot.

A motion was made by Commissioner Croft to approve the appointment of Captain Noah Niday as Branch Pilot. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Giesecke with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

7. Adjourn.

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 AM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Hoss, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rudy Santos, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Croft, Secretary/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ravi Singhanian, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Absent  
Shane Pirtle, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Giesecke, Commissioner