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Pilot's Rules for Project Managers

- 1. Don't believe a feasibility study unless it says you can't succeed.
- 2. Understand your stakeholders' expectations.
- 3. Which ONE is primary: schedule, cost, or product performance
- 4. Every assumption is a risk; until proven true or false.
- 5. Evaluate multiple activity networks, select the best (see #3 above).
- 6. Detailed planning might show "No, it can't be done." Believe it!
- 7. Get off to a good start; if not start over, you won't catch up.
- 8. Follow the plan; if it's a bad plan, stop, and get a new plan.
- 9. Know the real accomplishment, not just cost and schedule data.
- 10. Continually update assumptions and forecasts.
- 11. What you see is what it is; deal with the present, not past promises.
- 12. Know to whom, when, and what you will communicate.
- 13. Running your project is always Job #1.
- 14. When you delegate tasks, release control too.
- 15. Charge your team with keeping the *whole* project out of trouble.
- 16. Trends are more important than facts, know where you project will be in 1, 2, 3 months.
- 17. Develop a Plan B before you might need it.
- 18. Document the history and the good, bad, and the ugly.
- 19. It's your project; assume all the authority you need to be successful.
- 20. Don't spend time with software applications, spend it with people.
- 21. Enjoy being a project manager, you're running a small business with someone else's money.