

Meeting Details:

FAC:	Salt Spring Island
Date:	October 13, 2004
Location:	Fulford Regional Office Conference Room – Salt Spring
Time:	5:30 – 7:40 p.m.

Attendees:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>BC Ferries</i>
Chair, Doreen Hewitt Salt Spring Island	Roger Charron Senior Master, Rte 9 – Long Harbour-SGI-TSA
Gary Holman CRD Director	Edward S. Dahlgren Senior Master, Rte 6 – Vesuvius-Crofton
Bob Jones Salt Spring Island	Steve Clapton Manager, Terminal Operations, IIS
Bruce Patterson Salt Spring Island	Stephen Nussbaum Communications Manager, IIS & NS
Bryan Denton Salt Spring Island	Gary Leitch Manager, Stakeholder Relations & Public Consultation
Gary Holman CRD Director	Wendy Magnes Marketing Coordinator, IIS (S)
	David Carroll Director, Terminal Construction
	Mia Kaye Secretary, Marine Operations
Guests:	
Jim Forgarty Maxine Mitchell Robert Thompson Ron Dewar	

1. Call to Order:

The Chair, Doreen Hewitt, called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda:

- a. The agenda was approved

3. Public Presentations:

- a. Ron Dewar – Mr. Dewar presented his concerns with regard to the inter-island sailings on Routes 5, 5a, 9. Specifically he pointed out schedule shortcomings for travel between SSI and the other SGI. He pointed out that there are potential connections which are not listed in the brochure. Mr. Dewar would like to be able to get on these sailings, and asks if it is possible to be able to get on. He is concerned that it can be very costly to get back to Salt Spring from the SGI when you go through Swartz Bay as you have to pay an additional fare.
- b. Jim Fogarty – Mr. Fogarty presented a request that BC Ferries re-establish the procedures for walk-on passengers taking the 6:20 a.m. sailing from Fulford to get on the 7:00 a.m. sailing from Swartz Bay to Tsawwassen. Prior to recent procedure changes, foot passengers could get a through-fare voucher and walk directly onto the Route 1 ferry dock to dock. Walking up to the ticket booth can cause foot passengers to miss the connecting sailing and force a two hour wait for the next ferry.
- c. Maxine Leichter – Ms. Leichter provided a brief presentation outlining her appreciation for the service provided by BC Ferries to SSI.
- d. Maureen Gix – Ms. Gix provided the Committee with a complaint about delays on the Crofton – Vesuvius Route. Her children attend school off island in Duncan. Her complaint is that the 8:00 a.m. departure from Vesuvius is frequently late. She believes that the causes for the delays are the workmen getting off at Vesuvius who walk up the middle of the trestle and delay loading. She is frustrated with the service because the school has requested that her children take the earlier 7:00 a.m. sailing so that other children are not delayed on the school bus when the 8:00 a.m. sailing is delayed.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

- a. Minutes of the meeting held on November 26, 2003 were approved and distributed in December 2003
- b. Review of Action Items:
 - Committee Involvement With Fulford Community - The Committee discussed the traffic congestion and related safety issues when the ferry line up is large; there is insufficient space to park or drop off passengers, etc. The Committee feels the terminal infrastructure is not up to the challenge of dealing with the growth in traffic demand.

BC Ferries has a Terminal Master Planning program under way for all terminals. The terminals are being examined to prioritize their marine structure requirements. A master plan for Fulford Harbour Terminal is scheduled for next year. BC Ferries has asked the CRD and the Islands Trust for a Community Plan for Fulford Harbour Village. BC Ferries is prepared to participate and support any lead the community would like to take on this issue.

Action: Doreen Hewitt, on behalf of the Committee, will write to the Islands Trust outlining its concerns with Fulford Harbour roads and parking space that is required to ask for a Community Plan. The CRD advised that they would support a plan and suggested that the Islands Trust can include Fulford Village in their OCP review. The CRD recommended that this Committee also begin reviewing the requirements for terminal infrastructure, but cautioned against enlarging the vessels and terminal. The Committee felt that planning should be started.

- Public Transit on Salt Spring Island - Gary Holman provided an update on the SSI public transportation issue, a plan is being submitted to BC Transit for a Vesuvius-Ganges-Fulford bus route. Mr. Holman hopes that funding from the Provincial Government for public transit on Salt Spring Island will be reinstated.

4. New Business:

a. SSI Schedule Review and Design Process

- **Route 6** – Capt. Dahlgren advised that ticketing at Crofton is the major problem that causes the vessel to be delayed; loading commercial traffic takes more time because vehicles cannot be pre-ticketed.
 - In addition, overloads are increasing in frequency due to logging trucks coming off the Island because of accelerated development on SSI. As a result, there is a need to explore other alternatives to the present schedule to keep up with the increasing traffic demand and associated delays that are occurring at Crofton.
 - Capt. Dahlgren presented a concept summary of a revised schedule that is being developed for review by this Committee in the near future. The schedule concept is based on the current 14 sailings in an eight hour shift; new schedule will start at 6:00 a.m., and have 45 minute intervals (instead of 30 mins.) until 12:45 p.m. from Crofton. An hour lag in the middle of the day would include the discharge/load of stores for the vessel in Vesuvius. This would provide for meal breaks and drills can be conducted during this layover.
 - A new walkway is planned to be added to the current one; one for walk on passengers and one for walk off passengers.
 - Steve Clapton agreed that we should ask the foot passengers to come five minutes early.
- **Route 9**
 - While on time performance is a challenge with four ports, crews on the Queen of Nanaimo have been assigned earlier start times to allow the ship to be ready to begin loading earlier. BC Ferries will provide the Committee statistics on the on time performance last year compared to this year on SSI routes.
 - BC Ferries is reviewing all departure and arrival delays to analyse the causes for the delays. This analysis should be completed by the end of October.

- BC Ferries will begin to review schedule options in November/December. The SSI and SGI FAC will be asked for input in early spring.
- The proposed schedule will consider SSI to SGI, inter-island traffic and thru fares.

b. Corporate Strategic Plan

Wendy Magnes advised the committee that BC Ferries going through a great deal of change and marketing will be working closely with the communities. She will liaise with the local communities to identify needs and enhancements for service and promotion. Wendy invited the committee to review the new marketing initiatives on BC Ferries' website.

c. Capital Projects Update

- David Carroll provided a brief update on the Master Planning program and advised that the process is underway for Crofton and that improvements will be considered on a route basis. Master planning is based on a 20 year time horizon using functional requirements that are forecast for a 10-15 year period.
- The current Capital Plan in place for Fulford is to replace the dolphins.

5. Correspondence:

- a. Dina Riganour – wrote to the Committee with regard to the 7:30 a.m. ferry being heavily congested with commercial traffic on Route 6.
- b. Beddis Road/Cusheon Lake Road Committee – opposed to the public transportation on SSI – President Maureen Moore, provided a letter to this Committee dated October 13, 2004.

6. Next Meeting:

- a. Working meeting in December and next Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting will be in March 2005.

7. Meeting adjourned: 7:35 p.m.

Approved:

Steve Nussbaum, BC Ferries
Doreen Hewitt, Chair

Date: February 3, 2005
Date: February 1, 2005