

Meeting Details:

FAC:	Denman/Hornby Islands and Comox Valley Ferry Advisory Committee
Date:	February 25, 2005
Location:	Hornby Island New Horizons Society Building
Time:	9:30 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Attendees:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>BC Ferries</i>
Chair, Roxanna Mandryk	Captain Gordon Nettleton Marine Superintendent
Louise Bell	Senior Captain Wayne Maxted Denman Island – Vancouver Island
Andrew Carmichael	Senior Captain Pete Kimmerly Denman Island – Hornby Island
Dennis Forsyth	Virginia Moore Manager Terminal Operations, IIS(N)
David Freeman	Gary Leitch Manager, Stakeholder Relations and Consultation
Jim Garton	Ann Carpenter Communications Manager
Leslie Gillett	Melanie Christensen Administrative Assistant, Marine Superintendent
Tony Law	
April Lewis	
John Ralston	

1. Call to Order:

Roxanna Mandryk called the meeting to order. Self-introductions were made by all present. Welcome Dennis Forsyth to the FAC Committee representing Denman Residents Association (DIRA).

2. Approval of Agenda:

- a. The agenda was revised to add the following topics:

BC Ferries Annual General Meeting Reports – 5.f.	Gary Leitch
Idling Engines in BC Ferries Parking Lots – 5.g.	Leslie Gillett
Islands Trust & BC Ferries – 5.h.	Tony Law

Bus Connection – 5.i.
Terminal Beautification Plans – 5.j.
Islands Trust Water Poster – 5.k.

Tony Law
April Lewis
Gary Leitch

3. Public Presentation: None

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

- a. Minutes of the meeting held on September 24, 2004 were approved and distributed on November 2, 2004.
- b. Review of Action Items:
 - *Future meeting agendas will continue to include the name of the committee member intending to speak on each item – completed as noted on agenda*
 - *Re-tabled Leslie Gillett's agenda items and receive further detail on : local hiring (regarding emergency call-out staffing), residents-only lane and/or assured loading at Buckley Bay (summer season). See New Business 5(b) and 5(c).*
 - *Review length of terms of appointments. See New Business 5(d).*
 - *Denman and Hornby emergency services to provide Captains Kimmerly and Maxted with local emergency contact names and numbers. Completed*
 - *Captain Nettleton to forward the FAC's request to meet with the Planning Committee at the earliest possible stage of planning regarding Denman and Hornby Islands. The Master Terminal Planning process, which includes consultation with the Ferry Advisory Committee, will commence for Denman Island in 2005/06 and for Hornby Island 2006/07.*
 - *Captain Kimmerly and Captain Maxted to provide Route Reports for each meeting. See New Business 5(e).*

5. New Business:

a. FAC Sub Committee Presentation

The Sub Committee was formed to research and prepare and forward service recommendations to BC Ferries in advance of the next contract phase. The Regional District has provided the sub committee with a grant in aid to research, draft and produce a survey which will assess the islands jointly and separately. Discussion included review and fine tuning of questions on the survey which will be inserted twice into the Grapevine prior to Easter weekend. Thank you to the sub committee and Margaret Fraser, Gerald Hodge, Richard Laskin, Bob French and Rudy Rogalski for their dedication and extra efforts to produce the survey.

b. Local Hiring

Concern was expressed that at some point there may be an emergency call-out and BC Ferries may not be able to crew the ferry.

The committee noted that the Senior Masters of Routes 21 and 22 do an excellent job at organizing the crews for emergency services. Procedures have been instituted to ensure the local emergency services are alerted and able to make alternate arrangements if BC Ferries cannot provide emergency services.

c. Residents-Only Lane

Concern expressed regarding unrefrigerated commercial food carriers waiting in summer traffic to transport their goods to Denman and Hornby. Request for BC Ferries to investigate implementation of preferential loading for these businesses. Currently, Buckley Bay Terminal does not have the lot capacity or ability to sort priority traffic. Gary Leitch will refer this concern to Strategic and Corporate Planning Department for consideration when developing the Master Terminal Plan. Gary will forward the suggestion of tariff booklets for the commercial food suppliers to BC Ferries Revenue Department.

d. FAC Committee Terms of Appointment

Darlene Gage, Mike Comeau and Melissa Petlock have retired from the FAC Committee. BC Ferries appreciates their dedication and efforts while representing their communities. This committee's "Terms of Appointments" was designed to incorporate both BC Ferries and the committee's best interests, assuring continuity of knowledgeable FAC Members, and meeting the requirements to have the process in line with local government elections. It's a somewhat complicated structure, but it works for the committee members, and BC Ferries is happy to go along with that. Local governments must recognize the existence of the committee and be involved in the appointment process.

e. Senior Master Route Reports

Sr. Master Wayne Maxted, Route 21 Denman Island – Vancouver Island

Traffic has been stable over the past 7 years but has noticed reduced number of day-trippers to Denman/Hornby Islands due to ferry rates.

Tayco Paving may be transporting asphalt for a one week period in May which may impact service. Ann Carpenter will issue service notices as required and the BC Ferry crew will work to minimize the impact to service. The FAC Committee will contact Tayco Paving and request that they try to avoid the 8:00 a.m. and 2:40 p.m. sailings. The M.V. Quinitza is due for refit in 2006 and planning has already commenced to ensure monies are allotted for the best value and sustainability of the vessel.

The Emcon works yard which provides space and accommodation for BC Ferry Crew does not meet corporate standards. BC Ferries is reviewing options, long term lease or purchase of property, to improve accommodation requirements and provide stability for employees. Islands Trust will work with BC Ferries to dedicate zoning to improve the crew accommodation site.

Sr. Master Pete Kimmerly, Route 22 Hornby Island – Denman Island

The M.V. Kahloke was kept on this route longer than previous years and shut down only once for weather conditions.

Traffic declined by 8000 people in August last year. Captain Kimmerly will monitor traffic statistics and the committee will review next winter to see if the island has reached its traffic capacity or if the BCF Tariffs have had impact on travel to Hornby.

f. BC Ferries Annual General Meeting Reports

Gary Leitch presented the FAC Members with copies of the reports from BC Ferries Annual General Meeting held September 27, 2004 in Nanaimo. Invitations to attend the meetings were extended to all FAC Chairs.

g. Idling engines in BC Ferry parking lots

Concern was expressed with vehicles left idling in BC Ferry parking lots and the discomfort to other people and the effect on the environment.

BC Ferries has been cooperating with Best Idle Free organization to resolve this delicate issue. This organization promotes "idle free" concepts to customers and employees and in the near future, will include their link on BC Ferries website.

Virginia and Ann will investigate to see what BC Ferries is doing corporately regarding signage for idling vehicles.

h. Island Trust and BC Ferries

Concern was expressed that there is no group similar to the Coastal Council, performing advocacy work with/for BC Ferries. There was also concern regarding communication in advance of the renewed Coastal Ferry Services Contract .

Communication issues can be taken to BC Ferries, BC Ferry Commissioner and the ministry in advance of the new contract.

i. Bus connections

Can the schedule be changed to accommodate the 8:30 a.m. bus from Nanaimo to Denman, connecting with the 10:00 a.m. ferry sailing or can the vessel be contacted and asked to wait?

The Coastal Ferry Services Act requires 2 years notification of schedule changes once the change has been reviewed and approved by the public, FAC Committee and the BC Ferry Commissioner.

The FAC really appreciates the responsiveness of the crew regarding the last sailing late arrivals as it is crucial to the islanders. BC Ferries does not guarantee inter-route connections. The Nanaimo ferry can contact the Denman vessel to advise of any delays in connecting with the last Denman sailing so the Denman Master can make a decision on whether he's able to wait. If the Denman ferry waits, vehicle drivers connecting from Nanaimo are asked to identify as such to the Buckley Bay Ticket Booth staff so the vessel can then sail.

j. Terminal Beautification Plans At Gravelly Bay

Questions were raised as to why money was being spent to beautify the terminals, and how the beautification process came about.

BC Ferries initiative is to beautify all the terminals in a very short time frame.

Given the time of year, some planters are empty but will have plants as soon as chosen by local employees. Pete Kimmerly will provide communication to the Grapevine on BC Ferries Beautification Program at Gravelly Bay.

k. Islands Trust Water Poster

As requested by Islands Trust, BC Ferries will be displaying the water poster in the Islands Trust areas on our vessels and terminals. The posters will receive an anti graffiti covering before being posted.

6. Correspondence – nothing at this time

7. Action Items:

- c. Gary Leitch will forward the concept of commercial food carrier preferred loading during summer to Strategic and Corporate Planning Department for consideration when developing the Buckley Bay Master Terminal Plan. Item 5 (c)
- d. Gary Leitch will forward the suggestion of Tariff Booklets for commercial food carriers to BC Ferries Revenue Department. Item 5 (c)
- e. Virginia Moore and Ann Carpenter will investigate to see what BC Ferries is doing corporately regarding signage for idling vehicles in BC Ferry holding compounds. Item 5 (g)
- f. Pete Kimmerly will provide a communication bulletin to the Grapevine regarding the Gravelly Bay beautification program. Item 5 (j)

8. Next Meeting:

To be scheduled by Melanie Christensen and Roxanna Mandryk for October 2005.

Meeting adjourned: 11:31 a.m.

Approved:

Captain Gordon Nettleton
Roxanna Mandryk, Chair

Date: February 28, 2005
Date: March 1, 2005