

Meeting Details:

FAC:	Bowen Island Ferry Advisory Committee
Date:	April 26, 2006
Location:	Horseshoe Bay Boardroom
Time:	5:30 p.m.

Attendees:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>BC Ferries</i>
Chair, Andrew Stone	Geoff Dickson Vice President, Marketing
Anne Ayre	Ian Downie Terminal Director, Horseshoe Bay
Doug Elliot	Captain Barry (Steve) Graham Marine Superintendent Central Coast
Bruce Howlett	Gary Leitch Manager, Stakeholder Relations & Consultation
Alison Morse	Mark Stefanson Vice President, Communications
Doug Sinkinson	Betsy Terpsma Community Relations Manager, Central & South Coast, Southern Gulf Islands
2 Guests: Jacqueline Massey, Undercurrent Elizabeth Ballantyne	Captain Dave Woodman, Senior Master, Queen of Capilano

- 1. Call to Order:** At 5:45 p.m. by Andrew Stone.
- 2. Introductions:** Round table introductions and welcome to the new Marine Superintendent, Captain Barry (Steve) Graham and the new Senior Master on the Queen of Capilano, Captain Dave Woodman.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** Additional items were added for discussion including year round schedule and displays.
- 4. Presentations:** The Marine Superintendent's Report prompted a discussion around growth on Bowen Island and the increasing traffic on the route.
Action: BC Ferries to provide the Ferry Advisory Committee with a traffic study

analyzing the time of day and loads to see where the traffic demands are increasing on the route.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

- a. It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on October 27, 2005 be adopted as circulated. Carried.
- b. Action items from the last meeting were followed-up in the Marine Superintendent's Report.

6. New Business:

a. Coast Card

Geoff Dickson made a presentation on the BC Ferries Coast Card. Coast Cards are currently used for Assured Loading Tickets on the Mainland routes. The idea of using the Coast Card for commuter tickets is at the concept stage. Other options for the Coast Card and ticketing were discussed including Smart Card technology and a BC Ferries express card which could be loaded with dollars similar to a Starbucks card and swiped for commuter use. A potential issue for the Coast Card for commuter tickets would be transferability: individual family members require a card which drives up the initial layout or investment. The committee questioned the need for an expiry date. Members pointed out that in the past commuter tickets had expiry dates. Expiry dates created enough frustration with customers that BC Ferries removed the expiry date. It was suggested that BC Ferries look at past negative experiences with expiry dates.

Action: BC Ferries would like feedback from the Ferry Advisory Committee on the concept of using Coast Cards for commuter tickets.

b. Public Consultation for New Coastal Ferry Services Contract

Mark Stefanson made a presentation on the upcoming negotiation for the second performance term of the Coastal Ferry Service Contract, April 2008 – April 2012. BC Ferries is beginning to discuss the contract with the Ministry of Transportation and the BC Ferry Commissioner. Public consultation will be required. BC Ferries encourages the Ferry Advisory Committee and the Islands Trust to become involved with the process.

Mark Stefanson also reported that a Ferry Advisory Committee review was completed last fall. BC Ferries remains committed to the Ferry Advisory Committee process and will work to improve the feedback on issues and action items. On behalf of BC Ferries, Mark thanked the committee for their ongoing involvement and volunteer time.

c. Sea-to-Sky Highway Construction at Horseshoe Bay

Ian Downie report that BC Ferries initially had concerns with proposed changes to the pre-ticketing zone at Horseshoe Bay terminal but these concerns have been addressed. Construction is now underway to move the Village lane over and to increase the pre-ticketing zone during the construction phase and after the project is complete. Once construction starts Exit One will be permanently closed allowing exclusive use of the pre-ticketing zone by BC Ferries. When the project is complete, Whistler traffic will be separated from terminal traffic earlier, making it

safer for customers. The Sea-to-Sky Highway Construction is a three year project. BC Ferries has a good working relationship with the contractor for the project and will work to minimize disruptions during unloading and peak ferry travel times.

Action: Customers will need to allow extra time for potential delays during the construction phase of the Sea-to-Sky Highway.

d. Queen of Capilano Refit

Captain Graham reported that the current date for the Queen of Capilano refit and change of propulsion system is January 2007, for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Actions: BC Ferries to consider options to alleviate refit overloads such as augmenting the Bowen Queen sailings with the Tachek or another vessel subject to availability of the vessel and crew, and budget. Or by offering special parking rates at Horseshoe Bay to encourage commuters to leave their cars on the Mainland. Once the refit date is confirmed, the Ferry Advisory Committee will work to get the message out to commuters and to promote car pooling.

e. Life Saving Equipment

Andrew Stone noted that the sinking of the Queen of North has again brought up discussion around updating the life saving equipment on the Queen of the Capilano to a slide system similar to the system recently installed on the Queen of Nanaimo. BC Ferries responded that new vessels will have slide systems but it is costly to retrofit older vessels. New life-saving equipment is not being considered for the Queen of Capilano. The committee raised the question as to whether the installation of new life saving equipment would allow the Queen of Capilano to carry more passengers. BC Ferries indicated that the maximum passenger capacity of the Capilano was 450 and it was unlikely that this could be increased with new life saving equipment. Transport Canada regulates crew and passenger licences.

f. Progress Report on Intermediate Vessel

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Washington Marine group for the new intermediate vessel. The design team is running stability or "tank" tests at this point. Once a design is finalized and a contract signed, it is projected that the vessel will take 18 – 24 months to build. BC Ferries would like to put the new intermediate vessel on Route 8, but requires the shore side infrastructure including two-lane loading, to be completed by Bowen Island Municipality. At this time the new Intermediate vessel is slated to replace the Queen of Tsawwassen on Route 7.

Action: BC Ferries will meet with the new Mayor and Council to outline the formal agreement required to change the assignment of the new intermediate vessel from Saltery Bay – Earls Cove, Route 7 to Horseshoe Bay - Bowen Island, Route 8.

g. Year Round Schedule

Alison Morse asked if Route 8 could be assigned the summer schedule on a year round basis. A year round schedule would be better for Bowen Island customers and businesses that use the ferry schedule as a marketing tool.

Action: BC Ferries will look at making the Route 8 summer schedule effective year round.

h. Summer Extra Sailings

Under a discussion of summer extra sailings, it was pointed out that when there are unscheduled additional sailings such as the 1:00 p.m. extra sailing on Easter

Sunday it is difficult for BC Ferries to get the message to customers on Bowen Island.

Action: The Ferry Advisory Committee to look at ways to improve short notice communication to customers on the Bowen Island.

- i. Cooperative Auto Network and Historical Society Displays on vessel
Actions: Alison Morse will contact Dave Woodman regarding temporary displays on the vessel promoting the Cooperative Auto Network and the Jack Bell Foundation van pools and ride sharing. The Bowen Island Historians Society is required to contact Maureen Cumming in the Marketing Group at (250) 978-1315 regarding a permanent display about Bowen on the vessel.
- j. Snug Cove Update and Working Group on Transportation
The Snug Cove plan has been passed at the Municipal level. The Council in their strategic planning has identified the implementation of the Snug Cove plan as a key priority. This includes a Working Group on Transportation with members from both the Ferry Advisory Committee and the Bowen Island Sustainability Committee whose task will be to assemble the information needed for Council to make a decision on ferry marshalling as well as develop an overall transportation plan.

7. Next meeting: To be announced.

8. Meeting adjourned: At 8:20 p.m.

Approved:

Captain Barry (Steve) Graham, Marine
Superintendent

Date: May 8, 2006

Andrew Stone, Chair

Date: May 25, 2006