

Meeting Details:

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| FAC: | Southern Gulf Islands Ferry Advisory Committee |
| Date | June 15, 2009 |
| Location: | Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney |
| Time: | 9:30 a.m. |

Attendees:

| Committee | BC Ferries |
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| Brian Hollingshead – Member at Large | Rob Clarke, Executive Vice President, and Chief Financial Officer |
| Dave Dryer - Pender Island | Captain Christian (Chris) Frappell, Marine Superintendent, Southern Islands |
| Jill Justice – Pender Island | Mark Stefanson, Vice President, Public Affairs |
| Jim Deverill – Mayne Island | Grant Bierlmeier, Director, Tariff and Revenue |
| Barry Wilks – Mayne Island | Steve Anderson, Manager, Fleet Deployment and Scheduling |
| Elma Maund – Mayne Island | Captain Lewis Mackay, Senior Master, Queen of Nanaimo |
| Bill Noble – Galiano Island | Sarah Cotton, Manager, Stakeholder Relations |
| Sue Syverson – Saturna Island | |
| Nancy Gerber – Saturna Island | |
| Susan Jamieson-McLarnon – Saturna Island | |
| Ken Hancock - Capital Regional District | |
| Harold Swierenga – Salt Spring Island | |
| Absent: Melody Reich – Pender Island Terry Halverson – Galiano Island Suzanne Smith – Galiano Island | |
| Public: | |
| Friend of Harold Swierenga | |

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.
- 2. Introductions:** Round table introductions were completed.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** The election of a Chair was added to the agenda.
- 4. Election of Chair:** Brian Hollingshead was elected as Chair and Bill Noble was elected as Vice-Chair.
- 5. Correspondence:** No correspondence was presented.

6. Presentations:

a. Operations Report

Captain Chris Frappell presented the Marine Operations report with information on safety and security, traffic, on time performance and vessels. This report is attached.

Dave Dryer asked the start time of the crew on the Queen of Cumberland as there seems to be a delay in Swartz Bay. He asked if the crew could start loading earlier.

ACTION: Captain Frappell to discuss with Senior Master Captain Allan Bell. NOTE: From 04 Aug the Mon – Thurs PM crew have been brought in 15 minutes early to assist the first PM departure ex SWB to depart on time. COMPLETED.

Susan Jamieson McLarnon asked if BC Ferries (BCF) had a wish list for new Southern Gulf Islands vessels. Rob Clarke responded that we look at a number of factors when looking at replacement vessels, including demographic trends of the islands.

ACTION: Rob Clarke to deliver a demographic study by Urban Futures to the FACC. COMPLETED.

The Queen of Nanaimo is currently scheduled to be replaced in 2014, while the Mayne Queen and Bowen Queen are scheduled to be replaced in 2018-2020. In the current five year plan, only one new vessel is scheduled for replacement. In the 10-15 year plan, BCF is looking at 15 new vessels. These will be new, but may be smaller ships. It was noted that the replacement of minor-intermediate size vessels is more complicated than the newbuild program BCF has just completed.

ACTION: BCF (Captain Frappell) to send the replacement vessel plan to the Southern Gulf Islands FAC.

b. Tariff Rationalization

Grant Bierlmeier continued the discussion from last fall around the Southern Gulf Islands' routes and tariff rationalization for April 1, 2010.

Guiding Principles:
Revenue Neutrality
Simplicity
Reasonability

Grant stated that he wanted to get the FAC's thoughts on moving the fuel surcharges/rebates from a flat amount to a percentage surcharge/rebate.

ACTION: SGI FAC to get back to Brian Hollingshead with their response in the next week or so.

Grant also proposed a \$2.00 charge for bicycles across the fleet. However, if a customer were to use their Experience Card, the customer would get a discount of \$2.00 on that charge at the \$75 load level therefore making the bicycle free of charge.

Grant discussed possibly eliminating the overweight vehicle charge. Overlength vehicles would potentially be charged the underheight base rate for the first 20 feet, and charged the commercial rate for the extra feet.

BC Ferries is looking at increasing the buy-in level for the Experience Card when the fares go up April 1st of each year. The buy-in level would then remain relevant as fares increase.

BC Ferries is also looking at discontinuing the passenger only buy-in level as less than 2% of users actually purchase the \$40 buy-in level. In April 2010, BCF would look at one buy-in level of \$85 (Price TBC) and the price would subsequently increase each year.

ACTION: SGI FAC to review the tariff rationalization proposals and get back to BC Ferries at the fall meeting with feedback on the aforementioned items.

7. Island Specific Issues

Nancy Gerber of Saturna Island noted that there was word of a canine virus at the Swartz Bay Terminal.

ACTION: Captain Frappell to look into and get back to the committee.

Nancy also mentioned that there are often large line ups at the Tsawwassen and Swartz Bay Terminal booths for the Southern Gulf Islands. She asked if the other booths can be opened up to take traffic.

ACTION: Captain Frappell to work with Ron Gray on this and get back to the committee.

At a previous meeting, a change to the docking facilities at Sturdies Bay on Galiano Island was discussed. There was a plan to do modifications to the parking lot and roadway and this was believed to take place in Fall 2009. If these plans are going ahead, proper notification needs to go out.

ACTION: Captain Frappell to find out the status of this project from Ron Gray and get back to the committee.

Ken Hancock mentioned that the Island Trust developed a large sign to place at Swartz Bay to promote the islands. Has this sign found a permanent home?

ACTION: Sarah Cotton to contact the Swartz Bay Terminal Manager regarding the status of the sign.

For Pender Island, Jill Justice discussed the issue of the 11:30 am departure to Swartz Bay. She noted that the sailing is unreliable for taking Pender Island traffic onboard due to overloads. Jill asked for this issue to be tabled for future schedule discussions, and suggested one scheduling amendment possibility for consideration as a starting point for the discussion.

ACTION: SGI FAC to discuss before fall meeting.

8. Brian Hollingshead asked that New Business be added to the agenda of future meetings.

9. Next Meeting October/November 2009

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Approved:

Brian Hollingshead, Chair

Date: August 13, 2009

Captain Chris Frappell, BC Ferries

Date: August 10, 2009