

Meeting Details:

FAC:	Campbell River/Quadra/Cortes Islands Ferry Advisory Committee
Date:	February 27, 2004
Location:	Coast Discovery Inn & Marina, Campbell River
Time:	9:30 a.m.

Attendees:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>BC Ferries</i>
Chair, Gary Leitch Manager, Consultation & Stakeholder Relations	Captain Jock Palmer A/Marine Superintendent
Jim Abram	A/Senior Captain Jim Huffman Campbell River – Quadra Island
Bob Brown	Virginia Moore Manager, Terminal Operations
Terry Hooper	Stephen Nussbaum Communications Manager
Noel Lax	Pam Young A/ Communications Manager
Les Lengyel	Nancy Dyke A/ Senior Ticket Agent, Campbell River
Lynn Nash	Melanie Christensen Secretary, Marine Superintendent
Ralph Nursall	
Michael Stahnke	
John Sprungman	

1. Call to Order:

Gary Leitch and Capt. Jock Palmer welcomed committee members and guests to the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda:

- a. The agenda was approved with the addition of items.

3. Public Presentations

- a. Mr. Bill Nutting – With regards to the priority loading trial at Quathiaski Cove, Mr. Nutting would like the loading to be first come, first served.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

- a. Minutes of the meeting held on September 17, 2003 were approved and distributed in October, 2003.

Review of Action Items:

- b. Campbell River Transit/Quadra Island Ferry Sub Committee Meeting – Due to conflicting work schedules, this committee has not met. Lynn Nash will speak with Darren Richards, Campbell River Transit, regarding a meeting and contact Gary Leitch.
- c. Plans to plant shade trees at Quathiaski Cove have been delayed due to further work on terminal development. This avoids duplicating planting the trees twice.

5. Correspondence - None

6. New Business:

- a. Update on Quathiaski Cove Terminal Project:

The Planning Department of BC Ferries and 3 ferry advisory members attended a preliminary meeting with the Small Harbour Groups. Partnership between BC Ferries and Small Harbour Group is still undecided. Discussion held revolved around short and long term requirements and what assistance the Regional District would supply. Michael Stahnke, Jim Abram and Noel Lax are the appointed ferry advisory members for consultation regarding the terminal improvements.

- b. Interruption of Ferry Service:

Ferry travellers from Heriot Bay en route to Quathiaski Cove can sometimes be delayed by traffic. The committee is requesting the BC Ferry Terminal Attendant to notify the Captain when there is no Cortes traffic for the sailing as this is very unusual. Captain Huffman will look into communications viability of this suggestion and contact Ralph Nursall.

- c. Round Trip on Campbell River to Quadra Route or Whaletown to Heriot Bay Route for Advisory Committee Members:

- BC Ferries extended an invitation to committee members to sail a round trip with the Captain and crew in the wheelhouse to learn more about the operation.

- d. Bicycles on Ferries:

- The committee has been asked to discuss the concern of bicyclists banging cars and antennas when arriving at the ferry after the cars are loaded. The Vessel Crew discourages this practice but can not watch all bicyclers.
- Virginia Moore will work with Captain Huffman for wording on signage (i.e. Do not guide bicycles through vehicle lanes) to be placed on the causeways at both Quathiaski Cove and Campbell River Terminals.
- BC Ferries is also sponsoring a design contest in September for a removable, modular bicycle storage unit for placement on our vessels.

e. Review of Cortes Priority Loading Trial at Quathiaski Cove:

- Each committee member voiced their perspective and concerns regarding the continuation of Cortes priority loading at Quathiaski Cove on the 0900 sailing Monday (except holidays) and Thursdays weekly. Statistics from June 2003 to and including February 2004 versus the same time frame last year for the Quathiaski Cove departures of 0800, 0900 and 1000 sailings have fewer overloads this year, even with the priority loading. Comments included:
 - This trial period has made a great difference for travel from Cortes to Campbell River
 - Would like the trial to be permanent
 - Inconvenience to Quadra residents and would like first come first served
 - Quadra residents have to go to the terminal half an hour earlier
 - Requesting 2 priority sailings per week out of 119 weekly public sailings from Quathiaski Cove to Campbell River
 - 3% of Quadra residents objected. Quadra ferry is a through ferry system and not just Quadra Island residents ferry
 - Commercial traffic, such as oyster farmers are also utilizing these sailings
- BC Ferries will consider all members perspectives and communicate their decision within the next two weeks firstly to the advisory members and then to the public. The trial will remain in place until the decision has been publicized.

f. Future of Ferry Advisory Committee:

- Gary Leitch provided a presentation renewing BC Ferries' commitment to consultation with the Ferry Advisory Committees as the company moves into the future.
- BC Ferries' focus for the future is to improve and add value to the customers experience through progressive innovative changes; it is committed to building a stable company.
- Gary reviewed the last year and emphasized the major objectives of the Coastal Ferry Services Contract which provides a 60 year contract which provides for a long term service commitment to ensure stability for coastal communities with predictable fare increases.
- The new structure allows the company to make long term investment plans for its terminals and to renew the fleet (22 new vessels over the next 15 years) without the need for annual government approvals of its spending priorities.
- Mr. Martin Crilly was appointed as the BC Ferries Commissioner in July 2003. His mandate is to ensure that the public is protected and that the company is financially viable. Mr. Crilly's email address is www.bcferrycommission.com
- Recent investments to benefit these routes will include improvements at Quathiaski Cove Terminal.

g. Round Table End of Meeting Comments:

- This procedure will take place at the end of every meeting providing each member to voice additional concerns and comment on the meeting.

- Ferry advisory members have a proactive role with the responsibility to bring community items of concern to the Ferry Advisory Meetings even if the subject is one of a contentious nature.
- The committee meetings are a very useful process to discuss and accomplish items.

7. Action:

- a. BC Ferries Planning Department will send the Statement of Operations for the new terminal to Michael Stahnke for review with the Quadra Ferry Advisory Members.
- b. Captain Huffman to email Ralph Nursall with information pertaining to the communication between Quathiaski Cove Terminal Attendant and the Captain of the vessel.
- c. Virginia Moore will consult Captain Huffman to complete wording for signage regarding bicycles maneuvering through vehicle lanes.
- d. BC Ferries to provide advisory committee members with the decision regarding the continuation of the Cortes priority loading at Quathiaski Cove before communicating to the public.

8. Next Meeting:

- a. The next meeting will be held in October 2004.

9. Meeting adjourned: 1:30 p.m.

Approved:

Captain J. Palmer

Date: March 16, 2004

Michael Stahnke, Chair Person

Date: April 5, 2004