

### Meeting Details:

FAC:	Denman/Hornby Islands and Comox Valley
Date:	Friday, November 14, 2003
Location:	New Horizons Hall, Hornby Island
Time:	1:00pm to 3:30pm

### Attendees:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>BC Ferries</i>
Chair, Louise Bell Denman Island	Captain Jay Holliday A/Marine Superintendent
Darlene Gage Andrew Carmichael	Senior Captain Wayne Maxted Vancouver Island – Denman Island
Mike Comeau David Freeman	Senior Captain Pete Kimmerly Denman Island – Hornby Island
Melissa Petlock Jim Garton	Ann Carpenter Regional Communications Officer
John Ralston Tony Law	Virginia Moore Manager, Terminal Operations, IISN
April Lewis	Judy Cryer Senior Ticket Agent, Buckley Bay
	Liette MacMillan A/Secretary, Marine Superintendent
Guests:	
Gary Leitch Manager, Stakeholder Relations	

#### 1. Call to Order:

Louise Bell called the meeting to order. Self-introductions were made by all present.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda:

- a. The agenda was revised to add Updates on Route Costs/Costing; Tariff; Discounts; Vessel Replacement under New Business.

#### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

- a. Minutes of the meeting held on February 19, 2003 were approved and distributed on March 11, 2003.
- b. Review of Action Items:
  - Ann has been responding to queries from the committee on the BC Ferries Restructuring Presentation.
  - Committee agreed to three year terms.
  - Roxanna Mandryk has been appointed as the representative for Carol Quin, Regional Director for the three year term

#### 4. Correspondence:

- a. None

## **5. New Business:**

- a. Dangerous Goods Sailings – Tony Law**
  - Concerns raised surrounding BCF commitment to alternate scheduling for Dangerous Goods sailings cancelled due to heavy weather.
  - Both Sr. Masters confirmed that, in the event of a DG sailing being cancelled due to weather or any other cause, an alternate sailing would be scheduled.
  
- b. Late Night Sailings in Bad Weather – Louise Bell**
  - Committee member expressed concern that during bad weather residents sometimes had difficulty making the 10pm sailing from Buckley Bay and were requesting that the sailing be delayed a few minutes on those nights.
  - It is impractical for the Master to consistently delay a scheduled departure for adverse weather or driving conditions. However, if the Master is informed that there may be “latecomers” due to event scheduling or connections being delayed by adverse conditions he/she will usually try to accommodate passengers although this is not always possible.
  
- c. Local Hiring, Casual New Hires**
  - Committee member expressed concern that new hires were not local residents.
  - BC Ferries hiring is constrained by the present Collective Agreement. The extensive qualifications required by BCF prior to being considered for employment makes local hiring a challenge. However, history indicates that the majority of casual new-hires do live locally.
  
- d. Priority Loading (Co-Op Truck, School Children, Livestock) – Hornby Vessel**

Co-Op Truck  
Presentation from Phoebe Long, Manager, Co-Op

  - During the summer the Co-Op truck bringing perishables to Hornby Island often waits sailings to get on the ferry. The unpredictability of arrival makes it difficult for the Co-Op to schedule their Union staff. She would like to see a formal policy regarding priority loading.
  - BC Ferries has a number of concerns which make it difficult to implement a priority loading policy on the Denman/Hornby routes. It creates problems between the residents, staff and crew, and companies with priority loading; it becomes difficult to separate individual interests; and there are no personnel available to sort traffic and companies which might have priority loading and deal with any issues.
  - A committee member suggested that businesses might work with their suppliers to organize an earlier arrival at Buckley Bay or perhaps consider having their transporter “overnight” on Vancouver Island.
  - There may be a future business opportunity for BCF to offer a commercial assured loading pass for the minor routes. Captain Holliday is asked to pass this suggestion forward to Fleet House and to report back at the next meeting with the results.

School Children

- A Hornby resident indicated that the Hornby schoolchildren were having difficulty making sailings to Buckley Bay in the mornings.
- Sr. Masters reviewed traffic stats for September, October, and November and reported that there is no access problem on the 8:00/8:40am sailings.

September	8:00	8 overloads, most on the holiday weekend (6,6,7,4 vehicles)
	8:40	1
October	8:00	3 (4,3,5 vehicles)
	8:40	0
November	8:00	0
	8:40	1 (1 vehicle)

- The Committee member will check back with the resident

Livestock

- BCF currently has a policy in place regarding the special consideration that will be given to the transportation of livestock, poultry and seafood.
- Gary Leitch reported that there are upcoming changes to the livestock policy on the major routes with the routes moving to a reservation system.

**e.** Friday 9:10pm Sailing Schedule – Denman Island Vessel – Tony Law

- During the summer the vessel routinely runs an additional sailing at 9:10pm on Fridays to assist the connection to Hornby Island. The committee members would like to see the additional sailing added to the printed schedule.
- This is a “discretionary” run and although it is done routinely in the summer and at various times of the year it will remain off the printed schedule.

**f.** Hornby Traffic Lane at Buckley Bay – Tony Law

- Tony Law expressed appreciation for the implementation of the Hornby bound lane from Hornby Island residents
- A committee member proposed adding a resident lane for both Hornby and Denman. The Committee will review this and provide an update at the next meeting.

**g.** Bargaining Update

- On November 17th and 18th the Labour Relations Board will be meeting to determine Essential Service Levels for each individual route. BCF expects that the ruling will be issued the week following. The BCFMWU would be required to give 72 hour strike notice however negotiations are continuing and there is no sense that something immediate will happen once the Essential Service Levels are set.

**h.** Vessel Sailing Connections with BC Transit

- Committee member expressed concern that bus passengers sometimes missed the connection with the Denman ferry.

- The bus stops alongside the road above the terminal, the Ticket Agents and vessel crew have no way of knowing if the bus has arrived.
- Judy Cryer will contact Watson and Ash to let them know that if the driver is anticipating just missing the ferry to call the terminal, the Captain may wait if aware of the situation.

**i. Future Status of Emergency Ferries – John Ralston**

- Emergency Medical Services and the Fire Department are concerned that the Emergency call out service BCF provides will end. EMS is responsible for arranging evacuation and should look at other alternatives in the event the ferry isn't available.
- BCF cannot compel their employees to be available for emergency services on their time off. Therefore these services are provided by the crews on a volunteer basis.
- A vessel requires both a Master and a Chief Engineer to sail. Capt Maxted has established as part of his "Permanent Operation Routines" that both EMS and himself be notified if the vessel anticipates difficulty with mustering a crew.
- The Health and Fire Departments would like to pass on their gratitude for the emergency service provided and would like to initiate a policy where Emergency Services can be guaranteed. Captain Holliday suggested that a resolution might only be possible in a wider context.
- The Health and Fire Departments will monitor the situation and will review in six months.
- Another issue that impacts Emergency Services is the lack of an alternate dock on Denman. This item is referred to the Denman Residents Association for review and an update will be provided at the spring meeting.

**j. Quinitza Lounge (noise & cold)**

- Committee agreed that issues like this are better reported on the vessel to a Captain or crewmember or the Senior Ticket Agent.
- Judy Cryer will write an article for the Grapevine regarding issues the vessel crew can resolve and issues that may be better resolved by the committee.

**k. Black Smoke from Denman Vessel**

- A committee member expressed concern from an islander with chemical sensitivities regarding the black smoke.
- The black smoke is the result of aging engines; the crews try not to spike the throttles when manoeuvring to avoid creating smoke.
- The air quality is within allowable limits set by WCB regulations and crew members who wish have been provided with personal respirators and appropriate filters.

**l. Updates on Route Costs/Costing; Tariff/Discounts; Vessel Replacement**

#### Route Costs/Costing

- The Coastal Ferry Contract provides service fees to each individual route based on cost recovery and route self sufficiency. The Commissioner regulates the customer costs.
- The Contract recognizes Denman and Hornby Islands as part of a route group that will be unlikely to be self sufficient on the basis of tariff only.
- Discussion around the end of the current five year service plan: contracting back and changes in service and when the Ferry Advisory Committee would be involved in the process.
- The Commission and Regulator would lead any proposed changes.
- Proposal development would include the Committee. The Company and Committee could also approach the Regulator together regarding changes in service.

#### Tariff/Discounts

- The rates did not go up in November as originally planned however a 4.4% across the board increase will likely take effect in January.
- BCF is moving toward a consistent discount rate across the fleet.
- The Government Social Transportation Policy reimburses BCF for discounts provided to seniors and School children so these discounts will not be affected.

#### Vessel Replacement

- The age and condition of a vessel as well as service pressures are factors used to determine vessel replacement.
- The Strategic Plan is not completed. Gary Leitch can provide an update by the next meeting.

Captain Pete Kimmerly provided traffic stats for Hornby Island over the last 18 years which show that the traffic has remained very constant over the years.

#### **6. Action Items:**

Captain Holliday will report back regarding any feedback on commercial assured loading passes for the Minor Routes.

Tony Law will report back regarding a proposal from the community for a Denman and a Hornby resident's lane at Buckley Bay.

Judy Cryer will contact Watson and Ash regarding the option of bus drivers calling the ferry terminal to request the ferry waits if the bus will just miss the last ferry.

Judy Cryer will submit an article to the Grapevine on which issues can be resolved at the vessel and which issues are better resolved by the Committee.

Gary Leitch to update the Committee on the Strategic Plan for Vessel Replacement.

#### **7. Next Meeting:**

- a. To be scheduled by Melanie Christensen and Roxanna Mandryk for late March 2004.

**8. Meeting adjourned: 3:30pm**

**Approved:**

Captain Jay Holliday,  
A/Marine Superintendent, IISN  
Louise Bell, Chair

Date: December 22, 2003

Date: December 19, 2003