

Meeting Details:

FAC:	Southern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee
Date:	December 16, 2005
Location:	Seaside Centre, Sechelt
Time:	9:30 am – 1:30 pm

Attendees:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>BC Ferries</i>
Chair, Ed Steeves	Rob Clarke, EVP Finance and CFO
Allan Crane	Captain George Capacci, VP, Fleet Operations
Barry Cavens	Mark Stefanson, VP, Communications
Conchita Harding	Captain Steve Graham, Marine Superintendent
Jakob Knaus	Monique Joubarne, Langdale Terminal Director
Marita Paul-Franke	Ian Downie, Horseshoe Bay Terminal Director
Pat Barber	David Leather, Project Manager, Terminal Construction
	Deborah Marshall, Director, Media Relations
Guests: John Henderson, Member of BC Ferries' Board of Directors Gambier – Keats Ferry Advisory Committee	

1. Call to Order:

Chair Ed Steeves called the meeting to order and introductions were made

2. Approval of Agenda:

Agenda approved

3. Public Presentations:

There were no public presentations

4. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence

5. New Business:

a. Vessel Deployment on Langdale – Horseshoe Bay Route

- The Queen of Surrey is currently undergoing its mid-life upgrade
- The vessel will be back in service in June 2006
- In deciding on whether to deploy the Queen of Surrey or Queen of Coquitlam on Route 3 in the long-term, various factors are being considered by BC Ferries including: on-time performance; capital cost of the vessel; operating costs; customer service; and on-board amenities
- The committee prefers having some seats face each other for socialization

Action: Committee to offer feedback regarding vessel deployment to Captain Graham by January 31, 2006

b. Master Planning

- BC Ferries is beginning its master planning process for the Langdale terminal
- A terminal master plan is a concept plan that provides the framework for the phased implementation of strategies and actions over the next 20 years enabling BC Ferries to develop terminals in a cost-effective, organized manner
- Projects that will be considered for Langdale include: short and long term parking; the overflow lot; holding compound; foot passenger walkway; double-decking berth two; marketplace and playground; administration building; and pre-ticket areas
- Public consultation regarding master planning for the Langdale terminal will begin in early 2006
- The committee asked BC Ferries to look at the feasibility of a bulk fuel storage facility for bunkers to reduce fuel premium

Action: BC Ferries to commence public consultation process in early 2006

c. Common Issues with Gambier/Keats Ferry Advisory Committee

- The use of the Stormaway float was discussed at length
- Historically, many private boats have used the float to pick-up and drop-off people, which is a liability issue for BC Ferries as this is a private float
- In addition, a flower planter on the Stormaway float hampers emergency access if it was necessary to evacuate a patient on a stretcher from the Stormaway
- About 90 percent of Gambier and Keats Islands residents purchase monthly or yearly passes in the Langdale parking lot, and they sometimes have difficulty finding a spot at peak times
- The Terminal Director is working on a plan to re-arrange some parking to try to alleviate this problem

Action: BC Ferries to try to alleviate parking issue for yearly pass holders

BC Ferries to address emergency evacuation issue on float

d. Security at Horseshoe Bay

- Since 9/11, BC Ferries has increased its security vigilance and is developing a new fleet wide plan, which will be rolled out over the next 10 years, to further enhance security
- Transport Canada is currently seeking security enhancements for the marine industry and BC Ferries wants to be prepared for any new changes handed down from the federal government
- BC Ferries is a member of the Canadian Marine Advisory Council, which has had discussions with Transport Canada about security
- New security measures BC Ferries is looking at include: hiring a qualified anti-terrorism expert; increased video surveillance; baggage handling protocol for foot passengers; improvements in perimeter security; vessel security; employee training; and employee photo identification
- BC Ferries has and will continue to have discussions concerning terminal security with merchants in Horseshoe Bay
- Security will be considered in both the Horseshoe Bay and Langdale terminal master plans
- It was suggested that BC Ferries should study the security features of Washington State Ferries (WSF) [BC Ferries Security Department has had discussions with WSF]

Action: None

e. 2006 Summer Schedule

- In the summer of 2006, Route 3 will be serviced by a C-class vessel and the Queen of Esquimalt
- The Queen of Esquimalt will sail five days per week – Thursday through Monday
- As in recent years, the 2006 summer schedule will not include a sailing from Horseshoe Bay at 5:30 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- BC Ferries understands there is a demand from commuters for a 5:30 pm sailing on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, however with only one crew operating five days per week on the supplemental vessel, the ship is scheduled to operate on the five busiest days of the week
- There may be an opportunity for commuters to charter a water taxi on those two days at 5:30 pm

Action: None

f. Fuel Surcharge

- On June 13, 2005, BC Ferries applied for a fuel surcharge of 8 percent on the major routes and 13 percent on the remaining routes
- On July 24, 2005, the BC Ferry Commissioner granted 4 percent on the majors and 6 percent on the other routes
- On November 28, 2005, BC Ferries applied for a fare cap increase of 2.5 percent on the major routes and 6 percent on the others to permit an additional fuel surcharge
- Current costs as well as forecasts will exceed estimates made six months ago
- If BC Ferries were to delay imposition of a second fuel surcharge, there could be significant rate disruptions in the future
- BC Ferries is taking action now to reduce the risk and mitigate the impact on future tariffs
- A discussion ensued about the differences in the percentage for the major routes versus all other routes, which receive a service fee from the provincial government
- BC Ferries expects a final decision from the Commissioner regarding the second fuel surcharge in January 2006
- The Ferry Advisory Committee was invited to make a submission to the Commissioner, which they did

Action: None

g. Ferry Advisory Committee Review

- Committee members appointments end on December 31, 2005
- BC Ferries has contacted all local government administrators to start the reappointment process
- If current members want to reapply, they need to contact their local administration in writing
- BC Ferries plans to have new committees in place by March 2006
- BC Ferries is conducting an administrative review of the ferry advisory committee process and welcomes comments from all committee members
- BC Ferries thanks all members for their service over the past three years

Action: None

6. Next Meeting: TBA

7. Meeting adjourned: 1:30 pm

Approved:

Captain Steve Graham, Marine
Superintendent

Date: January 3, 2006

Ed Steeves, Chair

Date: January 9, 2006