



**Gabriola Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, January 22, 2002  
5:00 – 7:00 pm  
Agi Hall, Gabriola Island**

***Attendees:***

***Committee***

Steve Wohlleben, Chair  
Tawny Capon  
Gail Lund  
John Hall  
Jane Woods

***BC Ferries***

Captain Taylor, Marine Superintendent, IIS (S)  
Gary Leitch, Manager, Public Consultation  
Steve Clapton, Manager, Terminal Operations  
Captain Elgin McKillop, Senior Master, Route 19  
Ann Carpenter, Communications Coordinator  
Carl Mathisen, Senior Ticket Attendant, Route 19  
Mia Aleksich, Recording Secretary

**1. Call to order - 5:00 p.m.**

Steve Wohlleben called the meeting to order. Steve advised that Committee member, Don Adair passed away on January 14 and that Don was an active member in this committee and will be missed. Steve then welcomed members of the public and provided a brief overview of the function of the FAC and the Coastal Council.

**2. Approved agenda (not listed as an agenda item.)**

**3. Previous Minutes (August 29, 2001)**

Gail Lund and John Hall approved the minutes.

**Old business**

Process for renewing membership of the Committee – *Gary Leitch*

Gary Leitch provided information on the appointment process for the renewal of committee membership. An ad will be placed in the local newspaper within three (3) weeks, requesting interest in Committee membership. The Regional District of Nanaimo and the Islands Trust Local Committee will assist BCFC by appointing the Committee.

**4. New Business**

**a) Presentations from the public**

Steve Wohlleben advised the committee of the following public concerns:

- i.** Ted Reeves Pages Resort: Dangerous Goods sailings on Saturdays for fuel deliveries
- ii.** Glen Murphy: additional sailing mid day for sporting events
- iii.** Add tables in lounges during refit, repair locks in Men's washrooms.



iv. The Ministry of Health has issued an RFP to provide 24 hour emergency call out for Gabriola. Mr. Wohlleben was given a copy of a bid that will be submitted to the Minister.

**b) Emergency Response and Callout – Captain Taylor**

i. Captain Taylor explained the crew is not compensated for stand-by for emergency call outs, and there is no guarantee BCFC can respond every time. He stated that from April to December there were 33 call outs, generating approximately \$27,000.00 in reimbursements from the Ministry of Health, which goes to BCFC general revenue.

ii. Could the old dock which once existed in Descanso Bay be replaced to allow for access for emergency services?

*Action: Steve Clapton will provide the Committee with a report on the status of access to the dock beside the existing terminal*

**e) Schedule – Captain Taylor**

i. Captain Taylor briefed the committee on cancelled sailings due to the increased draft of the refit replacement vessel, *Bowen Queen*, and the handling of over height vehicles on the vessel.

ii. He also reviewed the on-time performance report. He indicated that on-time performance was unacceptable – i.e. the ship is late too often. This situation should be remedied during refit with the installation of more powerful engines in the ship. Traffic reports will be sent to committee members.

iii. Route statistics:

Traffic up 6%. The events of Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> have affected the expected increase in traffic. Growth factor is now 5%, with 32 more overloads in the summer season.

**f) Quinsam Refit – Captain Taylor**

This major refit will involve replacing the engines, the sewage treatment plant and heating system, consul and controls on the bridge, and provide a general sprucing up of washrooms and lounges. A survey was done on the hull and it showed the basic structure is sound. This refit starting February 4<sup>th</sup> will take approximately 6 weeks, and details are available from Capt. McKillop.

**g) Preliminary plans for terminal improvements – Gary Leitch**

i. Gary Leitch advised the Committee that the plans for the Gabriola terminal improvements have been deferred due to a number of factors which combined have created an uncertain policy environment: These factors include the government's core review process which is ongoing; the release of the Wright



report which called for an analysis of the possibility of fixed links where economically feasible; and the position of the Islands Trust which has written the Minister requesting a meeting to discuss its policies. As a result the timeline for the project is uncertain; if the policy issues are resolved in a timely manner it may still be possible to resume the project later this year. Some riprap work will be done at Descanso Bay after the spring fisheries closure and the busy summer season. This provides extra time to ensure a thorough review of terminal needs.

ii. Steve Wohlleben explained the consultation process on the Descanso Bay terminal construction and stated that the Committee would like public input on the terminal improvements. He advised that in due course a public open house to review plans would be held.

iii. When the terminal improvements at Descanso Bay are reviewed, consideration will be given to a designated ramp area for disembarking foot passengers.

**h) Coastal Council – Tawny Capon**

Tawny explained how the Coastal Council was developed, its relationship to the ferry advisory committee and other stakeholder groups. There are twelve ferry advisory committees, each of which appoints two members to the Coastal Council. The Coastal Council also has representation from chambers of commerce and tourism associations.

**D) Fred Wright Report**

Coastal Council has reviewed the Fred Wright report and sent a letter to the Minister of Transportation, and also the Board of BC Ferries, outlining its concerns. Coastal Council representatives have asked for a meeting with the Minister to discuss its concerns with the report. Key recommendations of the Coastal Council are for the ferries to be considered an integral part of the highway system; and the system to be considered as one entity, not separately by route. Support was also expressed for BC Ferries having a more independent (or government) governance structure.

**5. Other business**

a) Captain Taylor thanked all the employees at the terminal and on the ship for doing a great job and having a safe year.

b) Committee members will advise residents that BC Ferries does not compensate the crew for stand-by for the emergency call outs.

c) BCFC staff send their condolences to Don Adair's family, and appreciated all Don's contributions to this Committee.



- d) Ann Carpenter provided information of the heads up list available.
  
- 6. **Next meeting**  
To be announced at a later date.
  
- 7. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Approved (February 8, 2002)

Captain Taylor, Marine  
Superintendent, IIS (S)

Approved (February 11, 2002)

Steve Wohlleben,  
FAC Chair