

# Gabriola Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, October 28, 2002

Agi Hall, Gabriola Island

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## Attendees:

### *Committee*

Fred Apstein  
Jeremy Baker  
James Brown  
John Hall  
Gail Lund  
June Prenty  
Gisele Rudisher  
Berni Sperling  
Steve Wohlleben, Chair

### *BC Ferries*

Capt. Trafford Taylor  
*Marine Superintendent*  
Elgin McKillop  
*Senior Master, M.V. Quinsam*  
Ann Carpenter  
*Communications Coordinator*  
Rory Kulmala,  
*Project Manager, Engineering & Construction*  
Steve Clapton  
*Manager, Terminal Operations*  
Carl Mathisen  
*Senior Ticket Agent, Nanaimo Harbour*  
Mia Aleksich  
Secretary, Marine Superintendent

### *Absent with regrets:*

Ken Capon

### *Guests:*

Richard Crossley  
Area Manager, Roads - MOT

## 1. Call to order

Chair, Steve Wohlleben called the meeting to order and asked the committee members and the public attendees to introduce themselves

## 2. Approval of Agenda

- Agenda approved with additions

## 3. Presentation by Gail Lund – Emergency Patient Transport

- The community is applying to Land & Water BC to acquire a water lot at Descanso Bay.
- This will allow the construction of an emergency access dock adjacent the existing BC Ferries dock at Descanso Bay.
- This proposal will go before the Board of Nanaimo Regional District on Nov 5 for their approval and agreement to take over the emergency dock function at Gabriola.
- BC Ambulance will charter a suitable boat for the service.
- Other options offered by attendees: a medical clinic on the island, helicopter medivac service for Gabriola, to also include Mudge, Valdez, Thetis & Kuper Islands. An unsolicited proposal on the air medivac service was made to BC Ambulance Service by the proponent on Sept. 30, 2002.

**Motion:** That the Gabriola Ferry Advisory Committee support the Island Trustees and Regional Directors moving forward to implement the concept of a pedestrian dock at Descanso Bay to provide emergency medical access for the residents of Gabriola Island.

- Motion made by Fred Apstein, seconded and passed.

**Action: Regional Director Berni Sperling will bring this request to the Board of the Nanaimo Regional District at their Nov 5 meeting.**

A letter has been sent to the crew of the ferry to thank them for their years of service and hope that they will continue emergency services.

**4. Public Presentations:**

- a) Virginia – painting of Gabriola sign at Nanaimo Harbour terminal
- proposal to repaint the Nanaimo Realty (now REMAX) Gabriola Island map sign at Nanaimo Harbour terminal
  - 4 ' x 8' size would be placed at Nanaimo Harbour and Gabriola – about \$500 each.
  - Would like financial support from REMAX to paint this sign.

**Action: Gail Lund , Carl Mathisen and Virginia will meet to discuss this issue.**

- b) Hans Klardie –various issues
- Taylor Bay line up – encourage drivers to park bumper to bumper to save space.
  - Change Descanso Bay terminal parking to short term – a few hours only.
  - Employees should park up the hill.
  - Overheights loading out of order.
  - Disabled washroom on board is locked and key is available in the wheelhouse – that doesn't help someone who is disabled.
  - Get rid of the schedule, and just shuttle.

**5. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on June 11, 2002 were approved.

Review of action items:

- i) Dangerous Cargo sailings – Captain Trafford Taylor
- The DC schedule has been changed according to the advice of the FAC.  
*Chair thanked Captain Taylor and BCFC for changing this quickly.*
- ii) Lineup on Taylor Bay Road – Rory Kulmala
- Traffic study has been completed, results indicate that line of sight and stopping distances are acceptable.
  - Cost to remove rock outcropping, widen road on curve and accommodate 17 additional vehicles - \$60,000.
  - Cost to put in two holding lanes for 25 vehicles in turnaround area, controlled by traffic control device - \$88,000. (This does not include cost of land.)
  - Discussion on merits and/or drawbacks of both options.
  - Further discussion on whether to defer this issue, pending discussion on entire traffic handling for the Descanso Bay terminal – questionable due to status of core review and uncertainty of funding for a future all-encompassing project.

**Motion:** That BC Ferries proceed with removing the rock outcropping on Taylor Bay Road. Seconded and passed.

**Action:** BC Ferries will enter into discussions with Ministry of Transportation to determine potential funding or cost sharing, and seek approval for this project.

- iii) Emergency Call Outs – Captain Trafford Taylor & Captain Elgin McKillop
- BC Ferries will respond to emergency call outs when the crew is available.
  - When the crew is not available after hours, BC Ferries will contact Harbour Patrol, and BC Ambulance dispatch.

**Action:** Ann Carpenter will work with Capt. Elgin McKillop to provide Bruce Mason of the Gabriola Sounder with monthly statistics on emergency calls, including those during operational and non-operational hours.

iv) Traffic Statistics - Captain Trafford Taylor

The statistics on vehicle traffic are up 4.6% this September over last September. Up 4.7% on vehicles for year to date. Passenger traffic has shown a 5% increase in September, and 3 ½% for passengers year to date.

v) Fueling on Wednesday evenings – Captain Trafford Taylor

Changes have been done, as agreed at the June 11, 2002 meeting.

## **6. Correspondence**

- a) Linda Case, letter attached
- Concerns re schedule from Gabriola - 3:10 pm difficult for staff and children to get to the ferry.
  - The 5:20 pm ferry is difficult to get for the sports teams.
- b) Kate Scott, student behaviour on *MV Quinsam*
- Captain McKillop and his crew are working to curtail poor behaviour, including smoking.
- c) Glen Murphy, Dangerous Cargo schedule
- Not addressed

### **6.a Appointment of members to Coastal Council**

The committee appointed Fred Apstein & Steve Wohlleben to serve on Coastal Council.

## **7. Election of Committee Chair**

The members agreed to rotate Chairing the meetings, with Fred Apstein and Steve Wohlleben sharing duties as the official contact person for BC Ferries.

## **8. Review of Gabriola Island ferry schedule**

Upon review of the schedule, no changes were recommended.

## **9. Service Interruption Plan – Captain Trafford Taylor**

Captain Taylor provided an overview of BC Ferries Service Interruption Plan, which provides front line staff with guidelines and authority to respond to temporary service interruption issues related to customer service. Implemented in July 2002, the plan is a “living document.” It is updated as improvements to the plan are identified and implemented.

## **10. Descanso Bay terminal upgrade.- Rory Kulmala**

- This project has been put on hold pending results of the government’s core review.
- It could be brought forward again as early as the 2003/04 fiscal year.

**Action: Tabled to next meeting.**

## **11. Other Business**

- a) Correspondence from Jim Brown

Mr. Brown advised that he did not intend for his letter to be a public document.

**Action: Committee members will review Mr. Brown’s letter at a more informal meeting.**

- b) Disabled washroom on Quinsam – Steve Wohlleben

BC Ferries has locked the disabled washroom due to it’s being used for drug activities, and the amount of paraphernalia left behind.

**Action: Options will be looked at by BC Ferries to find a solution. The damaged mirror is being replaced.**

- c) Thank you from Bob Lingwood

Steve Wohlleben advised that Bob Lingwood called to thank him and this Committee for all their efforts and input during the years he was President and CEO, BC Ferries.

- d) Announcements – Cameron Island

Committee members thanked Capt. Elgin McKillop for his efforts in reducing the impact of safety announcements on the residents of Cameron Island.

- e) Loading bicycles – Jeremy Baker

General discussion on the loading of bicycles. In order to be placed at the front of the load, arrive early. Otherwise, leave bicycles at the rear of the load and disembark after the vehicle traffic.

- f) Emergency call outs – Ken Capon

This was referred to Gail Lund for discussion with Ken.

**Next meeting date:** March or April

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:15 pm

Approved: Captain Trafford Taylor: Date: November 4, 2002  
Fred Apstein or Steve Wohlleben Chair: Date: November 2, 2002

**Attachments:**

- 1) .
- 2) .