

Meeting Details:

FAC:	Gabriola Island
Date:	November 28, 2003
Location:	Gabriola Women's Institute Hall-Gabriola Island
Time:	17:00 – 19:00

Attendees:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>BC Ferries</i>
Co-Chair, Fred Apstein	Captain Bill Dickie A/Marine Superintendent
Steve Wohlleben	Senior Master Elgin McKillop Rt 19 – Nanaimo Hbr.-Descanso Bay
Gail Lund	Captain Trafford Taylor Executive Vice President, Operations
	Captain Ratch Wallace A/Vice President, IIS & NS
	Steve Clapton Manager, Terminal Operations, IIS
	Mia Kaye Secretary
	Stephen Nussbaum Communications Manager, IIS & NS
Guests:	
Ian Brownlie President, Gabriola Island Medivac Society	

1. Call to Order:

The Co-Chair, Fred Apstein, called the Meeting to Order at 17:00

2. Approval of Agenda:

- a. The agenda was approved

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2003 were approved and distributed in February.

Review of Action Items/Old Business

a. Emergency Service:

- Captain Ratch Wallace provided the Committee with a status update as outlined in a letter dated November 17, 2003 from BC Ferries CEO David Hahn to MLA Mike Hunter (attached). Highlights included:

- A sub-committee represented by BC Ferries, the Gabriola Medivac Association and the Union reached a consensus that the “on-call” costs to maintain a crew that would respond to “call-outs” is a fixed cost of \$66,535 annually. The related variable costs for the emergency service call-outs would continue to be recovered through billing to BC Ambulance Service.
 - The crews are willing to entertain the proposal of for serving on an on-call roster, but are unwilling to commit until a new collective agreement is signed.
 - An option was presented in the letter to approach the Ferry Commissioner for a \$.20 surcharge on fares to cover the on-call service costs.
 - The Committee received the update and would like to like to review additional options that would spread the costs more equitably over the entire community.
- b. Emergency Dock Update:
- Gail Lund reported that tenders have been issued for the dock upgrade and RDN officials met with the BCAS to review dock requirements.
- c. Terminal Update:
- Steve Clapton provided an update on various terminal issues including:
 - The pick-up and drop-off alignment at the Nanaimo Harbour terminal continues under review.
 - Capital project approval has not been approved yet for washroom and waiting room improvements.
 - Captain Traff Taylor provided a brief review of design standards under development for smaller terminals.
 - The Committee asked BC Ferries to address the issue of widening Taylor Bay road to safely accommodate overload parking.

Action: BC Ferries will review this request with MoTH to determine cost allocation for the widening. BC Ferries will review signage to help clarify areas for parking and directions for a turn around.

- d. Traffic Statistics:
- Steve Clapton and Captain Dickie provided a brief update on an average 2 per cent traffic growth on this route year to date.

Action: BC Ferries will provide the Committee with a quarterly traffic update.

4. New Business

- a. RCMP Visits and Student Behavior Monitoring:
- Steve Wohlleben provided the Committee with an update on this initiative. The increased RCMP presence has had a calming effect on the behavior of the students traveling on the ferry.
- Action: Steve will ask the RCMP to maintain their higher profile and the Senior Master will send a memo to the schools asking them to remind their students of the Code of Conduct while traveling on BC Ferries.**
- b. Coastal Ferries Act and Contract – Essential Services:

- Captain Traff Taylor provided the Committee with a briefing on the Essential Services Order released today with an explanation of the essential services levels set for this route: 11 trips round trips instead of the scheduled 16.
 - c. Status of FAC and Coastal Council:
 - Ratch Wallace reiterated BC Ferries' commitment to consultation with the communities it serves through the Ferry Advisory Committees.
 - Traff Taylor reported that the Coastal Council may still be holding meetings from time to time, however, BC Ferries is not a party to those meetings.
 - d. FAC Member replacements:
 - Steve Wohlleben reported that two members had resigned and need to be replaced.
- Action: BC Ferries will ask the RDN to advertise for two replacement members.**
- e. Tariff Increases:
 - Captain Traff Taylor reported that a tariff increase will be announced in the first week of December with an effective date in early January. The increase will follow the annual increase guidelines of an average of 4.4% on the minor routes and 2.8% on the major routes.

5. Correspondence:

- a. J.R. Young – Schedule proposal: The proposal was received by the committee; BC Ferries will review the ideas presented in future service design considerations.

6. Next Meeting:

- a. March 2004

7. Meeting adjourned: 18:20.

Approved:

Captain Bill Dickie
Fred Apstein, Chair

Date: January 7, 2004
Date: December 18, 2003

Attachments:

- 1. November 17, 2003 letter from David Hahn to MLA Mike Hunter**

November 17, 2003

Mr. Mike Hunter, MLA, Nanaimo
Constituency Office
#106, 335 Wesley Street
Nanaimo, BC V9R 2T5

Dear Mike:

I am writing to follow up on the Gabriola Island Stakeholders meeting we attended in Nanaimo on Tuesday, October 14, 2003. BC Ferries' position on this matter remains clear in that providing after-hours emergency service is the responsibility of the British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS).

However, BC Ferries is in a position to provide after-hours emergency service (11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.) as long as our costs are covered. In addition, the BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union and all employees involved would have to agree in writing to participate.

Brian Hart, on behalf of the Union, canvassed the Gabriola crews on Friday, October 24, 2003. The crews are willing to entertain the proposal of pay (based on the pager-duty premium) for serving on an on-call duty roster, but are unwilling to commit until a new collective agreement with the company is signed.

As you may recall, a sub-committee of representatives from the BCAS, BC Ferries, the Gabriola Island Medivac Society and the Union was formed at this meeting for the purpose of reaching a consensus on the costs to provide the "on-call" service.

Consensus was reached by the sub-committee that the "on-call" costs to maintain a crew that would respond to "call-outs" is a fixed cost of \$66,535 annually. A memo is attached that details these costs. The related variable costs for the emergency service call outs would continue to be recovered through billing to the BCAS.

Mike, I believe you were considering going to the Provincial Government to seek funding for the costs to provide the “on-call” service. We could also approach the Ferry Commissioner to request authorization to levy a \$.20 surcharge from the 377,826 fare-paying customers who travel to and from Gabriola Island. This \$.20 increase would cover the “on-call” service costs, and any surplus/deficit could be carried forward into the following year. Another alternative would be to have a yearly fee that is collected by the Community. This suggestion would require Union participation and Gabriola residents’ agreement.

I encourage everyone to review the numbers and cost estimates and submit any comments and/or questions they may have.

Regards,

David L. Hahn
President & CEO

Attachment: Route 19 Gabriola Call-out Costs

Copy to: Ian Brownlie, Gabriola Island Medivac Society
Mike Donnelly, Nanaimo Regional District
Richard Goode, President Local 2, BCF&MWU
Bill Hardstaff, Director, Gabriola Island Medivac Society
Brian Hart, Deck Officers Representative, BCF&MWU
Gail Lund, Nanaimo Regional District
Captain Elgin McKillop, Sr. Master, “Quinsam”
John McKinstry, BC Ambulance Service
Jackie Miller, President, BCF&MWU
Mark Stefanson, Vice President, Communications
Captain Trafford Taylor, Executive Vice President, Operations
Captain Ratch Wallace, (A) Vice President, Inter Island & Northern Srvs.
Steve Wohlleben, Gabriola Ferry Advisory Committee