



NORTHERN SUNSHINE COAST FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 24, 2001

8:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Jervis Room, Coast Town Centre, Powell River

Attendees:

Committee

Sid Allman
Bert Linder
Lou Wynen

BC Ferries

Ann Carpenter
Communications Co-ordinator
Melanie Christensen
Secretary Marine Superintendent
Senior Captain Martin Doyle
Saltery Bay/Earls Cove
Senior Captain Neil Keeper
Comox/Westview
Gary Leitch, Manager
Stakeholder Relations & Consultation
Senior Captain Lance Lomax,
Texada/Westview
Chair, Captain Tony Monaghan
Marine Superintendent
Peg Wabie
Terminal Manager

1. Call to Order – 08:45 a.m.

Captain Monaghan welcomed everyone to the fall meeting of the Northern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee meeting. Self-introductions were made by all present.

2. Approval of Agenda: Items added to the agenda

- a. Little River Parking Fees
- b. Powell River Outrigger Canoe Society request

3. Previous Minutes of April 10th, 2001:

Item #5: Ann Carpenter will continue to work with Dan Devita to obtain email addresses for distribution of service notices pertaining to local operational issues.

Item #6: The reception to introduce the Queen of Burnaby has been cancelled. Instead Captain Neil Keeper and Senior Catering Supervisor, Marty Bownick are working to create a Customer Appreciation Day in conjunction with the Christmas season. At a later date, there may be a ribbon-cutting in conjunction with the completion of the administration building at Westview Terminal.

Item #9: Due to the core review process of the BC Government, public consultations regarding the Corporate Strategic Plan and Tariff Review have been delayed until spring 2002. Social policy and discounts will be the subjects of the next round of tariff discussions.

4. New Business

4.1 Review of the schedules for the Saltery Bay/Earls Cove, Comox/Westview and Texada/Westview routes.

The statistics for Saltery Bay to Earl's Cove, show a 2.4% increase in vehicles and a small decrease in passengers. The summer schedule is difficult to maintain causing delayed sailing that is frustrating to the public.

Action: Captain Doyle will review and submit recommendations and revisions to the summer schedule.

Action: Upgrades to our terminal public announcement systems will be reviewed to provide current information on delayed/ cancelled sailings.

Action: Ann Carpenter, with the input from Senior Masters, will produce a reference source for employees containing samples of public announcements.

Action: At the spring meeting Peg Wabie will present feedback on the trial project of using computer boards for current information on sailing delays/cancellations.

The statistics for, Comox to Powell River, indicate an 8% increase year to date. While the first sailing arrives in Powell River on schedule, it consistently departs from Comox approximately 10 minutes late. Factors causing this delay are morning startup and safety routines combined with increased traffic.

Action: The first scheduled sailing departing Little River will be changed to 0630 hours effective January 07, 2002. All other scheduled departure and arrival times will remain in effect.

Action: The committee will consider and discuss revised sailing times for the Comox/Westview route at our Spring Meeting.

08:00 a.m. depart Westview	proposed	08:10 a.m. depart Westview
10:00 a.m. depart Comox	proposed	10:10 a.m. depart Comox
12:00 p.m. depart Westview	proposed	12:10 p.m. depart Westview

Action: Ann Carpenter will produce a "Just so you know" pamphlet explaining the vessel's start-up and clearance procedures prior to loading vehicles and departure.

The Texada/Westview traffic statistics demonstrate a 7.26% increase year to date. Lou Wynen indicates that residents are happy with the schedule and no changes are recommended. Construction of Westview Terminal's new administration building has been postponed while specs are being re-evaluated.

4.2 Comox/Westview statistics – The previous monthly traffic statistics detailing increases/decreases by sailing time will be replaced with a new traffic statistic report (*See attachment A*).

4.3 Ferry advisory committee members contact information will be posted on the local ship and at the terminals to assist communities in voicing their concerns or issues.

Ferry Advisory Committee Meetings will be advertised with three main contact names, Chuck Childress, Colin Palmer and Jen Hatch.

Action: Committee members will submit their preference of contact information for Ann Carpenter to create the service notices.

4.4 Ferry Advisory Member appointment process:

Gary Leitch reviewed the process for renewing committee membership. BC Ferries will work with local governments, including First Nations to have representatives appointed to the ferry advisory committee. Current members may submit their names if they wish to continue serving on the committee and expressions of interest from new members are welcome. Terms of reference will be created to guide the work of the committee and to ensure a reasonable rotation of membership. General discussion and clarification followed the presentation.

5.0 Other Business:

5.1 Little River parking fees – Pay parking rates at all BC Ferry Terminals is under review. The proposed increase at Little River would set rates at \$3.00 per 24 hours effective January 01, 2002.

Action: Captain Monaghan will verify if the increase in public parking rates will go through public consultation and report back to this committee.

Update: In view of the small amounts involved, the Executive Management Committee of BC Ferry Corporation made this decision without requiring public consultation and directed staff to inform the relevant ferry advisory committees before the increases were implemented.

5.2 Powell River Outrigger Canoe Society – Ferry advisory committee reviewed a request for use of Westview Terminal's landscaped area facing north.

Action: Peg Wabie, on behalf of BC Ferries and with the support of the ferry advisory committee, will deny this request, as the landscaped area will remain as planned, a designated parkland.

6.0 Next Meeting: March 2002