

**Meeting Details:**

FAC:	Northern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee
Date:	November 16, 2005
Location:	Powell River Town Centre, Powell River
Time:	1:15 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

**Attendees:**

<i>Committee</i>	<i>BC Ferries</i>
Greg Aivazoff, Chair	Captain Gordon Nettleton Marine Superintendent, Northern Islands
Ted Cooper	Martin Doyle Senior Captain, Powell River – Earls Cove
Jim Johnson	Neil Keeper Senior Captain, Comox – Powell River
Matt Macey	Lance Lomax Senior Captain, Texada Island – Powell River
Jack Metcalf	Judy Cryer Manager, Terminal Operations
Andrew Pinch	Marlane Christensen Manager, Aboriginal Relations
Rob Stewart	Mark Stefanson Vice President, Communications
Pete Stiles	Melanie Christensen Administrative Assistant, Marine Superintendent, Northern Islands

**1. Call to Order:**

Greg Aivazoff called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Self-introductions were made by all present.

**2. Approval of Agenda:**

Approved as written.

**3. Public Presentations:**

Nelle Maxey – provided an update on questions asked of Mr. Crilly, BC Ferry Commissioner.

Nelle stated she understood that originally Routes 17 (Comox) and 18 (Texada) would go to alternate service providers as soon as possible, however Mr. Crilly has not signed off on the routes going to alternate service providers.

Denise Reinhart – provided an update for people not involved in the Alternate Service Strategy Working Committee. Denise will forward her report to the Powell River Regional District and City Council.

**4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of the meeting held on April 5, 2005 were approved and distributed on May 5, 2005.

No action items for review.

**5. New Business:**

**a. On Time Performance (OTP), Routes 7 (Saltery Bay/Earls Cove), 17 (Little River/ Westview) & 18 (Blubber Bay/Westview) – Captain Nettleton**

A major initiative by BC Ferries is to improve and maintain a high consistent standard of on time performance on our routes to better enhance customer service. 2005 year to date cumulative on time performance statistics are:

Route 7	58%
Route 17	91%
Route 18	96%

These routes will implement and enforce a customer check in time. Route 17 is investigating the possibility of rescheduling the 12:10 Westview departure to noon, providing cost savings by reducing crew overtime and fuel consumption. The Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) expressed concern of changing the 12:10 Westview departure to noon, which would impact commercial carriers' ability to provide goods and services on a one day turnaround to the Powell River community. BC Ferries will contact commercial carriers to review concerns.

**b. Senior Masters' Route Reports**

Route 7, Saltery Bay – Earls Cove

Senior Captain Martin Doyle and the crew have been concentrating on improving on-time performance (OTP). September statistics decreased due to the early arrival of the MV Queen of Chilliwack transporting traffic volume equal to summer. The Route 7 crew is striving to improve OTP by requesting ship to shore clearance one minute prior to departure. Two regular Masters have been appointed due to retirement and transfers. Saltery Bay Berths #1 and #2 are currently being rebuilt with completion in approximately February 2006.

Route 17, Comox – Powell River

Senior Captain Neil Keeper reports on-time performance decreases in the summer season and will be reviewing the initiative to change the 12:10 Westview departure to noon. A mechanical service interruption in October was due to planned maintenance on one of the MV Queen of Burnaby's engines. This interruption was planned for a historically slow traffic period. The MV Queen of Burnaby will proceed to refit/dry dock in April 2006, with a sustainment project occurring in late 2006.

Route 18, Texada Island – Powell River

Senior Captain Lance Lomax reports the MV North Island Princess will proceed to refit March 2006, with the MV Tachek as the relief vessel. Captain Lomax plans to review the Route 18 sailing schedule with Texada FAC Members regarding the 12:20 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. service gap.

c. Status of Route 17 & 18 Strategy – Mark Stefanson

BC Ferries submitted the report to the Provincial Government on September 30, 2006. BC Ferries has not taken a formal position on alternate service strategies and hopes to commence dialogue with the government in next half of the year.

The Northern Sunshine Coast Service Strategy, Public Consultation can be accessed at: <http://www.bcferrries.com/schedules/mainland/>

d. FAC Membership Process – Mark Stefanson

BC Ferries is committed to the FAC process and looking for improvement. Committee members are requested to forward their suggestions to their FAC Chair, Greg Aivazoff. Gary Leitch will interview Greg for input. BC Ferries aims to have the FAC process review completed by December 31, 2005 in conjunction with appointment of committee members as a result of the upcoming municipal elections. After the municipal elections, interested committee members and local residents have the opportunity to submit their names to local government to serve on the Ferry Advisory Committee. Ads are placed in the local newspapers to solicit interest. Local government selects from those who put their names forward, and those persons form the FAC for the next 3 years.

e. Deployment of New Intermediate Vessel – Mark Stefanson

BC Ferries has signed a letter of intent with Vancouver Shipyards to build a new 125 car intermediate vessel. The current plan is for the new vessel to replace the MV Queen of Tsawwassen on Route 7, which is due to be replaced December 2007. The new intermediate vessel may go to Bowen Island if and when the Bowen Island road system is expanded and updated. The MV Capilano would then be placed on Route 7. Once BC Ferries has more vessels than routes, the objective would be to move vessels to various routes to accommodate traffic trends.

f. Home Porting of M.V. Queen of Burnaby – Mark Stefanson

There are no planned changes of home porting until decisions have been made on the Service Strategy.

g. Community Strategy Review Meeting – July 6 – Greg Aivazoff

Greg Aivazoff requested clarification of comments by Rob Clarke, Executive Vice President Finance & CFO, regarding potential impacts of increasing fares. Mark Stefanson will forward Mr. Aivazoff's request to Mr. Clarke's attention.

**6. Correspondence:**

- a. Barbara Price, Comox Valley FAC Member, expressed her regrets at being unable to attend the meeting. Barbara would like the following statement forwarded, "I can not support home porting but will certainly look at timetable changes."

**7. Next Meeting:**

May 2006

**8. Meeting adjourned:** 2:10 p.m.

**Approved:**

Captain Gordon Nettleton

Greg Aivazoff

Date: December 8, 2005

Date: December 23, 2005