

Meeting Details:

FAC:	Northern Services Ferry Advisory Committee
Date:	October 05, 2005
Location:	Hilton Hotel, Richmond
Time:	8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Attendees:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>BC Ferries</i>
Chair, Steve Smith, Prince Rupert	Captain Edward S. Dahlgren Marine Superintendent, North Coast
David Crosby; Q C Islands	Mark Stefanson, Vice President Communications
Larry Greba; Klemtu	Gary Leitch Manager Stakeholder Relations & Consultation
Ben Robinson, Klemtu	Jason Bowman Manager Terminal Operations, North Coast
Jim Hadley; Shearwater	Mark Liedermann, Director, Business Development
Carol Kulesha; Q C Islands (on line)	Marlane Christensen, Manager, Aboriginal Relations
Jim Nyland; Ocean Falls	Ewan Moir Project Director, Northern Vessels
	Paul Madsen, Project Director
Pete Rauch; Shearwater	Arlene MacLeod Recording Secretary
Brian Roe; Bella Coola	Guests: BCFMWU
	Gregg Dow

Alternates:

Mayor Harry Mose for IV Villani; Port Hardy

Absent:

Earl Newman; Bella Bella

Ross Wilson; Bella Bella

Kathy Nysten; Bella Coola

Mayor Herb Pond; Prince Rupert

1. Call to Order:

S. Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Move items # c and h to top of agenda.

Agenda Additions: New Business

- i: Public Consultation Plan Route 26
- j: Signage Route 40, Bear Cove and Bella Coola

Approved as amended.

M/S/C Rauch/Roe

3. Public Presentations:

- a. Captain Dahlgren and J. Bowman North Coast Review
 - An introduction of Marine Superintendent and Manager Terminal Operations, North Coast
 - Mid-coast tour held September 23 and 24 .
 - Goals and focus of North Coast team defined
 - Hub and spoke diagram: Nimpkish replacement for QPR refit
 - Proposed Ocean Falls be designed as a flag stop
 - There are land ownership issues being worked out.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Accepted as circulated:

M/S/C/ Hadley/Rauch

- a. Review of Action Items of FAC Meeting May 26, 2004.
 - #1: Secured Parking at Klemtu, Bella Bella and Shearwater:
 - A mid-coast tour took place September 23 and 24th.
 - There are land ownership issues being worked out.Status: On Going.
 - # 3: Health Related Transportation:
 - Health Canada funding possibility for BB hospital and QCI.
 - J. Nyland to check and report back.Status: On Going.
 - # 6: The FAC supports a Tourism Marketing Strategy Exercise this fall:
 - Currently there is no marketing staff assigned to the North Coast. Contact M. Kask with issues. Note: Life on the Coast marketing initiative commended.Status: On Going.
 - #7: Reservation space held for Commercial Traffic:
 - A commercial client's meeting was held in Prince Rupert in late April to discuss the enforcement of the cancellation fee and the much broader commercial vehicle policy. Another meeting is set for October.
 - Commercial traffic is under fleet wide review and a new policy is expected to be in place by January 2006.Status: On Going.
 - # 14: Sequence of Stops between Bella Bella and Ocean Falls:
 - Bella Bella community to submit requests for change to the Authority.
 - No update available on this item.Status: On Going.
- a. Review of Action Items of FAC Meeting November 30, 2004.
 - #2: AEQ Allocation discussion.

MOTION: (Nov30.04) To ask BCF to investigate the possibility of multiple sizes for deck AEQ allocation.

- Discussion included:
- A width based tariff to maximize space; enforcement of a revised and effective cancellation policy
- A new motion re AEQ moved as below:

MOTION: In order to maximize the number of under height vehicles accommodated on the vessels this FAC recommends that BCF investigate procedures to identify oversize vehicles (by height or width or vehicle modifications) and charge accordingly.

M/S/C Nyland/Rausch

#4: Request BCFS develop shoulder season schedules for Rtes 10, 11 and 40.

MOTION: This committee requests BC Ferries develop shoulder season schedules for Northern Services Routes 10, 11 and 40 with the goal to extend the summer season.

Captain Dahlgren advised that:

- Rt 40: Permission to push out the season to September 15, removing the gap, has been received
- Rt 11: In process to obtain approval to extend sailings through September
- Rt 10: To be determined due to complexity of refit schedules

B. Roe noted that this is excellent news which will enhance tour bus market travel for Rt 40, particularly the seniors market.

S. Smith requested that this information be forth-coming in writing as quickly as possible, (prior to Nov.04.05), to be available for several large operator conventions being held soon.

Captain Dahlgren advised that Captain Capacci endorses the sharing of this information with user groups to allow for exchange of ideas and to solicit input.

Captain Dahlgren expressed thanks to Captain Capacci and to G. Macarenko and B. McCaskill, (Board Members) for their approval to bring this information forward at this time.

Status: On Going.

Review of Action Items of FAC Meeting March 30, 2005.

#1: Extension of the northern summer service.

ACTION: S. Smith, IV Villani and W. Magnes to collaborate with Tourism BC to prepare a collaborative business plan to promote the extension of the northern summer service.

Update: S. Steve advised:

- they were not able to meet with W. Magnes
- there are several tourism conventions scheduled Nov./Dec.
- the intent is to promote multi-transportation group packages
- there are tourism promotion dollars available from the government

Status: On Going.

#2 and #3: Policy or protocol for missed ports.

P. Rauch advised that a policy to provide service and a communications contact to Shearwater when the QPR cannot get in to Shearwater, needs to be in effect. The meeting held on September 23/24 at mid-coast ports addressed these issues.

Status: Closed.

#4: New northern ships to be expedited as quickly as possible.

S. Smith, Chair, to write a letter to the appropriate ministries to recommend that the new northern ships be expedited as quickly as possible with an outline of the downside of the delay. To be copied to BCF and BCF Board of Directors.

Action: S. Smith to write a letter within 7 days.

Status: On Going.

#5: Handling of requests to play special DVD subject matter.

This is a marketing initiative and all requests should be directed to M. Kask.

Status: On Going.

#6: Cancellation fee penalty to customers that cancel reserved space.

This item is being addressed.

Status: Closed.

5. Correspondence:

Letters received from: District of Port Hardy: R. Davidge

and Port Hardy & District Chamber of Commerce, J. Tidbury

Both letters supported an increase in service on Routes 10 and 40.

The two letters are on file as received.

a. Report from the Chair: S. Smith

Focused on the need for new ships to the north

Response to the Chair: M. Stefanson

6. New Business:

h. Report from BCF Annual General Meeting

M. Stefanson reported on the BCF AGM held in West Vancouver on September 20th. Highlights:

- It was a successful year
- The approval to proceed with intermediate vessel was received

- There will be a second application for fuel surcharge submitted
- There are some security changes with new international environment
- Copies of documents are available on the BCF website or contact G. Leitch and he will arrange to get copies to you

f. ASP update

M. Liedermann reported on the Alternate Service Provider process:

- BCF holds the contract for 60 years
- Request for Expression of Interest closed September 30
- Applications are currently under review for compliance.
- Request for Qualification anticipated date is late November
- Request for Proposal anticipated date is late June 2006
- Discussions continue with the government surrounding new fee structure and core service levels
- Suggested that a FAC member be involved as a non voting member of the review committee if possible
- BCFS are given the same latitude as to other bidders
- Anticipate a 10 year contract, with 10 years to renew
- Communications strategy in place to provide information to the union and employees and the community

c. Update on approvals for proposed new ferries

E. Moir discussed the process taking place to secure new ferries for the North

a. Comparative results from 2002-2005 seasons for Route 40

B. Roe requested comparative results for the seasons for Route 40

P. Madsen will provide traffic data for all routes to B. Roe and to L. Greba.

b. Development of joint marketing initiatives

B. Roe:

- Noted that the attitude turn around of BCF is very positive
- Advised he is in discussion with M. Kask regarding joint community marketing initiatives
- Suggested that community publications should include BCF profile to enhance "marketing the coast"
- Suggested that community working groups be established to work with M. Kask

MOTION: B. Roe draft and circulate for comment, a letter to BCF Marketing department, suggesting that the Ferry Advisory Committee work with BCF on formulating and launching a joint marketing program to encourage communities, D.M.O's and BC Ferries to work more co-operatively on marketing coastal tourism.
M/S/C Roe/Mose

d. Status of Kwuna

Captain Dahlgren advised:

- That the Kwuna refit is 3 days ahead of schedule

- The vessel will be a superior product when refit completed
- The target dates look good at this time
- The legs will be the last part to be installed
- The goal is to return the ship to the QCI for trials and retraining of crews at their own locations
- The previous advertised schedule will be recommenced on the vessel's return to service

e. Review of mid-coast routing

J. Nyland advised:

- That he had informal discussions with the crew regarding adding a stop at Ocean Falls for 2006 season
- On the Tuesday / Wednesday routing to Bella Coola a stop at Ocean Falls could be achieved without interrupting the Bella Coola arrival time and it would provide an option of a circle trip of Port Hardy, Ocean Falls to Bella Coola enhancing tourists options

ACTION: Captain Dahlgren suggested that J. Nyland submit in writing the details of the additional stop at Ocean Falls and he will consult with the Sr. Master and explore this request as a reasonable option.

g. Baggage Policy, all routes

J. Bowman advised:

- That the nominal excess baggage charge is being re-evaluated
- There is a change in response to security issues, and no unaccompanied baggage will be accepted on our ferries
- Each terminal will monitor the baggage policy with tighter control being regulated
- A new policy is currently being worked on and input is welcome
- Implementation of the new policy target date is January 2006
- BCF is available to assist the communities to provide an economic opportunity to a supplier in order move goods in new ways with the goal of improving service to the communities

i. Public Consultation, Route 26 Service Plan

G. Leitch provided 2 handouts: Project Consultation Plan – Draft
Consultation Responsibility Matrix – Draft

Discussion regarding Alliford Bay POA

- Difficulty in obtaining certified crew
- There are open community meetings planned to allow BCF and the communities to work together to find acceptable solutions

j. Signage route 40 - Bella Coola and Bear Cove - B. Roe

B. Roe reported that Route 40 signing needs some attention and he was advised that all signage issues are to be referred to M. Cummings at Fleet House.

7. Next Meeting:

- a. March 29, 2006: Richmond

Meeting Adjourned: 4:00 p.m.

Approved:

Captain Edward S. Dahlgren,
Marine Superintendent, North Coast
Steve Smith, Chair

Date: October 17, 2005

Date: October 17, 2005

Attachments:

1. Summary: Outstanding Actions & New Motions