

Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) - Record of Meeting

Date:	October 28, 2019
Committee Name:	Chemainus-Thetis-Penelakut
Routes:	20

Attendees:

<p>For the FAC:</p> <p><i>Chair(s):</i> Keith Rush</p> <p><i>Members</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selena Hayes, Ann-Maire Koeppen • Sue French, Ken Hunter, Jim Chisholm 	<p>For BCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Simpson, Brian Anderson • Camrin Hillis, Al de Koninck • Darin Guenette, Loriena Melnick • Steve Anderson • Capt Jean-Francois Bureau
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Points of Information/Agreement:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Penelakut dock. The government wharf on Penelakut requires upgrades, and they have contacted the federal government to begin discussions. The FAC suggested that a letter of support from BC Ferries would be appreciated, as this is also useful to their contingency operations. 2. August operational meeting; updates. Late starts – all crew members have now been given 30 minutes for start-ups, versus 15 minutes as in the past. Staging vehicles. Analysis is underway to seek efficiencies in how vehicles are staged and ticketed at Chemainus, which will help the loading process. Discussion happened around ideas such as lane assignment for each island, etc. Cam noted that BCF will trial some sort of process for lane-staging at Chemainus. On-time performance. Once staging/loading efficiencies have been explored, the other option to improve reliability is to look at schedule changes. To this, BCF wondered if there may be appetite to change some of the sailings back to ‘dedicated runs’ (as in the past). This does not reduce capacity, but does reduce frequency. There was further discussion on whether more direct sailings may be beneficial during certain time-of-day or in the peak season. BCF can work with FAC members on looking at schedule changes if they feel dedicated sailings would be supported in general in the community. One idea is to review some schedule options at the next ‘ops meeting’. BCF will look at changing the foot passenger load/unload process...such that people will follow vehicles unloading, and walk-off while oncoming foot passengers will load. Selena noted that the school bus schedule has been rerouted to avoid sitting and waiting at Chemainus in the morning. School starts at 8:45, so if the scheduled 8:35 arrival could be dependable, this would help solve these problems.
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- For future ops meetings, there will be a member of the deck department attend (Tom Taylor moved routes). Discussion occurred around options for communicating/changing sailings if the vessel is full leaving one port heading to the other. NOTE: next ops meeting to occur in January.
3. Dangerous Cargo sailings. FAC asked if the current DG schedule is working well, and BCF said it is. In a related manner, BCF is planning a risk assessment this week to analyse if non-DG commercial vehicles may be able to travel on DG sailings. They will confirm with FACs if this is approved.
 4. Friday schedule. With an extra round-trip on Fridays, the schedule was adjusted...and it seems to mostly show improvement. Otherwise, issues were already covered earlier.
 5. Horseshoe Bay Terminal Development Plan. The most recent phase of engagement (public sessions, online surveys, etc) has just wrapped up. BCF will take feedback and work on finalizing the plan, which will be followed by a project/implementation plan.
 6. Island Class ferry update. The first two ferries of this new class are just preparing to leave the shipyard in Romania, and they will be going into service in spring of 2020 on the Texada and Port McNeill routes. These 47 AEQ vessels will become the future 'smallest vessel in the fleet', and eventually deployed across many inter-island routes, including Route 20.
 7. PT5 update. Performance Term 5 (as part of the Coastal Ferry Services Contract) will begin April 1, 2020. Recently, the Commissioner set a price cap that would allow a maximum fare increase of 2.3% in order to cover all expected cost projections during the four-year term. Many factors and variables are involved in forecasting revenue and expense projections, and BCF will be monitoring all aspects very closely.
 8. BC Ferries updates. BCF noted that their website revamp is expected to be launched in early 2020, and that the fare flexibility initiative (dynamic pricing for major routes, depending on demand) will follow soon after. As well, both Current Conditions and parking lot info will indicate the percentage of space available on the new website, instead of space 'taken' as is now displayed.
 9. Spring FAC meeting. It was decided to hold the spring 2020 meeting on Penelakut.

Action Items¹:

Item	Who	By When
1. Consider providing a letter of support for Penelakut dock.	Loreina	In progress
2. Work on process for staging vehicles 'by island' at Chemainus.	Cam and JF	Ongoing
3. Analyse if foot passengers should be off-loaded after vehicles, and then inform the FAC if trial process will happen.	Al	Year-end

¹ Significant Service Request (SSR) requiring detailed analysis and formal decisions from BCF should be submitted using the SSR process. Submission of a SSR should be noted as an Action Item.