LUMMI ISLAND FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LIFAC)

Eighth Meeting

March 05, 2013

CALL TO ORDER
Committee Chair Mike McKenzie called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in the Lummi Island Fire Hall, Bellingham, Washington.

ROLL CALL
Present: Charles Antholt, Greg Brown, Robert Bush, Stu Clark, Crispin Colburn, Mike McKenzie, Josh Zender (0636)

FLAG SALUTE

MINUTES CONSENT
1. Approved minutes for October 15, 2012 Meeting (re-signed a copy of the September 19, 2012 meeting by mistake last month).

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
1. McKenzie announced that tonight’s meeting has been designated as a work session and that there would still be an open session for public comment. While in the work session McKenzie will reserve the right to restrict public comment and interaction. The work session is primarily for the LIFAC members to work amongst themselves. McKenzie explains that the emphasis of the work session will be to get the presentation from the last week into the assignment mode in order to determine if it is viable to take forward to the County.

OPEN SESSION (There were 9 members of the public attending the meeting – see the sign-in sheet)
(During open session, audience members can speak to the council on any issue. Each speaker should state his or her name for the record and will be given three minutes to address the council. Council staff will keep track of time limits and inform speakers when they have thirty seconds left to conclude their comments.)
Joan Moye commended the members on the work that they are doing said “thank you so much”
Jim Dickenson asked if he could reserve his questions and comments to be part of the work session as much of the information for the presentation was information provided by him.

OLD BUSINESS
1. 55/45 Formula. McKenzie stated that he has requested to be on the March 12th Public Works and Health & Safety Committee Meeting Agenda to present the LIFAC recommendations agreed to at the February 11th LIFAC Meeting. Mike will seek some help from Zender for some support on the phrasing of the recommendation. The message from LIFAC was that it has approved the 55/45 Formula but wants addition budget information in the near future.
2. Zuanich Proposal – LIFAC closed this proposal with no action or comment.
3. LIFAC Meeting Schedule – The schedule was approved by unanimous consent of the Committee and is as follows:

Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee announces the following schedule for Work Sessions and Meetings to be held at the Lummi Island Fire Hall on Tuesdays at 6:30PM:

--March 5th, 6:30-7:40, work session
--April 2nd, 6:30-7:40, business meeting
--May 7th, 6:30-7:40, work session
--June 4th, 6:30-7:40, business meeting
--July 2nd, 6:30-7:40, work session
--August 6th, 6:30-7:40, business meeting

Meeting dates are subject to change with appropriate notice.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Clark requested that there be an agenda item on the next meeting to discuss the format for the work sessions.

OTHER BUSINESS

WORK SESSION - Next steps for refining the presentation to the County Public Works Committee regarding the best options for the future of the Lummi Ferry the Whatcom Chief.

Questions from the discussion

1. Is it the long term viability of the Whatcom Chief and evaluating its sustainability?
2. Is it to evaluate the possibility of leveraging an alternative ferry (Plattsburgh) and evaluating the merits of that vessel in our particular environment?
3. What are some of the specific weaknesses of the Whatcom Chief?
4. What about the fuel efficiencies of the vessels?
5. What will be the impacts of a major failure of the Whatcom Chief and is there a contingency plan?
6. What are the weaknesses in the Whatcom Chief that make it difficult to handle a major quick response activity on the island, i.e. a large forest fire?
7. What is the cost for a rental ferry?
8. Does a larger ferry make emergency response better?

Discussion on these questions determined that LIFAC should be looking at the strength’s and weaknesses of each vessel and making a comparison. LIFAC will need to determine where the information gaps are and try and fill these gaps.

Brown commented that he had sent a letter to a Marine Architect, John Gilbert of Gilbert Associates of Boston, Ma. The letter was to request information on how to get condition and/or inspection information regarding the Plattsburgh.
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The workshop developed action items as listed for the following Committee Members that need to be researched and addressed for the LIFAC April 2nd Meeting. This is information we need to know in order to make a technically correct presentation.

McKenzie – Discuss and/or request the following information from Public Works
- A condition assessment to include all prior work orders, reports from the dry dock inspections, findings, repairs, recommendations and costs for the Whatcom Chief (10 years minimum). Obtain Maintenance Reports.
- Firm price on fuel utilization and fuel costs over the last 5 years for the Whatcom Chief
- Accident Claims history for the Whatcom Chief
- Will the current ferry docks be sufficient for a larger (longer) ferry?

Colborn/Zender
- Develop a risk matrix (3 year period) around the question – What if the Whatcom Chief fails?
- Zender - Bonding carrying costs over time for the Plattsburgh

Bush/Duncan
- Information and/or plans from the Island Fire Department on a large forest fire or some worst case scenario and how the Whatcom Chief is able to address the needs to provide for evacuation, firefighting equipment, supplies, resources and other necessary materials.
- Maybe contact the DNR in Sedro Woolley and get their input on the failings of the Whatcom Chief.

Fox (Island Resident)
- Review the Federal Register for non-compliance issues with the Whatcom Chief. Also issues relating to ADA factors

Brown
- Required modifications for the Plattsburgh / get ready and get it here costs (Nichols Brothers)
- Firm price on fuel utilization and fuel costs over the last 5 years for the Plattsburgh
- A financial report that would give us a better sense of the maintenance, operations, and repair costs associated with the Plattsburgh

McKenzie requests to meet with Rhayma Blake to help determine how this issue will be received by the Island Community and would they be willing to support the effort. He also is concerned about how the crew of the Whatcom Chief feels about replacement of the ferry.

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING
The date for the next meeting is Tuesday April 2nd.

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL
FLAG SALUTE
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MINUTES CONSENT
PUBLIC COMMENT
OLD BUSINESS
   1. 45/55 FERRY BUDGET SPECIFICS
NEW BUSINESS
   1. Work Session Format
ADJOURN

ADJOURN
The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The Committee approved these minutes on April 2, 2012

ATTEST:

Michael McKenzie, Committee Chair

Michael McKenzie, Committee Chair