Hello

Attached are the draft December 16, 2014 meeting minutes of the LIFAC Long Range Planning Sub-committee. As you know, Mike Skehan stepped down as chair and committee member and no other chair was identified. I am sending the draft minutes for your convenience to stay abreast of Ferry Planning activities as he used to do. I want to thank Mike for his service to the sub-committee. His leadership will be missed.

The sub-committee decided to wait for further direction from LIFAC and until the HIYU issue is resolved before doing additional long range planning work as described in the minutes. Rich and Rhayma will continue to their work on the narrative. No next meeting was determined, but Chuck is working on setting one up.

Thanks.

Beth Walukas Louis
Call to Order
Mike Skehan, Sub-Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. after a quorum was established.

In attendance were: LIFAC Committee Members Byron Moye; Sub-Committee Members Mike Skehan (Chair), Rhayma Blake, Beth Walukas Louis, and Rich Frye.

Welcome and Public Comment – None received.

Regular Agenda
A. Adopt Minutes of October 21, 2014: Byron moved that the minutes be approved; Rhayma seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

B. Work Plan Updates: Mike S. reported that Chuck emailed some demographic information earlier today that included a “what if” fare proposal and that Mike McKenzie mentioned at LIFAC that this sub-committee would be taking up fares in 2015. Mike S. asked for input on what the sub-committee members thought about adding short term fare proposal review to our work scope. Mike S. stated that he doesn't see a review of fares in the long range planning work plan other than how it relates to long term planning and that it may be something this sub-committee will want to take up at a later date. The sub-committee members discussed this stating that:

- What the county does with the LIFAC fare proposal recently submitted needs to be considered;
- A better public process for how LIFAC does annual review of fares needs to be defined and that this sub-committee could help define that process. Public comment on the current fare proposal called for a review of what Skagit County and the State are doing with respect to fare policy and for LIFAC to cherry pick what would be good guidance from what is already being successfully implemented on other ferry systems;
- At the present time our work plan has not been adopted or accepted by LIFAC and until more definitive direction is provided by LIFAC, it might not be the right time to add more scope;
- While from the long term point of view fares are important, it is not the purpose of this sub-committee to set short term fare policy or fares; and that
- Providing input to LIFAC on annual fare review would be better served by a separate sub-committee.

Mike S. reported that he has completed his Phase 1 tasks and hasn’t started the Phase 2 tasks.

Rhayma reported that she went to the Whatcom County Public Works Committee meeting and that it was interesting to see how the County Committee process worked. She said it brought up
the question about how we want to work with County Committees, Council and staff long term. It appears that County Council will not move forward with a Lummi Island proposal without Public Works Committee recommendation. Rhayma asked what our strategy was for getting Public Works Committee buy-in on our items before they are submitted by LIFAC so that they have the best chance of being approved by the Committee and by Council. It will be important to see how LIFAC can get leverage with the Public Works Committee down the road for when we need it for this sub-committee’s recommendations. Rhayma also reported that LIYRA, the group that is replacing the Boys and Girls Club, is putting together a video on island issues.

Beth reported that she received the 2036 model data from Whatcom COG, but has not yet done any analysis of it.

Rich demonstrated the prototype blog he developed for collecting data on the Lummi Island narrative and asked for feedback. The group stated that it looked like an effective, interactive tool for collecting data and developing a conversation and narrative about the ferry and what it means to us. The questions and timing of the questions still need to be developed. There was a discussion about the type of questions that might be useful and how people who did not have access to computers might be reached. The group suggested doing surveys at the post office or going to meetings such as PLIC, LICA, etc…Rich stated that he is counting on being able to target the PLIC and Tome/Brown Betty email lists.

Byron reported he attended a meeting at Nickelson’s Boat Builders with other LIFAC members to get a handle on costs to widen the bow and redo the Whatcom Chief vs. how much a bare bones ferry would cost. They learned that a new ferry is roughly $400,000 to $500,000 per car, would take about 3 months to plan, and 9 months to a year to build. They also are getting additional information about the HIYU, which is a 50-year boat like the Chief. Byron asked how with two older boats with the same lifespan do you convince the County it is a worthwhile trade, if we could keep the Chief for a back-up or rent it out, and if a new boat costs $7 to 8 million and takes a year to build, should we hold onto to the Chief.

C. Meeting Schedule and Facility for 2015: Mike S. reported that the meeting room is not scheduled in 2015 for sub-committee meetings. He recommended coordinating with Mike M. and County Council to schedule future sub-committee meetings (see Item D below). January 6, 2015 is the next LIFAC meeting.

D. Selection of New Chair for 2015: Mike S. officially resigned as chair and member of the Long Range Planning Sub-committee as of December 4, 2014, effective at the end of this meeting, and opened up the floor for nominations. Rhayma stated that she was sorry to see him go and thanked Mike S. for serving as the Chair and for all his hard work on the sub-committee in developing the work scope. The other sub-committee members also thanked Mike for his diligent efforts. No nominations were made.

Beth stated that being chair of the sub-committee was a difficult job without LIFAC providing clear direction on the sub-committee’s work. She would like to see LIFAC adopt the scopes of work for both sub-committees in light of LIFAC's current workplan. Without this specific LIFAC direction, the sub-committees have no guarantee that LIFAC will move the sub-
committee work forward as a recommendation to the County. If it is not LIFAC's intent to move a recommendation forward to the County, then it is difficult to justify why effort should be expended on long range planning and why the sub-committee’s work is needed. It is LIFAC that puts proposals forward to County staff and Council and LIFAC who should provide leadership on the island around ferry issues. Work scopes and products should reflect LIFAC’s vision around ferry issues and need to be adopted by LIFAC. She would also like LIFAC to establish a schedule/timeline for completion of each task or phase in the workplan that coordinates both sub-committees and LIFAC's activities. It is frustrating to be working at cross purposes and it would be a great help for LIFAC to lead and coordinate the efforts of both sub-committees. And finally, she would like to see LIFAC establish a public comment process where sub-committee work products are presented to LIFAC at LIFAC's regular meetings and comments received by LIFAC and the public are received and responded to in writing. In order for a work product to be accepted and approved by LIFAC, comments should be addressed before action is taken by LIFAC. Having such a review process takes longer, but would build acceptance and assure sub-committee members and the community that we are delivering LIFAC's vision.

Byron recommended that we wait until the HIYU issue is straightened out before long range planning goes on.

Rich and Rhayma stated that they would like to continue with gathering information on the meaning of the ferry to the community and hopefully that will help LIFAC get leverage with the county for ferry issues.

**Adjournment/Next Meeting**
The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m. Next meeting to be determined at the direction of LIFAC or when needed.

Adopted _____________ Recorded by: Beth Walukas Louis