

Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee (LIFAC)

July 2021 Meeting: 6pm, July 14 on Zoom platform

CALL TO ORDER

Charles Bailey, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:13pm

ROLL CALL

(Quorum) **Rhayma Blake (from airport), Charles Bailey, Jim Dickinson, Judy Olsen.** (Excused
Absent: **Mike McKenzie, Gregory Rice.**)

Others Attending:

Public Works—**Roland Middleton, Marie Duckworth**

County Council—**Todd Donovan** (6:45)

Gallery—**Cris Colburn, Bill Fox, David Kershner, Mary Ross (Zoom host), Mike Skehan, and Mary Jane Van Hoesen**

Open Session

No comments

Approval of Minutes

Judy moved to approve. Jim expressed concern that his comments from June meeting were not included in the minutes.

Charles moved to approve minutes at a later time via email, subject to Jim sending written “addendum” due no later than one week (by 7/21) to add to June minutes.

Motion Approved: JO, CB, RB, JD

[NOTE: Jim submitted his comments and they were incorporated and the minutes were approved by email 7/21]

Discussion of meeting platform: Continue via zoom or in person?

Todd Donovan mentioned that Whatcom County policy is to resume in-person meetings in September.

Jim prefers in-person. Mike McKenzie (via previous comment to Judy Olson) prefers in-person and suggests hybrid combo of Zoom/attending. Jim expressed that a hybrid meeting should be “easy” to create.

Judy suggested that since we barely have a quorum and Rhayma was strained by remote connection that we continue Zoom for August meeting and discuss further at that time. Jim expressed that a hybrid meeting should be “easy”.

Old Business

Senior Ferry Master **Rich Hudson** was not present due to recovery from health issues. Hence:

- No comments on Sani Can at Gooseberry Point.

- No updates on Weather station. (Mike McKenzie reported previously that he's working with John Mulhern on a plan to secure funding.)

Dry Dock – **Roland Middleton** shared that Public Works just received a bid.

Ferry Service – Roland said Rich is gathering comments on current ferry service.

- Jim said not being able to purchase punch cards on the vessel is inconvenient.
- From the gallery, **Mary Jane** shared frustration over recently missing a 9:40am run based on judgement call of the captain at the time to get back on schedule.
- Judy felt that on-island ferry punch-card sales are promoted well.
- Judy also commented that the off-island traffic on July 5th was the heaviest she's seen in her personal recollection.

Recent Unscheduled Outage due to hydraulic issues at the Island terminal – Roland shared that Public Works is losing some “institutional knowledge” of current systems due to attrition and there is a learning curve with new personnel.

Mary Jane inquired as to why Jon Hutchings does not regularly attend LIFAC meetings.

Fuel Usage Comparison – Roland reported that in response to concerns at a recent meeting, Rich and **Liz Cosa** requested Elliot Bay Design Group review the original projections of fuel usage for new ferry. They are able to report (via Roland) that a calculation error occurred, and that the correct projection is for 186 gallons/day for the new vessel compared to the current Whatcom Chief usage of 180 gallons/day. This projects to nearly the same fuel usage with more carrying capacity. Charles suggested that perhaps Liz could go over these findings at next meeting.

BUILD Grant Support – Roland asked LIFAC to support his initiative to gather signatures on a letter in support of the BUILD grant application. The letter to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg will be available for signing at the Public Works table at the Island Saturday Market, Aug. 7. It will be appropriate to make calls to our congressional delegation as well in September.

CRAB application process is on schedule.

Replacement Ferry Design – Jim shared his disagreement with the hull design and power source once again. Roland rebuttal – we are following recommendations of “experts” and KPFF.

Aug. 7th public information ‘kiosk’ at Lummi Island Saturday Market

- Roland requested that LIFAC invite County Council members to this Public Works community outreach event. Charles will email Dana Davis Brown to forward invites to all.

- Marie is creating an announcement for presence at the market and flyers to hand out and an online presence for individuals to submit suggestions for naming the new ferry. These were reviewed by screen share and minor suggestions for changes were made. Judy offered to distribute as commonly done for LI notices.
- There was discussion of subsequent / similar public outreach after the session Aug. 7, to be determined when and how. Roland opines that maybe an Open House is appropriate after funding is in place.
- Discussion of when to unveil the informational flyer. Determined that one week prior to Aug. 7 was best.

Final agenda item

Mike Skehan presented a recap of summary of MICROGRID 2021 National Conference.

There is a page on the Lummi Island websites www.lummi-island.com and www.ourlummiisland.org devoted to Microgrid. Mike stated that at this time there are no next steps identified.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:30pm