

Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee (LIFAC)

Wednesday, March 9, 2022, Regular meeting starting at 6:00 PM, Web platform

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

LIFAC members: Judy Olsen, Mike McKenzie, Todd Lagestee, Reid Johnson, Rich Frye, Jim Dickinson, Cris Colburn

MOMENT OF SILENCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – approved sent via email 3/9

LIFAC INTERNAL BUSINESS

1. New Chair Remarks –

- a. Timeliness – please send agenda items with more notice to include, items will be prioritized and addressed as time allows
- b. Reminder to check LIFAC commitments and responsibilities
- c. Personal statement from chair, Cris Colburn
 - i. Get funding to replace ferry
 - ii. Keep current vessel running reliably
 - iii. Explore converting new ferry to be electric as soon as possible

2. Meeting Location – April Meeting

Mike McKenzie moves to hold meeting in person at Grange Hall with zoom option available. Motion seconded. Discussion, we feel confident we can hold a hybrid meeting without any technical issues.

3. Discussion on Annual Budget and Performance Review:

Proposed to reach out to Public Works and ask what timing works best for their review. Due to flooding and other issues the department is extremely busy.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ferry Operations – Rich Hudson

- 3/16 Maintenance outage for hydraulic issues on Gooseberry apron
- 3/23 Early shutdown. Last run at 9:10PM from Gooseberry. Drilling operation off Gooseberry side
- 3/12 No Masks required unless inside the seating area
- No plan yet for accepting cash or selling punch cards on the boat
- Dry Dock on schedule. Lake Union Dry Dock \$337,000 won the bid
- 3/8 Ferry Outage – steering issues on #1 end.
- 2 new ferry relief workers Kelsey McLain and Annie Justice

2. Ferry Replacement Update – Roland Middleton

- a. State Transportation Budget - \$5.3 million for Lummi Island ferry included in the House and Senate. Not approved yet.
 - b. RAISE Grant – deadline now 4/16/22, submit by 4/11. Critically important.
 - i. Asking LIFAC to write letter in support of grant, show wide community support and effort put into process. Must be sent to Public Works by April 8th. Encourage community to write/email to senators.
 - c. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – do not qualify as currently written. Must be a 50+ mile route. Rick Larsen is trying to amend. Public Works will still apply.
 - d. CRAB Grant – Application submitted. \$10 million total. Paid \$500,000 a year for 20 years. Spring meeting in April for discussion. Vote not likely until summer.
3. Update on Shore Power Study
- a. Public Works is requesting Puget Sound Energy do a study for what is needed to power an electric ferry. The alternatives analysis is included in the ferry plans and being prioritized for the ferry.
4. Public Awareness –
- a. Tome Deadline – Friday, March 11, 4PM
 - b. Letter and Phone campaign to State (CRAB) and Federal (RAISE) government delegates – Mike McKenzie will prepare and distribute. Will be available on LICA website and other public locations on island
 - c. Other outreach opportunities?
5. Public Dock Advisory Committee update – Mike McKenzie
- a. Dock is on the agenda for March 17th Parks meeting

OPEN SESSION:

MJ – ferry outage causing issues like no propane delivery during winter

Question to Roland – If funding approved would it need to be used in fiscal year?

Answer – Funding would be spent within that time frame. Plenty of work to be done.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion – LIFAC to write a letter in support of RAISE Grant funding highlighting service involvement. Will review via email. Due by April 8th which is before our next meeting. Passed unanimously.

Todd – encourage to compare other county ferries, their state budget allotment, collect data points for comparison of how funds are being allocated based on population, taxes, etc.

Rich Frye – raise the issue of ongoing weather events and the danger of losing access to the ferry or off Gooseberry point. Also mention the long-term relationship building with the Lummi Tribe. Roland is actively involved in Gooseberry projects and is the Lummi liaison and would be happy to discuss both topics at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned. 7:44PM