



# Board of Director Regular Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2019 Recorder: Donna Halvorsen

1. **Call Meeting To Order:** Harvey Mc Donald called meeting to order at 10:05am.

2. **Roll Call:**

Chair	Klawock	Jeff Nickerson	present via teleconference
Vice Chair	At Large	Dee Dee Jeffreys	present via teleconference
Sec/Tres	Craig	Otis Gibbons	present
Director	Coffman Cove	Brian Wilson	absent excused
Director	Thorne Bay	Harvey McDonald	present via teleconference
Director	Wrangell	Patricia Gilbert	present via teleconference
Director	Hydaburg	Anthony Christianson	arrived at 10:30am

Staff Present: Chrissy Torsey-Lucero and Donna Halvorsen

Staff present via teleconference: Ron Curtis

Public Present: None

Public present via teleconference: None

3. **Approval of Agenda** Motion: Approve agenda as presented; moved by DeeDee Jeffreys and seconded by Harvey McDonald. Motion approved unanimously.

4. **Approval of Minutes** Motion: Approve minutes from September 16, 2019; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by DeeDee Jeffreys. Motion approved unanimously.

5. **Public Comment** NA

6. **Correspondence** NA

7. **Manager's Report** Ron asks if anyone had any questions or comments about his report. Otis asks if we need a Board vote on the marijuana policy? He continues that since policy is the Boards job and for legal reasons, we should have Board approval of the policy. Ron, DeeDee, and Jeff agree. Ron apologizes and explains that he didn't think of that and we were trying to be legally compliant to the USCG Regulations. The marijuana policy will be presented at next BOD meeting. Jeff asks Ron what the current policy is, and Ron replies basically its leave your weed at home. Ron continues that if we find marijuana on a person or if they tell us they have some, they can't travel with us. This policy will drive people to either leave it at home or hide it better; we are not law enforcement and perform screening to ensure explosives etc are not present. The Troopers and USCG don't want to know about anything less than an ounce. Jeff states he likes that policy and doesn't want the IFA helping to transport large quantities of marijuana.

Otis states that he would like us to consider the Dora Bay stop carefully and proceed politically correctly as there have been several other entities asking for the same thing. Donna states that if we proceed with discussions, we would use the same criteria we've used for anyone asking us to cover a route, like having the right dock, having enough ridership, and being under the maximum number of hours we can be on the water per day. Ron states that there are a lot of uncertainties and recommends that the Board looks at their website to get an idea what's going on.

Ron states that since we do not have the Buy America waivers in place, our contingency plan is to move forward on some work on the Stikine without Federal funds. He continues that it looks like the work will cost just under 300K and has confirmed that we can use our State funding to cover the work. Harvey asks what the waivers were for and Ron states that they were for the pitch control units and reduction gears on the Stikine. Ron states that we will use the Federal funds with waivers later for the Prince of Wales and keep working on the Stikine now; we need to keep the Stikine in top shape to continue service. He continues that we can hope that the waivers go through but our contingency plan is to keep the Stikine running.

Jeff comments that he isn't sure if the Board wants to approve the Manager's report formally and would like input. Harvey states that perhaps reading it into the minutes and approving the minutes is enough but if we want to make a motion, he's okay with that. Jeff states he just wanted to bring it up so he knew which way it would go for future meetings; Board approval of minutes includes Manager report.

8. **Old Business** NA

9. **New Business**

- a) Motion: Approve Resolution No. 2020-04 Modify Employee Handbook to include changes to the Lifetime Benefit Travel; moved by Otis Gibbons and seconded by DeeDee Jeffreys. A roll call vote was taken and motion passes.

Jeff Nickerson	yes
DeeDee Jeffreys	yes
Otis Gibbons	yes
Harvey McDonald	yes
Patty Gilbert	yes

- b) City of Hydaburg is working on selecting an IFA BOD representative and formally filling the seat. They will have a meeting January 2020 and per Ordinance #09-04, the Mayor with concurrence from the city's council will appoint a Director to represent Hydaburg.

10. **Board Comments** DeeDee thanks Ron, Chrissy, Angie and Donna for getting everything ready for the IFA By The Numbers publication and sent to Rain Coast Data. Anthony requests a copy of the Hydaburg Ordinance 09-04 and IFA Bylaws.

11. **Schedule Next Meeting** TBA

12. **Adjournment** DeeDee Jeffreys moves to adjourn meeting and is seconded by Harvey McDonald. Jeff Nickerson adjourns meeting at 10:36am

## Manager's Report

To: Inter-Island Ferry Authority Board of Directors

From: Ron Curtis - General Manager

Subject: Q2 Update

1) My top priority continues to be the Buy America Waivers or any other way to get the ships over-due maintenance accomplished. Randy Ruaro, Senator Stedman's Chief of Staff has been working closely with me. Randy identified a Nationwide waiver for ferry maintenance from 1994. I presented his findings to our Washington delegations but they do not believe, even though the waiver was never rescinded that it is valid as far as the current administration is concerned. Randy will be in Washington this week and he has told me he plans on speaking to the delegations on this.

Senator Sullivan and Representative Young both petitioned the DOT on our behalf in a conference call with Steve Bradbury Chief Legal counsel for the department of transportation on 11-11. The common theme of the conference call was if we could guarantee that we would never have another waiver request. I produced a letter, see the attached, and sent it on. While I did not say we would never need another waiver, I did indicate that the requested waivers would give us 15-20 years of additional life on the vessels. Alas our time has run out. We will need to initiate a contingency plan developed by Walter, Chrissy and myself. We will need to use State funding we have in reserve to update the Stikine so that we can maintain service. Since we do not need to go through the federal process we can do the upgrades and maintenance using just under 300K. We have about 600K in State funding available. According to Randy we do not need waivers for using "Appropriated" State funds. This way while we continue to pursue waivers we have at least one vessel that is in tip top shape while we continue to pursue the waivers. I am not happy with this result but at this point I feel we have no choice.

2) The managers of the IFA have developed a new Marijuana policy. It was developed with input from the Troopers, AMHS and the Coast Guard. New signage is going up in the terminals.

3) I have been in preliminary discussions with a company called Rendezvous Alaska that has acquired 180 Acres of property in Dora Bay. They plan on building a resort with 300 camping cottages on the property. They are inquiring about us including them as a stop on our route. Nothing to be excited about right now but this could be an opportunity in the future. [www.rendezvousalaska.com](http://www.rendezvousalaska.com)

4) The Management team and I met on Jared Barlow's request to have his travel privileges reinstated. It was the overwhelming consensus of the team that not enough time had passed.

5) We published an RFQ for a revised "IFA By The Numbers" brochure. The bid was awarded to Rain Coast Data. The process has put a lot of stress on Chrissy and Donna to get this done in the needed timeframe, I am grateful for them. This is the same company that produced the last 2 editions. The deliverable is due in early February. I plan on going to Juneau in February to present to the Senate and the House. Randy Ruaro is helping me to get scheduled with everyone. He is also helping me with the right timing. I am still working through the most cost effective way to roll this out to our Washington delegation. We need to leave no doubt about our value with the continued struggles securing waivers and funding.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron