



Board of Director Regular Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2021 Recorder: Donna Halvorsen

1. **Call Meeting To Order:** Jeff Nickerson called meeting to order at 10:01am.

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 via teleconference
Director	Thorne Bay	Harvey McDonald	present via teleconference
Director	Coffman Cove	Brian Wilson	absent
Director	Hydaburg	Anthony Christianson	absent

Staff Present: Ron Curtis and Donna Halvorsen

Staff present via teleconference: Walter Marsh, Rich Rogers and Chrissy Torsen-Lucero

Public Present: None

Public present via teleconference: None

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

4. **Approval of Minutes** Motion: Approve minutes from December 15, 2020; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by Dee Dee Jeffreys. Motion approved unanimously.

5. **Public Comment** N/A

6. **Correspondence** N/A

7. **Manager's Report**

To: Inter-Island Ferry Authority Board of Directors

From: Ron Curtis - General Manager

Subject: Q3 Updated

1) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an Order Under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act requiring persons to wear proper face coverings when using public transportation systems. On February 1, 2021 at 11:59 PM, the Inter-Island Ferry Authority (IFA) began requiring all persons 2 years and older to wear proper face coverings when using our facilities and when traveling on our vessels. There is messaging over the intercom during each voyage that it is a Federal Law. We are seeing about a 60% compliance rate. We are not a police force and we are following Coast Guard protocol for non-compliance. Our guidance from the Coast Guard on individuals who refuse to wear a mask is – "Disembark at the next stop". We continue to use a passenger wellness form before passengers are allowed to board.

- 2) Funding Status – I sent all of you a copy of the letter that I sent to the Legislature and the Governor. I also met personally with the Governors Representatives and Representatives for Senator’s Murkowski and Sullivan. We have solicited and received letters of support from the City of Craig, CTA and POWCAC that have been forwarded on to the Governor’s office. In conversations I have had I am confident we will be given the 3.5M in CRRSAA funding that we have requested. We are working all avenues on recouping funding because of our maintenance and revenue challenges over the last year. We are applying for a Federal appropriation through Lisa Murkowski’s office. Working on receiving a 2nd 250K legislative grant with Senator Stedman’s office and Chrissy continues working through receiving our delinquent 5311 grants.
- 3) Operating Status – We are currently running 6 days a week. The management team is evaluating the 7th day (Tuesday) on a monthly basis. Until funding is secured and ridership increases we feel it prudent to remain at 6 days. We have been operating at a capacity of 100 passengers, but as of 3-22 we increasing capacity to 145 passengers or approx. 75% capacity. AMHS will be moving to 75% capacity in April.
- 4) A new Travel Safety plan has been filed with the State incorporating the new Federal mask laws and our increased capacity.
- 5) M/V Prince of Wales status – The POW is now repaired and had successful dock trials on 3-21. As I write this the POW is preparing to get underway with the Coast Guard for Sea Trials on the repairs. The POW will go into service on ~~3-7-21~~ 4/7/2021. The POW will then be moved back out of service for a mandated hull inspection on ~~3-28~~ 4/28/2021.
- 6) MV Stikine Status – Nothing unusual to report.
- 7) As a Management team we continue working through the policy manual update. It is going slow but we are making progress. We hope to have a draft copy in Board Members hands 1 month prior to the June meeting for Board approval.
- 8) Staffing – Managers have been doing interviews and hiring for open positions. We are hoping to be fully staffed come spring.
- 9) Pricing – I am going to recommend a price increase but only for our phone reservations and walk on/up customers. Currently web customers pay 51.68 for a ticket. Walk up and Phone customers pay 48.75. We need to drive reservations to the web and hopefully reduce labor expenses in the terminals. Price incents behavior. I propose Ticket price changes to 55.00 for adults, 32.50 for seniors (Unchanged) and 23.00 (.50 increase) for children.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ron

Harvey asks if we can get USCG to do random spot checks to help enforce the mask law; Ron said their resources are low so guessing no, and Rich replies that he spent ½ the day with the MSO and how far the reach of the mask law was never discussed. He said he will check with them for input but is guessing they will say, ‘what is the law-comply with it.’ Rich continues that we are complying with the new law but there are loopholes like ‘no mask is okay when eating, drinking, having difficulty breathing etc,’ and we are not sure what to do with that. Rich states that we ask people to put them on and some comply and some don’t, then everyone gets disembarked at the next port. He continues that everyone is wearing a mask while in the terminals and when embarking onto the vessel but once onboard some remove their mask. Ron adds that we have signage everywhere stating wearing a mask is a requirement, but people know that once onboard vessel we have no real recourse so often masks come off.

Jeff asks if the Web price stays the same and Ron says yes, it is unchanged, as well as the Senior and vehicle prices. Jeff confirms that when we are asked about fare increase, we tell people it’s because we want to encourage people to book Online instead of contacting Terminal Agents if at all possible. Dee

Dee agrees it's a good proposal. Harvey asks if we need Board action, and Ron answers yes, we need Board action or direction, then motion is made.

Motion: Approve an increase to Adult \$55.00 and Child \$23.00 walk-on fares to all bookings except Online Bookings to encourage people to book Online reducing overhead reservation costs; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by Dee Dee Jeffreys. A roll call vote was taken and motion passes.

Chair	Klawock	Jeff Nickerson	yes
Vice Chair	At Large	Dee Dee Jeffreys	yes
Sec/Tres	Craig	Otis Gibbons	yes
Director	Thorne Bay	Harvey McDonald	yes

8. **Old Business** N/A

9. **New Business**

- a) Motion: Approve Resolution No. 2021-05 to approve changes to Bylaws Section 1.1 Location to reflect "IFA home office" defined as the Craig Office; moved by Dee Dee Jeffreys and seconded by Harvey McDonald. Motion approved unanimously.
- b) Motion: Approve Resolution No. 2021-06 to accept FY2022 Budget First Reading; moved by DeeDee Jeffreys and seconded by Harvey McDonald. A roll call vote was taken and motion passes.

Chair	Klawock	Jeff Nickerson	yes
Vice Chair	At Large	Dee Dee Jeffreys	yes
Sec/Tres	Craig	Otis Gibbons	yes
Director	Thorne Bay	Harvey McDonald	yes

10. **Board Comments** Dee Dee thanks Chrissy and any management that has helped getting us enough money to stay operational, and Harvey and Jeff concur.

11. **Schedule Next Meeting** TBA but likely mid-June 2021

12. **Adjournment** Motion: Adjourn meeting at 10:34am; moved by DeeDee Jeffreys and seconded by Otis Gibbons. Motion approved unanimously.