

AICAB WORKSHOP SUMMARY MINUTES
March 16, 2017 @ Anderson Island Community Club

Members Present:

Joe Howells, Carol Paschal, Pat Owen, Buzz Thome, Dave Albertson, Bob Lyden, Lauren Kirby, and Elizabeth Emerick; Absent: Chris Frye & Larry Nelson

Call to Order and Verification of Quorum:

The executive session was called to order by Chair Joe at approximately 6:33pm and a quorum was declared. The pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Adoption of Agenda:

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed to approve the agenda as written.

Treasurers report

Carol Paschal – Been having trouble getting a new bank account because need tax account number from IRS. She is continuing to hold \$360 since we keep getting \$5 fee on current account. She is looking at Sound Credit Union or maybe trying Columbia bank. We will get reimbursement next Friday.

Statement of Purpose:

To discuss and determine issues AICAB needs to focus on for 2017

Discussion:

Joe – review January minutes in April at quarterly meeting. Move quarterly meeting to 3rd Thursday in April, the 20th.

Lauren is out for 3 months; Steve Wamback is taking her place in the interim
Current plan is to launch 7:30pm run when peak season starts May 1st. Change minimum vehicle length to 22' to match Washington State. County is also moving on senior motorcycle rate and the new schedule, and rates will be printed in early spring.

Notes from Steve Wamback – Sent condolences for missing workshop
Wants us to consider how we can have the most impact as sounding boarding for County and community for ferry issues. Do we need a more consistent approach to departures when train is blocking ramp? Are they providing adequate updates for issues, late departures, etc.? (organizational issues within county (pat)). Can we do a better job compiling and presenting performance reports, there appears to be disagreements about vehicles left behind.

Group questions - Can alternate runs be done between fuel runs? Is the real issue the cost, not the training for the crew?

Joe - Really need to refresh ourselves on the issues at hand. Will circulate email from Steve Wamback to the rest of the board.

What will the new revised schedule be; we should be coming up with recommendations for County for runs to Ketron.

Overloads are already happening we need to discuss options

Ferry district passed the senate (bill 5403) and is now in the house and has a good chance of getting heard since it had such good support in the legislature. There is still confusion regarding ferry district implications. Dick Muri mentioned that if we can get this enacted we would be able to apply for state grants that we are not currently eligible for now based on the current language for ferry taxing districts that only allow it for passenger ferries.

Group Discussion - about how the taxing district will not affect junior taxing districts like fire, park, etc. Concerned expressed that we would be robbing Peter to pay Paul....However, County can set boundaries of who would be affected. Also If the decision is made to do it County wide, it does not have to go out to vote, it can be done legislatively with the majority, if the decision is made to apply it to certain areas within the County it will have to go out to vote, which would likely decrease the possibility of it passing. Senator O'Ban feels ferry system is not sustainable and is in favor of the taxing district.

Thanks to Buzz for going thru the law on taxing district, etc. (Joe and Carol)

Buzz – The ferry is progressing with 7:30pm run. If the taxing district is for whole county can be done legislatively without a vote. If they chose a smaller area, that has to pass by voter approval. Not going to help with fares if the taxing district is not the whole county. People are wrongly associating O'Ban with ST3 (car tab issues). Road maintenance funds are heavily used out here, more than what we pay in. Easy to search for senate bill on taxing district. We need two 100 cars ferries....How much does the ferry not go to Ketron? Lauren taking Deb's spot is unknown until the reorganization is complete with the County. Should have ferry committee after Lauren is back.

Joe - Subsidies and ferry ticket costs, subsidies are annual, no guarantee. We are paying about 1/3, if traffic stayed the same and we lost subsidies we would be paying three times what we do now. This makes ferry taxing district more favorable, but doesn't make sense unless it is county wide. We assume we will always have these subsidies, but they are not guaranteed....we are not entitled to these. We better be creative and proactive. We have to look at alternative funding. We should also be looking at alternate options if we don't have a ferry, can we use McNeil barge?

Buzz – Ferry updates: The ferry is progressing with 7:30pm run. If the taxing district is for the whole county can be done legislatively without a vote. If they chose a smaller area, that has to pass by voter approval. Not going to help with fares if the taxing district is not the whole county. People are wrongly associating O'Ban with ST3 (car tab issues). Also remember road maintenance funds are heavily used out here, much more than what we pay in. Lauren taking Deb's spot is unknown until the reorganization is complete with the County. Should have the ferry committee meeting after Lauren is back.

Joe - When we make an agenda for next meeting, what should we add? Taxing district? Lauren, and Pat think this is very important. Buzz will look up info on how the taxing district will work. We want to get someone in who can explain the taxing district really well. A lot of things are being done from the WTS but the impression is that Burke did what the County wanted, with no growth projected for the island, and what we need is growth. Review WTS again and add items if we feel like they are important. The County looking for input from users.

Lauren – Is ferry schedule change happening for sure? Can we tell everyone? O’Ban came under fire for not supporting sound transit. If public hearings happen for taxing district, we should stay informed and get the community more involved. Can we get someone from Steve O’Ban’s office to come and talk about taxing district. Will have draft ready for April meeting regarding ferry lane etiquette.

Bob - Update on liability issue with security breach. Dennis Handberg is now involved. Hornblower won’t release bids and contracts related to ticketing system. Dennis is looking for more information in relation to this. Transmission issues, Jan 25th, Lauren sent whole report and had friend in the business look through it with him. It is supposed to be fully loaded and tested but it doesn’t appear that that happened. Gearing was made in Germany and that company was sold off after we got the parts, but don’t know if we can go back to original company to go against manufacturer errors and omissions insurance. The shafts can be damaged when boats come back from the yard if not fully loaded so issue is between Hornblower, the shipyard, and the manufacturer. Looking into liabilities, the acquiring company could be liable....

Carol – Operating costs to Ketron, why are we so righteous about costs of running to Ketron. Better not push this issue since we are also subsidized. Parks added to agenda to talk about levee and will get Rick or Chuck to talk on this issue. Want to ask to increase the rate, to try to get it back up to where it was before the economy crash. People blocking traffic at Villa Beach issue is getting worse again, may need to revisit this issue. Thinks WTS was greatly flawed. Recommendations had no look forward to the future, there were some real weaknesses.

Dave – Add fire department to April agenda as well, they have a bond coming up. Will have chief address this. Grant writer that they have been using is retiring but has been training someone to take her place. Fire department is also not where they used to be. Maybe discuss ferry line rules, give draft of ferry line etiquette that can be used. Ferry people should be involved in line rules. We seem to have a lot going on, should we meet monthly??

Joe – Do we want to have the board be an odd number of people.....Larry Nelson, replaced Bobbi Sullivan. Keep uneven number for when Carol leaves in October so that we have an uneven number for tie breaking purposes.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm