

Public Dock Committee Meeting
Sunday November 7, 2021 6:30 to 8:00 PM via Zoom

PRESENT

Chris Immer (Chair), Mary Ross, Tim Robison, Dave Perry, Nick Kluge, Alan Krum, Jeff Hagen, Lane Coury.
(Notes taken by Lane Coury.)

LINKS TO RESOURCES

- [Recording of the Nov 7 Zoom meeting](#) (recording starts at 6:30PM and is approx 90 mins)
- [The Public Dock Committee web page](#) with links to documents and related references. (To find this page, go to [OurLummiIsland.org](#) > Community > Committees & Research > Public Doc Committee)
- Committee document on Google docs (*check for an email invitation from Alan K*). This is a dynamic file that allows us to maintain a running dialog for internal committee discussion, capture suggestions and input from committee members, and helps us keep up with committee progress and task status.

AGENDA ITEMS AND RELATED DISCUSSION

Member Discussion

Review list of outstanding tasks from previous meeting notes.

Discuss best way for this committee to influence the way the county handles ferry outages.

We need to use LIFAC as the mechanism for recommending changes to the county.

Action to discuss further: Should committee

(1) Spearhead an island-wide petition on impact of ferry outages. Ask LIFAC to forward this petition to the county.

(2) Consider forwarding that petition to county Parks & Rec to help communicate islander concerns and need for a public dock.

(3) Suggest to LIFAC that they talk with the county about its current process for responding to ferry outages and recommend several improvements.

Committee Decision: Wait until after 11/10/21 LIFAC meeting to continue discussion on these actions. Next step might be to launch an islander poll via the LICA website.

Update from members

Discuss meeting with marine construction company last week.

Representative from [Surowiecki Brothers Construction](#) met with Chris Immer and Alan K last week to help us research feasibility for building a public dock. They looked at the site in front of the Lummi Island Beach Access Park. Short story, he saw no reason that this cannot be done.

Positives: existing pilings make the process somewhat smoother. Removing pilings would be a positive environmental impact because they contain creosote.

Design discussion was very general. Did not talk about whether a dock would be built straight out from the existing platform (probably more likely to be ADA compliant) or built out from the bottom of the existing stairs.

Provided the name of a marine engineer to get more expertise.

NOTE: County Parks & Rec would hire this engineer, not islanders. But the committee could at least get him to provide more input to make sure this project has potential.

Lane question – *has the committee explicitly stated that we would be proposing a year-round dock?*

Members report on task progress

Discuss reef net boat project

Committee Action and Decision: After last meeting, committee sent email to all those who have expressed interest in serving on the committee in some capacity. Asked if you want to go down this route. Vote yes/no. Majority voted Yes and raised several questions (see notes on item C below).

A. Mantle Industries letter

Chris reviewed the [response letter from Mantle Industries](#) in response to his email asking about putting a ramp on a reef net boat. Short answer – anticipate engineering analysis and design of approximately \$10,000. Then they could build a ramp to our specifications, estimating approximately \$80,000.

NW Marine Supply Company (and probably others) offer USED gangways ([see ad at this link](#)).

B. Discussion on options for reef net boat project

Does Parberry have any barges available that would be a fit?

Chris says that all vessels available right now are steel, not fiberglass, requiring more maintenance. And VERY heavy, much more difficult to maneuver.

Could we use existing ramps in reserve at Lummi and on Gooseberry?

These are county resource that are committed to dry dock use, as needed. As far as we know, these cannot be committed to islander use.

What does it mean for us to drop a ramp on county-owned beach?

How are discussions about using Granger Beach coming along?

Use of Granger Beach to store a boat is still being discussed. Outcome is looking better after one of the family members got stuck during the last ferry outage.

C. Direction for reef net boat project

Committee discussed key factors that need to be resolved:

- **Re-usability** of a purpose-built vessel – hopefully this solution could still be used for urgent access even after a public dock is built. But if it can NOT be used, what would we do with the boat?
- **Insurance** – Sticking point to be discussed in more detail. In an earlier meeting, we discussed asking people to sign a release of liability document, but that seems unlikely to prevent potential lawsuits. Should we talk to a lawyer about our status?

Task Assigned (Dave Perry) to talk to an island lawyer, David Thorn, for some guidance.

IMPORTANT – a reef net boat (or other vessel) is NOT a LICA operation and LICA would not own anything. LICA needs to be protected from being sued.

- **License** – Chris is pursuing license and will update us next week.
- **Ownership** – this will be important for funding, so it is likely that we would need to consider forming an LLC. More discussion to follow.

Discuss other possible interim solutions

Could we contract with the companies like the water taxi folks from Orcas Island (they service the Willows) as an urgent response?

For example, [Outer Island Excursions](#) has a landing craft catamaran. A person still needs to be able to get a beach and climb a ladder. They currently drop off at Sunset Beach for the Willows. Would they be able to drop off at a beach that is better for access to Gooseberry Point?

Mary R reached out to landing craft taxi company from Anacortes, who own a 34-passenger and 22-passenger. Asked if they would consider a contract with the county but they need to think about it. This would mean dropping off at the existing ferry terminal on Lummi and on the Gooseberry side.

Whatcom County is in the third year of a 5-year agreement with Pacific Cruises Northwest for *The Salish Sea* used for dry dock.

Discuss next steps for researching public dock options

Subset of committee members should get together in the next few weeks and start collecting good diagrams and pictures from other public docks.

Refer to “16 San Juan Cruising area Public Use Docks other than State Parks” ([link to doc](#) suggested by Mary Ross) that summarizes text descriptions and pictures.

[Look at the Skagit County proposal for Sinclair Island](#) that Mary forwarded = rollers and collars can be used to provide a floating dock but are more expensive. (Refer to Concept Sections with drawings.) There are some designs that allow you to winch the dock out of the water when not in use. Building wave barriers is one option to be considered to mediate damage (Concept A of Skagit Sinclair Island proposal).

Discuss deployment planning

Lane asked for a subset of committee members to review a draft outline for steps in organizing a response to a ferry outage. (Refer to Google doc, section titled “Plan for a Response to a Ferry Outage”.)

Task assigned (Lane): send a message to all of the committee members to ask if they have experience with emergency response planning. Request their input and get feedback on a draft plan to present to the rest of the committee.

SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (Sunday, 11/14/21)

- Report back from LIFAC and LIFD Commissioners meetings
- Discuss feedback received from engineers, lawyers, Parks & Rec Dept, etc.
- Organize a subcommittee to research public docks on other islands
- Make a decision about scheduling meetings that combine in person and Zoom attendees
- Update on other committee tasks