

## Public Dock Advisory Committee

March 28, 2023 7:00-8:30 PM via Zoom

*This was a small, informal meeting that was not recorded*

**PRESENT:** Mary Ross, Chris Immer. (Lane was not present, but edited the draft agenda to update status.)

### **STATUS: RCO - PLANNING FOR RECREATION ACCESS (PRA) GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

You can access documents for the grant application on [LICA.us](http://LICA.us) under the PDAC page: [cover letter with project description](#); [letter of intent](#); [location map](#), and [budget summary](#).)

### **STATUS: LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN AS LAST CHANCE FOR 2022 GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

PDAC embarked on a flurry of emails to see if we could persuade our legislators to support an initiative to fund all of the projects requested during the PRA grant cycle.

The committee publicized the campaign to islanders via Myra Ramos' newsletter, the banner on the [LICA.us](http://LICA.us) main page, and Next Door. [Link to the message](#) we shared with the community, including suggested text for the letters.

**We heard back!** Susan Shewmake replied to Alan's LICA email with this: *"Thanks Alan—I'm super supportive of the dock! This is a great project and I'll talk to capital budget folks about it."*

### **STATUS: COMMUNICATIONS WITH CHAMPIONS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS**

PDAC caught up on emails to our primary champions and potential partners for the Planning for Recreational Access Grant. Here is a quick list of emails sent and status of replies received as of 3/10/2023. (To see full text of original email messages, [refer to this doc](#).)

**RECIPIENTS** with Organization – Contact Name – Contact Title (Date email was sent)

1. Blaine-Birch Bay Parks and Rec District - **Ted Morris**, Capital Project Specialist (3/8/2023)
2. Drayton Archaeology / cultural resources consultants - **Garth Baldwin**, Archaeologist (3/8/2023)
3. KPFF Consultant Engineers / engineering consultants – **Kelly Lasoing**, Planner and **Andy Bennett**, Principal Engineer (2/6/2023)
4. Marine Surveys & Assessments / eelgrass consultants - **Kimberly McClurg** (3/10/2023)
5. Whatcom County Executive Office - **Tyler Schroeder**, Deputy Executive (3/8/2023)
6. Whatcom County Parks & Recreation - **Bennett Knox**, Parks Director (2/14/2023)

\* Terry Terry sent an email informing us that the P&R Commission is focusing their efforts on the update of the *2016 Whatcom County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan*. **It is a unanimous opinion that the Public Dock Project needs to be in the updated Plan.** (That is very good news.)

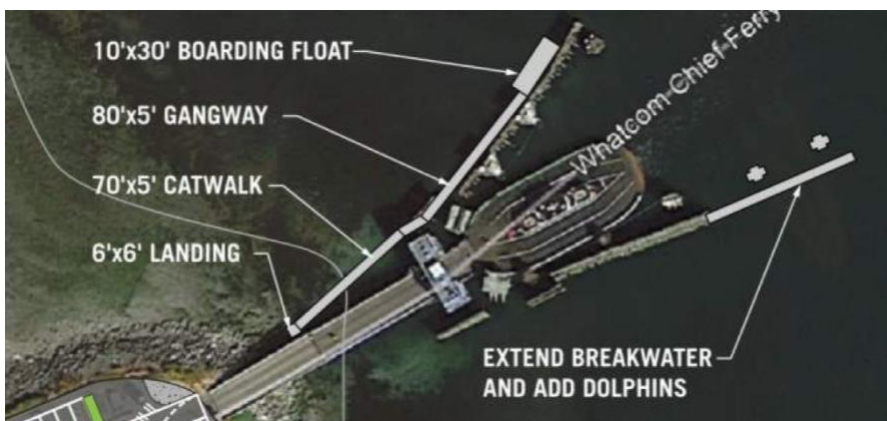
## UPDATE ON MEETING WITH ROLAND MIDDLETON

A subcommittee of 3 (Mary, Dave Perry, and Lane) met with Roland Middleton at Public Works on 3/2/23. [See our plan for the agenda and key points to discuss here.](#)

We met at Roland's office for almost 90 minutes and had a very positive exchange. Notes are out for review and will be available soon for posting. Most important takeaways:

1. During ferry terminal construction, emergency docks with support for passenger ferries at Lummi Island and at Gooseberry Point will be built as the very FIRST steps.
2. Access to emergency docks will follow the same requirements as current access to the ferry dock:
  - a. The dock is intended for **emergency** (NOT urgent) access.
  - b. Non-EMS or non-DPW boats would only be able to use the dock if they have an established Memo of Understanding (MOU) on file with DPW.

Expected design of the emergency dock at the Lummi Island ferry terminal will be similar to this diagram. (Refer to the KPFF DRAFT design from *Terminal and Operational Improvement Options – Lummi Island Ferry System* page 9. [Link to the full document.](#))



3. One primary concern for the proposed dock site is that there is no pull-out for vehicles to park safely while they drop off people, supplies, kayaks, etc.

## FOR APRIL AGENDA: REVIEW GOALS AND IDENTIFY ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT 2-3 MONTHS

### GOALS FOR JAN through MAY 2023 – start drafting short and long term goals

#### **GOAL 1: Build connections and partnerships with project champions**

##### Whatcom County Parks & Recreation

Committee members will try to attend Parks & Recreation Commission meetings when possible. They are held on the fourth Thursday each month, and are usually in-person only. You can read through minutes and handouts [from the commission site](#). Especially recommend that you look at commissioner Frank Boteler's [report on Budget Trends and Opportunities](#). \* Ask if updates have occurred.

\* Here is a quote from a Tome article in the late 1980s:

*At the base of the stair is a 60-foot width of beach that is county property. Please respect the signs that indicate the edge of public property.*

**Lane Note** – there are no signs indicating private property boundaries now. Should we set an objective to talk with Parks & Rec about replacing them?

### **Whatcom County Council**

Meets monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday via hybrid of Zoom and in person. \* You can replay previous meetings – [look at the calendar here](#)

In 2023, PDAC should begin to build connections with individual councilors. Ben Elenbaas is our District 5 representative – tell him about what we have already done with grant application, etc. Other councilors: Barry Buchanan (at large), Carol Frazey, Tyler Byrd from the foothills, and Kathy Kirshner. We should make a plan to extend individual invitations for a personal visit and tour. (We understand that Todd Donovan has expressed no interest in pursuing a public dock at this time.)

**NOTE:** *Rhayma noticed a discussion during the County Council's Finance Meeting on 1/10/23 that our District 4 Council Member Ben Elenbaas is "looking for ways to bring more hotels and tourists to the island".*

### **Whatcom County Executive's Office**

Lane sent email to Tyler Schroeder with update on submission of the RCO PGA grant application.

*\* Should we consider contacting Tyler for an in-person (or Zoom) meeting to brainstorm ideas about potential sources for funding the public dock. Maybe he has ideas that we have not considered.*

### **Whatcom County Public Works**

Liz Kosovo is now the Director because Jon Hutchings has left. See above for update on committee meeting with Roland Middleton on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Whatcom County Planning and Development**

The [Lummi Island Subarea Plan \(2009\)](#) will need to be updated in June of 2025 according to the WA State Dept of Commerce Growth Management Planning folks ([website here](#)). **NOTE:** You can access free online videos about the process for growth management [from this link](#). It is a Washington State Department of Commerce resource.

The GMA calls for communities to review and, if necessary, revise their plans and regulations every ten years to ensure they remain up-to-date. Lane sent email to the County Planning and Development Dept on 2022/11/25 to ask when our plan would be updated and asking for next steps in the process. Their response, with my emphasis in red:

We will be updating the [Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan](#) by the 2025 deadline as required by the State Growth Management Act. The County **may conduct a consistency review** of the Subarea Plan to ensure there are no significant inconsistencies between it and the Countywide Comprehensive Plan. But a full update of the Subarea Plan is not anticipated in the next few years.

**\*\* LANE STILL NEEDS TO FOLLOW UP ... review the [Lummi Island Subarea Plan from 2009](#) and identify the key data sets that **must** be updated for 2020(+/-) if we are to have any realistic projections for the next 20 years.**

*For example, Table 1 shown below is now missing **two decades** of data.*

**Table 1  
Housing Stock Age Distribution**

<b>Year Housing Units Built</b>	<b>Percent (%) of Total Housing Stock</b>
1990-2000	28%
1980-1989	12%
1970-1979	22%
1960-1969	14%
1940-1949	12%
Prior to 1940	12%

Source: Whatcom County Assessor 2002

**Lummi Nation Natural Resources:** Terry can ask her contact to chat and see if we can get a discussion started. We should do this as soon as is practical.

**State level representatives** – consider a campaign to reach out to Sharon Shewmake, Alicia Rule, Joe Timmons, Susan Delbene, etc.

**Alternate sources of funding** – begin researching. One idea for a small grant is an [AARP grant for livable communities](#).

**Other PNW island resources** – think about how we might coordinate with other islands such as Guemes, Sinclair, etc. who share similar needs.

**GOAL 2: Build community engagement and broaden outreach/distribution of information**

**Planned (☐) and Completed (☑) Actions**

- A. Create and maintain a PDAC Frequently-Asked Questions on [OurLummiIsland.org](#) for (FAQs)
  - ☑ June 2022: Published first set of FAQ's and will add section
  - ☐ March 2022: update FAQ with PRA grant by description
- B. Host information session(s):
  - ☐ Think about timing to schedule a public dock Town Hall via hybrid Zoom + in-person at the Grange. It would be great to bring the island up to speed on status. HOWEVER – it also feels like everyone's energies are all about the ferry fare decision right now.
  - ☐ July or August 2023 – schedule a town hall during summer to capture those who are not here all year
- C. Collect input from island business people, vendors, artists, etc. *(start working on this by summer)*
  - ☑ Solicited several candidates during public booth interactions
  - ☐ Begin to draft ideas and reach out to key individuals. Follow up in with Nick, etc.
- D. Develop ideas for how we can tell a compelling story about the history of the proposed dock site.
  - ☐ Research archives of newspaper articles and island references  
 Alan found a Tome article from the later 1980s referencing the new platform for Lummi Island Beach Access:

*If this isn't history yet, it will be some day. Have you stopped to admire the new observation deck at the Old Ferry Dock Park yet? It's across the road from the Beach Store Café if you are too new on the Island to remember the old ferry dock.*

*The park started with the construction of the beach stair in 1987 by Carl Hanson under contract with **Lummi Island Community Club** [NOTE: this is today's LICA]. Now, with help from neighbors Tom and Rosalee Waggoner, the Whatcom County Parks Dept. has finished construction of the deck with landscaping to make a generally attractive and functional facility.*

Another great point made in the same article:

*Notice the big, 16-inch square beams used to line the entrance way and road edge. These beams were salvaged from **the Washington Pavilion at Expo-86 World's Fair in Vancouver, BC**. The State of Washington gave the beams to Whatcom County to be used in some appropriate future project.*

That is cool! We should keep a record about this and emphasize a desire to preserve and retain these beams if possible in future construction.

Refer to [this link](#) for an online archive about the history of the Beach Store that also references the "old" ferry dock.

- Start working on a unified message about the public dock.

The Expo-86 theme was "*Transportation and Communication: **World in Motion – World in Touch***".

We might want to develop a short catch phrase that conveys the spirit of a public dock on Lummi Island.

- E. Hold community workshops to discuss and brainstorm (*think about this ...*)

- Discuss best way to hold workshops, topics, ideas, etc.

- Talk about use of a facilitator and/or moderator to help manage discussion, ensure equal opportunity to speak, etc. Lane talked to several candidates during summer outreach efforts including Olivia Marshall, Wanda Cucinotta, and Debbie Barnes-Josiah.

- F. Start creating a plan to engage island and local youth (*end of summer/beginning of new school year*)