

**Protect Lummi Island Community (PLIC)
Minutes for Annual Meeting January 27, 2015
Lummi Island Grange Hall**

Board Members Rhayma Blake, Mike Kmiecik, Mary Ross and Jansen Pierce were present. There were 30 PLIC members and approximately 20 nonmembers in attendance for a total of 50 attendees.

Welcome and 2014 Review

Board President Rhayma Blake called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed all. Rhayma reported on the accomplishments that were achieved in 2014 and provided an update:

- Beach School Children from Mainland Supervision: This task is completed and parents are accompanying the children on the Ferry.
- Improved Queuing at Gooseberry Point: This task may still require some follow-up. New signs have been installed, but there is still confusion around how to queue up. If you want to be involved, please contact PLIC Board Member Jansen Pierce.
- Dolphin Replacement at Gooseberry Point: This task is completed. PLIC submitted comments to Whatcom County Executive Jack Louws on the Dolphin replacement requesting that the Ferry Task Force's recommendation be implemented. The Dolphins were constructed and the recommendation was not followed.
- Ferry Rate Input: This is an on-going task. PLIC submitted a letter to LIFAC supporting needs based fares. The LIFAC ferry fare proposal is being considered by County Council in February 2015. PLIC will continue to monitor its progress.
- Long Range Ferry Planning: This is an on-going task. Mike Skehan, the Chair of the LIFAC Long Range Planning Sub-Committee resigned from the Committee and a new Chair has not been appointed. The Committee still has work to do that is needed to help define what ferry replacement option is best suited to County budgets and ferry users needs. PLIC will continue to monitor the progress of the Committee.
- Visibility of Ferry Issues and Promoting Discussion: This is an on-going task. PLIC continues to have a presence at LIFAC meetings and its members sit on the Technical and Long Range Planning Sub-Committees to provide input. We have worked with the Lummi Island Ferry Forum (Wynne Lee hosts) and have a link on that website. Our own website is updated regularly and continues to be a resource around ferry issues.

Treasurer's Report

PLIC Treasurer Mike Kmiecik reported that as of January 27, 2015, PLIC had \$1,886.20 in the savings account and \$524.62 in the checking account. These are funds that were raised in 2010 and have been used sparingly.

Election of PLIC Board Members for 2015

It was established that a quorum was present so that a legal election of board members could take place. Current Board President Rhayma Blake indicated that the present Board members agreed to continue another year. These members include: Rhayma Blake (President), Mike Kmiecik (Treasurer), Jansen Pierce, Mary Ross, Janet Lutz-Smith and Dave Wing. Rhayma introduced Beth Walukas Louis who has agreed to be on the Board as Secretary. Beth has a transportation background in the San Francisco Bay Area where she was the Deputy Director of Planning for the Alameda County Transportation Commission. She has owned a home on Lummi Island since 2005, but moved here permanently in early 2014. PLIC's by-laws allow up to 9 board members so members present at the meeting were invited to put their name into nomination from the floor. Receiving no additional nominations, the question was called. Stu Rich moved that the Board membership and officers be approved as proposed and Bill Lee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Clarification of the Cash Reserve Policy

Patricia Dunn, former member of the Ferry Task Force and CPA, reviewed the Ferry Task Force's recommendation to create and implement a Cash Reserve Policy, which would have the purpose of accumulating cash reserves for rate stabilization and emergencies. The Policy was recommended to do the following:

- a) Use GFOA's Best Practice "Appropriate Levels of Working Capital in Enterprise Funds" as a guideline to develop the policy;
- b) Establish policy guidelines to address balances in excess of reserve guidelines as a cushion for the proverbial rainy day and not as an offset to the fare setting formula (to an upper limit);
- c) Include as appropriate: the number of years to fully fund a reserve, capital acquisitions, forecasting parameters, etc.; and
- d) Include Claims, Emergency, Capital Projects, Fare Stabilization or other reserves as needed (and when able).

Cash reserve deficiencies (as calculated by policy) were also recommended to be included in the fare setting formula target.

Patricia clarified that the Cash Reserve Formula example included in the Task Force Report was just an example and not meant to be interpreted as a recommended cash reserve amount. The actual minimum amount needed for a cash reserve would be calculated by the County when and if it develops and implements a Cash Reserve Policy.

New Business/2015 PLIC Priorities

Rhayma stated that we would continue with 2014 priorities that were not yet completed and asked the Members if there were other priorities PLIC should consider in 2015. Suggestions included: working on establishing a Ferry Fund Reserve and analyzing the ferry budget overall. Jo Philpot suggested the there

P.O. Box 266
Lummi Island, WA 98262
Website: plicferry.org

is a need for a Community Center and asked what, if any, role PLIC could have in that. She also asked if we should be involved in addressing our status as an unincorporated area of the County. Rhayma stated that this would require modification of the by-laws. A member of the audience announced the LIYRA is working on trying to get a Community Center started.

Presentation by the LIFAC Ferry Replacement Sub-Committee/Questions and Comments about the Report/Answers and Comments by Sub-Committee Members

Rhayma introduced Phil Lacefield, member of the LIFAC Ferry Replacement Sub-Committee, who made a presentation on the Sub-Committee's recently released report entitled "Acquisition of the M/V *Hiyu* From Washington State Ferries for Use at Lummi Island." The meeting and presentation are recorded and the audio files can be found in two parts at:

<https://lummiisland.nextdoor.com/document/b14dacaef7f2928bc6b5cc50cb26c2b74/PLIC%20mtg%201272015%20pt%201.WMA>

<https://lummiisland.nextdoor.com/document/ebe6af645c67ad3835943baa2e3267a4/PLIC%20mtg%201272015%20pt%202.WMA>

The presentation was followed by questions and comments from the members about the details of the Report's recommendations and assumptions, which were recorded by the Technical Sub-Committee. After questions were received, Sub-Committee members provided answers to as many of the questions as possible.

Rhayma distributed a survey that is being administered by PLIC about ferry needs and preferences. She stated that the survey could also be found on-line on the PLIC website. Responses are due by January 31, 2015 so they can be tallied and reported to LIFAC at their meeting February 3, 2015. Rhayma reported that 80 responses had been received so far.

Rhayma and the audience thanked the LIFAC Ferry Replacement Sub-Committee members for their presentation and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next meeting will be announced on the PLIC website, in the Tome, Brown Betty, PLIC e-blast, and other Island Announcement Forums.

Recorded by: Beth Walukas Louis

Protect Lummi Island Community (PLIC)

P.O. Box 266
Lummi Island, WA 98262
Website: plicferry.org