

Emergency Ferry Service Task Force
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, March 6, 2025 @ 4:30 PM

APPROVED
3/20/25

MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Gabriel Pendleton, Shey Conover, Peter Willcox, Fred Porter

Members Absent:

John King, Earl MacKenzie

Others Present:

Murt Durkee

Others Present via Zoom:

Genevieve McDonald, Doug Welldon, Terry Sanderson, Carol Pierson, Dan Tutor,
Donna, Sue Stafford, Frank Mundo, Larry, TSF

Call to Order: Chair G. Pendleton called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM, and a quorum was established.

Minutes of February 19, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Peter Willcox had emailed Gabe Pendleton with a comment that while the minutes were correct in terms of what was said, the reality of the electrical power situation on the island was not accurate.

MOTION BY F. Porter, seconded by S. Conover, to approve the minutes of February 19, 2025 Regular Meeting, as written. No further discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

- Genevieve McDonald stated she has been tracking seven bills. Two of them have been printed: one is a study of emergency medical services and how that relates to ferry service on the islands, sponsored by Senator Chip Curry, and one is from Rep. Ann Matlack, which is the bill that would require overnighting of the ferries on the islands, although her bill language isn't strong and we may need to make some amendment suggestions, which she is open to. There are two other bills that have to do with reshuffling oversight, maybe of the Ferry Advisory Board, maybe forming a legislative oversight committee. Those bills have been submitted to the revisor's office and have not returned yet as drafts or to be printed. A fifth bill is comprehensive, and includes elements of where the ferries should overnight and also emergency medical services. There are similarities between a lot of these bills, and we will see some crossover, which

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means potential opportunities to merge bills. There are two more that have to do with employee training and retention, and those have not been printed either.

- For two of the bills, Genevieve does not yet know which committee they will go to. Two of them have gone to Transportation. Her understanding is Transportation will hold all of those bills until they are printed. They will probably schedule a ferry day. This will allow for people from unbridged islands to come and testify. They try to concentrate when people need to be in Augusta for testifying in person. Senator Curry's bill has gone to Criminal Justice and Public Safety.
- Fred Porter referred to a statement he made in a previous meeting, "pedal to the metal." We're reaching a lull in activity right now. He asked about a plan for how we're going to start communicating and seeking support from inland communities and other legislators to back these bills. Genevieve replied that she's had preliminary conversations, particularly with members of leadership, many of whom don't live on islands or on the coast. However, it's hard to seek support until we have copies of things to show people. We're certainly talking about concepts and ideas. She's been speaking with Representative Faulkingham, who is the House minority leader, and hopefully that will bring some energy, but we need copies of language.
- Fred asked about the most efficient way to get their support. Genevieve replied that face-to-face conversations are best, or emails and phone calls. Once we have black & white documents, we can talk about a strategy and put together a list of targets. Once we know to what committees the bills are going to, it's easier to decide who to reach out to.
- Gabe summarized that in terms of next steps, the committee is waiting for all this legislation to come out, so we know what the playing field is, what we might support, what we might make a recommendation to change, and then think about how we might push those things, and who we might send for testimony.
- Genevieve stated there was a lull in the legislature. They took the week of school vacation off. Then they have been bogged down in the supplemental budget, but the pipeline is starting to move quickly now.
- Doug Welldon asked if the Curry and Matlack legislative bills are online yet. Genevieve replied that they are. The Curry bill is LD 841, and the Matlack bill is LD 947.

STRATEGY DISCUSSION

- Gabe stated he received an email from Peter Willcox about potentially talking with the Coast Guard about emergency response. Gabe thinks an informal conversation with the Coast Guard to understand their position on emergency response is worthwhile. At this point we're not looking for a written opinion. It might change, depending on the island, because they have different start and finish times, and possibly different requirements. The committee members agreed. Peter will talk with Fred's contact at the Coast Guard.
- Gabe suggested waiting on strategy development until we have more information on legislation. Fred reiterated that we should utilize time and space, so if we have a lull in one thing, we're working on some kind of a plan so we're not sitting still.
- Gabe stated that Peter and Earl have been talking about putting a buoy in Lincolnville to measure wave action. Peter added that Dr. Lauren Ross at UMaine is the one who has

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the buoy. She's also the one with two tidal gauges on Islesboro, so we have a relationship with her. Peter has spoken with the Lincolnville Town Manager, and he is expecting an invitation to go talk with their Select Board soon. That will be the final step. He's talked with the chair of the Harbor Committee and also the Harbor Master, who is the Town Manager. They are both supportive. Gabe offered to help by dropping the buoy from the Quicksilver on the way by if this gets approved.

- Shey Conover asked whether it makes sense to get an emergency management person listed as one of the folks on the study. She asked Genevieve about the best time to provide that input. Genevieve replied that for the resolve, we'll want to take a look at who the working group members are. Genevieve noticed that in the language, the EMS person is to be from an island community, but not necessarily an *unbridged* island community. We may want to make a recommendation in our testimony if we think that language should be changed or there should be additional members. If one of you is in one of those roles that are listed as a working group member and you are willing to serve on that working group, please include that in the testimony. If the resolve is funded and approved, there will be an opportunity there as well to submit a list of names of people who we know are willing to serve in these roles.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

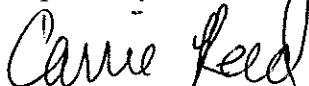
NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, March 20th, 4:30.

S. Conover requested that we update the website with links for the legislative bills.

Motion by F. Porter, seconded by P. Willcox, to adjourn meeting at 4:45 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary

