



June 12, 2009

This Week:

- Recap of this week's community meetings
- Annual Staff Masters Meeting
- Federal funding update
- Ferry Weather Web site
- Update on the sale of the Steel Electric ferries

Recap of this week's community meetings

It's been a very full week of community meetings: Southworth on Monday, Bainbridge Island on Tuesday, Kingston on Wednesday, and yesterday the San Juan Islands during the day and Anacortes in the evening. Thank you to everyone who took time out on these beautiful late spring afternoons/evenings to come and hear information and share your input on the ferry system's current issues. The agenda included the following topics: the outcome of legislative session, finalizing the long-range plan, the vehicle reservations pre-design study and tariff process and schedule. We have one more meeting next week:

- Monday, June 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Pope Marine Building, 100 Madison St, Port Townsend

We'll post summaries of the meetings on our Web site in the coming weeks.

Annual Staff Masters Meeting

On Wednesday morning I had the pleasure of attending the annual Staff Masters Meeting and talking with our captains about several issues. I reported on the outcome of the 2009 legislative session and we discussed several challenges facing the ferry system.

Federal funding update

In my April 24 update, I told you about \$8.4 million in stimulus funds that WSF will receive for vessel and terminal preservation projects. The federal government has set aside an additional \$5 million for WSF vessel preservation and \$950,000 for propulsion systems for new vessels through the SAFETEA-LU program. SAFETEA-LU is a 2005 law that represents the largest surface transportation investment in U.S. history. We have also applied for funding to retrofit vessel engines to reduce air pollution (\$2.1 million), \$7.6 million for projects to make our vessels more energy-efficient, \$26 million for replacing the Anacortes terminal, and \$9 million to refurbish the *Hyak*. I'll continue to provide periodic updates on the status of our federal grant funding in my Weekly Updates.

Ferry Weather Web site

Ferry Weather is a Web site provided by the University of Washington to relay information on weather conditions over the inland waters of Western Washington. WSF links to this Web site and hosts equipment aboard some of its vessels that collects and transmits data. Recently, we learned that the private company responsible for this service will no longer provide the service effective Tuesday, June 30. We are in discussions with the UW about partnering to keep ferry weather going, but we cannot guarantee a resolution before June 30. We have received many e-mails from users, and we understand its importance to the boating community. While the temperature and wind data will no longer be available, many of the other resources are available

elsewhere on the Internet, including NOAA Marine Forecasts and Weather Radar, and ferry cameras. Read more at www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/service/weather.htm.

Update on the sale of the Steel Electric ferries

WSF is in direct negotiations with a Mexican shipyard regarding a potential sale of all four Steel Electric class ferries. The shipyard president and another representative met with WSF staff on Thursday, June 4, and WSF staff led them on a tour of the Steel Electrics on Friday, June 5. The shipyard is reviewing purchasing agreements and we hope to finalize a sale soon. The shipyard plans to take the vessels to Mexico for scrapping.

Next Week:

- Community meeting in Port Townsend (June 15)
- Meeting with Tulalip Tribes

David Moseley's weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division Web site at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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