

**ANDERSON ISLAND CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD
JAN 11, 2024 MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES**

This meeting was a conducted at the American Legion Community Center and via ZOOM.

Call to Order and Verification of Quorum: Chair Jacob Anderson called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 pm. Present were Jim Cook, Jeremy Kamel, Jan Koslowski, Gabe Sachwitz, Heather Rankos, Kristan Kennedy, Bob Bedoll, Rick McPhearson, Tiffany Waggoner and Larry Nelson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

County guests were welcomed: Jani Hitchen (County Councilmember, via Zoom); Jen Tetatzin (Director of Planning & Public Works, via Zoom); Jacquelyn Meier (Emergency Program Coordinator); Norma Pancake (EMS Director). Also present was a Pierce County Sheriff's Deputy.

Appointment of AICAB Treasurer: It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to appoint Jeremy Kamel as AICAB Treasurer.

Approval of October 12, 2023 minutes: It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted upon to approve the October 12, 2023 meeting minutes.

Approval of Agenda Items: It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to adopt the agenda.

Unfinished business:

- **Ferry update – Jen Tetatzin:** An update on the ferry program was provided.
 - With the recent departure of Trever Threde, the former Airport and Ferry Administrator, PC has appointed Jeff Campbell as the interim Administrator until March. Jeff has over 27 years with the County and is a very experienced Manager from the Maintenance and Operations division.
 - This vacancy gave PPW the opportunity to re-evaluate the effectiveness of the Airport and Ferry Division concept and consider some alternatives that might work better. After that analysis, Director Tetatzin recommended, and the Executive agreed, that separating these two programs will increase the likelihood of success for both programs over time.
 - A 90-day transition plan is in development to move the Ferry program into the Office of the County Engineer Division and the Airport program into the Maintenance and Operations Division.
 - The recruitment for the Ferry Administrator and a brand-new Maintenance Program Manager position is ongoing. Director Tetatzin asked that if we know a qualified candidate, please forward them the job posting. Director Tetatzin does not expect staffing changes to have any impacts to riders.
 - The Christine Anderson has been out of service due to a series of engine cooling system failures. PPW had marine engineers and operators try out several different reconfigurations and adjustments. These issues have finally been resolved and the boat will be back in service on Tuesday, 1/16.
 - What this means is that the Steilacoom II will come offline for a much needed main engine overhaul in February. Once the SII engine work is done, the Christine Anderson's engine overhaul can begin. We are still waiting on parts to arrive but hope to get this done in March.
 - PPW is aiming to get all of this work done before the start of the peak so both boats will be in shape to meet the schedule.
 - As of January 1, 2024, youth riders (passengers or walk-on) age 0-18 ride free, per Council adopted fare ordinance, and to be consistent with the "Move Ahead Washington" transportation policy. Youth drivers will still pay the fare associated with their vehicle.
 - Pierce County Council adopted a 3% increase and a \$1.00 surcharge for all ferry fares in 2024. The new fares were posted online and at the ticket office, and PPW sent out rider alerts about the fare increase

- There were a few errors in the 70', 80', and 90' vehicle fare categories that were signed into ordinance. These errors are to the benefit of large vehicle drivers but not exactly consistent with the advertised fare increase. Since the fares can only be changed via ordinance and the Council had recessed for the year, the adopted fares went into effect and the Ferry Fund will absorb the lost revenue caused by the errors.
- PC will be correcting the ordinance to remove the Motorcycle Value Pass (Peak) fare, which was published in error. This will happen before May, when peak season begins.
- **Emergency Evacuation plan for Anderson Island:** A presentation on the evacuation plan for AI was provided by Jacquelyn Meier (Emergency Program Coordinator) and Norma Pancake (EMS Director).
 - It was recommended that residents sign up for the PC Alert system to receive notifications. It is a free service that allows fire, police, and other agencies dealing with emergency response to send out accurate and timely information to residents.
 - It was recommended that we have at least two weeks of food supplies and plan ahead to make sure any necessary medications are available
 - The county is in the early stage of developing an “all hazard” plan for the island with a draft expected by spring. AI will need to support this by providing input on key considerations for the map of important locations.
 - One of the elements of this plan will be the “shelter in place” plan. They have developed a template for this but are here to get ideas on what our biggest concerns are as well as input on their maps.
 - Concerns were raised by audience participants that in an emergency, cell service would not be available, and that county-wide planning needs to be tailored to our unique requirements
 - PC Ferry system is participating in the evacuation plan
 - PC mentioned their “bucket list” brochure highlighting what everyone should have on hand for emergencies.
 - Director Pancake mentioned the maps which have been pre-identified with places to utilize in case of emergency as well as places on the mainland where boats might be able to land. These maps will be at the fire department for us to provide input.
 - Emergency communications were mentioned – what happens with the comms go out completely. The Ham radio club has mapped the area where hand held radios can be used. It was mentioned that the areas where hand held radios work could be integrated with the county’s map.
 - Concerns were raised that if there is a large 9.0+ earthquake the ferry dock would be gone, and that a landing craft would need to access certain beaches and these should be pre-defined. It was discussed that these sites should be included in the mapping exercise.
 - Chief Jim Bixler mentioned that Aaron Reynolds has been hired full time with the Fire Department, and that one of his responsibilities is disaster planning.

Appointment of AICAB Special Committee: It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to create a special AICAB Subcommittee – the Emergency Evacuation Committee – to further develop our evacuation plan from the Island perspective and provide Island-specific input for the county’s draft plan. It was highlighted that we need volunteers that are willing to step up in their smaller communities and how we in individual groups take care of the individual neighborhoods.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 pm