

## **Island Manager Report December 11, 2010**

### **Administration:**

**Backup Office Manager Position:** Four interviews were conducted on December 7, and one remains to be scheduled. Following the final interview, the selected candidate will go through reference and background credit. The interview panel was very pleased that there were a number of well qualified candidates residing on the island.

**Mainland Mooring Lines:** The County Code permits one line (or anchor buoy) per parcel, and currently there are three on the south side of the mainland ferry dock. While Island Rules permit mooring lines at North Beach, the Rules appear to be silent as to mooring lines on the mainland side. We have been unable to locate any written permission given by HMC to owners of the lines allowing them to use the mainland property, and the location of the lines has probably just been “customary” for many years.

We believe we have identified the three owners of the lines, and have tried to communicate with them. First, should HMC allow even one line on the beach? If so, two lines will still need to be removed. Unless the Board directs otherwise, we’d suggest that the three owners meet and agree on which line will remain, and that it be available for use by any member, since it is on common property. If there are costs associated with removal of the other two lines, these costs should perhaps be shared among the three owners.

**Mainland Security:** We have another report of gas theft from the mainland parking lot. Pierce County is studying some possible road alignment changes on Isted Road and we are waiting to see their plans. Meanwhile, a plan will be developed for lighting and security cameras.

### **New Herron Island Map:**

County staff have provided us with a new island map, especially useful for emergency responders, since it shows the location of each dwelling and access. It is the first significant map update in several years. We can post this map on our website, but without payment of about \$1100 to Pierce County’s planimetrics consultant, we cannot obtain the map in a format that would allow our webmaster to enter the names and parcel numbers to replace the existing “plat map”.

**Derelict Vehicles:** Removal of vehicles on West Herron seems to have stalled, and we are in touch with Pierce County Code Enforcement regarding when it will resume. We will begin another round of contacting members with apparently derelict vehicles in January 2011.

### **Water System Replacement/Upgrade:**

Steve Chapin has prepared a committee report to the Board on last week’s meeting. Information gathered on behalf of the membership will be in the Island Manager report, in the Beachcomber, or on [www.herronisland.org](http://www.herronisland.org), the community’s official web site. If members have questions regarding the project, we urge them to contact the Board or Island Manager directly, rather than rely on unofficial sources.

**Part I: The USDA Loan Application:** Submittal of the wetlands report has been delayed by the windstorm, which severely damaged the home office of our consultant. When her office is up and running, the report should be forthcoming soon. Until the federal budget is adopted, there will be no action taken by USDA in approving another round of applications. Submittal of the wetlands report will complete the Environmental Review portion of the process.

**Part II: The “Retain or Transfer” Vote:**

Several construction and water operations companies visited on November 18<sup>th</sup> for a tour of the island, followed by a Q&A meeting. The responses to the RFI are due December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Additionally, members of the Water Project Committee met with KeyBank officials regarding commercial loan terms as a potential financing alternative to USDA. KeyBank expressed interest in the project and will make a proposal. The WPC may approach other banks as well to determine if they are interested. This would allow the committee and Board to review an expanded list of financing alternatives and repayment terms..

**Water Maintenance and Operation:** Members experiencing water problems should telephone WASHINGTON WATER SERVICE COMPANY at 253-851-4060. This is a 24 hour number.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 14 from 10 a.m. to noon.

**Fire Department Liaison:** We will set up a follow-up meeting with FD #16 to develop a plan for the next ferry out of service period.

**Land Use:** The Committee is working on encroachment issues affecting HMC rights of way, with letters to be reviewed by the Board prior to mailing.

**Legal Liaison:** Three delinquencies remain with our attorney to resolve: Marcinko, Ruckstein, and Tchochiev. There are twelve others: Cutler, Day, Dennis, Dwyer, Furgason, Marcinko, McNally, Ruckstein, Vogel, Weagant, Wiebe and Worden.

**Parks:** Tracy Anspach reported that the Parks Committee had met with Rules Committee to review some proposed changes in the Rules, and had offered comment.

**Roads:** Committee Report

**Rules:** Committee Report.

**Transportation:** An informal survey of members about potential changes in the ferry schedule received some member responses, but the majority were opposed to eliminating any weekend midday runs. As one alternative, it would be possible to add an early morning round trip on Saturday and Sunday year round, and cancel the Sunday only summertime 1:30-2 p.m. trip. This would add one hour to the ferry crew schedule during the summer, and two hours during the winter.

We continue to have several mainland complaints about noise from the ferry stacks, and have been contacted by the Coast Guard and Governor’s Office about complaints filed with them. The crew informs me that they see no avenue for further action, without substantial increased cost of measuring sound levels, exploring mitigation measures, and making any necessary modifications.

One standby crew member has resigned his position as deck hand, and another indicates he may resign as standby captain. We will recruit for these two positions after January 1.

**North Beach Marina:** The ballot measure has been mailed to members, and returned ballots will be counted at a special meeting January 8, 2011. Members need to be certain that their

signature appears on the envelope, not a return address sticker. Unsigned ballots will not be counted. A copy of the engineering report and recommendations has been posted to our website.

**Pierce County Wharf Easement:** No action on replacement agreement.

**Technology:** Terry Fletcher has taken on the task of sending our specifications to certain of the vendors of electronic ticketing systems, and Fred Fath is exploring the possibility of an iPhone application.

The office will close for the Christmas holiday December 24, 2010.