

**AGENDA
PITSAC MEETING
MARCH 8, 2019
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
MUNICIPALITY OF LEAMINGTON OFFICE, MEETING ROOM 212
111 ERIE STREET NORTH, LEAMINGTON**

Attendees

Tom Bain – Warden(Former), Essex County, PITSAC Chair
Raymond Durocher - Mayor, Pelee Township
David Dawson – Deputy Mayor, Pelee Township
Hilda MacDonald - Mayor, Municipality of Leamington
Peter Neufeld - CAO, Municipality of Leamington
Gord Queen – Deputy Mayor, Town of Kingsville
Peggy Van Mierlo-West - CAO, Town of Kingsville
Jennifer Graham Harkness - Regional Director, MTO
Michael Nadeau - Manager of Operations, MTO
Kevin Boudreau - Regional Contracts Engineer, MTO
Richard vandenBoorn - Regional Operations Officer, MTO

Regrets

John Maddox – CAO, Pelee Township
Nelson Santos – Mayor, Town of Kingsville

Agenda Items:

Richard vandenBoorn(RV) opened the discussion with a message of thanks to Tom Bain for acting as the PITSAC Chair over the past number of years.

Tom shared that he recently talked to Mayor Gary McNamara(new Warden of Essex County) about possible interest in taking part in PITSAC. **Update** – Since this PITSAC meeting, RV had contacted Mayor McNamara and explained the purpose of PITSAC and asked if he would take on the role of Chair. Mayor McNamara accepted the request to act as the PITSAC Chair.

1. Review of July 2018 minutes
 - Tom Bain opened discussions with a review of the July 31, 2018 meeting minutes. Minutes were accepted as presented.
2. MV Pelee Islander II
 - MTO shared a video of the new vessel arrival to the Kingsville ferry terminal.
3. MV Pelee Islander II – Update
 - RV provided an update on the status of the new vessel in light of recent media attention: The new vessel was fully certified by Transport Canada in late November 2018. Our operator has made some minor system adjustments to suit local environmental conditions, and to provide greater passenger comfort.

RV confirmed that that vessel is ready for it's official in-service date of April 6, 2019.

4. New vessel celebrations – Update

- RV shared that MTO is finalizing plans for a shore welcoming event scheduled for Friday, April 5, 2019 between 2:30pm - 5pm The MV Pelee Islander II will depart the Leamington ferry terminal at 9am that day for Pelee Island to pick up Island residents that are interested in attending the shore welcoming event. Invites will be sent out in advance of the event. RV asked Dave Dawson if he could share the event plans with Island residents so that MTO could understand how many residents might be interested in attending the event. Guided tours of the vessel will also form part of the event. RV committed to continue communication with the group as details are developed.

5. Other ferry service items

- MV Jiimaan – MTO is currently considering vessel improvement options.
- MV Pelee Islander Dry Dock – This vessel will undergo a dry dock to repair vessel engine cooling systems. Vessel repairs are expected to be completed prior to the vessel's spring 2019 scheduled in-service date.
- Sandusky Ferry Service – ferry service to Sandusky will be status quo for 2019. RV shared that the City of Sandusky is currently redeveloping their ferry terminal. MTO continues to work with the City in order to better understand potential impacts to the ferry service.
- Update on ferry terminal improvements – bow fenders, shore ramps, passenger ramps. RV confirmed that bow fender and shore ramp improvements at the ferry terminals have been completed. A contract to modify the passenger ramp at Pelee Island is anticipated to be awarded in spring 2019 with improvements expected to be completed by fall 2019.

6. Communications/Customer Service

- Dave Dawson expressed the importance of timely information exchanges related to the ferry service, to prevent misinformation from being shared. MTO committed to sharing information more frequently when new information becomes known as well as continuing with PITSAC meetings to share new ferry service related information when it becomes available.

7. Municipalities to provide update for their Contingency Plans

- RV provided some background on the agenda item for the benefit of the new PITSAC members. Contingency Planning has remained an agenda item to remind the group that in the event passengers visiting Pelee Island cannot return to mainland Ontario, due to reasons beyond the control of our operator, all the local municipalities may have a role to play in order to assist passengers in returning safely to the mainland.

8. Round Table Questions/Concerns

9. Future Meetings

- TBD