



STAFF REPORT

Date: March 25, 2014

File No.: GM 6500-20
Foreshore Protection

To: Gambier Local Trust Committee
For the meeting of April 10, 2014

From: Aleksandra Brzozowski, Island Planner

CC: Courtney Simpson, Regional Planning Manager (Northern Office)

Re: Updates to Foreshore Protection/Stewardship priority project

PURPOSE:

Staff presents project management details for additional funding for Forage Fish mapping in the Gambier Local Trust Area. This report also presents a basic outline of a shoreline education event to be held later in the summer.

BACKGROUND:

At its January 31, 2012 regular business meeting, the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) passed a resolution placing Foreshore Protection, including the implementation of development permit areas and development approval information bylaws, as Number 3 on the Top Priorities Work Program. An initial staff report on a Foreshore Protection project charter was presented to the LTC on November 29, 2013 detailing work to date and relevant bylaw policies.

On January 30, 2014, the Gambier LTC endorsed a project charter for the Foreshore Protection project.

STAFF COMMENTS:

FORAGE FISH MAPPING

At Trust Council in March 2014, Trust Council approved \$5,000 to be spent on forage fish mapping in the Gambier LTA; Bowen Island Municipality also received \$5,000 for mapping.

Local Planning Services have identified staff to oversee the project and staff is in communication with Bowen Island Municipality staff to coordinate resources. However, this significant additional activity must be worked into the Gambier work program. Staff recommends that the mapping work be added to the scope of the Foreshore Protection project, rather than add a new stand alone project for forage fish mapping to the Top Priorities List.

Adding forage fish mapping to the Foreshore Protection project scope will impact the workplan schedule endorsed by the LTC in the project charter, but Staff believe the timing changes will not negatively impact the goals of the LTC for the 2014/2015 fiscal year. Indeed, forage fish mapping data will be particularly useful for future educational material and will serve staff to provide better recommendations on possible regulatory improvements for foreshore protection.

Staff recommends changing the Foreshore Protection Project Charter (Attachment 1) as follows:

- 1) Adding “forage fish mapping” to *Scope and Deliverables*.
- 2) Adding “forage fish mapping” to *Workplan Overview*, with a timeframe of Summer/Fall 2014.
- 3) Change the timeframe for “Expansion of *Caring for My Shoreline* webpages” to Fall/Winter 2014.
- 4) Change the timeframe for “Further brochure design & printing if needed” to Fall/Winter 2014.
- 5) Change the timeframe for “Report on possible regulatory improvements for foreshore protection” to Winter 2014/2015.
- 6) Add “Mike Richards (Forage Fish Mapping lead)” to the project team.
- 7) Change the Budget Source line to read: “Work Program 2013/2014 (\$5,000) and 2014/2015 (\$3,000), Forage Fish Mapping (\$5,000)”.
- 8) Add a Budget Item “Forage Fish Mapping” at a cost of \$5,000.

SUMMER EDUCATION EVENT OUTLINE

On January 30, 2014, the LTC requested an educational event in the summer on the topic of best practices for landowners considering shoreline development. Staff presents a preliminary outline of a possible education event to meet project objectives.

Activities:

- 1) Engineer Presentation. Staff has compiled a shortlist of coastal engineers from Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland who could be special speakers at the event. The chosen speaker will be asked to present the basics about “soft shore” approaches to development, and will discuss examples typically found in with shoreline types found in the Gambier LTA.
- 2) Presentation of “A Landowner’s Guide to Protecting Shoreline Ecosystems”. Planning Staff is currently preparing an in-house information booklet on shoreline development approaches that is applicable to the Islands Trust context. This booklet is set to be completed by early June 2014 and would be available for this educational summer event.
- 3) Depending on the chosen location for the event, a site visit may be a possibility to a particular situation. This optional activity would need to be organized with a willing property owner.
- 4) Depending on time, a quick review “layman’s” presentation by staff of recent shoreline and eelgrass mapping could be included.

Staff anticipates this being a 2 - 2.5 hour event (longer if a site visit is chosen as an activity). A potential agenda is as follows.

Agenda:

Introductions (15 minutes)

- Trustees and Staff introduce the purpose for the event, and presenters

Presentation (1 hour – 1.5 hours)

- A presentation by special engineer guest re: the basics about “soft shore” approaches.
- A discussion of examples typically found in with shoreline types found in the Gambier LTA, with questions and answers from the audience.

BREAK (15 minutes)

Next steps (30 minutes)

- Staff presents the “Landowner’s Guide to Protecting Shoreline Ecosystems”
- Overview of next steps for the Foreshore Protection Project (forage fish mapping, expanding the webpages, further information)
- Final questions and answers for the

Staff requests feedback on the direction on optimal choices for dates as well as a preferred location for the event.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Local Trust Committee amend the Project Charter for Foreshore Protection as recommended above; and,

THAT the Local Trust Committee provide feedback on the outline for the upcoming summer shoreline education event, and provide Staff with direction on preferred dates and location.

Prepared and Submitted by:

Aleksandra Brzozowski

March 26, 2014

Aleksandra Brzozowski
Island Planner

Date

Concurred in by:

Courtney Simpson

March 31, 2014

Courtney Simpson, RPP, MCIP
Regional Planning Manager

Date

Attachment: Foreshore Protection Project Charter, endorsed January 30, 2014

Gambier LTA Foreshore Protection Project Charter

Date: January 17, 2014

Purpose This project aims to increase understanding about shoreline ecosystems and coastal processes, and to better protect those foreshore ecosystems in the Gambier Local Trust Area.

Background Foreshore protection is a priority project of the GMLTC work program in the 2011-2014 term. Mapping of shorelines and eelgrass have been completed for Gambier Island, Keats Island, and the Associated Islands; shoreline mapping was presented in a webinar in 2013. Keats and the Thormanby Islands in particular have previously been identified as shorelines highly sensitive to foreshore modification issues.

Objectives

- Facilitate a deeper understanding of coastal processes and foreshore ecosystems
- Provide property owners with best science and best practices for shoreline landscaping and development.
- Identify and develop improved regulatory tools to proactively protect the foreshore.

Scope & Deliverables

- Modification and printing of existing information materials.
- Expansion of *Caring for My Shoreline* webpages.
- Educational event on the topic of best practices for landowners considering shoreline development.
- Video of educational event posted on website.
- Report presenting possible regulatory options to improve foreshore protection.

Workplan Overview

Deliverable/Milestone	Date
Modification of <i>Sharing our Shorelines</i> brochure & printing	March 20, 2014
Outline of educational event presented to LTC.	April 10, 2014
Host educational event in the Gambier LTA.	July 2014
Expansion of <i>Caring for My Shoreline</i> webpages.	Summer/Fall 2014
Further brochure design & printing if needed.	Summer/Fall 2014
Report on possible regulatory improvements for foreshore protection.	September 18, 2014

Project Team

Aleksandra Brzozowski (Island Planner) (Lead)
Gambier LTC (promotion of educational event)
Penny Hawley (venue logistics, web posting)
Wendy Hawthorne (webpage design)

Budget

Budget Source: Work Program 2013/2014 (\$5,000) and 2014/2015 (\$3,000 requested)

Item	Cost	Fiscal
Prep and printing information materials	\$700	2013/ 2014
Educational event (speaker, venue)	\$2,000	2014/2015
Video of educational event	\$500	2014/2015
Technical review of new webpage information	\$500	2014/2015

RPM Approval:

Courtney Simpson

Date: January 20, 2014

LTC Endorsement:

Resolution #: GM-2014-001

Date: January 30, 2014