



Islands Trust Council Highlights March 2019

The following list indicates the highlights of Trust Council's activities and decisions during its March 12-14 meeting on Gabriola Island. These highlights are not the official minutes of the Trust Council meeting; Trust Council will adopt those at its June 2019 meeting on Galiano Island.

BUDGET SESSION

Trust Council reviewed the draft 2019/20 Budget and made the following changes:

That the 2019/20 Budget be amended to allocate an additional \$6,000.00 to First Nations Relationship Building gifts and site visits and be funded from reserves. (This brings the total funding to for this work to \$10,000 for the fiscal year.)

Financial Plan Bylaw No. 176

Bylaw No. 176, (2019/20 Budget) as amended, received First, Second and Third Reading and was forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval. (Bylaw No. 176 includes a 2019/20 Islands Trust budget of \$7.86M.)

Revenue Anticipation (borrowing) Bylaw No. 177

The *Local Government Act* requires local governments to enact a "borrowing bylaw" and while the Islands Trust Council adopts a borrowing bylaw each year, no borrowing has been required for several years. Bylaw No. 177 received First, Second and Third Reading and was forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval.

Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) Tax Requisition Consultation

That the Islands Trust Council include a special property tax requisition for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area in the amount of \$98,500 in its 2019/20 annual budget, to fund additional operations of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee in preserving and protecting the quality and quantity of water resources within the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area.

FURTHER BUSINESS

Reconciliation Declaration

1. Trust Council made the following declaration regarding reconciliation:

The Islands Trust Council acknowledges that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial and honours the rich history, stewardship, and cultural heritage that embody this place we all call home.

The Islands Trust Council is committed to establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Islands Trust states a commitment to Reconciliation with the understanding that this commitment is a long-term relationship-building and healing process.

The Islands Trust Council will strive to create opportunities for knowledge-sharing and understanding as people come together to preserve and protect the special nature of the islands within the Salish Sea.

2. That the Islands Trust Council request the Chair to write to First Nations in the Islands Trust Area to provide Trust Council's declaration regarding reconciliation.

Declare a Climate Emergency and Intensify Islands Trust Climate Action

That the Islands Trust Council:

1. Declare a Climate Change Emergency in the Islands Trust Area.
2. Add climate change mitigation, resilience, and adaptation policies to the Islands Trust Policy Statement amendment project.
3. Direct the Trust Council Chair to write to the Chairs of Regional Districts in the Islands Trust Area asserting Trust Council's full support for declarations of a Climate Emergency;
4. Direct the Trust Council Chair to write to the Provincial Minister of the Environment, asserting the Islands Trust Council's support to help the Province close the 25% emissions gap in the CleanBC Plan, and calling on the Province to provide the powers and resources to local governments;
5. Direct the Trust Council Chair to write to the Federal Minister of the Environment, asserting the Islands Trust Council's support to help Canada meet its Nationally Determined Contribution target made in the Paris Agreement and call on the federal government to provide the powers and resources to local governments.
6. Direct staff to report back to the June 2019 Trust Council meeting on measures and land-use planning actions that the Islands Trust can take to advance progress toward Local Trust Committee climate reduction targets and achieve further reductions in carbon from Trust operations.
7. Direct staff to include a central focus on equitable climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience into strategic planning to provide guidance and support for the Trust Area's efforts to transition away from fossil fuels in ways that prioritize those most vulnerable to climate impacts and most in need of support in transitioning to renewable energy.
8. Trust Council directs staff to work with First Nations and First Nations government agencies to seek support for the climate change emergency and to engage to coordinate climate action strategies with First Nations within the Islands Trust Area.

Bylaw Enforcement Policy Amendments

1. That the content of Trust Council Policy "5.5.i Bylaw Enforcement" be deleted and replaced with the attached new Policy "5.5.i Bylaw Compliance and Enforcement."
2. That "Bylaw Enforcement" be renamed "Bylaw Compliance and Enforcement."

Continuous Learning Plan

Trust Council referred the Continuous Learning Plan to Executive Committee with the following recommendations from Trust Council for additions to the list for review, suggestions and refinement at next Trust Council:

1. Water Licensing Branch session,
2. Climate change related topics including enforcement and bylaw sharing associated with climate change,
3. Housing agreements and how they work,
4. First Nations relationship building,
5. Indigenous Law,
6. How we measure Preserve and Protect,
7. Engagement tools associated with IAP2,
8. Agency liaison such as Agricultural Land Commission,
9. *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)* session,
10. Business/administrative training including Microsoft products.

Coastal Douglas Fir Tool Kit

1. That Islands Trust Council requests implementation of the Coastal Douglas Fir Tool Kit as follows:
 - a) Distribute the Coastal Douglas Fir Tool Kit to local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality with a recommendation to add it as a top priority long range planning project.
 - b) Prioritize protection of the Coastal Douglas Fir and Associated Ecosystems and implementation of the Islands Trust Conservancy Regional Conservation Plan in the Islands Trust Council strategic plan for 2019-2023.

- c) Direct Local Planning Committee to commission mapping of contiguous tracks of the Coastal Douglas-fir zone and associated ecosystems across the Islands Trust Area.
- d) Request staff to create a strong communications program that will support Islands Trust Conservancy conservation initiatives for Coastal Douglas Fir protection as well as support the land use planning process, with a special focus on communicating the role of Development Permit Areas as a tool for Coastal Douglas Fir protection that permits development.
- e) Request staff to bring recommendations for how the Natural Areas Property Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) can be tailored to highlight and prioritise contiguous tracks of the Coastal Douglas Fir zone in the outreach, communications, and approval of NAPTEP covenants by the Islands Trust Conservancy.
- f) Request Trust Area Services staff to continue participating in the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership.

Community Housing Needs

1. That Islands Trust Council receives the “Baseline Report: Affordable Housing in the Islands Trust Area (Updated January, 2019)”.
2. That Islands Trust Council receives the document “Affordable Housing in the Trust Area: Strategic Actions for Islands Trust,” and considers adding the high priority actions within it in the Trust Council Strategic Plan for the current term.
3. That Islands Trust Council requests Staff to post the updated “Baseline Report: Affordable Housing in the Islands Trust Area,” and the “Affordable Housing in the Trust Area: Strategic Actions for Islands Trust,” on the website.

Herring Roe Fishery Advocacy

That Trust Council write a letter to Minister Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, asking for a moratorium on the herring fishery in the Salish Sea until an ecosystem-based management plan is in place that considers the current and future effects of climate change and the potential impacts on predator species, in particular, Chinook Salmon and Southern Resident Killer Whales; and that Bowen Island Municipality and First Nations in the Trust Area be invited to participate as signatories to this letter.

Disposition of Town Hall

That Trust Council refer to the Executive Committee, for investigation and report back to Trust Council, the following question - do the provisions of section 4.4.2 of the Trust Policy Statement preclude the approval of developments in which the supply of potable water is solely from rainwater catchment and storage?

~~

The Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property-owners. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, co-operation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5200 square kilometres.

The 26-member Islands Trust Council makes decisions about overall policy and financial management for the Islands Trust and has broad responsibilities to uphold the Islands Trust mandate to preserve and protect the islands. Trust Council does not make local land use decisions, which are the responsibility of the local trustees within their respective local trust areas and Bowen Island Municipality.