



Executive Committee Addendum

Date: December 15, 2021
Time: 9:00 am
Location: Electronic meeting, Public venue
Islands Trust
200-1627 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8R 1H8

Pages

8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROJECTS

8.1. Trust Council Initiated

8.1.2. Trust Area Services

8.1.2.5. *Policy Statement Amendment Project Update - Briefing*

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BRIEFING

To:	Executive Committee	For the Meeting of:	December 15, 2021
From:	Trust Area Services	Date Prepared:	December 8, 2021
SUBJECT:	Policy Statement Amendment Project Update		

PURPOSE: To provide Executive Committee with an update on the Policy Statement Amendment Project and Islands 2050 Phase 3 Public Engagement Program.

BACKGROUND:

Islands 2050 Phase 3 Public Engagement Program Update

In September 2021, Trust Council approved “Scenario 3” of an expanded [Islands 2050 Phase 3 Public Engagement Strategy](#) that had been prepared by consultants from MODUS Planning, Design & Engagement, along with an associated [project charter](#). Staff worked with BC Bid to post a Request for Proposals soliciting submissions from qualified firms to lead the implementation of the Phase 3 public engagement strategy in close collaboration with staff and trustees. Following the competitive procurement process, the contract was awarded to [ISL Engineering and Land Services](#) on November 25, 2021. The new consultants are now working closely with staff to plan the Phase 3 Public Engagement Program, which is expected to launch early in the new year. A news release will soon be prepared to notify the public of the winning firm and what to expect going forward.

As per the strategy, this expanded third phase of public engagement is intended to meaningfully engage the public on the draft new Policy Statement, in accordance with the [IAP2](#) “inform” and “consult” levels of public participation. For Executive Committee’s consideration on January 12, 2022, ISL will provide a robust Islands 2050 Phase 3 Public Engagement Program Plan (informed by Scenario 3 of the Islands 2050 Phase 3 Engagement Strategy Discussion Draft) for review which is expected to include:

- Community events, information kiosks, and pop-ups in each local trust area / island municipality (in accordance with COVID protocols)
- Multi-day virtual workshop for key interested and affected parties across the Trust Area
- Information session(s) with speakers and live Q&A
- Survey (online and print)
- Workbook (self-guided materials, including survey)
- Ongoing external communications via news releases, social media posts, etc.

At the end of the formal Phase 3 Public Engagement Program, the consultants will prepare a What We Heard Report detailing the outcomes of the engagement process and explaining how public input will inform further amendments to the draft new Policy Statement. The consultants will also provide an evaluation report on the engagement process itself. ISL’s contract is expected to be completed by the end of May 2022.

Throughout this third phase of public engagement, the consultants will strive to be respectful of Islands Trust Reconciliation Principles, and of the separate but parallel track of early and meaningful engagement that is occurring with First Nations, treaty alliances, and Indigenous people living on the islands, with advice and training from Islands Trust’s Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor (SIPA).

As per Trust Council's July 8 resolution, many trustees have been sharing the draft new Policy Statement with their constituents in recent months and asking for feedback to be directed to islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca. Staff continue to respond to public/media inquiries and have been posting public correspondence to the [Islands 2050 webpage](#). Trustees are encouraged to check the 'Public Correspondence' folder on the Islands 2050 webpage regularly to view the latest public correspondence.

In addition to public correspondence, a number of community-led organizations, Facebook groups, webinar series, flyers, petitions, and media articles have emerged in recent months to foster public dialogue about the Policy Statement Amendment Project. While the level of public engagement is encouraging, some of these have included incorrect information about the contents of the draft new Policy Statement, the amendment project, and the Trust itself. It is hoped that the Phase 3 public engagement program and communications support will facilitate more proactive communications related to the project and correct misinformation as needed. In the meantime, trustees are encouraged to invite constituents to refer to the many informational documents contained on the [Islands 2050 webpage](#).

First Nations Engagement Update

First Nations engagement on the Policy Statement has moved into Phase 2 of early and meaningful engagement. In early September 2021, staff forwarded the draft new Policy Statement, along with a second installment of capacity funding letters, to all First Nations and First Nation treaty alliances in the Trust Area. To date, four First Nations and one treaty alliance have accepted capacity funding support (Cowichan Tribes; Malahat First Nation; Snuneymuxw First Nation; Tla'amin First Nation; and WSANEC Leadership Council). Three First Nations have expressed interest in possibly receiving some level of capacity funding support (K'ómoks First Nation, Tsawout First Nation, and Wei Wai Kum First Nation). One First Nation (Tsleil-Waututh First Nation) has declined capacity funding at this time. The dialogue with First Nations is ongoing and it is possible that other Nations will request capacity funding support in the coming months.

Staff have begun the process of engaging with First Nations on the contents of the draft new Policy Statement in its current iteration. After first reading, the proposed Policy Statement bylaw will be formally referred to all First Nations and First Nation treaty alliances within the Trust Area. Islands Trust staff will need to collaborate with staff at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to ensure that the requirements for early and meaningful engagement with First Nations have been met, given the importance of reconciliation to the provincial mandate and as a prerequisite for ministerial approval of the draft new Policy Statement. To date, feedback has been positive, with commitments to continue engagement and relationship building. The most common feedback themes remain consistent with those from the first phase of early and meaningful engagement, underscoring the need to: acknowledge and respect First Nations' title and collective rights within the Islands Trust Area; cultivate collaborative relationships built on trust; share information regarding land use decision-making; and, protect cultural heritage, culturally significant areas/species, harvesting sites, and nearshore ecosystems in the Trust Area. For more information on First Nations engagement and reconciliation, please see the "First Nations Engagement" folder on the [Islands 2050 webpage](#), as well as the [Reconciliation webpage](#).

Islands Trust staff have also reached out to Indigenous People living on the islands within the Islands Trust Area to begin discussions on how they would like to engage. Staff hope to expand on these discussions in the new year.

Agency Referrals Update

The first phase of agency referrals is now complete. On July 22, staff referred the draft new Policy Statement out to all referral agencies (with the exception of First Nations who will receive formal referrals *after* first reading) and provided an online information session on the contents of the new draft. The deadline for this round of agency referrals was October 22. To date, 40 responses have been received. Of these responses, 14 were from Islands Trust bodies (12 local trust committees, Bowen Island Municipality, and the Islands Trust Conservancy Board), six from regional districts, two from school district boards, 10

from improvement district boards, seven from provincial government agencies, and one from federal government agencies. After first reading, Trust Council will refer the document out to all regional districts again, as per requirements outlined in the *Islands Trust Act*. All agency referral responses received to date have been posted to the [Islands 2050 webpage](#) under the “Referral Responses” folder.

Project Timeline Update

The Policy Statement Amendment Project timeline had previously aimed for first reading in July 2021 with the third phase of public engagement to occur in Fall 2021. However, in response to concerns expressed by the public in the lead up to the July meeting, Trust Council postponed consideration of first reading to December 2021 and called for enhanced engagement on the draft new Policy Statement prior to first reading. Due to the length of time required to develop and implement the expanded third phase of public engagement, it was not feasible to reach first reading by December 2021. At the moment, it appears that first reading would not likely occur before Summer 2022. The project timeline will be updated early 2022, once [ISL Engineering and Land Services](#) and Islands Trust have finalized the implementation plan for the Islands 2050 Phase 3 Public Engagement Program.



ATTACHMENTS: N/A

FOLLOW-UP: In the coming quarter, staff will continue to undertake early and meaningful engagement with First Nations and treaty alliances, and work with the new consultants to launch the third phase of public engagement. Once these particular engagement phases are complete (likely in Spring 2022), staff will then collate and present feedback to Trust Council to consider in an integrated manner, along with recommendations for further amendments. A revised project timeline will be defined once the plan for the third phase of public engagement has been developed by the new consultants. At the moment, it appears that first reading would not likely occur before Summer 2022.

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Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer / Dec 8, 2021