

ADOPTED



Galiano Island Local Trust Committee Minutes of Community Information Meeting

Date: July 26, 2022
Location: Galiano South Community Hall
141 Sturdies Bay Road, Galiano Island, BC

Members Present: Dan Rogers, Chair
Jane Wolverton, Chair
Tahirih Rockafella, Local Trustee

Staff Present: Robert Kojima, Regional Planning Manager
Narissa Chadwick, Island Planner
William Shuba, Senior Freshwater Specialist
Pat Todd, Recorder

There were approximately ten (10) members of the public attending.

- 1. Open House – 1pm-2pm**
- 2. Presentation – Groundwater Sustainability Implementation Project**

Chair Rogers called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Chair Rogers acknowledged that the meeting was being held in traditional territory of the Coast Salish First Nations. Chair Rogers explained that meeting was being held in person and live streamed via Zoom to increase accessibility.

Planner Chadwick commented:

- this meeting is an opportunity to provide the community with information related to options for the proposed watershed protection development permit boundaries and provide an opportunity for the community to ask questions;
- Development Permit Areas (DPA) are a tool that can be used to protect the absorption and retention of freshwater by protecting vegetation coverage in critical areas; and
- 3 options based on lot boundaries have been identified.

William Shuba detailed:

- presentation focus is on groundwater resources;
- understanding the science has been a long process, working with government agencies, water districts etc. to develop proposed policies;
- groundwater is a unique amenity that sustains ecosystems, community: need plan for future: comes from rain, snow and fog (meteoric water); and
- the focus of the presentation is recharge.

Aquifer Conceptualization Project

- definition of aquifer: subterranean geological unity that can store and transmit water in useful quantities for domestic, industrial and ecological use;
- rain, snow and fog filtered to ground by forests/plants; and
- starting to identify factures: important for users and new development.

Groundwater Recharge Mapping

- groundwater regions are water management units: largely based on water sheds;
- rains – high elevations – flows down to lower areas: more rain in north end of island;
- ecosystem role in groundwater recharge potential considered;
- plants funnel water to ground;
- Islands Trust website: Freshwater Project section for more information;
- Low discharge equals high recharge;
- well managed, productive and healthy forests provide better water collection/retention, healthy soils;
- Groundwater Solutions Report on IT website;
- reference to www.groundwatervisible.org – stories and photos; and
- changing climate and increased societal stresses – need to plan for future.

Planner Chadwick spoke to:

- Development Permit Areas (DPA) designed to protect groundwater and recharge;
- reviewed groundwater recharge to identify DPA options;
- number of exemptions proposed e.g., hydrologist report, repair and maintenance, removal of dangerous trees;
- public comment encouraged today through to September 9;
- bylaw amendment: map to identify boundaries, bylaw will include exemptions;
- next step is for the Local Trust Committee (LTC) to decide on groundwater recharge DPA boundaries;
- 2, 5, 10 and 20 hectare options;
- methodology used to identify boundaries is on website;
- cautionary Principle: protect more rather than less – climate is changing – science is going to change;
- recharge areas defined by topography and geology;
- proposed DPA bylaw in keeping with IT object/Policy Statement acknowledgement of First Nations knowledge and culture; and
- all reports and documents are on IT website.

Questions:

Public member: highly beneficial to identify recharge areas – was climate change a factor in considerations?

William Shuba spoke to the education factor of projects/maps; importance of land stewardship; DPA relates to climate change:

- demand management component;

- regions likely to hold as defined by topology and supported by ecosystems;
- healthy forests increase recharge: demand impact; and
- DPA first step.

Planner Chadwick added science is there – know it will change and need to protect more.

Public member: question regarding interconnectivity of island and weather stations.

William Shuba identified that the island is all one type of geological unit and groundwater flows along spaces between stratas. There are unique dynamics of geological layers. There are weather stations throughout the province with data looked at year to year and averaged over 20 years.

Public member: stated recharge on west side of island/discharge on east while flow is north to south and questioned significance of isolation of recharge and discharge areas.

William Shuba spoke to discharge areas and wet areas. Critical recharge areas are typically down axis of island – resting on bedding planes – flows down or springs up according to hydrostatic pressures.

Public member: related sensitivity of east side: preferential recharge areas – appreciation of information given. Questioned value of focusing on areas with shortages or saline intrusion first.

William Shuba stated populated regions will be reviewed: high density areas have most recharge: number of areas protected as Parks.

Planner Chadwick added there are a number of parts o the project and areas with shortages have bee identified and will be looked at further in the future.

Public member: spoke to importance of forest management. Comments – great to identify recharge and protect however should be cautious regulating prior to being aware of demand on particular area. Why rules that don't fit situation?

Planner Chadwick referred again to the Cautionary Principle – look forward and plan

Public member: Comments – look at all areas: areas may become inhabitable: importance of an objective analysis. Asked for explanation as to how exemptions would be applied.

Planner Chadwick explained there would be a full analysis of the area and proposed site. Reports from professionals would be considered.

All materials presented are available on the IT – Galiano webpage.

3. **Workshop – 3pm-4pm**

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

By general consent the Community Information meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Dan Rogers, Chair

Certified Correct:

Pat Todd, Recorder