ADOPTED

Islands Trust Conservancy Board

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date:	**Tuesday, March 17, 2026**
Location:	**Islands Trust Victoria Office** **200 - 1627 Fort Street** **Victoria, BC V8R 1H8**
Board Members Present:	Lisa Gauvreau, Chair Tanner Timothy | nənqəm, Vice-Chair Tobi Elliott, Trustee Jeannine Georgeson, Trustee Risa Smith, Trustee (electronic) Susan Yates, Trustee
Staff Present:	Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services Wendy Tyrrell, Manager, Islands Trust Conservancy Joe Elliott, Senior Indigenous Relations Advisor (electronic) Jemma Green, Team Lead, Protected Areas Management Kathryn Martell, Ecosystem Protection Specialist Jill Marrack, Senior Policy Advisor Mike Richards, Strategic Fund Development Specialist Erica Wheeler, Species at Risk Program Coordinator Rob Kroeker, Planning Services Administrative Assistant/Recorder Lisa Millard, Meeting Administrator/Recorder (electronic)
Members of the Public Present:	There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gauvreau called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Gauvreau acknowledged that the meeting was being held in the territory of several Coast Salish First Nations.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3.1 Review of Agenda and Introduction of New Items

The following additions to the agenda were presented for consideration:

- Acknowledging and Mapping the Conservancy as a Growth Model – Discussion (see 9.1)
- David Denison Letter from Salt Spring Exchange – Discussion (see 9.2)

3.2 Approval of Agenda

By general consent the agenda was approved as amended.

4. RISE AND REPORT DECISIONS FROM PREVIOUSLY CLOSED MEETING

The Islands Trust Conservancy Board Chair Gauvreau rose and reported at its January 20, 2026 in-camera meeting that it has approved spending of up to $5,000 from the Land Securement budget to support a potential nature reserve securement in the Lasqueti Island local Trust Area.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5.1 ITC Board Meeting Draft Minutes of January 20, 2026

The following amendments to the minutes were presented for consideration:

- Modify the listing of board members by excluding the terms appointed and elected.

By general consent the Islands Trust Conservancy meeting minutes of January 20, 2026 were adopted as amended.

5.2 ITC Board Meeting Draft Minutes of January 30, 2026

The following amendments to the minutes were presented for consideration:

- Modify the listing of board members by excluding the terms appointed and elected.
- A formatting issue on p. 2 of the minutes, was noted, starting at the word "Columbia";

By general consent the Islands Trust Conservancy meeting minutes of January 30, 2026 were adopted as amended.

6. FOLLOW UP ACTION LIST

Discussion ensued on:

- The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the following points were noted:
  - Use of artificial intelligence without a corporate AI policy in place;
  - Issues regarding AI include the ethics of AI's ecological impacts;
  - Gather more information about current organizational AI use;
  - Information must be controlled and stored with care for privacy;
  - Director of Legislative and Information Services Marlor could join May meeting to discuss;
  - If staff are using AI what safeguards are being implemented; and
  - Trustee Elliott will bring the concerns to Executive Committee.

ITC-2026-020
It was MOVED and SECONDED
that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board request staff to report on their current use of artificial intelligence and safeguards being implemented.

<u>CARRIED</u>

Discussion ensued on:

- Considerations of investment options for all of Islands Trust Conservancy funds:
  - What are the ethical requirements governing the investments of ITC funds
  - Whether ethical funds have high-yield options

  Manager Tyrrell noted that she will send information on the fund investment options offered by the Ministerial Finance Authority to the Board.

Director Frater introduced herself upon joining the meeting.

7. BUSINESS

7.1 Items for Approval

7.1.1 Allocation of 2025-26 Undesignated Donations - Request for Decision

Manager Tyrrell summarized the request for decision.

It was noted that there is an error in the *Purpose* section of the Request for Decision. The date range '…from April 1, 2026 to March 11, 2026…' should read April 1, 2025 to March 11, 2026.

ITC-2026-021
It was MOVED and SECONDED
that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board request staff to allocate undesignated donations received in the 2025-26 fiscal year to the Property Management Fund to support management of Islands Trust Conservancy's protected areas.

CARRIED

7.1.2 Referral Request - Proposed Bylaw No. 107, Lasqueti Island - Request for Decision

ITC-2026-022
It was MOVED and SECONDED
that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board request staff to notify the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee that Islands Trust Conservancy's interests are unaffected by proposed Bylaw No. 107.

CARRIED

The Meeting Administrator joined the meeting at 10:45 a.m. and recorded the minutes from item 7.1.3 onward.

The Planning Services Administrative Assistant (recorder) left the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

7.1.3 Referral Request - Proposed Bylaws No. 256 and No. 257, Denman Island - Request for Decision

Islands Trust Conservancy Team Lead Green summarized the request for decision.

Discussion ensued.

ITC-2026-023
It was MOVED and SECONDED

that the Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) Board request staff to notify the Island Planner for Denman Island that approval of Bylaws 256 and 257 is endorsed by the ITC Board on the basis that the proposed bylaws bring the Official Community Plan and zoning into alignment with the conservation purpose of the subject properties and adds another layer of protection from development, especially for PID 023-005-424 and PID 023-005-432, which are not currently protected by a conservation covenant.

CARRIED

7.1.4 Salt Spring Island NAPTEP Covenant Proposal - Request for Decision/Staff Report

Ecosystems Protection Specialist Martell summarized the request for decision and noted a typo on page 2, Section 3, Implications of Recommendation, that should read "...this project would likely **not** be completed withing the timeframe for NAPTEP benefits in 2027."

ITC-2026-024
It was MOVED and SECONDED
that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board accepts the conservation proposal submitted by Marilyn Walker, to place a Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) covenant on approximately 2.5 ha of a Salt Spring Island property, PID: 009-805-991, Lot A, Section 72, South Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District, Plan 46279, to protect a wetland, riparian areas, and mature forest, subject to review of First Nations referral responses and to Ministerial approval.

CARRIED

The meeting was recessed for a break at 10:57 a.m. and reconvened at 11:03 a.m.

7.2 Items for Discussion/Direction

7.2.1 Species at Risk Program Highlights – Presentation and Briefing

The Species at Risk (SAR) Program Coordinator Wheeler provided a presentation on the program and highlighted the following:

- Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA) and British Columbia's conservation status ranking list for Red and Blue species and ecosystems;
- The Trust Area is located in southwestern BC, which was designated by the federal government as one of eleven priority places across Canada to allocate funding of the surveying, monitoring, management and recovery for species at risk, this designation provided the funding to implement ITC's Species at Risk Program through the Priority Places grant; and
- Species at risk within the Trust Area that SAR Program focused on includes Western Screech-Owl, yellow montane violet, Zerene Fritillary butterfly, and Sharp-tailed Snake amongst others;
- The presentation provided details on the successes of the SAR Program and the purpose, goals, accomplishments, and current status in the areas of program administration, data and information, surveys and

monitoring, engagement and outreach, land securement, and the s.11 conservation agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) in progress.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were noted:

- The work program and goals were developed jointly with ECCC, but not directed by ECCC;
- Goals and objectives accomplished, and those not accomplished were communicated to ECCC through quarterly updates;
- Islands Trust Conservancy focuses on ecosystem-based research, education, and management as shown in the 10-year Regional Conservation Plan;
- There is intention to look at ecosystem integrity from a stewardship management planning perspective; and
- Staff will bring a business case to the next fiscal budget for the Regional Conservation Plan update process which will include funds for identifying mapping and modelling needs necessary for the update.

7.3 Correspondence - none

7.4 Updates for Information

7.4.1 <u>Public Securement Project Report - Acquisitions</u>

Received for Information.

7.4.2 <u>Public Securement Project Report - Covenants</u>

Received for Information.

7.4.3 <u>Five-Year Plan – Verbal Update</u>

Senior Policy Advisor Marrack provided a verbal update and highlighted the following:

- A virtual information session about the plan was held for First Nations in February and a summary of First Nations participation and interest was provided;
- A communications and engagement log will be developed as per provincial requirements;
- The next priority is to notify local conservancies of the process and begin meeting with First Nations for Phase Two;
- Staff are in the process of identifying nature reserves where there are opportunities to work together with First Nations with the intention to develop a framework for future decision-making focusing on a practical approach.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were noted:

- There is need to refine the referral letters and preface a referral with expression of interest in developing longer term relationship;
- Suggestion to develop an online repository for information sharing.

Trustee Smith left the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

The meeting was recessed for a break at 12:34 p.m. and reconvened at 1:34 p.m.

7.4.4 Executive Committee – Verbal Update

Trustee Elliott noted the following:

- Continued discussions with Executive Committee on how they can support Trust Council's understanding of Islands Trust Conservancy's work and budget; and
- There is a joint Executive Committee / Islands Trust Conservancy Board meeting on April 15, 2026 and consideration of agenda item topics will be discussed between Chair Gauvreau and Chair Patrick.

7.4.5 Financial Planning Committee – Verbal Update

Trustee Yates stated the Financial Planning Committee met several times prior to Trust Council with focus on budget recommendations.

7.4.6 Trust Council – Verbal Update

Trustees provided a verbal update and the following comments were noted:

- The Trust Council meeting was focussed primarily on Policy Statement and budget discussions and the budget passed by 2/3 majority vote;
- Trust Council signed on to the joint call led by West Coast Environmental Law for the province to recommit to meaningful implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

7.4.7 Governance Committee – Verbal Update

Chair Gauvreau noted the recent Governance Committee meeting focussed on a presentation and discussion of trustee remuneration.

7.4.8 ITC Budget Report

Received for information.

7.4.9 Islands Trust Conservancy 4^{th} Quarter – Staff Report

Discussion ensued and the following comments were recorded:

- There is a standing agenda item for local trust committee (LTC) meetings for staff to provide Conservancy updates;
- Conservancy staff do not have the capacity to present at every LTC meeting;
- Board Trustees highlight quarterly reports at (LTC) meetings when time allows;
- Trustee Elliott will advise Executive Committee that a report is not included as a standing item on local trust committee agendas;
- The quarterly report is provided to Trust Council and it is presumed the Trustees have seen it;

- Decision highlights of Conservancy Board meetings can continue to be provided to local trust committees for information.

TC-2026-025
It was MOVED and SECONDED
that Islands Trust Conservancy Board request staff to forward the Islands Trust Conservancy quarterly update to Trust Council, local trust committees, and Bowen Island Municipality for the Conservancy Report agenda item, following its receipt at Trust Council.

CARRIED

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DELGATIONS - none

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Acknowledging and Mapping the Conservancy as a Growth Model – Discussion

Trustee Elliott introduced her systems mapping growth model concept and explained her views as follows:

- A need to develop a strategy for long-term sustainable funding for the Conservancy that isn't primarily provided through taxes;
- A growth model would be beneficial to project the growth of Islands Trust Conservancy into the future in regards to the number and complexity of properties to be acquired and managed;
- Growth (more lands protected) is accompanied by a related management burden including additional staff, operational, and administrative costs which create the need for higher budget;
- Moving forward, Islands Trust Conservancy could better estimate the long-term costs associated with protecting and managing ecologically significant lands to make.
- Systems mapping could help with development of a fundraising strategy so when funding opportunities are available at the provincial level, there would be clear information about where additional funding would make the most difference; and
- The mapping exercise can show and demonstrate an established benefit for funding.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were noted:

- The value of conservation is not accounted for in the way it should be and models can be used to estimate and justify costs;
- Islands Trust five-year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 201 does not account for the projected growth of Islands Trust Conservancy;
- Public budget surveys consistently show support for Trust Council funding to the Islands Trust Conservancy;
- Trust Council funding requests to the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs could be considered, and would benefit from advancing strategy, including seeking support from MLAs and First Nations; and
- There is information available on previous funding requests from Trust Council to the province.

9.2 David Denison Letter from Salt Spring Exchange – Discussion

This item was deferred.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Islands Trust Conservancy Board meeting will be held electronically on May 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

11. CLOSED MEETING

11.1 Motion to Close the Meeting

ITC-2026-026
It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the Community Charter, Part 4 Division 3, section 90 (1)(b) personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for an award or honour from the Board, or who has offered to provide a gift to the Board on condition of anonymity; and,

90(1)(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, as the Board considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Islands Trust Conservancy Board; and,

90(1)(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Board, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Islands Trust Conservancy Board if they were held in public; and

that staff are invited to remain in the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting was closed to the public at 2:27 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

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Lisa Gauvreau, Chair

Certified Correct:

ADOPTED

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Rob Kroeker, Planning Services Administrative Assistant/Recorder

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Lisa Millard, Meeting Administrator/Recorder