



Islands Trust Conservancy Board

Regular Meeting Agenda

Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2023
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Electronic Zoom Meeting

Pages

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
3. **RISE AND REPORT from the October 3, 2023 IC meeting**
 - The Islands Trust Conservancy Board approved an Opportunity Fund Grant of up to \$7,000 be awarded to Gabriola Land and Trails Trust from the Opportunity Fund for costs associated with placing a NAPTEP conservation covenant on a Gabriola property.
 - The Islands Trust Conservancy endorsed the Operational Plan for the eradication of Fallow Deer from Sidney Island, dated September 5, 2023, subject to terms and conditions to mitigate risk of damage to Islands Trust Conservancy covenant areas.
4. **MINUTES/COORDINATION**
 - 4.1 **Minutes of Meetings/Resolutions without Meetings**
 - 4.1.1 **Approval of the October 3, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes** 3 - 8
 - 4.2 **Follow-up Action List** 9 - 13
5. **BUSINESS**
 - 5.1 **Items for Approval**
 - 5.1.1 **2024 ITC Annual Board Meeting Schedule - Request for Decision** 14 - 17
 - 5.1.2 **ITC Nature Reserves Monitoring Report 2023 - Request for Decision** 18 - 31
 - 5.2 **Items for Discussion/Direction**
 - 5.2.1 **ITC Plan Approval (verbal)**
 - 5.2.2 **Property Management Resources Business Case (verbal)**
 - 5.2.3 **Climate Change Briefing to Trust Council - Briefing** 32 - 69
 - 5.2.4 **Islands Trust 50th Anniversary Activities Briefing to Trust Council** 70 - 71
 - 5.2.5 **Eelgrass Mapping Phase II - Briefing** 72 - 73
 - 5.2.6 **ITC Board Member Appointment to Governance Committee (verbal)**

5.2.7 Koontz NAPTEP Application Fee Sponsorship Request to EC (verbal)

5.3 Correspondence - None

5.4 Updates for Information

5.4.1 Public Acquisitions Report 74 - 75

5.4.2 Public Covenants Report 76 - 81

5.4.3 Budget Report 82 - 82

5.4.4 Executive Committee Update (verbal)

5.4.5 Financial Planning Committee Update (verbal)

5.4.6 Conservancy Quarterly Report to Trust Council 83 - 87

ITC Report to Trust Council, 2nd Quarter (July-September 2023)

ITC Report to Trust Council, 3rd Quarter (September-November 2023)

5.4.7 Trustee Roundtable (time permitting)

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DELGATIONS

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. NEXT MEETING

9. CLOSED MEETING

9.1 Motion to Close the Meeting

That the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the Community Charter, Part 4 Division 3, section: 90 (1) (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the board considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Islands Trust Conservancy Board; (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 if they were held in public; and that staff be invited to remain in the meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT



DRAFT

Islands Trust Conservancy Board Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 3, 2023
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Islands Trust Victoria Boardroom
200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC

Board Members Present Risa Smith, Chair
Susan Yates, Vice Chair
Charles Kahn, Trustee
Ken Thomas, Trustee (attended electronically)
Lisa Gauvreau, Trustee
Tobi Elliott, Trustee, joined the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Staff Present Kate Emmings, Islands Trust Conservancy Manager
Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services
Carla Funk, A/Strategic Fund Development Specialist
Corlynn Strachan, Administrative Assistant/Recorder
Kathryn Martell, Ecosystem Protection Specialist
Micaela Yawney, Communications Specialist
Nuala Murphy, Property Management Specialist

Regrets Jemma Green, Covenant Management & Outreach Specialist

Public Present Two members of the public were present as attendees.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and provided the land acknowledgement stated below:

We are here to discuss conservation in this governance construct that we have created called Islands Trust. I want to acknowledge that the stewardship of this bountiful archipelago – the plants, the animals, the marine environment, and the rich cultures – is a result of 1000s of years of wisdom accumulated by the Indigenous people who have lived and continue to live here. Their ways of knowing, their focus, how everything is connected, their continual thinking of the past, the present and the future all at the same time, are why this place is so bountiful. Through a renewed focus on Reconciliation there is an opportunity to change our course: to listen and learn from Indigenous people that are here and to plan for future generations.

1.1 Welcome and Islands Trust Conservancy Decision Making Process

Chair Smith welcomed everyone and reviewed the decision making process.

Manager Emmings provided the following staff updates:

- The current Strategic Fundraising Development Specialist, Carla Funk, is retiring. The hiring process for the Strategic Fundraising Development Specialist has closed, interviews have concluded, and an announcement of a new staff member is anticipated in the coming weeks.
- Wendy Tyrrell, the Species at Risk Program Coordinator, has moved on to a new position with the Salt Spring Island Conservancy as the Director of Property Management. Hiring for the Species at Risk Program Coordinator position has not started. Due to this, there will be a capacity gap.
- Manager Emmings is taking a leave of absence. Director Frater and the ITC team will cover priorities during this time.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following addition to the agenda was presented for consideration:

- Introductions and staff updates were added under Item 1.1

By general consent, the agenda was approved as amended.

3. RISE AND REPORT

There were no items for rise and report.

4. MINUTES/COORDINATION

4.1 Approval of the August 29, 2023 Special Meeting Meetings

By general consent, the Islands Trust Conservancy special meeting minutes of August 29, 2023 were adopted.

4.2 Follow-up Action List

Manager Emmings provided an update on the following items:

- The Ruby Alton Nature Reserve Management Plan has been deferred, as further edits are required.
- Financial Statements were approved by Trust Council and are now available online.
- Elder Cedar item discussion is noted as completed. Manager Emmings will remove the note as it remains ongoing.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Items for Approval

5.1.1 ITC 2024/25 Budget Submission – Request for Decision

Manager Emmings presented the request for decision.

Discussion ensued on the budget cycle, capacity for conservation proposals, increase in property management, climate change, contract funding, capacity

funding for First Nations, grants, adequate administrative support, and forward thinking.

ITC-2023-028

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board approve the draft 2024/25 ITC Budget as presented and direct staff to provide it to the Director of Administrative Services and the Director of Trust Area Services for inclusion in the Islands Trust draft 2024/25 budget.

CARRIED

ITC-2023-029

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board submit the business case for First Nations engagement associated with development of the 2026-2030 ITC Five-Year Plan to FPC and the TC as amended.

CARRIED

ITC-2023-030

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board indicate to Financial Planning Committee and the Islands Trust Council that it is supportive of increased staff capacity for Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in the Trust Council budget as low GIS capacity is impacting the work of the Islands Trust Conservancy.

CARRIED

ITC-2023-031

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) Board indicate to Financial Planning Committee that it is preparing a business case for increased ITC capacity due to growth of ITC managed conservation areas.

CARRIED

5.1.2 Board Attendance - LTABC Land Trust Summit November 6-8, 2023 - Request for Decision

Manager Emmings advised the invite email was circulated to Board members and any board members could attend. Trustee Kahn expressed interest in attending the conference.

ITC-2023-032

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board fund Trustee Kahn to attend the Land Trust Alliance of BC Land Trust Summit from November 6-8, 2023.

CARRIED

The meeting recessed for a break from 11:10 am until 11:20 a.m.

5.2 Items for Discussion/Direction

5.2.1 Species at Risk Program Mid-term Evaluation – Briefing

Manager Emmings presented the briefing.

Discussion ensued on potential program improvements, communications, data gathering, BC Conservation Data Centre delays on conservation data updates, importance of identifying a red listed species, and having a professional registered biologist on staff.

5.2.2 Statistics Canada Census Infographics – Briefing

Manager Emmings advised this was an information item provided by Trust Area Services and Islands Trust Conservancy does use this data.

5.2.3 Executive Committee Liaison Follow up – Briefing

Manager Emmings reviewed the background and noted it would be useful for the Board to prioritize discussion items that resulted from the liaison meeting.

Discussion ensued on information sharing, having quarterly meeting together, creating a clear unified ask to the province for funding, ITC participation on the Governance Committee, and financial implications.

ITC-2023-033

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board direct staff to seek agreement from Executive Committee to meet quarterly with the ITC Board as part of regularly scheduled meetings with a targeted agenda focussed on the following:

1. Reconciliation and engagement with First Nations to discuss the framework and direction for working with First Nations referral process overlaps;
2. Mapping and technical;
3. Professional Biologist needs for ITC, local trust committees and Trust Council;
4. Provincial Funding Request for ITC work; and,
5. Climate Change, including but not limited to FireSmart and fire risk management.

CARRIED

5.3 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

5.4 Updates for Information

5.4.1 Public Acquisitions Report

Received for information.

5.4.2 Public Covenants Report

Received for information.

5.4.3 Budget Report

Received for information.

Discussion ensued on:

- adding “staff” to the Training & Conferences item line to differentiate from Board training
- creating strategy and a business case for long-term ecosystem mapping
- including ITC Trustees, potentially Chair Smith, on the Regional Planning Montreal Global Diversity Framework working group

5.4.4 Executive Committee Update

Trustee Elliott provided an update on the recent Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) conference, noted Executive Committee is meeting next week with Bowen Island Municipal Council and commented on the need to amend Islands Trust policy statement to include public feedback on First Nations engagement.

5.4.5 Financial Planning Committee Update

There was no update.

5.4.6 Trust Council Update

Trustee Gauvreau provided an update noting it was very educational.

Trustee Yates commented that it was enjoyable to meet in person on one of the local islands that is stewarded by Islands Trust, and that it was excellent for information sharing.

Chair Smith commented that she made a presentation on behalf of Islands Trust Conservancy and has notes if Board members wish to see them.

Trustee Elliott commented that there is a need for education and information on the NAPTEP program.

5.4.7 Trustee Roundtable (time permitting)

Deferred to the next meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DELGATIONS

There were no public comments.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on November 21, 2023 at 10:00 am electronically.

9. CLOSED MEETING

9.1 Motion to Close the Meeting

ITC-2023-034

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the Community Charter, Part 4 Division 3, section: 90 (1) (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Board considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Islands Trust Conservancy Board; and, (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; (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 be invited to remain in the meeting.

CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Risa Smith, Chair

Certified Correct:

Corlynn Strachan, Administrative Assistant/Recorder



Follow Up Action Report

Trust Conservancy Board

24-Sep-2010

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 Staff to work with landowners to clarify wording of Cunningham Covenant (Salt Spring) regarding vegetation removal, while maintaining conservation as a priority.	Jemma Green Kate Emmings	Target: 15-Dec-2023	In Progress

26-Nov-2019

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 Staff to: a) develop a modification agreement to allow for maintenance of the septic field in the Woodwinds NAPTEP Covenant (North Pender); and, b) allow for maintenance of the septic field in the Woodwinds NAPTEP Covenant; and, c) provide resources about alternatives to traditional septic fields to land owners contemplating septic field maintenance or replacement, and new covenants.	Jemma Green Kathryn Martell	Target: 15-Dec-2023	In Progress

06-Oct-2020

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 Staff to complete an ITC Reconciliation Action Plan that incorporates actions in Goal 2 of the Regional Conservation Plan.	Kate Emmings	Target: 31-Jan-2024	In Progress

Follow Up Action Report

Trust Conservancy Board

25-May-2021

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 Staff to move forward with the Crystal Mountain Society proposal to register a Statutory Right of Way across Lot A on the upper ridge, in favour of Islands Trust Conservancy, to provide legal access to the eastern part of Lot A via the legal easement across neighbouring Lots B and C.	Kathryn Martell	Target: 29-Sep-2023	In Progress

24-Aug-2021

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 Staff to work with the Steering Committee of the Sidney Island Ecological Restoration Project to develop appropriate waivers to the Sidney Island conservation covenants for the Sallas Forest Strata once an operations plan is developed to implement the Sidney Island Ecological Restoration, and to return to the Board for approval of proposed waivers	Jemma Green Kate Emmings	Target: 31-Jul-2023	Completed

30-May-2023

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
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Follow Up Action Report

Trust Conservancy Board

30-May-2023

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 Staff to prepare an ITC Budget request, including the following items, and to return to the ITC Board for review in July: - Inclusion of Species at Risk Program grant commitments, totaling \$220,000; - An increase to the property management budget of \$6,210 to reflect new nature reserves and covenants; - An increase to the travel budget of approximately \$1,000 to accommodate additional travel needs for newly acquired remote covenants; - Consideration of further increases to the budget to accommodate increasing property management needs; and, - Development of a business case for the second year of First Nations engagement associated with development of the 2026-2030 ITC Five-Year Plan.	Kate Emmings	Target: 03-Oct-2023	Completed
2 Staff to consider discussion of the Board regarding S'ul-hween X'pey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve and return to the Board with recommendations including a legal opinion about options related to ITC liability and risk management for property management and that staff develop communications to the Gabriola Community in conversation with trustees Yates and Elliott.	Kate Emmings Nuala Murphy	Target: 03-Oct-2023	Completed

Follow Up Action Report

Trust Conservancy Board

30-May-2023

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
3 Staff to conduct an analysis of property management needs relative to available staff hours and return to the Board with a summary of the analysis and available options.	Clare Frater Kate Emmings	Target: 03-Oct-2023	In Progress

18-Jul-2023

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 Staff to defer the Ruby Alton Management Plan approval until the October 3, 2023 ITC Board meeting.	Nuala Murphy	Target: 03-Oct-2023	In Progress
2 Staff to schedule a Special Meeting of the Islands Trust Conservancy Board for August 29, 2023 as an electronic meeting with the Victoria office boardroom as the public meeting location.	Corlynn Strachan Kate Emmings	Target: 29-Aug-2023	Completed
3 Staff to schedule the October 3, 2023 electronic meeting as an in person meeting with the Victoria office boardroom as the public meeting location.	Corlynn Strachan Kate Emmings	Target: 03-Oct-2023	Completed
4 Staff and Chair Smith to amend resolutions ITC-2022-017, ITC-2022-018 and ITC-2022-045 to replace the word "Chair" with "Chair or delegate", to allow Chair Adams to sign legal documents for covenant registration.	Corlynn Strachan Kate Emmings Risa Smith	Target: 21-Aug-2023	Completed
5 Consideration of an invitation to the Executive Committee to continue discussions from the ITC Board/Executive Committee Liaison meeting.	Clare Frater Kate Emmings Risa Smith	Target: 03-Oct-2023	Completed



Follow Up Action Report

Trust Conservancy Board

29-Aug-2023

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 6.1.1 2022/23 Audited Financial Statements - Request for Decision Staff to amend the 2022/23 fiscal year Audited Financial Statements and refer the statements to Islands Trust Council for information. (see minutes and edits from Julia in Kate's email dated August 28, 2023)	Julia Mobbs Kate Emmings	Target: 13-Sep-2023	Completed



REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: Islands Trust Conservancy Board

For the Meeting of: November 21, 2023

From: Staff

Date Prepared: October 17, 2023

SUBJECT: Islands Trust Conservancy Board Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule

RECOMENDATION:

1. That the Islands Trust Conservancy Board adopt the proposed meeting dates for the 2024 calendar year, as presented.
2. That the Islands Trust Conservancy Board direct staff to schedule the 2024 Islands Trust Conservancy Board meeting dates of _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____, 2024 as electronic meetings, and list the Victoria office board room as the public meeting location.
3. That the Islands Trust Conservancy Board direct staff to schedule one in-person meeting on _____, 2024.

1 PURPOSE:

1. To determine the 2024 meeting schedule for the Islands Trust Conservancy Board (ITCB);
2. To determine which 2024 ITCB meeting will be held in person; and
3. To advise ITC Board members of the meeting dates selected by the Executive Committee for ITC Board members to attend three regularly scheduled EC meetings.

2 BACKGROUND:

Meeting Dates

Near the end of each calendar year, the ITC Board determines the meeting dates for the next calendar year by way of resolution. The ITC Meeting Procedure Bylaw states that six meetings should be held each year spread evenly through the calendar year, and that the first meeting of the year shall be held in January or February. Proposed meetings dates for the 2024 calendar year are as follows:

- Tuesday, January 23
- Tuesday, March 19
- Tuesday, May 28 **Held late May to accommodate audit review*
- Tuesday, July 23 **Annual meeting with the Executive Committee*
- Tuesday, October 1
- Tuesday, November 19

At the October 3, 2023 meeting, the Islands Trust Conservancy Board passed the following resolution:

ITC-2023-033

It was MOVED and SECONDED, that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board direct staff to seek agreement from Executive Committee to meet quarterly with the ITC Board as part of regularly scheduled meetings with a targeted agenda focussed on the following:

1. Reconciliation and engagement with First Nations to discuss the framework and direction for working with First Nations referral process overlaps;
2. Mapping and technical;
3. Professional Biologist needs for ITC, local trust committees and Trust Council;
4. Provincial Funding Request for ITC work; and,
5. Climate Change, including but not limited to FireSmart and fire risk management.

The Executive Committee has selected the following dates for Islands Trust Conservancy Board members to attend:

- Wednesday, Jan 31
- Wednesday, April 24
- Wednesday, October 9

In the event these dates do not work let staff know.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

ORGANIZATIONAL: Staff support is required to coordinate and administer electronic meetings and to post recordings of meetings online and to coordinate the one in-person meeting.

FINANCIAL: The ITC's proposed 2024/25 budget anticipates that all meetings except one will be remote. An increase to in-person meetings would result in an impact to the ITC budget request provided to Trust Council.

POLICY: None.

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATIONS: Approved meeting schedule will be posted to the Islands Trust website and added to relevant electronic calendars.

FIRST NATIONS: Holding meetings electronically and posting meeting recordings to the website may provide greater transparency and access to First Nations.

4 RELEVANT POLICY:

[Bylaw 2 - A Bylaw to Regulate the Meetings of the Islands Trust Conservancy Board and Committees of the ITC Board](#)

5 ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft 2024 Islands Trust Conservancy Meeting Schedule

RESPONSE OPTIONS

Recommendations:

1. That the Islands Trust Conservancy Board adopt the proposed meeting dates for the 2024 calendar year, as presented.
2. That the Islands Trust Conservancy Board direct staff to schedule the 2024 Islands Trust Conservancy Board meeting dates of _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____, 2024 as electronic meetings, and list the Victoria office board room as the public meeting location.

3. That the Islands Trust Conservancy Board direct staff to schedule one in-person meeting on _____, 2024.

Alternative:

1. That the Islands Trust Conservancy Board adopt the proposed meeting dates for the 2024 calendar year with amendments [as directed].

Prepared By: Corlynn Strachan, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed By/Date: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services / October 17, 2023



ISLANDS TRUST CONSERVANCY

Islands Trust Conservancy Board

2024 Meeting Schedule

DRAFT

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, January 23	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	electronic
Tuesday, March 19	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	electronic
Tuesday, May 28 *Audit meeting	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	electronic
Tuesday, July 23 <i>*Annual Meeting with the Executive Committee (EC meet July 24)</i>	10:00 am – 12:30 pm 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	in person
Tuesday, October 1	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	electronic
Tuesday, November 19	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	electronic

Whether electronically or in-person, the place where the public may attend to watch the proceedings that are open to the public is the Islands Trust Victoria office (#200-1627 Fort Street) unless otherwise noted.

For meeting details visit the Meetings and Events webpage <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/whats-happening/meetings-and-events/> and click on the associated date in the calendar tool.

Meetings will be conducted electronically (Zoom) unless otherwise noted.



REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: Islands Trust Conservancy Board **For the Meeting of:** November 21, 2023

From: ITC Staff **Date Prepared:** November 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Islands Trust Conservancy Nature Reserve Monitoring Report 2023

RECOMMENDATION: That the Islands Trust Conservancy accept the “Islands Trust Conservancy Nature Reserve Monitoring Report 2023.”

1 **PURPOSE:** To review the Islands Trust Conservancy Nature Reserve Monitoring Report for 2023.

2 **BACKGROUND:**

Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) nature reserves are monitored annually to:

- assess the character and key features of the sites,
- evaluate the effectiveness of the management program,
- identify any new issues that need to be addressed by ITC and/or the covenant holders, and
- identify and respond to any trespass that may lead to breaches to the terms of the conservation covenant.

The Islands Trust Conservancy Nature Reserve Monitoring Report 2023 provides the monitoring results for 33 ITC-owned nature reserves. All of the monitoring was completed by ITC staff except for Horton Bayviary Nature Reserve (Mayne Island). Mayne Island Conservancy Association is the covenant holder and management group and has been contracted by ITC since 2009 to complete the monitoring as the Horton Bayviary Nature Reserve is the only ITC protected area on Mayne Island.

The monitors were responsible for organizing and conducting site visits, filling out the site monitoring form, recording the monitoring route taken and taking photos of sites of interest. A summary monitoring report was prepared and contains recommendations and identifies any management issues, trespass or other major issues that require attention. This report is attached as Islands Trust Conservancy Nature Reserve Monitoring Report for 2023. A general assessment has been made regarding achievement of management objectives and public safety issues. ITC staff usually visit with conservation partners who hold conservation covenants on the nature reserves. Those covenant monitors also note concerns regarding the conservation covenant if observed and communicate them to ITC staff.

Issues identified in this report:

1. **Technology in the Field and post monitoring processes need improvements:** The Field Maps application was chosen by Information Services (IS) to collect data in the field as it is an ESRI product that will connect with other Islands Trust mapping applications. However, it is not set up properly for ITC needs and there is no capacity at the present time for IS to complete this work. An ESRI professional needs to be contracted to make Field Maps functional for monitoring use.

2. **Risk Assessment Policy updates:** ITC staff requires procedures for how to ensure ITC shows the correct duty of care under the Occupiers Liability Act and how that affects how ITC should monitor, install signage etc.
3. **Invasive Species Removal is a high priority for the following areas:**
 - Long Bay Wetland Nature Reserve, Gambier Island: main concern is English holly
 - Morrison Marsh Nature Reserve, Denman Island: main concern is Daphne and English holly
 - Vanilla Leaf land Nature Reserve, Galiano Island: main concern is English holly
 - Saturnina Island Nature Reserve: main concern is English ivy
4. **Ruby Alton Nature Reserve, Salt Spring Island:** Erosion and under cutting of the creek needs to be evaluated by an aquatic ecologist to assess the proper functioning condition of the creek and to give practical measures to mitigate the impact of future high-energy flow events. Staff put out an Invitation to Quote to contract a qualified professional and no one submitted a quote. An arborist has been onsite to evaluate a large undercut Western redcedar tree near the house which has been evaluated as low risk, but ways to avoid further damage after high water flow events still need to be assessed. Many high-cost house maintenance issues have been put on hold as there are not enough funds in the Alton Maintenance Fund to address them all.
5. **John Osland Nature Reserve, Lasqueti Island:** An Invitation to Quote is in process to obtain a wetland ecologist with beaver experience to determine if anything should be done to maintain water levels for overall biodiversity.
6. **Link and Saturnina Island Nature Reserves:** A contractor was obtained to complete the first management plans for these nature reserves. An archaeological survey in collaboration with local First Nations is due to begin in April 2024 and finalization of the management plans will happen after the full assessments.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

ORGANIZATIONAL: This monitoring report helps set priorities for management activities and identifies work that needs to be done to resolve any concerns. The work will be managed by the Property Management Specialist.

FINANCIAL: The property management budget is allocated each year depending on available funds and the work that is most needed, balanced between all ITC protected areas, nature reserves and conservation covenants. Ruby Alton Nature Reserve and McFadden Creek Nature Reserve have their own funds allocated to them.

POLICY: None.

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATIONS: Staff will continue to address the recommendations in the report as part of the regular work plan.

FIRST NATIONS: ITC staff and partners are learning how to be on the nature reserves in a respectful way. Staff will review the archaeological sites database before undertaking any trail building or habitat restoration that requires digging and will contact First Nations in areas where there may be impacts to archaeological sites. Staff will follow the draft Islands Trust Cultural Protocol for Chance Finds and Ancestral Remains as required.

CLIMATE CHANGE: The property monitoring report provides staff with the most current information on the state of the land, which helps to contextualize information about climate change, allows for site-specific predictions of changes to the land, and supports development of mitigation and adaptation strategies. However, given the time spent on each property is short and usually only once a year there is a constraint on the amount of information that can be collected.

OTHER: None

4 **RELEVANT POLICY(S):**

[ITC 2.3 Acquisition and Management of Land](#)

5 **ATTACHMENT(S):** Islands Trust Conservancy Nature Reserve Monitoring Report 2023

RESPONSE OPTIONS

Recommendation:

That the Islands Trust Conservancy accept the “Islands Trust Conservancy Nature Reserve Monitoring Report 2023.”

Alternative: That the Islands Trust Conservancy accept the “Islands Trust Conservancy Nature Reserve Monitoring Report 2022,” amended as follows:

[insert recommended amendments]

Prepared By: Nuala Murphy, Property Management Specialist

Reviewed By/Date: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services /November 13, 2023

Islands Trust Conservancy Nature Reserve Monitoring Report 2023



Fairyslipper Forest Nature Reserve, Thetis Island

Prepared By:
Nuala Murphy, Property Management Specialist
Islands Trust Conservancy
November 2, 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) nature reserves are monitored annually to assess the character and key features of the protected areas, evaluate the effectiveness of the management program and to identify any new issues that need to be addressed. Relationship building is a key focus and there is great value to meeting all the property management partners on-site to discuss and observe past and future work, and plan for the year ahead. Management partners include conservation covenant holders, local management groups, as well as volunteer wardens and neighbours. There was a good turnout of management partners in 2023 and it was a very productive monitoring season.

In April through September 2023, all thirty-three ITC nature reserves were monitored:

- ITC staff, including a co-op student, Conservation and GIS Technician Eve Ruth, completed monitoring on all but two of the nature reserves.
- Laughlin Lake Nature Reserve Addition, Galiano Island is monitored by the Covenant Management & Outreach Specialist as it is monitored in conjunction with the Laughlin Lake Nature Reserve Covenant owned by Galiano Conservancy Association.
- Horton Bayviary Nature Reserve on Mayne Island was monitored by the Mayne Island Conservancy Society to save on travel costs as it is the only ITC protected area on Mayne Island. Mayne Island Conservancy Society has monitored Horton Bayviary Nature Reserve since 2009.

Time constraints due to travel time and the large size of some of the nature reserves make it impossible to cover all areas of each nature reserve. Every effort is made to look over the boundary areas and those areas with the most public use, where trespass and other issues are most likely to occur. A monitoring route map is made to record what areas were walked and to ensure that missed areas are visited in the next year. Recommendations have been made where actions are required or how issues are being addressed. A general assessment has been made regarding achievement of management objectives and public safety issues.

Monitoring summaries for each nature reserve are noted in this report grouped by local trust area/island municipality. Full monitoring forms, images and maps for each property are on file and available as needed. ITC staff have been using an ESRI application called Field Maps on an iPad to collect data in the field. There is still a large amount of work required to make Field Maps fully operational that the Information Services department has not had the capacity to work through. It is hoped that an ESRI contractor can be obtained to set up the Field Maps application specifically for ITC needs to help ensure ITC staff can collection the data that is required when out in the field and able to process the information easily when back in the office. Right now it is a very time consuming and logistically heavy process to utilize the mapping and photos and does not accommodate recording the monitoring route which has to be done on another application on an iPhone with Gaia GPS.

Policy around risk assessment is required to ensure those ITC nature reserves open and closed to the public are maintained in a way that shows ITC's due diligence. Currently tree work along trails in ITC nature reserves are done mostly by on-island contractors who are not registered arborists as there are few registered arborists on the Gulf Islands, but they are respected contractors with many years of experience. This work usually takes place without an ITC staff person being present. Policy around risk assessment (e.g. when to manage trees, when to obtain registered arborists, and when ITC staff need to be present) needs to be developed or inserted into current policy.

Bowen Island

David Otter Nature Reserve was visited on June 16, 2023 by Nuala Murphy and Eve Ruth. The neighbour and volunteer warden were not available to walk the land. There were signs of a new survey that was recently done to delineate the boundary that the neighbour has completed as they plan to do some work on their property. There were no public safety issues identified in the reserve and the objectives of the management plan are generally being met.

Recommendation: Invasive species removal work to identify and remove areas of English holly. Keep an eye on any work that is completed by the neighbour that it does not cross over into the nature reserve.

Fairy Fen Nature Reserve was visited on June 16, 2023 by Nuala Murphy and Eve Ruth. There are bike trails on the Crown land that are along a portion of the south boundary which needs to be watched closely. There were no public safety issues identified in the reserve and the objectives of the management plan are generally being met.

Recommendation: Invasive species removal work to identify and remove areas of English holly. Work with Metro Vancouver to identify any impacts of the new plan for an adjacent regional park at Cape Roger Curtis.

Singing Woods Nature Reserve was visited on June 16, 2023 by Nuala Murphy and Eve Ruth. There were no public safety issues identified in the reserve and the objectives of the management plan are generally being met.

Recommendation: Invasive species removal work party to identify and remove areas of English holly and burdock.

Denman Island

Inner Island Nature Reserve was visited on April 19, 2023 by Nuala Murphy, accompanied by A. Blackburn (Denman Conservancy Association). There was a leaning tree that could cause a public safety issue identified in the reserve. The objectives of the management plan are generally being met. *Photo: Windthrow leaning tree over public trail*



Recommendation: Continue invasive species removal and stay informed with reed canary grass removal methods being trialed at other protected areas on Denman. Safely remove leaning tree and trail maintenance where erosion is occurring around tree roots and in wet areas by relocating on-site materials (bark mulch) to build up trails in these sections. New sign by park boundary needed as it has the old ITC logo and is has graffiti on it.

Lindsay Dickson Nature Reserve was visited on April 19, 2023 by Nuala Murphy accompanied by E. Bland and A. Blackburn (Denman Conservancy Association). There were no public safety issues identified in the reserve and the objectives of the management plan are generally being met.

Recommendation: Continue invasive species removal and trail maintenance. Signage required to dissuade use of trail that has been developed through private property.

Morrison Marsh Nature Reserve was visited on April 18, 2023 by Nuala Murphy accompanied by A. Blackburn (Denman Conservancy Association). A large patch of Daphne was discovered spreading from a neighbouring property. There were no public safety issues identified in the reserve and the objectives of the management plan are generally being met. *Photo: Daphne spreading from neighbour property onto Morrison Marsh Nature Reserve*



Recommendation: Continue invasive species removal of English holly and Daphne, contact neighbour to discuss the spread of Daphne.

Valens Brook Nature Reserve was visited on April 18, 2023 by Nuala Murphy accompanied by A. Blackburn (Denman Conservancy Association) and the volunteer wardens. A water level gauge was installed in Valens Brook NR to help monitor fluctuations in water level throughout the year during



the volunteer warden monitoring visits. A camera was later installed to record daily water levels automatically. Two 5m x10m fenced exclosures were installed and planted with 2 Western red-cedar, 2 Oregon grape and 2 red huckleberry as well as an unfenced control plot. There were no public safety issues identified in the reserve and the objectives of the management plan are generally being met. *Photo: Water station installed and monitored by volunteer wardens*

Recommendation: Continue invasive species removal, abundant English holly. Look into working with on-island groups to install a flow gauge/height monitoring for Valens Brook. Continue with research restoration study plots.

Gabriola Island

Burren's Acres Nature Reserve was visited on June 2, 2023 by Nuala Murphy and Eve Ruth accompanied by M. Taylor (volunteer warden), L. Skinner (Gabriola Land and Trails Trust) and S. Yates (Gabriola Trustee). The objectives of the management plan are generally being met. There has been tree felling on an adjacent lot that has brought down a portion of fence. There were no safety issues identified in the reserve.

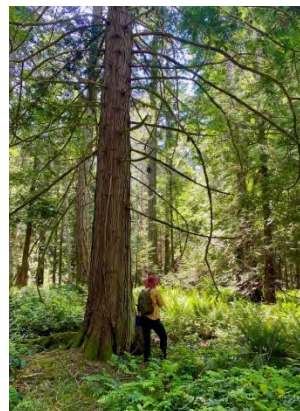
Recommendation: Continue invasive species removal, small patches of English holly and Himalayan blackberry found. Trail maintenance required. Stay in contact with neighbour who felled tree onto the boundary fence, the owner has said he will be building a new fence.



Coats Millstone Reserve was visited on June 2, 2023 by Nuala Murphy and Eve Ruth accompanied by E. Barnewall (Nanaimo and Area Land Trust) and S. Yates (Gabriola Trustee). The objectives of the management plan are generally being met. There were no safety issues identified in the reserve other than the existing natural hazards and it remains closed to the public. *Photo: Observing the millstone holes*

Recommendation: Continue invasive species removal, Scotch broom. Possible amphibian surveys.

S’ul-hween X’pey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve was visited on June 2, 2023 by Nuala Murphy and Eve Ruth, accompanied by A. Landry, B. Moerkerken, A. Thomas and R. Brockley (Gabriola Land and Trails Trust), E. Barnewall (Nanaimo and Area Land Trust) and S. Yates (Gabriola Trustee). All partners observed the danger tree work that was done in March 2023 removing approximately 40 trees that led from the last years monitoring visit and discussions with NALT and GaLTT to have the trail areas evaluated by an on-island tree contractor recommended by GaLTT. GaLTT would like the parking area upgraded and more boardwalks installed over wet areas. Reed canary grass continues to be a concern with an additional patch being found in the meadow area. *Photo: Representative of area near Windecker Road entrance*



Recommendation: Continue invasive species removal (reed canary grass, English holly) and trail maintenance. Discuss further options for improving the parking area.

Link Island Nature Reserve was visited on June 1, 2023 by Nuala Murphy, Eve Ruth, Wendy Tyrrell, Carla Funk accompanied by E. Barnewall, L. Brooymans (Nanaimo and Area Land Trust), R. Brockley, and A. Thomas (Gabriola Land and Trails Trust) and H. Swift (donor). The first management plan is underway to guide objectives but will not be complete until an archeological survey is complete in 2024. No trespass or public safety issues were identified. Five large ‘No entry’ Signs were installed in 2023 and donors feel they are having an impact in reducing trespass. A clump of the invasive Bur chervil and English ivy (just one seedling that was pulled) was found for the first time.

Recommendation: Continue invasive species removal. Install one more large “No Entry” sign to dissuade trespassing. Continue to remove debris washed up on shore. Possibility of a salamander monitoring program and a bat monitoring program following the North American bat protocol and continue the Western-Screech-Owl monitoring.



Saturnina Island Nature Reserve was visited on June 9, 2023 by Nuala Murphy, Eve Ruth, Wendy Tyrrell accompanied by, L. Skinner, A. Thomas, and N. Johnston (Gabriola Land and Trails Trust). Saturnina Island is owned by BC Parks Foundation and ITC holds a lease to manage the property. The first management plan is underway to guide objectives. *Photo: Scotch broom pulled by GaLTT*

Recommendation: Organize invasive species removal, there is a large patch of English ivy, Scotch broom, tansy ragwort, and smaller areas of English holly and Himalayan blackberry.

Galiano Island

Laughlin Lake Nature Reserve Addition was visited on August 1, 2023 by Jemma Green and Eve Ruth accompanied by M. Thompson (Galiano Conservancy Association). There is beaver activity with cherry felled tree over old logging road. The management objectives for the reserve are generally being met. No public safety issues were identified in the reserve.

Recommendation: Continue invasive species removal, monitor Scotch broom on old logging road.

Trincomali Nature Sanctuary was visited on May 23, 2023 by Nuala Murphy and Eve Ruth accompanied by a volunteer warden. The management objectives for the reserve are generally being met. No public safety issues were identified in the reserve.

Recommendation: Continue invasive species removal, tansy ragwort is becoming a problem. Evaluate the caged planting and preform maintenance.



Vanilla Leaf Land Nature Reserve was visited on May 23, 2023 by Nuala Murphy and Eve Ruth, accompanied by C. Miltner and M. Thompson (Galiano Conservancy Association). Viewed the piles of English holly cut and stacked over last year. The management objectives for the reserve are generally being met. No public safety issues were identified in the reserve.
Photo: Tall English holly in need of removal.

Recommendation: Continue English holly removal.

Gambier Island

Brigade Bay Bluffs Nature Reserve was visited on June 17, 2023 by Nuala Murphy and Eve Ruth accompanied by P. Scholefield (Gambier Island Conservancy), P. Klassen, C. Petroski (Gambier Island Conservancy and Brigade Bay owners group), and C. Higgins (Gambier Island Conservancy and Sea Ranch neighbour). Restoration area of planted trees is doing well. The management objectives for the reserve are generally being met and no public safety issues were identified in the reserve. *Photo: Observing growth and survival of planted trees, debated timing of removing cages*

Recommendation: Invasive species removal of tansy. Remove cages from trees that are growing too large and repair those that have fallen.



Long Bay Wetland Nature Reserve was visited on June 17, 2023 by Nuala Murphy and Eve Ruth accompanied by P. Scholefield (Gambier Island Conservancy), P. Klassen, C. Petroski (Gambier Island Conservancy and Brigade Bay owners group), and C. Higgins (Gambier Island Conservancy and Sea Ranch neighbour). Annual one day work parties removing English holly was supplemented this year with two contractors working for a week in August 2023. There is a huge amount spread out over a large area. The management objectives for the reserve are generally being met and no public safety issues were identified in the reserve.

Recommendation: Invasive species removal needs to continue especially for infestations of English holly. Remove cages from trees that are growing too large and repair those that have fallen.



Mount Artaban Nature Reserve was visited on June 17, 2023 by Nuala Murphy and Eve Ruth accompanied by P. Scholefield (Gambier Island Conservancy), P. Klassen, (Gambier Island Conservancy and Brigade Bay owners group). It is a steep and difficult trail and does not get a high degree of use. The trail route has been kept clear of fallen logs by volunteer P. Klassen who has ‘adopted’ this section of trail. The management objectives for the reserve are generally being met and no public safety issues were identified.

Photo: View from the top of Mt. Artaban Nature Reserve

Recommendation: Directional signage is required at the top to direct visitors. Working with the Skwxwú7mesh to create signage and territorial acknowledgement.

Keats Island

Sandy Beach Nature Reserve, Hoak-pus was visited on September 9, 2023 by Micaela Yawney and Clare Frater accompanied by D. Rogers (Keats Island Conservancy Society), and S. Senger (Sunshine Coast Conservancy Association) and many members of KICS and community members for the Sandy Beach Nature Reserve Celebration. There was not a full monitoring assessment done at that time but no concerns were identified. KICS completed an invasive removal work party in April 2023. The management objectives for the reserve are generally being met and no public safety issues were identified in the reserve.

Recommendation: Trail improvement with either a switchback trails or steps are required on the overgrown section from the beach to ensure the public stay on the nature reserve and do not enter adjacent private property. Signage at key trail junctures and property boundaries has been created and has been provided to KICS to install. Need to complete the educational sign around Common Nighthawk once more work is done with the Skwxwú7mesh for wording to include a territorial acknowledgement.

Lasqueti Island

John Osland Nature Reserve was visited on May 4, 2023 by Nuala Murphy accompanied by W. Schnieble, J. Schwartz and A. Kukolj (Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy), E. Barnewall (Nanaimo and Area Land Trust), and P. Johnston (past Lasqueti Trustee). Beaver presence has resulted in water level rise, which has resulted in having to move the location of the restoration fenced areas as they filled with water and now these are starting to also be covered. Large veteran trees are also being flooded. The management objectives for the reserve are being met and no public safety issues were identified. *Photo: beaver dam*



Recommendation: Obtain a wetland ecologist with beaver experience to determine if anything should be done to maintain water levels for overall biodiversity. An Invitation to Quote is in process. Problem solve to access wood duck boxes which are now difficult to access. Continue invasive species removal.

Photo: Wood duck nest box in 2021 (below left) vs 2022 (below centre) vs 2023 (below right) with water level rise



Kwel Nature Sanctuary was visited on May 5, 2023 by Nuala Murphy accompanied by E. Barnewall (Nanaimo and Area Land Trust) and W. Schnieble, and J. Schwartz (Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy). The management objectives for the reserve are being met and no public safety issues were identified.

Recommendation: Old stove and litter was removed by southeast corner by the road. Monitor for litter left by road.

Mount Trematon Nature Reserve was visited on May 4, 2023 by Nuala Murphy accompanied by W. Schnieble, J. Schwartz and A. Kukolj (Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy) and E. Barnewall (Nanaimo and Area Land Trust). New fenced area plot put in place in October 2021 and planting has begun to begin a multi-year research project on the effects of browse of sheep and deer. The management objectives for the reserve are being met and no public safety issues were identified.

Recommendation: Monitoring is important to ensure ungulates do not get into the fenced areas. Continue invasive species removal.

Salish View Nature Reserve was visited on May 5, 2023 by Nuala Murphy accompanied by E. Barnewall (Nanaimo and Area Land Trust) and W. Schnieble, J. Schwartz and (Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy). There is a new kiosk at the entrance to the Squitty Bay Provincial Park which trail leads to SVN. Restoration planting around the pond enclosure is doing well and natural regeneration is occurring within the enclosure. Invasive removal has been done but more is needed. The management objectives for the reserve are being met and no public safety issues were identified.

Recommendation: Monitoring is important to ensure ungulates do not get into the fenced areas. Continue invasive species removal.

Mayne Island

Horton Bayviary Nature Reserve was visited on June 27, 2023 by R. Underhill (Mayne Island Conservancy Society). Exclosure restoration area with twenty-nine trees and twenty shrubs installed in February 2022 were monitored and are doing well. The management objectives for the reserve are being met and no public safety issues were identified. *Photo: Shows the difference of the exclosure to the surrounding unfenced area.*



Recommendation: Continue to monitor the restoration to help improve the understory health and to combat shoreline erosion. Continue invasive removal, small numbers of Daphne and Scotch broom found every year and removed.

North Pender Island



Medicine Beach (E,HO,) Nature Sanctuary was visited on April 25, 2023 by Nuala Murphy accompanied by G. Boffey (Pender Islands Conservancy Association). A few of the steps are in disrepair and the railing is wobbly in some areas. The management objectives for the reserve are being met. *Photo: View into marsh from the south*

Recommendation: Place a log to deter use on unauthorized trail that goes steeply down from view point bench to Shell Beach. Replace sections of rail and fix steps and replace fence by marsh and parking area in the next fiscal year. Continue to monitor and remove Yellow Flag Iris seen this in the marsh.

Lisa Baile Nature Reserve was visited on April 25, 2023 by Nuala Murphy accompanied by G. Boffey (Pender Islands Conservancy Association). There is survey flagging along the ridge property boundary. The management objectives for the reserve are being met and no public safety issues were identified.

Recommendation: Monitor any future work that may be happening on the neighbouring property for trespass.

Salt Spring Island

Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve was visited on June 6, 2023 by Nuala Murphy and Eve Ruth accompanied by M. Woodley (contracted by Salt Spring Island Conservancy). The management objectives for the reserve are being met and no public safety issues were identified.

Recommendation: Continue Sharp-tail Snake monitoring. Continue invasive species removal program as some clusters of English holly were found. Remove old wire fencing along boundary with BC Hydro Right of Way. BC Hydro was in touch this year as there are working on this right of way and hope to cause as little damage as possible to surrounding protected area.

Deep Ridge Nature Reserve was visited on May 16, 2023 by Nuala Murphy. The management objectives for the reserve are being met and no public safety issues were identified.



Lower Mount Erskine Reserve was visited on May 16, 2023 by Nuala Murphy. Planting and caging on heavy use areas was done in February 2022 (seven small metal exclosures to prevent trail widening and erosion). Species survival looks excellent but some of the exclosures were missing on this visit. There was a tree down over the trail but still passable. The management objectives for the reserve are being met and no public safety issues were identified. *Photo: Cages along the trail*

Recommendation: Continue invasive species removal and monitoring species survival of the caged planting and add more vegetation in a few key areas of erosion.

McFadden Creek Nature Sanctuary (MCNS) was visited June 6, 2023 by Nuala Murphy and Eve Ruth accompanied by M. Woodley (contracted by Salt Spring Island Conservancy). After many years of absence, herons were seen nesting at the 2022 monitoring visit, however an avian specialist was unable to locate any this year. Climate change research project plots installed by the UBC Conservation Decisions Lab in March 2022 continue to collect data. The management objectives for the reserve are being met and no public safety issues were identified.

Recommendation: Continue to survey heron nesting with an avian specialist. Continue invasive species removal and garbage and wire fence removal.

Ruby Alton Nature Reserve was visited on June 22, 2022 by Nuala Murphy. The monitor spoke with the caretakers on site. Rain from atmospheric rivers last fall and winter caused undercutting of the stream by the house and erosion on steep areas near the shoreline. The management objectives for the reserve are being met and no public safety issues were identified. *Photo: New plantings and cages to help area eroded by the 2021 atmospheric river.*



Recommendation: ITQ to bring in aquatic ecologist to assess the proper functioning condition of the creek and to give practical measures to mitigate the impact of future high-energy flow events had no bidders. Continue with invasive species removal and monitor restoration planting. Review of house maintenance needs as projected needs beyond funds available.

Thetis Island



Fairyslipper Forest Nature Reserve was visited on April 17, 2023 by Nuala Murphy, accompanied by A. Eriksson and C. Fesnoux (Thetis Island Nature Conservancy). The section of the trail from the parking lot was closed with flagging tape as there was a danger tree leaning until a contractor can make it safe. A trail licence has been extended for another year until April 31, 2024. The management objectives for the reserve are generally being met. *Photo: Leaning tree over trail*

Recommendation: Continue with Western Screech-Owl box monitoring as well as invasive species removal.

Moore Hill Nature Reserve was visited on April 17, 2023 by Nuala Murphy accompanied by A. Eriksson and C. Fesnoux (Thetis Island Nature Conservancy). BC Hydro is designing a network of poles along the road to avoid maintain the current line up a steep cliff on the other side of the road to MHNR. Any work will be done in the road right of way and they may not have to take down any trees on the MHNR side of the road. The management objectives for the reserve are generally being met and no public safety issues were identified in the reserve.

Recommendation: Continue with Western Screech-Owl box and Sharp-tailed Snake monitoring as well as invasive species removal.

BRIEFING

To: Islands Trust Conservancy Board **For the Meeting of:** November 21, 2023
From: Executive Committee **Date Prepared:** August 29, 2023
SUBJECT: Supporting materials for discussion on climate change action

PURPOSE: To advise the Board that the Islands Trust Council will receive a briefing with the information below and associated background materials in December 2023 to support a discussion about further action regarding the Climate Change Emergency.

BACKGROUND:

In March 2019, Islands Trust Council declared a climate emergency. At that same meeting Trust Council also passed resolutions directing the following:

1. Add climate change mitigation, resilience, and adaptation policies to the Islands Trust Policy Statement Amendment Project.
2. 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;
3. 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;
4. 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.
5. 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 (see attachment 1).
6. 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.
7. 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. (June 2019 [response](#) from First Nations Leadership Council).

In May 2023, Executive Committee passed the following motion:

That Executive Committee request direction from Trust Council on further action on the Climate Change Emergency and, include the materials from the trustee led messaging from last term.

Staff have compiled the attached materials to support a conversation by Trust Council.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. June 2019 Trust Council Briefing re Climate Change Emergency Declaration – Local Planning Tools for Mitigation and Adaptation
2. September 2019 Trust Council Briefing re Council committee/Conservancy board recommendations for climate actions
 - a. Attachment: Detailed summary of topics raised at the July 17, 2019 Trust Programs Committee meeting
 - b. Attachment: Islands Trust Conservancy memorandum regarding the Trust Council referral for recommendation on responding to climate change emergency declaration.
3. February 2020 Climate Change Speaking Notes prepared by Trust Programs Committee, approved by Executive Committee

Online Resources

4. [Local Government Climate Action Program Survey Submission Report, 2022](#)
5. [Climate Projections for Islands Trust Area Report, 2020](#)
6. [Final Report: Scoping Exercise to Identify Climate Change Indicators for the Islands Trust Area Report, 2020](#)

FOLLOW-UP: As directed.

Prepared By: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services

Reviewed By/Date: Stefan Cermak, Director, Planning Services/September 4, 2023
Russ Hotsenpiller/September 5, 2023
Executive Committee/September 13, 2023

BRIEFING

To: Trust Council **For the Meeting of:** June 18, 2019

From: David Marlor, Director, Local Planning Services **Date Prepared:** May 30, 2019

SUBJECT: **Climate Change Emergency Declaration – Local Planning Tools for Mitigation and Adaptation**

PURPOSE:

To provide an initial approach in response to Trust Council’s Climate Change Emergency Declaration in respect to local planning tools to address climate change.

BACKGROUND:

At its regular business meeting in March 2019, Trust Council declared a Climate Change Emergency. As part of that declaration, Trust Council requested that staff:

“report back to June 2019 Trust Council meeting on measures and land use planning actions that the Islands Trust can take to advance progress towards Local Trust Committee climate reduction targets and achieve further reductions in carbon from Trust operations”.

This briefing focuses on land use planning actions that the local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could take to advance progress towards greenhouse gas reduction targets and to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Following the implementation of new mandatory requirements for official community plans to include targets and policies for greenhouse gas reductions, all local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality amended their official community plans to include those targets and policies.

The following table includes a summary of the targets established by each local trust committee and Bowen Island Municipality in their official community plans. Each local trust committee and Bowen Island Municipality also adopted related policies on how to achieve those targets.

Local Trust Committee/Island Municipality	Reduction By 2015	Reduction By 2020	Reduction By 2050	Notes
Bowen Island Municipality	-	33%	80%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Ballenas-Winchelsea	-	50%	50%	Below per Canadian per capita for 2020/2050
Gabriola	-	33%	85%	Reduction over 2007 emissions

• Mudge	-	50%	50%	Below per Canadian per capita for 2020/2050
• DeCourcy	-	50%	50%	Below per Canadian per capita for 2020/2050
Galiano	-	33%	-	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Gambier	-	33%	85%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
• Associated	-	20%	85%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
• Keats	-	33%	85%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Denman	-	33%	85%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Hornby	-	25%	80%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Lasqueti	-	50%	50%	Below per Canadian per capita for 2020/2050
Mayne	-	33%	-	Reduction over 2007 emissions
North Pender	-	33%	-	Reduction over 2007 emissions
• Associated	-	50%	50%	Below per Canadian per capita for 2020/2050
Saturna	-	33%	-	Reduction over 2007 emissions
SSI	15%	40%	85%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
• Piers	-	-	-	Bylaw is not compliant
South Pender	-	33%	-	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Thetis	-	33%	85%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Associated	-	-	-	Bylaw contains no targets
Valdes	-	50%	50%	Below per Canadian per capita for 2020/2050

A. Local Planning Actions Since 2010

Since 2010, planning Staff regularly include consideration of climate change mitigation and adaptation in staff reports on planning applications and projects. As a result, all planning decisions by local trust committees over the past eight years have included a climate change lens. In addition to this, local trust committees adopted specific policies in their official community plans related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Many of these policies have been implemented through land use bylaw amendments. A list of these implemented policies is included in Appendix 1.

Appendix 2 lists the official community plan policies that have not yet been implemented in the land use bylaws.

The remainder of this briefing provides information on land use planning actions that can be undertaken in relation to climate change. Section B addresses actions related to climate change mitigation and Section C addresses actions related to climate change adaptation.

B. Climate Change Mitigation Tools

Climate change mitigation involves actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). In the local trust areas the main source of GHGs is combustion from transportation and combustion from heating and cooling buildings. Therefore, any policies and regulations that reduce the need for transportation, or reduce the need for heating or cooling of buildings will help in reducing GHGs.

The Province committed to providing the Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) for local governments. For the Islands Trust area there is very little data available. The only metric is residential heating using wood, propane or oil (and this is withheld for Lasqueti and Gambier LTAs). There are no metrics available for transportation or any other source of GHG emissions. The last year CEEI reports were undertaken was 2012. As a result we currently do not have metrics to measure progress towards targets in OCPs. Bowen Island Municipality has Community Energy and Emission Inventories (starting on page 40 of this linked document <https://bowenisland.civicweb.net/document/118760>).

Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality have the following tools available to them to reduce GHGs:

- **GHG Reduction Targets** - Section 473 of the *Local Government Act* – required content for official community plans, inclusion of targets and policies with respect to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Zoning Authority** – Section 479 of the *Local Government Act*.
- **Development Permit Area to Promote Energy Conservation** – Section 488(1)(h) of the *Local Government Act*.
- **Development Permit Area to Promote the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions** - Section 488(1)(j) of the *Local Government Act*.

Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could undertake the following to mitigate climate change.

1. **Enact existing Official Community Plan policies** for the mitigation of climate change that are already in the official community plans but have not yet been acted on (Appendix 2 contains a list of these policies).
2. **Update official community plans** to ensure the mandatory GHG reduction targets and policies are relevant and up to date; Galiano Island, Mayne Island, North Pender Island, South Pender Island and Saturna Island local trust committees have targets for GHG reduction set for 2020 with no targets for any future dates, and as such those targets will be out of date next year. The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has not adopted any targets or policies for the Piers Island OCP. The Thetis Associated Islands OCP contains objectives and policies but no targets. While the Islands Trust has very limited metrics to measure progress, the requirement to have targets and policies in official community plans is mandatory under s. 473 of the *Local Government Act*. These official community plans should be updated within the next year to ensure they remain compliant with required content for an official community plan, and to address targets and policies for GHG reduction. Other local trust committees should review their targets and policies for relevance to current conditions.
3. **Use the zoning authority under s. 479 of the *Local Government Act* to cluster development** and move away from large lots to small compact "villages". This can be accomplished through OCP policies to require this kind of development, rezoning appropriately by increasing density in appropriate locations and reducing in other locations and density transfer to move density to appropriate areas. Some local trust committees already have some form of this in their OCPs. Salt Spring and Gabriola have density transfer that has seen some significant land use changes. While these were not specifically created to address climate change mitigation, they can be

effective in changing the land use pattern to one that is more sustainable and reduces the need for transportation.

5. **Use the climate change development permit areas to reduce the heating and cooling requirements for buildings.** To improve building energy efficiency, land use planning can require landscaping and orientation of buildings in a way to maximize sun in winter and shade in summer. This would be done through a development permit area (DPA), with the justification and objectives in the Official Community Plan and the guidelines in the Land Use Bylaw. Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality may use DPAs to reduce GHG emissions and for energy conservation under s. 488 of the *Local Government Act*. Using these DPAs, local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality may establish guidelines around landscaping, siting of buildings and structures, form and exterior design of buildings and structures, machinery, equipment and systems external to buildings or structures. The DPA may also place restrictions on type and placement of trees and other vegetation in proximity to buildings and structures to provide for energy conservation and reduction of GHGs.

C. Climate Change Adaptation Tools:

Climate change adaptation involves adapting communities to the anticipated effects of climate change. In the Islands Trust area, these effects include sea-level rise, longer periods of drought, more intense storm events, wildfires, warmer summers and warmer winters, and ecosystem changes which may impact plant and animal species.

Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality have the following tools available to them to adapt to climate change:

- **Zoning Authority** - Section 479 of the *Local Government Act*.
- **Runoff Control Bylaw** - Section 523 of the *Local Government Act*.
- **Development Permit Area to Protect Development from Hazardous Conditions** – Section 488(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act*.
- **Development Permit Area to Promote Energy Conservation** - Section 488(1)(h) of the *Local Government Act*.
- **Development Permit Area to Promote Water Conservation** – Section 488(1)(i) of the *Local Government Act*.

Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could undertake the following to adapt their communities to the effects of climate change:

1. **Sea Level Rise Adaptation Tools**

The Provincial government has established an expected sea-level rise in the Victoria area of 3.1 cm/50 years.

The Provincial (Subdivision) Approving Officer is currently requiring at time of subdivision a covenant for a 15 metres setback and 1.5 metres above the current high high water mark for any buildings or structures. This approach by the Provincial Approving Officer is a broad-brush approach to adapting to climate change and does not consider site specific conditions. Before initiating adaptation measures local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality should have an understanding of the local situation.

- a) **Undertake mapping of sea-level rise** on the islands to provide information to assist with developing policies and regulations to adapt to sea-level rise.
- b) **Enact zoning regulations under s.479 of the *Local Government Act* and flood level regulations under s. 524 of the *Local Government Act*.** Using these provisions, local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality may enact regulations to require setbacks for

buildings and structures from the future anticipated natural boundary of the sea, as well as establish a minimum elevation for buildings and structures above the anticipated future elevation of the sea. Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could make exceptions for structures that are designed to be moved (not on permanent foundation). Notwithstanding, the Provincial Approving Officer will continue to have independent authority to establish different requirements.

2. **Longer Periods of Drought Adaptation Tools**

Islands Trust Staff currently has little information on groundwater such as the effects of climate change on recharge and capacity of the aquifers to provide water. Research and mapping of aquifers would allow local trust committees to develop policies and regulations that reflect the capacity of the aquifers including anticipated climate change effects. Water storage and alternative water supplies could be considered. Means to reduce water consumption includes using development permit areas for water conservation, requiring drought tolerant planting, and requiring features to reduce water use.

- a) **Undertake research and mapping of aquifers, develop water consumption budgets, and identify salt water intrusion risks**, based on expected climate change effects. This work would then inform the land use planning for future development on the islands. This work is already underway for some islands, and staff is working with the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to undertake a robust salt water intrusion risk assessment and mapping for the Islands Trust area.
- b) **Update policies and regulations to align their development potential** – through land use and density provisions – with the anticipated capacity of the aquifers.
- c) **Use the climate change development permit areas under s. 488 of the *Local Government Act* to promote water conservation.** Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could establish goals, objectives and guidelines related to landscaping; siting of buildings and structures; form of exterior design of buildings and structures; specific features in the development; and machinery, equipment and systems external to buildings and structures to promote water conservation. The guidelines may restrict the type and placement of trees and other vegetation in proximity to buildings and structures in order to provide for water conservation.

4. **More Intense Storms Adaptation Tools**

Climate change is expected to result in more intense storm events, with higher winds and heavier rain than in the past.

- a) **Develop runoff control bylaws** under s. 523 to deal with anticipated flood and runoff from storm events.
- b) **Establish development permit areas for the protection of development from hazard conditions** under s. 488 of the *Local Government Act*. Under this development permit area, local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could establish areas subject to flooding and require they remain free from development except development may be permitted in accordance with the guidelines. These requirements may vary use and density but only as it relates to health, safety or protection of property from damage. The legislation also allows the local trust committee and Bowen Island Municipality to require a professional report at the applicant's expense to help with determining appropriate development permit conditions.

5. **Wildfire Adaptation Tools**

As climate change results in hotter and longer dryer periods during the summer months, the risk of wildfires on the islands increases. Most islands have a wildfire plan prepared by the fire district or regional district.

- a) **Establish development permit areas for the protection of development from hazard conditions** under s. 488 of the *Local Government Act*. Under this development permit area, local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could establish areas at risk to wildfires and include requirements respecting the character of development, including landscaping, and the siting, form, exterior design and finish of buildings and other structures, and establish restrictions on the type and placement of trees and other vegetation in proximity to the development. These requirements may vary use and density but only as it relates to health, safety or protection of property from damage. The legislation also allows the local trust committee and Bowen Island Municipality to require a professional report at the applicant's expense to help with determining appropriate development permit conditions.

6. **Warmer Summers and Warmer Winters Adaptation Tools**

Climate change is expected to lead to our summers and winters becoming warmer.

- a) **Establish development permit areas for energy conservation** under s. 488 of the *Local Government Act* to require that the exterior form and design of buildings, and other specific features of the development, reduce the need for energy in summer and winter. Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could establish goals, objective and guidelines related to landscaping; siting of buildings and structures; form of exterior design of buildings and structures; specific features in the development; and machinery, equipment and systems external to buildings and structures to promote energy conservation. The guidelines may restrict the type and placement of trees and other vegetation in proximity to buildings and structures in order to provide for energy conservation.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Summary of Local Trust Committee OCP climate change policies already implemented
2. Summary of Local Trust Committee OCP climate change policies not yet implemented

FOLLOW-UP:

Further work in specified areas as indicated in the briefing, or as requested by the Trust Council, Executive Committee, Local Planning Committee or local trust committees.

Prepared By: David Marlor, Director, Local Planning Services

Reviewed By/Date: Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer/

Summary of Official Community Plan policies, listed by local trust area, that have been implemented in the land use bylaws.

Ballenas-Winchelsea Local Trust Area

- Shoreline Development Permit Area (applicable to 30 m upland of the natural boundary of the sea).
- Regulations in the land use bylaw exempts solar collectors, wind generators and water storage tanks from height restrictions.

Denman Island Local Trust Area

- Climate change impacts are considered in staff.
- Providing the dedication of conservation area, consistent with OCP policies for density transfer.

Gabriola Island Local Trust Area

Gabriola Island

- Climate change impacts are considered in staff reports.
- Providing for rainwater collection and storage, trail/path connections and dedication of 300+ acres of parkland.
- Development Approval Information (DAI) Bylaw amended (2013) to include option to address GHG emissions, anticipated energy usage, carbon emissions and groundwater resources in conjunction with bylaw amendment or TUP applications [Criteria for assessing OCP/LUB applications developed.
- Land Use Bylaw (parking regulations and Village DPA guidelines) amended to encourage public transit, smaller vehicles, non-polluting vehicles, and permeable parking surfaces and increase walkability.
- Land Use Bylaw amended to measure the footprint of buildings and structures from the interior walls instead of the outer perimeter of the foundation of the building, so increased insulation is encouraged, and to exclude cisterns from floor area calculation.
- Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw amended to encourage local food production.

Mudge Island

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.
- Land Use Bylaw amended to exclude from the calculation of lot coverage in the RR zone: cisterns and similar structures for rainwater collection and storage; fire-fighting towers; pervious paths, driveways and parking spaces; and garden beds.

DeCourcey Island

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.

Galiano Island Local Trust Area

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports, and inclusion of a policy in the Land Use Policies section of the Official Community Plan applicable to consideration of all applications.
- Amendments to shoreline development permit area to include guidelines to consider and address sea level rise impacts.
- Changes to zoning regulations to permit small-scale renewable energy, specifically height regulations amended.

Gambier Island Local Trust Area

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.

Hornby Island Local Trust Area

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.
- Official Community Plan Water Supply Protection and Water Resource Protection Development Permit Area includes guidelines to protect water resources.
- Official Community Plan Community Service Use Development Permit Area includes guidelines to provide rainwater catchment and storage; and hydrology study.
- Official Community Plan Commercial Development Permit Area includes guidelines to maintain natural vegetation and reduce light pollution.
- Water storage tanks and wind turbines exempt from Land Use Bylaw height regulations.

Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.

Mayne Island Local Trust Area

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.
- Zoning amended to exclude solar collectors, wind generators and water tanks from maximum height regulations.
- Geothermal heating systems permitted.
- Amendments to Land Use Bylaw to permit mixed use (second storey residential) in commercial zones.
- Zoning for employee accommodation in commercial resorts.
- Secondary suites permitted.

North Pender Island Local Trust Area

North Pender Island

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.
- Secondary suites permitted.
- Temporary use permit guidelines amended to include climate change impacts.

North Pender Associated Islands

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.
- Shoreline DPAs include erosion provisions.

Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area

Salt Spring Island

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.
- Secondary suites permitted in select areas.
- Amenity Zoning includes implementation of energy efficient building design criteria that exceeds that required by the B.C. Building Code or other regulations.
- Climate change considered when evaluating suitability of density transfer.
- Rezoning application supporting local food production and storage as a community amenity
- Coordination with local and provincial agencies regarding fresh water demand and supply in relation to climate change.
- Land use regulations require 15m setbacks from natural bodies of water; 1.5 m elevation above natural body of water.
- Pathways and bikeways dedication at time of subdivision as per OCP Cycle Route map.

- DAI Bylaw including development permit checklist (both are drafted but not yet implemented).

Piers Island

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.
- 3.0 m elevation of buildings required if within 30m of water body.

Prevost Island

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.

Saturna Island Local Trust Area

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.
- Geothermal heating permitted.
- Secondary dwelling units (secondary suites amendment in process).
- Sustainability checklist.
- TUP guidelines amended to include consideration of climate change impacts.

South Pender Island Local Trust Area

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.
- Although not a Bill 27 requirement, LUB was amended to limit dwelling floor area and overall floor area on residential lots.

South Pender Island Local Trust Area

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.

Thetis Island Local Trust Area

Thetis Island and Valdes Island

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.

Thetis Associated Islands

- Climate change impacts considered in staff reports.
- Land Use Bylaw definition of floor area excludes any floor area occupied by a cistern used for the collection of rainwater for domestic use or fire protection.
- Land Use Bylaw permits the following uses in all zones: conservation; water supply facilities for the purposes of supplying potable or grey water on an individual island, including cisterns, reservoirs, pipes, treatment facilities, catchment and storage facilities and pumping and intake structures; solar collectors; wind turbines; and ocean geothermal loop exchange systems.
- Solar collectors are exempt from Land Use Bylaw height regulations.

Summary of Local Trust Committee Official Community Plan Policies that have yet to be implemented.

The following is a summary of Official Community Plan policies on climate change that have not yet been enacted in the land use bylaw regulations or through development permit areas. For actual wording of the policies, please consult that relevant official community plan bylaw.

Ballenas-Winchelsea Local Trust Area

- Identify significant un-fragmented forest and non-forest ecosystems and ensure these are noted on mapping for environmental and carbon sequestration value.

Denman Island Local Trust Area

- Review zoning to ensure provisions encourage energy efficiency and the greenhouse gas emissions reduction in new construction.
- Review development permit area guidelines and incorporate provisions to promote energy conservation, water conservation and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.
- Encourage renewable energy, limit fossil fuel consumption, encourage energy-efficient and carbon-efficient building construction.

Gabriola Island Local Trust Area

Gabriola Island

- Consider new development permit area guidelines that promote low impact land uses, alternative transportation, energy conservation, water conservation, and the reduction of GHGs.
- Identify significant un-fragmented forest ecosystems within the planning area and ensure that these areas are noted on mapping both for their environmental values as well as carbon sequestration areas.
- Amend LUB to consider setbacks from the ocean in relation to sea level rise.

Mudge Island

- Establish climate change as a fundamental factor in land use decision making.
- Encourage on-island agriculture and sharing of local food production.
- Encourage all new construction be built at the highest possible energy-efficiency standards.
- Further policies and actions to be considered as part of a future review of the OCP.

DeCourcey Island

- Encourage on-island agriculture and the sharing of local food production.
- Encourage new construction built at highest possible standards to reduce energy needs.
- Specific policies and actions to be included in a future OCP review.

Galiano Island Local Trust Area

- Amendments to parking requirements to require alternatives to parking spaces.
- Requiring new development to utilize building technology that minimizes energy use.

Gambier Island Local Trust Area

Gambier Island

- Develop new criteria for assessing OCP or zoning amendment applications from the perspective of climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Support protection of forest resources.
- Require water storage with every dwelling unit.

Gambier Associated Islands

- Support actions to minimize GHG emissions.
- Recognize importance of forested lands in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- Consider potential impacts on global climate change and GHG reduction targets when considering applications.
- Identify significant un-fragmented forest ecosystems within the planning area and ensure that these areas are noted on mapping for both their environmental value and as carbon sequestration areas.
- Reduce extent of infrastructure (e.g. development of common docks).
- Zoning regulations should support small scale residential solar and wind power generation on residential lots.

Keats Island

- Promote use and development of renewable energy sources.
- Develop new criteria for assessing OCP or zoning amendment applications from the perspective of climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Support cluster development appropriate for Keats Island.
- Encourage energy efficient buildings.
- Encourage use of alternative energy.
- Encourage water storage for every dwelling unit

Hornby Island Local Trust Area

- Develop criteria for assessing OCP or LUB amendment applications from the perspective of climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Encourage retention of forest cover except for the clearing of land for farming in the ALR.
- Limit size of buildings and opportunities for attached dwelling units and visitor accommodation units.
- Encourage green building techniques and alternative energy systems (solar, wind, geothermal, or water based) into residential housing.
- Encourage safe multi-use trails and bike lanes to facilitate non-motorized forms of travel.
- Encourage “climate wise” actions, including water conservation, storm water retention, the use of alternative energy sources for home use, and the use of alternative transportation methods.
- Support the local provision of services that residents presently travel off-island to access.
- Review LUB to provide for community gardens and community food processing and storage.
- Encourage local food production.

Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area

- Develop criteria for assessing OCP or zoning applications from the perspective of climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Encourage energy conserving buildings.
- Encourage cycling and walking trails to permit non-automobile based forms of travel.
- Encourage water conservation and rainwater catchment.

Mayne Island Local Trust Area

- Permitting attached dwellings.
- DPA to manage lot layout.
- DPA for energy conservation.
- Amendments to amenity zoning and density transfer policies.

North Pender Island Local Trust Area

North Pender Island

- A review of overall development potential to consider amendments to zoning where changes could limit or reduce emissions.
- Permitting attached dwellings.
- Amending parking requirements.
- DPA to manage subdivision layout (conservation subdivision design project started but later abandoned by LTC).
- Second storey residential over commercial.
- Requiring cisterns or other water conservation measures in new development.
- Permitting community wood chipping or composting.
- Amend existing DPA to include energy conservation provisions.

North Pender Associated Islands

- Specific policies and actions to be included in a future review of the plan.

Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area

Salt Spring Island

- Calculation of carbon budget at time of rezoning or demonstrated conformity with LEED or similar.
- GHG or energy efficiency specific DPA.
- Amend fees bylaw to support energy efficient building design.
- Mapping and analysis to anticipate potential impacts of climate change on land use.
- Height relaxation for solar and wind power generation on residential lots.

Piers Island

- In progress of updating OCP for Climate Change.

Prevost Island

- No policies on climate change – bylaw requires updating

Saturna Island Local Trust Area

- Amending zoning to allow mixed use, including second storey residential in commercial designation.
- Amending parking requirements.
- Include energy conservation measures in DPA.
- Implement DPA for lot layout and tree removal.
- Permitting attached dwellings.
- Limit floor area of dwellings.

South Pender Island Local Trust Area

- Permit community gardens.

Thetis Island Local Trust Area

Thetis Island

- Develop new criteria for assessing OCP or LUB amendment applications from the perspective of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

- Promote land use that supports local food production to reduce food transportation costs and GHGs.
- Support new forms of housing that include clustering and zero emission housing.
- Encourage local, small-scale generation of alternative non-polluting energy sources.
- Regulate the size, siting and height of wind turbines to minimize environmental impacts and safety risks.

Thetis Associated Islands

- Consider the potential impacts on climate change GHG emissions in bylaw provisions and review of development applications.
- Identify significant un-fragmented forest and wetland ecosystems within the planning area and ensure that these areas are noted on mapping for both their environmental value and as carbon sequestration areas.
- Through bylaw provisions, support residential renewable energy (e.g. micro hydro, solar, wind, waste heat, etc.) use.
- Promote the conservation of forested lands and wetlands as a cost effective and important climate change mitigation strategy.

Valdes Island

- Establish climate change as a fundamental factor in land use decision-making.
- Policies and actions with respect to climate change mitigation will be considered as part of a future review of the Rural Land Use Bylaw.

To:	Trust Council	For the Meeting of:	September 17, 2019
From:	Executive Committee	Date Prepared:	August 29, 2019
SUBJECT:	Council committee/Conservancy board recommendations for climate actions		

PURPOSE: To provide Trust Council with a summary of climate change discussions held by Trust Programs Committee with Local Planning Committee members, and the Conservancy Board.

BACKGROUND:

In March 2019, the Islands Trust Council declared a climate emergency.

In June 2019, the Islands Trust Council passed the following resolution:

That the reports on the climate emergency received at Trust Council be referred to the Trust Programs Committee, Local Planning Committee, and the Islands Trust Conservancy and that they be requested to make recommendations to Trust Council with regards to developing a climate emergency strategy for inclusion in the Strategic Plan.

On July 17, 2019, Trust Programs Committee held a meeting, that Local Planning Committee members attended ex-officio, to respond to the Trust Council resolution. Trust Programs Committee and ex-officio Local Planning Committee members discussed three questions:

1. What is the nature of the climate change emergency within the Trust Area? What are the key local, regional and global factors that required Trust Council make its climate change emergency declaration?
2. What specific land use planning tools and other organizational climate change tools or actions should be adopted by Islands Trust bodies and incorporated into the Trust Council strategic plan?
3. Which Committee should be responsible for ensuring progress on those climate change options that are recommended for adoption?

The Trust Programs Committee and ex-officio Local Planning Committee members identified concerns and topics of interest (see attached meeting notes) but did not identify any specific recommendations to Trust Council. The group did discuss that next steps could include:

1. Circulating a summary of the ideas discussed,
2. Integrating ideas raised on climate into the strategic plan and/or develop a separate climate crisis plan,
3. work with the budget process to determine actions in the context of the Local Planning Services review,
4. consider climate action within the Policy Statement directives checklist,
5. revise speaking notes and/or as a backgrounder, "Why should I care about climate change" in a way that would support use within Power Point presentations by trustees holding climate change talks,
6. develop a climate emergency communications plan including website presence,

7. consider areas for measurement of emissions to report data on impacts.

On August 7, 2019, the Islands Trust Conservancy Board held a Special Meeting to discuss Trust Council's request. The Board passed the following resolutions and requested that additional information be conveyed to Trust Council (see attached memorandum):

That the Islands Trust Conservancy Board request that Trust Council consider the following as it develops a climate emergency strategy for inclusion in the Strategic Plan:

- ***Increased budget for professional advice and mapping;***
- ***The role of the Islands Trust Conservancy in storage and sequestration of carbon within its Nature Reserves and Covenant Areas and the property management needs associated with this role;***
- ***Education about the benefits of forest cover;***
- ***Increase communications resources to promote voluntary conservation options such as NAPTEP; and,***
- ***Information regarding all current ITC climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.***

That the Islands Trust Conservancy Board ask Trust Council to request that the province amend legislation to increase the percentage of the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) tax exemption in order to incentivize the protection of forest cover for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Islands Trust Area.

The draft 2018-2022 Islands Trust Council Strategic Plan includes strategies that respond to the ideas raised. At this time, more than half of the strategies in the draft 2018-2022 Strategic Plan are related to climate change. These include:

- Map contiguous tracks of the Coastal Douglas fir zone (CDF) and associated ecosystems to aid in protection of that zone and its associated ecosystems.
- Create of a model development permit for Local Trust Committee-Bowen Island Official Community Plans bylaws to protect Coastal Douglas fir zones throughout the Trust Area.
- Amend legislation to increase the percentage of the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) to act as an incentive for the protection of forest cover for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Islands Trust Area.
- Map the extent of eelgrass and kelp beds throughout the Trust Area.
- Undertake a review of Local Trust Committee- Bowen Islands Municipality foreshore policies and regulatory bylaws and develop model policy and regulatory bylaws for the protection of the foreshore and nearshore.
- Develop a regional freshwater management strategy that addresses responsibilities under the Water Sustainability Act, identifies water resources throughout the Trust Area, integrates water resource management into land use decision-making, and accounts for the impacts of climate change on island water resources.
- Map and develop water budgets for groundwater aquifers in the Trust Area.
- Develop Official Community Plan policies and land use regulations using groundwater mapping and water budget data.
- Support and promote water conservation measures such as rainwater catchment and greywater recycling
- Amend the Islands Trust Policy Statement to add climate change mitigation, adaptation and resiliency policies.
- Amend Official Community Plans and land use bylaws to foster climate change resilience, including measures to protect Coastal Douglas fir, foreshore and nearshore environments and groundwater.

- Update and amend the Islands Trust Climate Action Plan to include corporate practises and strategic objectives.
- Develop i) a set of climate change, demographic and environmental data and ii) performance criteria in order to identify the effects of climate change in the Trust Area and to measure mitigation and adaption efforts.
- Develop the capacity to broadcast public meetings of Local Trust Committees, Council Committees and Trust Council.
- Develop and implement a stewardship education program directed towards the public, industry and stakeholders in the Trust Area.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Detailed summary of topics raised at the July 17, 2019 Trust Programs Committee meeting
2. Islands Trust Conservancy memorandum regarding the Trust Council referral for recommendation on responding to climate change emergency declaration.

FOLLOW-UP: Staff will implement climate actions in the adopted 2018-2022 Strategic Plan as well as continuing to undertake routine consideration of climate change in recommendations and decisions.

Prepared By: Clare Frater

Reviewed By/Date: Russ Hotsenpiller/August 30, 2019
Executive Committee/September 4, 2019

Meeting Notes from Trust Programs Committee
Developing a Climate Emergency Strategy for Inclusion in the Strategic Plan
July 17, 2019

Question 1: What is the nature of the climate change emergency within the Trust Area? What are the key local, regional and global factors that required Trust Council make its climate change emergency declaration?

- Saltwater intrusion
- Lower availability of water
- How to develop within water limitations?
- How to function with no/limited water? e.g. public tap/well
- Forest fire risk
 - Concern with Fire Smart practices not being appropriate
- Difficulty of reducing transportation options
- General emergency response issues e.g. one access only to some areas
- Tension re tourism operators using too much water
- Extreme weather
 - wind, heavy rain, drought
- Concern for global impacts
- Dieback of trees – cedar, willow, alder, salal
- Opportunity for sequestration
- Overdevelopment
 - reduction of trees
- Marine environment impacts
 - loss of carbon sinks
- Need to advocate for reduction in slash burning
- Could have a tree planting program
- Species migration corridors
 - Lack of corridors
 - Species at risk
- Private Managed Forest Lands
 - Clearcutting
 - Concerns with replanting
 - Dry conditions
- Food production
 - Lack of water
 - Difficulty for farmers
- Biodiversity
 - Evaluation of human activity on habitat
- Carrying capacity concern
- Natural asset protection
- Loss of BC Hydro power in storms
- Fibre cable
 - Supports work from home which reduces travel emissions
- Governance vacuum on climate issues

- Rainwater catchment
- Sea level rise
 - Salt water intrusion
- Septic systems
- Drying out of land due to lack of vegetation
- Ocean acidification
 - Sea star die our (virus)
- Invasive species increase
- Difficulty of responding to constituent concerns/expectations
- Constituents reluctant to make behaviour changes
- Concern that existing zoning no longer appropriate for resource availability/ecosystem stress
- Control of subdivisions
- Forestry
- Local contractors
 - Education
 - Triggers to control activities is lacking

Question 2: What specific land use planning tools and other organizational climate change tools or actions should be adopted by Islands Trust bodies and incorporated into the Trust Council strategic plan

- How can Islands Trust facilitate quick adoption of bylaws that have been successful in other areas (only 3 top priorities)
- Climate emergency justifies strong policy
 - e.g. request no more commercial forestry in Trust Area
 - Strongly regulate development and development practices
- LTC's could work regionally to expedite projects through efficiencies
- Model bylaws are useful so just local tweaking needed
- Need for data re: ferry ridership
- Need to collate and share best practices
- Use existing toolkits locally by LTC/IM
- Limit development
- Clarity of role of Trustees
- Present progress reports via matrix to promote peer pressure or review top priorities matrix at TC and community education & outreach – dedicated staff person.
- Setback from the sea
 - Trust-wide: vertical and horizontal
- Lack of planner resources/staffing hampers implementation
 - Need for efficiencies/regional approach
- Give Trust Council/EC more power via Policy Statement directive policies
- Limit future fragmentation – subdivision limits (10 acre min)
- Community resiliency (funding available)
- Workshop for Trustees
 - role of public comment in decision making
- Enable non-outraged citizens to have a voice in support of preserve and protect
 - Education kits for proposed bylaws
 - Community consultation

- Use grants to get more resources
- LTCs to consider climate and First Nations implication of applications
 - Implement via standing resolution
- Convene Trustee phone calls re learning on current issues
- Incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Communications support for Trustees to host climate change talks (e.g. Power points, speaking notes)
- Information on a variety of engagement methods and stakeholder education (e.g. arborists, realtors, trade schools)
 - Trustee Office Hours
 - Include information on individual actions and reasons for hope
- Cooperate with local conservancies – ITC and other non-profits
- Covenant conversation (secretariat function)
 - Combine education/engagement
 - Help Trustees facilitate meetings
 - Workshops/forums
- Highlight community Innovations
- Green Shores – implement and share education materials

Question 3: Which Committee should be responsible for ensuring progress on those climate change options that are recommended for adoption?

- Trustees share information and experiences re climate actions/education strategies for talking in communities
- Measurement of emissions (e.g. PCIS), impacts
 - Water consumption
 - Waste production and type
 - Visitors and population
 - Ferries, float plane, pleasure boats
 - Water budgets
 - Sequestration
 - Transportation emissions
 - Building emissions
 - Fragmentation
 - Species at risk
 - Forestry
 - Agriculture
 - Aquaculture
 - Transitional ecological knowledge indicators
 - Local people's sense of indicators
 - Use of solar energy and heat pumps (money saved)
- Implement CDF toolkit
- Implement RCP
- Work with regional districts for incentives e.g. wood stove
- Educate re building efficiency

Speaking Notes for Trustees

- Plain language
- Action oriented
- Include negative and positive
- Explain jurisdictions (concept map)
- Climate change will hit islands first
- We need to act first
- We don't have all the information – be humble
- Forest cover, CPF and RCP, conservancy lands
- Mapping eelgrass
 - Minimize footprint
 - Lot coverage

Frequently Asked Questions

- What does climate change emergency mean?
- How do we know the climate is changing?
- What can we do as
 - Individuals
 - Organization
 - Governmental
- What is Islands Trust changing in response to the climate emergency?
- Questions for trustees to ask?

Data

- Modelling from PCIS
 - What data do they have?
- Advocate to the Province
- Local indicators

Learning from others

- What initiatives should we join?
- If we don't join, who speaks for the islands?
- Net-zero zoning
 - Highlands
- First Nations
- Operational emissions
- Why declare an emergency?
 - Political statement on climate crisis
 - Draw attention to the seriousness and urgency of situation
 - Moral duty to act
 - Canada's contribution
 - Per capita and percentage of species
 - Local changes
 - Fire risk, sea level rise
 - Loss of shoreline and low lying aquifers

- We don't control global emissions but feel the impacts locally
- Call to action
- Local planning vs land use planning
- nature/place protection planning

Resources

- TC policies on resource allocation
- TPC or EC to review

Measuring Progress

- Next Steps
- Summary – circulate
- Strategic Plan and/or Climate Crisis Action Plan
 - CDF and RCP
 - Compile all reports
 - Costs
 - Resources
 - Measurement
 - What will the Trust do less of?
- Budget process
 - LPS review
- Policy statement – directives
- Speaking notes
 - Q&A
- Communications plan – webpage
- measurement



MEMORANDUM

File No.: 6000-20
Climate Change Emergency

DATE OF MEETING: September 17, 2019
TO: Trust Council
FROM: Islands Trust Conservancy Board
COPY: Islands Trust Executive Committee
Trust Programs Committee
SUBJECT: Climate Change Emergency, Trust Council referral to Islands Trust Conservancy

PURPOSE

To make recommendations to Trust Council regarding developing a climate emergency strategy for inclusion in the Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND

At its June 2019 meeting, Trust Council passed the following resolution:

That the reports on the climate emergency received at Trust Council be referred to the Trust Programs Committee, Local Planning Committee, and the Islands Trust Conservancy and that they be requested to make recommendations to Trust Council with regards to developing a climate emergency strategy for inclusion in the Strategic Plan.

On August 7, 2019, the Islands Trust Conservancy Board held a Special Meeting to discuss Trust Council's request.

REFERRAL RESPONSE FOR TRUST COUNCIL

At its August 7, 2019 Special Meeting, the Islands Trust Conservancy passed the following resolutions:

ITC-2019-027

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board request that Trust Council consider the following as it develops a climate emergency strategy for inclusion in the Strategic Plan:

- Increased budget for professional advice and mapping;
- The role of the Islands Trust Conservancy in storage and sequestration of carbon within its Nature Reserves and Covenant Areas and the property management needs associated with this role;
- Education about the benefits of forest cover;
- Increase communications resources to promote voluntary conservation options such as NAPTEP; and,
- Information regarding all current ITC climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.

ITC-2019-028

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board ask Trust Council to request that the province amend legislation to increase the percentage of the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) tax exemption in order to incentivize the protection of forest cover for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Islands Trust Area.

CURRENT ITC CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITIES

The ITC Board requested that staff outline the current activities that the ITC undertakes to address climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Regional Conservation Plan

The [Regional Conservation Plan](#) guides most of the work of the ITC Board. The Regional Conservation Plan includes goals that address the climate change emergency as follows:

Goal 1: Identify, investigate and communicate about important natural areas to generate action on conservation projects.

The ITC undertakes and shares mapping to identify areas of high biodiversity priority including:

- Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping, including identification of forest type and age and sensitive ecosystems
- Shoreline mapping, including eelgrass mapping
- Carbon sequestration and storage mapping of forests
- Modelling of high biodiversity areas including factors of forest age, connectivity, ecosystem representation, rare and sensitive ecosystems and development risk factors

Goal 2: Strengthen relationships with First Nations to identify and collaborate on shared conservation goals.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recognizes that Indigenous Peoples are often the first to feel the effects of climate change. It also recognizes that Indigenous Peoples have evolved with a changing climate over millennia and possess Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) that will be locally and globally valuable. The ITC has recognized a need to strengthen its relationships with First Nations to identify and collaborate on shared conservation goals and has begun to more fully reach out to First Nations in its mapping and research work as well as through its land management program.

Goal 3: Continue to secure and manage Islands Trust Conservancy lands and conservation covenants to maximize ecological integrity.

- The ITC uses its high biodiversity mapping to prioritize conservation projects and has introduced information into its requests for decision to identify benefits and risks associated with climate change.
- The ITC manages its lands to maintain biodiversity, including restoring degraded areas through re-establishment of vegetation and management of invasive species.

Goal 4: Continue to build internal and shared organizational strength and resilience to ensure long-term nature conservation in the Islands Trust Area.

- The ITC is building its capacity to engage in land conservation through establishment of various funds for land acquisition, management and defense.

- The ITC is beginning to incorporate climate change into communications messaging in news releases, communications materials and signage.

NEXT STEPS

The ITC Board, in addition to providing the recommendations to Trust Council noted above, has also passed the following resolution:

ITC-2019-026

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

That the Islands Trust Conservancy Board direct staff to incorporate the climate change actions as discussed at the meeting of August 7, 2019 into staff work programs and develop budgets as required.

ITC staff will work to meet this resolution for the October 1, 2019 ITC Board meeting.

Submitted By:	Kate Emmings, A/Manager, Islands Trust Conservancy	August 8, 2019
Concurrence:	Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services	August 16, 2019

ATTACHMENTS

None.

Climate Change and the Islands Trust

Key Messages

- Islands Trust Council joined governments around the world in declaring a Climate Emergency in March 2019, calling for an urgent response to the threats and costs posed by climate change.
- We believe that our response should prioritize those who are most vulnerable to climate impacts and those most in need of support in transitioning to renewable energy systems.
- The island ecosystems and communities of the Trust Area are particularly vulnerable to the cumulative impacts of climate change, including:
 - **Rising sea levels:** flooding of coastal homes, infrastructure and archeological sites;
 - **Warmer oceans:** disruptions to the marine food web, diseases such as sea star die-off;
 - **More acidic Salish Sea:** weakened shells of oysters, scallops and crabs;
 - **Intense rain:** flooding, loss of food crops, and damaged infrastructure;
 - **Strong windstorms:** damaged trees, increased coastal erosion and power outages;
 - **Droughts:** lower groundwater levels, increased risk of saltwater intrusion to groundwater, greater risk of forest fires; and
 - **Temperature changes:** disruptions to the seasonal timing of plant and animal life cycle events, reduced biodiversity and new invasive species.
- The protection of forests in the Trust Area also has the potential to help mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration. Islands Trust Area forests sequester more than 190,000 tonnes of carbon per year. This equates to emissions from more than 40,000 passenger vehicles per year.
- Our 2018-2022 Strategic Plan and proposed 2020/21 Budget both include a strong commitment to action in the areas of climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, including initiatives such as:
 - Developing climate change and environmental indicator data for islands in the Trust Area
 - Amending our Policy Statement, Official Community Plans, Land Use Bylaws to include consideration of climate change
 - Developing a regional freshwater strategy
 - Reviewing foreshore policies and bylaws
 - Mapping eelgrass throughout the Trust Area
 - Developing a climate change focused stewardship education program
 - Striving for carbon neutral operations and virtual meetings
- We know we can't do it alone. The Islands Trust is committed to working together with First Nations, local communities, partner agencies, and other levels of government, to pursue an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the Trust Area and to ensure that those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change have the tools and support to adapt and grow resilient.

Backgrounder

Climate Change is Happening

NASA scientists report that the Earth's average surface temperature in 2018 was the fourth highest in nearly 140 years of record-keeping. The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC - <https://www.ipcc.ch/>) has determined that prior projections on climate change were conservative and that the Earth is continuing to heat beyond known levels as a result of human caused (also known as anthropogenic) carbon dioxide emissions and the resulting biological feedbacks that increase other greenhouse gasses such as methane and water vapour.

Become more familiar with anthropogenic climate change by exploring scientifically vetted resource such as:

- Canadian Climate Atlas - <https://climateatlas.ca/climate-change-basics>.
- Callison, C. (2014). *How climate change comes to matter: The communal life of facts*. Duke University Press.
- Climate Communication - <https://www.climatecommunication.org/>

Government Action on Climate Change

The House of Commons of Canada and the Legislature of British Columbia acknowledged the growing crisis of climate breakdown by holding emergency debates following the release of the October 2018 IPCC report. Regional Districts, and the Cities of Vancouver and Victoria have engaged in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts (See Appendix 1).

Climate Change in the Islands Trust

The Islands Trust is already a signatory to the [BC Climate Action Charter](#), committing itself to:

- Being carbon neutral in its corporate operations;
- Measuring and reporting the Trust Area's greenhouse gas emissions;
- Creating complete, compact, more energy efficient communities.

One of the biggest challenges we have around meeting our commitments to this charter is the measuring of carbon dioxide emissions within the trust (See Appendix 2).

Climate change is already visible within the Trust Area in a number of ways including:

- more extreme winter and summer temperatures;
- more extreme dry spells that increase droughts, wildfire, and water sustainability concerns;
- warmer ocean temperatures resulting in species migration changes and shellfish safety warnings;
- more extreme weather events leading to flooding, wind damage, and erosion; and
- sea level rise causing erosion and damage to archaeological sites, structures, and groundwater aquifers.

In the Islands Trust area we need to consider both how we might mitigate and adapt to the changing climate.

- **Mitigations** deal with how we can *reduce the greenhouse gases that are the root cause* of human caused climate changes
- **Adaptations** are behavioral and physical changes we can make in our use of natural resources to *deal with the results* of changing climate.

Mitigations

Mitigations in climate change can be undertaken by the Islands Trust by either reducing carbon dioxide emissions or increasing carbon sequestration (the amount of atmospheric carbon fixed into plants or other solid materials). Energy use is a key issue around reducing emissions while maintaining forest cover is important for carbon sequestration. Several resources are available to help us with mitigation efforts such as:

- Plug in BC - <https://pluginbc.ca/>

- Climate Action to Go Kits - <https://www.crd.bc.ca/education/climate-action/at-home/climate-action-to-go-kits>
- Efficiency BC - <https://betterhomesbc.ca/>
- Coastal Douglas Fir Protection Toolkit, another key report from last term. Page 11 has a chart showing the levels of carbon sequestration by island, and pages 20 and 21 make recommendations. Here's a link <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/media/346674/cdf-toolkit-final-web.pdf>

By becoming a carbon neutral organization, the Islands Trust committed to no net increase in greenhouse gas emissions from its *operations*. Carbon neutrality has been achieved since 2012 through three steps:

- Performing an emissions inventory of our operations;
- Implementing an action plan to reduce emissions; and
- Purchasing carbon offsets to counteract emissions that cannot be readily reduced.

Further work is being done in our operations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by seeking low carbon catering for events and increasing virtual meetings.

Some Islands within the Trust Area have taken various mitigation efforts to date including:

- Improving transportation networks that are low carbon such as bike paths or other trail networks or installing EV stations.
- All local trust committee official community plans contain targets and policies related to GHG emission reduction (Appendix 1 contains actual targets by local trust committees and includes Bowen Island Municipality).
- All staff reports to the local trust committees address GHG emission reduction and climate impacts of new development.

Local Trust Committees have the following tools available for addressing climate change mitigation efforts:

- **GHG Reduction Targets** - Section 473 of the *Local Government Act* – required content for official community plans, inclusion of targets and policies with respect to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Zoning Authority** – Section 479 of the *Local Government Act*. Could cluster development, protect areas for conservation, limit extent of development, establish building size limits, and prohibit uses that contribute the most to GHG production.
- **Development Permit Area to Promote Energy Conservation** – Section 488(1)(h) of the *Local Government Act*. Can be used to reduce heating and cooling requirements through building siting, systems and landscaping.
- **Development Permit Area to Promote the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions** - Section 488(1)(j) of the *Local Government Act*.
- **Off-street Parking and Loading Regulations** - Section 525 of the *Local Government Act* – establish parking requirements, electric vehicle and active transportation parking, surfacing and landscaping of parking areas.
- Detailed information on these tools is contained in Appendix 3

Adaptations

In the Islands Trust Area, these impacts of climate change include sea level rise, possible salt water intrusion into groundwater aquifer, warmer winters and summers, dryer summers, more intense storm events, and wildfire potential. Adaptations to changes resulting from climate warming include a wide variety of options. Such adaptations could be behavioural (eg. Educating people to reduce food waste and drive less) or structural (eg. Requiring water storage for household and fire suppression use). The Province of B.C. has developed a Climate Change Secretariat to address climate change adaptations and has begun to produce numerous resources for communities to deal with climate change adaptations. These include:

- The overall site of climate change resources - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change>
- The climate action toolkit - <https://www.toolkit.bc.ca/taking-action/community-wide>

Local Trust Committees are being supported in understanding potential adaptations through staff reports. In addition,

the islands of North Pender, South Pender, Galiano, Mayne and Saturna are collaboratively working on a project to assess groundwater and establish water budgets. Tools to support Local Trust Committees in understanding possible adaptations include:

- **Zoning Authority** - Section 479 of the *Local Government Act*. Require setback from the sea and water bodies, building location and size, appropriate uses and density.
- **Runoff Control Bylaw** - Section 523 of the *Local Government Act*. Regulations to address increased rain events.
- **Development Permit Area to Protect Development from Hazardous Conditions** – Section 488(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act*. Flood plain regulations along foreshore, rivers and lakes. Tree and vegetation retention in areas prone to land slip.
- **Development Permit Area to Promote Energy Conservation** - Section 488(1)(h) of the *Local Government Act*. Siting, landscaping and features for new development.
- **Development Permit Area to Promote Water Conservation** – Section 488(1)(i) of the *Local Government Act*. Water collection and storage, landscaping.
- **Flood Plain Regulations** – Section 425 of the *Local Government Act* – protect development in areas subject to flooding.
- Detailed information on these tools is contained in Attachment 4.

Issues and Opportunities

- **Limited data on changes in island-based carbon contributions.** Generally, the Islands of the Trust Area lack accurate community energy and emissions Inventory information which limits our ability to accurately measure how emissions programming is reducing carbon levels. However, in the absence of accurate data to measure change we can use logic to make decisions. The field of research has provided enough data now on effective solutions that we can feel confident that adopting some of these options leads to solid change.
- **Trust Policy versus Local Trust Committee activity.** There are discrepancies between what the whole Trust Council agrees to within the Policy Statement, what individual LTCs have said in their Official Community Plans, what is actually seen in the current Land Use Bylaws around issues of climate change, and what variances are being allowed from the OCPs. As leaders in our communities we need to understand the issues deeply so that we make consistent decisions across these scales of work. We should consider what model bylaws might be beneficial for *all* LTCs to adopt and work to do so in a timely fashion.
- **Climate action engagement strategy.** In our own communities, how might we work with organizations to enact changes and foster new ideas. Education around key aspects within the Trust's mandate are critical to ensuring climate action is undertaken in the Trust Area. This could be guided with short briefs that could be collaboratively drafted by Trustees and staff to inform the Trustees and be passed on to community members in appropriate venues. For example, it would be good to have a brief on why not to cut mature trees or why protection of eel grass is critical. This could be work that the climate action working group could engage in.

Appendix 1: Lessons from Others in our Region

Vancouver

The city of Vancouver has done a number of things around climate change which are detailed in their report:

- Summary (<https://vancouver.ca/green-vancouver/climate-emergency-response.aspx>)
- Full report (<https://council.vancouver.ca/20190424/documents/cfsc1.pdf>)

Their 6 big moves are:

1. Walkable complete communities - By 2030, 90% of people live within an easy walk and roll of their daily needs.
2. Safe and convenient active transportation and transit - By 2030, two thirds of trips in Vancouver will be by active transportation and transit.
3. Pollution free cars, trucks and buses - By 2030, 50% of the kilometres driven on Vancouver's roads will be by zero emissions vehicles.
4. Zero emission space and water heating - By 2025, all new and replacement heating and hot water systems will be zero emissions.
5. Lower carbon construction - By 2030, the embodied emissions from new buildings and construction projects will be reduced by 40% compared to a 2018 baseline.
6. Restored forests and coast - By fall 2020, to develop "negative emission" targets that can be achieved by restoring forest and coastal ecosystems.

Examples from the 53 accelerated actions listed in the full report

(<https://council.vancouver.ca/20190424/documents/cfsc1.pdf>) which might be helpful examples for the Islands Trust context include:

- Item 5: Zero Emissions Building Standards Accelerate the implementation of the Zero Emissions Building Plan.
 - Reducing concrete in buildings and shifting to low carbon concrete
- Item 7: Active Transportation and Transit Infrastructure Accelerate the development of infrastructure to make it easier to choose walking, cycling and transit.
 - Trail networks for alternative transportation
- Item 8: Transportation Demand Management Enhanced transportation demand management to support walking, cycling and transit.
 - EV parking requirements, charging stations as part of new development
- Item 12: Solid Waste Reduce solid waste and use it to reduce fossil fuel use.
 - Composting to reduce food waste in local areas
- Item 14: City Leadership Updating the City's Green Operations Plan to reflect the urgency of the climate emergency.
 - Virtual meetings
 - Providing digital ways for public to "visit" with staff
- Item 15: Intergovernmental Relations and Community Engagement
 - Community and partner engagement

Other **key structural changes** suggested in Vancouver that might be helpful in the Islands Trust context are:

- Climate action engagement strategy – work with organizations in community to enact changes and foster new ideas, also allows for community education work
- Climate action working group – to be more flexible, and nimble with this work

Victoria

<https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/climate-change/climate-action.html>

Capital Regional District

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/climate-action>

Regional District of Nanaimo

<https://www.rdn.bc.ca/action-on-climate-change>

Sunshine Coast Regional District

<https://www.scrd.ca/Climate--Energy>

Cowichan Valley Regional District

<https://www.cvrld.bc.ca/2101/Climate-Change>

Appendix 2: Greenhouse Gas Emission targets for Local Trust Committee and Bowen Island Municipality - from Climate Change Emergency Declaration Briefing provided to Trust Council in June 2019.

For its 2008-2011 term, Council adopted a Strategic Plan that includes Green House Gas reduction as a major objective. Through 2009 local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality received advice on policy options from planners, undertook community and stakeholder consultation and engagement, and undertook formal bylaw process, including information meetings, referrals, readings, and public hearings.

Every Official Community Plan in the Islands Trust Area (except Piers Island) includes targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and policies and actions to achieve these targets. The targets and objectives are generally to be achieved by actions resulting from individual and community initiatives, the actions of other levels of government, technological changes, and changes to land use policies and regulations.

- Additional background information is available on the Islands Trust climate change page: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/projects/climate-change/>
- The Trust's carbon neutral reports are posted to: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/projects/climate-change/carbon-neutral-operations/>

Local Trust Committee/ Island Municipality	Reduction By 2015	Reduction By 2020	Reduction By 2050	Notes
Bowen Island Municipality	-	33%	80%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Ballenas-Winchelsea	-	50%	50%	Below per Canadian per capita for 2020/2050
Gabriola	-	33%	85%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Mudge	-	50%	50%	Below per Canadian per capita for 2020/2050
DeCourcy	-	50%	50%	Below per Canadian per capita for 2020/2050
Galiano	-	33%	-	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Gambier	-	33%	85%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Associated	-	20%	85%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Keats	-	33%	85%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Denman	-	33%	85%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Hornby	-	25%	80%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Lasqueti	-	50%	50%	Below per Canadian per capita for 2020/2050
Mayne	-	33%	-	Reduction over 2007 emissions
North Pender	-	33%	-	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Associated	-	50%	50%	Below per Canadian per capita for 2020/2050
Saturna	-	33%	-	Reduction over 2007 emissions
SSI	15%	40%	85%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Piers	-	-	-	Bylaw is not compliant
South Pender	-	33%	-	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Thetis	-	33%	85%	Reduction over 2007 emissions
Associated	-	-	-	Bylaw contains no targets
Valdes	-	50%	50%	Below per Canadian per capita for 2020/2050

Appendix 3: Mitigation Tools from Climate Change Emergency Declaration Briefing provided to Trust Council in June 2019.

Climate Change Mitigation Tools

Climate change mitigation involves actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). In the local trust areas the main source of GHGs is combustion from transportation and combustion from heating and cooling buildings. Therefore, any policies and regulations that reduce the need for transportation, or reduce the need for heating or cooling of buildings will help in reducing GHGs.

The Province committed to providing the Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) for local governments. For the Islands Trust area there is very little data available. The only metric is residential heating using wood, propane or oil (and this is withheld for Lasqueti and Gambier LTAs). There are no metrics available for transportation or any other source of GHG emissions. The last year CEEI reports were undertaken was 2012. As a result we currently do not have metrics to measure progress towards targets in OCPs. Bowen Island Municipality has Community Energy and Emission Inventories (starting on page 40 of this linked document <https://bowenisland.civicweb.net/document/118760>).

Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality have the following tools available to them to reduce GHGs:

- **GHG Reduction Targets** - Section 473 of the *Local Government Act* – required content for official community plans, inclusion of targets and policies with respect to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Zoning Authority** – Section 479 of the *Local Government Act*.
- **Development Permit Area to Promote Energy Conservation** – Section 488(1)(h) of the *Local Government Act*.
- **Development Permit Area to Promote the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions** - Section 488(1)(j) of the *Local Government Act*.

Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could undertake the following to mitigate climate change.

1. **Enact existing Official Community Plan policies** for the mitigation of climate change that are already in the official community plans but have not yet been acted on (Appendix 2 contains a list of these policies).
2. **Update official community plans** to ensure the mandatory GHG reduction targets and policies are relevant and up to date; Galiano Island, Mayne Island, North Pender Island, South Pender Island and Saturna Island local trust committees have targets for GHG reduction set for 2020 with no targets for any future dates, and as such those targets will be out of date next year. The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has not adopted any targets or policies for the Piers Island OCP. The Thetis Associated Islands OCP contains objectives and policies but no targets. While the Islands Trust has very limited metrics to measure progress, the requirement to have targets and policies in official community plans is mandatory under s. 473 of the *Local Government Act*. These official community plans should be updated within the next year to ensure they remain compliant with required content for an official community plan, and to address targets and policies for GHG reduction. Other local trust committees should review their targets and policies for relevance to current conditions.
3. **Use the zoning authority under s. 479 of the *Local Government Act* to cluster development** and move away from large lots to small compact "villages". This can be accomplished through OCP policies to

require this kind of development, rezoning appropriately by increasing density in appropriate locations and reducing in other locations and density transfer to move density to appropriate areas. Some local trust committees already have some form of this in their OCPs. Salt Spring and Gabriola have density transfer that has seen some significant land use changes. While these were not specifically created to address climate change mitigation, they can be effective in changing the land use pattern to one that is more sustainable and reduces the need for transportation.

4. **Use the climate change development permit areas to reduce the heating and cooling requirements for buildings.** To improve building energy efficiency, land use planning can require landscaping and orientation of buildings in a way to maximize sun in winter and shade in summer. This would be done through a development permit area (DPA), with the justification and objectives in the Official Community Plan and the guidelines in the Land Use Bylaw. Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality may use DPAs to reduce GHG emissions and for energy conservation under s. 488 of the *Local Government Act*. Using these DPAs, local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality may establish guidelines around landscaping, siting of buildings and structures, form and exterior design of buildings and structures, machinery, equipment and systems external to buildings or structures. The DPA may also place restrictions on type and placement of trees and other vegetation in proximity to buildings and structures to provide for energy conservation and reduction of GHGs.

Appendix 4: Adaptation Tools from Climate Change Emergency Declaration Briefing provided to Trust Council in June 2019.

A. Climate Change Adaptation Tools:

Climate change adaptation involves adapting communities to the anticipated effects of climate change. In the Islands Trust area, these effects include sea-level rise, longer periods of drought, more intense storm events, wildfires, warmer summers and warmer winters, and ecosystem changes which may impact plant and animal species.

Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality have the following tools available to them to adapt to climate change:

- **Zoning Authority** - Section 479 of the *Local Government Act*.
- **Runoff Control Bylaw** - Section 523 of the *Local Government Act*.
- **Development Permit Area to Protect Development from Hazardous Conditions** – Section 488(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act*.
- **Development Permit Area to Promote Energy Conservation** - Section 488(1)(h) of the *Local Government Act*.
- **Development Permit Area to Promote Water Conservation** – Section 488(1)(i) of the *Local Government Act*.

Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could undertake the following to adapt their communities to the effects of climate change:

1. Sea Level Rise Adaptation Tools

The Provincial government has established an expected sea-level rise in the Victoria area of 3.1 cm/50 years.

The Provincial (Subdivision) Approving Officer is currently requiring at time of subdivision a covenant for a 15 metres setback and 1.5 metres above the current high high water mark for any buildings or structures. This approach by the Provincial Approving Officer is a broad-brush approach to adapting to climate change and does not consider site specific conditions. Before initiating adaptation measures local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality should have an understanding of the local situation.

- a) **Undertake mapping of sea-level rise** on the islands to provide information to assist with developing policies and regulations to adapt to sea-level rise.
- b) **Enact zoning regulations under s.479 of the *Local Government Act* and flood level regulations under s. 524 of the *Local Government Act*.** Using these provisions, local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality may enact regulations to require setbacks for buildings and structures from the future anticipated natural boundary of the sea, as well as establish a minimum elevation for buildings and structures above the anticipated future elevation of the sea. Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could make exceptions for structures that are designed to be moved (not on permanent foundation). Notwithstanding, the Provincial Approving Officer will continue to have independent authority to establish different requirements.

2. Longer Periods of Drought Adaptation Tools

Islands Trust Staff currently has little information on groundwater such as the effects of climate change on recharge and capacity of the aquifers to provide water. Research and mapping of

aquifers would allow local trust committees to develop policies and regulations that reflect the capacity of the aquifers including anticipated climate change effects. Water storage and alternative water supplies could be considered. Means to reduce water consumption includes using development permit areas for water conservation, requiring drought tolerant planting, and requiring features to reduce water use.

- a) **Undertake research and mapping of aquifers, develop water consumption budgets, and identify salt water intrusion risks**, based on expected climate change effects. This work would then inform the land use planning for future development on the islands. This work is already underway for some islands, and staff is working with the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to undertake a robust salt water intrusion risk assessment and mapping for the Islands Trust area.
- b) **Update policies and regulations to align their development potential** – through land use and density provisions – with the anticipated capacity of the aquifers.
- c) **Use the climate change development permit areas under s. 488 of the *Local Government Act* to promote water conservation**. Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could establish goals, objectives and guidelines related to landscaping; siting of buildings and structures; form of exterior design of buildings and structures; specific features in the development; and machinery, equipment and systems external to buildings and structures to promote water conservation. The guidelines may restrict the type and placement of trees and other vegetation in proximity to buildings and structures in order to provide for water conservation.

4. **More Intense Storms Adaptation Tools**

Climate change is expected to result in more intense storm events, with higher winds and heavier rain than in the past.

- a) **Develop runoff control bylaws** under s. 523 to deal with anticipated flood and runoff from storm events.
- b) **Establish development permit areas for the protection of development from hazard conditions** under s. 488 of the *Local Government Act*. Under this development permit area, local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could establish areas subject to flooding and require they remain free from development except development may be permitted in accordance with the guidelines. These requirements may vary use and density but only as it relates to health, safety or protection of property from damage. The legislation also allows the local trust committee and Bowen Island Municipality to require a professional report at the applicant's expense to help with determining appropriate development permit conditions.

5. **Wildfire Adaptation Tools**

As climate change results in hotter and longer dryer periods during the summer months, the risk of wildfires on the islands increases. Most islands have a wildfire plan prepared by the fire district or regional district.

- a) **Establish development permit areas for the protection of development from hazard conditions** under s. 488 of the *Local Government Act*. Under this development permit area, local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could establish areas at risk to wildfires and include requirements respecting the character of development, including landscaping, and the siting,

form, exterior design and finish of buildings and other structures, and establish restrictions on the type and placement of trees and other vegetation in proximity to the development. These requirements may vary use and density but only as it relates to health, safety or protection of property from damage. The legislation also allows the local trust committee and Bowen Island Municipality to require a professional report at the applicant's expense to help with determining appropriate development permit conditions.

6. **Warmer Summers and Warmer Winters Adaptation Tools**

Climate change is expected to lead to our summers and winters becoming warmer.

- a) **Establish development permit areas for energy conservation** under s. 488 of the *Local Government Act* to require that the exterior form and design of buildings, and other specific features of the development, reduce the need for energy in summer and winter. Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality could establish goals, objective and guidelines related to landscaping; siting of buildings and structures; form of exterior design of buildings and structures; specific features in the development; and machinery, equipment and systems external to buildings and structures to promote energy conservation. The guidelines may restrict the type and placement of trees and other vegetation in proximity to buildings and structures in order to provide for energy conservation.

BRIEFING

To: Islands Trust Conservancy Board **For the Meeting of:** November 21, 2023

From: Executive Committee **Date Prepared:** November 13, 2023

SUBJECT: Islands Trust 50th Anniversary Activities

PURPOSE: To provide Islands Trust Conservancy Board with the information given to Trust Council in September 2023 to seek Trust Council input on potential options for marking Islands Trust's 50th anniversary in 2024, and to advise that Trust Council did not provide direction to staff but discussed the potential to have a legacy project in collaboration with First Nations, the possibility of Provincial agencies and ministries to support celebrations, a preference to focus - future instead of the past, year-round promotion, webinars and working with First Nations, and potential invitations to the Minister and previous trustees.

BACKGROUND: June 5, 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the Islands Trust Act and the designation of the Islands Trust Area as a region of the province marked for special protection.

The last time Islands Trust recognized an anniversary date was in 2014 for the 35th anniversary. The occasion was marked by an event showcasing local foods from the islands with culinary creations prepared by island chefs. The evening featured a gourmet dinner, followed by an island-themed desserts bar, then a live auction of unique island offerings hosted by raconteur extraordinaire Arthur Black. Proceeds from the auction were donated to the Islands Trust Conservancy's Opportunity Fund.

As far as staff are aware, the Trust did not mark the 40th anniversary in any particular way.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Islands Trust is a significant milestone and activities must reflect the values of Islands Trust and Trust Area communities. When undertaking activities, staff would work to minimize the environmental impact of the event(s) and focus on sustainability to align with the organization's mandate.

Staff continue to work on a draft communication strategy for Executive Committee review in Fall 2024 but, in the interim, would like Executive Committee input on preliminary options for marking Islands Trust's 50th anniversary in 2024.

Preliminary options for discussion include:

Historical Exhibition: Create a historical exhibition featuring Coast Salish history and heritage in the region and showcases the journey and accomplishments of residents within the Trust Area over the past 50 years. Include photographs, documents, interviews, and artifacts to illustrate the evolution of the Trust Area and the communities within the area. This could include a stand-alone website or a page on the Islands Trust website, linked through the homepage, a showcase in public libraries or other public spaces, a social media campaign, and a news release. The idea here is to celebrate the Trust Area and its communities, and how those communities are working to preserve and protect the Trust Area.

Cost to collect historical items and photographs of the Trust Area, create an exhibition in a public place on each local trust area/Bowen Island, web-presence, social media content and advertising: ~\$25,000.

Community Awards: Feature past stewardship award recipients and other organizations, and businesses that have made significant contributions to Islands Trust's mission or received stewardship awards over the years. This could also be a good build up to the next Stewardship awards, currently scheduled for 2026. Feature stories on the webpage, in the community exhibitions, and on social media: ~\$2,500.

Anniversary Nature Walks and Tours: Organize guided nature walks and tours on some islands, highlighting the unique natural beauty and biodiversity that Islands Trust and island communities are working to protect. Travel for staff and volunteers to nature reserves, promotion of the events, staff time: ~\$5,000

Art and Photography Contest: Encourage residents and visitors to express their love for the Trust Area through an art and photography contests. Display the winning entries at a public exhibition, on the cover page of the 2023-24 Islands Trust annual report, and on social media. Staff could explore outreach to teachers to encourage youth participation. Social media campaign, news release, and honorarium for an expert to judge the contest: ~\$2,500

Legacy Project: A long-term legacy project, such as the creation of a community garden, a public art installation, or a sustainable infrastructure project, to commemorate the anniversary. \$?

50th logo design: Either by contractor or by public competition: ~\$4,000 - \$5,000

Year-long promotion: All Islands Trust events, including the Stewardship webinars, will include a short introduction by the emcee discussing the 50th anniversary and thanking communities for all they do to help preserve and protect the Trust Area. An additional tagline in email signatures of Islands Trust staff for the 2024 year.

OTHER: Given the potential for increased participation, consider incorporating a virtual component.

FOLLOW-UP: Staff will continue to investigate communication strategies, themes, venues, and media contacts in preparation for the anniversary in 2024.

Prepared By: Morgana van Niekerk, Trust Area Services,

Reviewed By/Date: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services/November 14, 2023

BRIEFING

To:	Islands Trust Conservancy Board	For the Meeting of:	November 21, 2023
From:	Staff	Date Prepared:	November 10, 2023
SUBJECT:	Eelgrass mapping		

PURPOSE: To provide background to the Board on eelgrass mapping and current status of budget requests. This briefing is being provided proactively as staff are receiving enquiries from individual Board members.

BACKGROUND: The Islands Trust Conservancy contracted creation of eelgrass maps in 2012-2014 and Islands Trust contracted Phase 1 of updated eelgrass maps in 2022. Islands Trust relies on current and accurate eelgrass mapping data to develop policy and regulations. Examples include creating development permit areas that protect the sensitive ecosystem and regulating setbacks from eelgrass (and bull kelp). Eelgrass beds are a critical shoreline ecosystem and accurate mapping is fundamental to protecting them. Islands Trust eelgrass maps are also used by partners to educate boaters and upland owners to prevent impacts and additional loss.

On September 6, 2023 planning staff provided a business case to Regional Planning Committee for completion of Phase 2 of the 2022 mapping project which, after a discussion that included:

- 1) the possibility of other agencies doing the mapping,
- 2) a need for more information about most frugal and cost effective mapping methods, and
- 3) the possibility seeking grant funding

the was not advanced by the Committee to Financial Planning Committee for inclusion in the budget. The Committee passed the following motion

that Regional Planning Committee request staff to prepare Terms of Reference before the end of the current fiscal year for potential grant funding for eelgrass mapping and explore partnerships.

The following background may be useful to inform Conservancy Board discussions about eelgrass mapping.

- [Eelgrass Presence Maps \(PDF\) for each Local Trust Area and Bowen Island](#).
 - Between 2012 and 2014, eelgrass beds were mapped for the entire Islands Trust Area using towed underwater cameras in partnership with [SeaChange Marine Conservation Society](#) and [Seagrass Conservation Working Group](#). This inventory surveyed coastlines by boat using an underwater towed camera, and mapped the eelgrass areas, identifying the type and density. The cost to the Trust was about \$71,000, with the remaining

project costs paid by partners. Full methodology report: [Nearshore Eelgrass Inventory Final Report, 2012-14](#).

- [Eelgrass Bed Shapes, Positions and Density Maps](#) (Phase 1 of 2)
 - In 2022, in the first phase of the mapping project, an Islands Trust contractor identified and mapped eelgrass beds using low-altitude, high-resolution aerial imagery (collected by helicopter in 2018, 2020, and 2021 in different parts of the Islands Trust Area). This cost Islands Trust \$55,000 for aerial photos, mapping layers and final report.
 - This mapping defines the shape and position of each area of eelgrass bed, and also characterizes the density of plants in each area.
 - Phase 1 was done correctly with results within expected range. However, Phase 1 eelgrass maps have a limitation in that 41%¹ of the eelgrass polygons (682 hectares) require a follow-up survey in order to be used for management or monitoring purposes.
 - Phase 2: To complete the mapping project, so the maps can be used for bylaw development, 41% of polygons need to be surveyed using towed cameras, side scan or dive surveys.
 - (It is typical for a mapping project of this kind to have two phases: some polygons in the first phase cannot be confidently assessed due to imaging conditions (glare, shade), water conditions (turbidity, waves), and satellite image quality. This phase 1 and 2 approach is a cost-effective approach to mapping which reserves the more expensive method to only those areas that require it.)
 - Completing Phase 2 will also support any future work by Islands Trust or partners/academics to compare loss or gain of eelgrass over a decade which could be an essential piece of information in assessing whether additional measures are needed to protect eelgrass, and ultimately the species that depend on them, including orca.
 - Phase 2 is estimated to cost \$100,000 in 2024/25. There could be an opportunity to share costs with partners or seek grant funding, but these are time-intensive approaches that would require pausing other initiatives.
 - Delaying Phase 2 past 2026 risks making the Phase 1 results too difficult/unpalatable for a contractor to work with due to changes in the ecosystem in the meantime.
 - The Phase 1 eelgrass bed maps can be viewed using the interactive [MapIT](#). Full methodology report: [Shoreline Polygon Mapping Summary Report: Eelgrass in the Islands Trust Area \(2728KB\)](#).

ATTACHMENT(S): None

FOLLOW-UP: Staff will follow-up as directed. Eelgrass work is not on the Board's work program and any work in this area would need to displace other work.

Prepared By: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services

Reviewed By/Date:

¹ The mapping contractors had hoped for only 30% of polygons to need ground truthing but the 2021 imaging took place just after the heat dome which negatively affected nearshore visibility.



Public Acquisitions Update November 21, 2023

Property Name and Island	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	Notes
PUBLICLY CONSIDERED PRIVATE LAND ACQUISITIONS		
Crystal Mountain (Galiano) 18.3 ha.	2017/11/21	ITC previously considered a conservation covenant proposal and land transfer proposal for this property.
	2017/11/21	TFB-2017-031: It was MOVED and SECONDED , that the Trust Fund Board accept the updated Conservation Proposal from the Crystal Mountain Society, agreeing to accept transfer of approximately 18.3 hectares of Lot 9, District Lot 90, Galiano Island, Cowichan District, Plan 31200, (PID 000-851-035) and part of Lot A, District Lots 88 and 89, Galiano Island, Cowichan District, Plan VIP68079, (PID 024-351-041), subject to: 1. The release of the rent charge and related easements on the title of Lot A and any other charges determined, through legal review, to be problematic for the Trust Fund Board; 2. Establishing legal access for the Trust Fund Board to the most eastern part of Lot A; 3. Receipt of \$30,000 upon transfer of the land, with at least \$15,000 to be held in a pooled Nature Reserve Management Fund, and \$10,000 to \$15,000 to be put towards the development of a management plan and management activities for the nature reserve; 4. Staff reaching mutual agreement with the water license holders to limit the impact of accessing and maintaining the permitted water works; 5. Agreement with the Society that the portion of the proposed Emergency Access over the nature reserve would be used only in the case of emergency; 6. Written agreement with the Society about the use and maintenance of the pagoda; 7. Installation of boundary and corner pin markers at the time of survey at the expense of the applicant (locations to be determined in consultation with ITF staff); and 8. Final approval of the Trust Fund Board of the final survey plan, transfer agreement and all other associated agreements.
	2019/07/24	Received subdivision proposal plan from the planning department.
	2020/09/08	Applicant provided a revised proposal to the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee.
	2020/12/10	File transferred to TAS Director Frater due to declared conflict of interest by ITC Manager, Kate Emmings.
	2021/01/28	ITC Staff met with applicant. An application update is anticipated for the May ITC Meeting.
	2021/05/25	Update provided to ITC Board.



Public Acquisitions Update November 21, 2023

Crystal Mountain (Galiano) 18.3 ha.	2021/05/25	ITC-2021-019: It was MOVED and SECONDED, that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board accept the updated approximate lot configuration proposed by the Crystal Mountain Society, subject to staff assessment that adjusted lot boundaries meet ITC conservation goals and policies, based upon a site visit and review of any necessary additional ecological information from the applicant. ITC-2021-020: It was MOVED and SECONDED, that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board accept the Crystal Mountain Society proposal to register a Statutory Right of Way across Lot A on the upper ridge, in favour of Islands Trust Conservancy, to provide legal access to the eastern part of Lot A via the legal easement across neighbouring Lots B and C. ITC-2021-021: It was MOVED and SECONDED, that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board express support for the Crystal Mountain Society proposal to alter the lot boundaries of Lot 9 and Lot 10, prior to land transfer to Islands Trust Conservancy, to remove the pagoda from the proposed nature reserve, subject to staff assessment that adjusted lot boundaries meet ITC conservation goals and policies, based upon a site visit and review of any necessary additional ecological information from the applicant ITC-2021-022: It was MOVED and SECONDED, that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board request that the Crystal Mountain Society update the Ecological Inventory report and other relevant documents to reflect the proposed boundary changes, prior to transfer of the land. ITC-2021-023: It was MOVED and SECONDED, that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board accept the Crystal Mountain Society proposal to register a Statutory Right of Way for emergency access on Lot A in favour of the Capital Regional District prior to subdivision, subject to Crystal Mountain Society's working with ITC staff to develop an appropriate agreement.
	2021/07/07	Staff site visit scheduled.
	2021/07/21	Follow-up staff visit to discuss lot boundary options.
	2022/02/09	Applicant and staff discuss coordinating a visit from a Cultural Knowledge Holder.
	2022/08/16	Meeting with applicant to discuss their meeting with Penelakut Elders and leadership.
	2022/11/24	Meeting with applicant's agent to discuss potential co-management relationship with Penelakut.
	2023/02/01	Applicant's agent provided update on process of fulfilling ITC Board's requirements; continuing discussion with staff about engagement with Penelakut Tribe and other Indigenous community members.
	2023/05/06	Penelakut Tribe has requested greater consultation around subdivision and bylaw. ITC work on hold.
Current Total ITC Acquisitions:		34



PUBLIC COVENANTS UPDATE November 21, 2023

NAPTEP COVENANTS		
<i>28 NAPTEP Covenants on title, 3 NAPTEP covenants in progress</i>		
Property	Date	Notes
Koontz NAPTEP Covenant Gabriola Island (~2.5 ha)	2023/02/08	Application received. Staff report and RFD in this package.
	2023/05/30	ITC-2023-017: It was MOVED and SECONDED , that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board approve the conservation proposal submitted by Yarrow Koontz, to place a NAPTEP covenant on approximately 2.5 ha of Gabriola Island, PID: 005-788-447, That Part of Lot 3, Section 5, Gabriola Island, Nanaimo District, Plan 6986, Lying to the North West of a Road Dedication by Plan 17829, Except those parts in Plans 21783 and 26145, to protect wetlands, maturing forest, and sensitive riparian and cliff habitats.
	2023/06/12	Staff informed applicant of Board decision.
	2023/07/07	Application referred to First Nations.
	2023/08/18	First Nations referral window ended. Only one response has been received, indicating no comments regarding this application.
	2023/09/14	Referred for information to Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee. No comments received.
	2023/09/27	Application for tax exemption approved by Trust Council (resolution number pending)
	2023/10/05	Phase II next steps correspondence sent to landholder.
	2023/10/19	Site visit to determine covenant area boundaries.
	2023/10/23	Applicant submitted request to have NAPTEP fees sponsored by EC. Staff working to add to November EC meeting
	2023/10/26	Submitted expression of interest for funding support from Ecological Gifts Program.
Larmour NAPTEP Covenant Salt Spring Island (2.45 ha)	2021/10/15	Application received.
	2022/01/24	ITC-2022-003: It was MOVED and SECONDED , that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board approves the conservation proposal submitted by Rodney Polden, on behalf of Skye Larmour, to donate a 2.45 ha NAPTEP covenant on Salt Spring Island, over a portion of Lot 1, Section 87, South Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District, Plan VIP 27894, PID: 000-138-452, to protect mature forests, wetlands, and connectivity to other protected areas, and advise the applicant that ITC will defer this securement project until late 2022/early 2023 due to staff capacity constraints.
	2022/02/04	Staff informed applicant of Board decision.



PUBLIC COVENANTS UPDATE November 21, 2023

Larmour NAPTEP Covenant (Cont.)	2023/02/09	Staff initiated discussion with ALC about providing approval for placing NAPTEP covenant on non-ALR portion of the property.
	2023/04/21	Site visit to discuss next steps and details with landowner and applicant. Staff to begin negotiating covenant as soon as capacity permits, and submit application for Trust Council approval.
	2023/06/30	Application referred to First Nations. Requested response date is August 18 th , 2023.
	2023/08/18	First Nations referral window ended. Responses were received from two First Nations, one of whom indicated that they do not have any comments to provide regarding this application; and the another who requested a copy of the baseline inventory report when it is completed.
	2023/09/14	Referred for information to Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee. No comments received.
	2023/09/27	Application for tax exemption approved by Trust Council (resolution number pending)
	2023/10/05	Phase II next steps correspondence sent to landholder.
	2023/10/30	Submitted expression of interest for funding support from Ecological Gifts Program.
Nighthawk Hill NAPTEP Covenant expansion North Pender (~1ha)	2021/03/30	Application received.
	2021/11/23	ITC-2021-050: It was MOVED and SECONDED , that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board approve the conservation proposal submitted by Andreas Nowak and Mary Reher to add approximately 1 ha to the existing NAPTEP conservation covenant over a portion of the land described as Lot 38, Section 7, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan 32261, Except Part in Plan 35333, PID 001-081-110, to protect small seasonal wetlands and connectivity to the already-protected mature dry Douglas-fir forests.
	2021/12/01	TC-2021-119: It was MOVED by Trustee Stamford and SECONDED by Trustee Morrison , that the Islands Trust Council approves the amendment of the NAPTEP Certificate for the covenanted portion of the property described as PID 001-081-110, Lot 38, Section 7, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan 32261, Except Part in Plan 35333, to extend the Certificate to cover the increased protection area, and to reference the registration number of the new conservation covenant and survey plan that will be registered.
	2021/12/04	Referred for information to North Pender LTC. No comments received.
	2021/12/15	Phase II next steps correspondence sent to landholder.
	2022/02/10	Phase II application fee received.
	2022/07/20	Landowner has hired surveyor.
	2022/09/06	Final survey received.



PUBLIC COVENANTS UPDATE November 21, 2023

	2022/09/12	Draft covenant amendment and letter of permission sent for ITC legal review.
Nighthawk Hill NAPTEP Covenant expansion (cont.)	2022/10/04	ITC-2022-045 It was MOVED and SECONDED, that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board approves the revised Nighthawk Hill NAPTEP Covenant (NIHN) and authorizes the Chair to sign the NIHN with Andreas Nowak and Mary Reher, over a portion of the land described as Lot 38, Section 7, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan 32261, Except Part in Plan 35333, PID 001-081-110, subject to receiving an updated Baseline Documentation Report that is acceptable to the Islands Trust Conservancy Manager, and directs staff to register the covenant. ITC-2022-046 It was MOVED and SECONDED, that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board authorizes the Chair to sign a discharge for covenant CA2826689 and directs staff to register the discharge subject to registration of a covenant over the expanded protected area.
	2022/10/13	ITC-IC-2022-029 It was MOVED and SECONDED, that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board rise and report that it has approved Andreas Nowak & Mary Reher's request for consent to use the man-made pond in the Covenant Area of the Islands Trust Conservancy covenant (the 'Covenant') over Parcel Identifier: 001-081-110, Lot 38, Section 7, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan 32261, Except Part in Plan 35333 (the 'Land') as provided for in section 4.2(c), 4.2(a)(ii), 4.2(a)(iii), 4.2 (a)(iv), 4.2(a)(vi) and 4.2 (a)(viii) of the Covenant, with significant conditions to protect the covenant area.
	2022/10/24	Board decision letter sent to landowner and to PICA.
	2022/10/31	Draft baseline report received; under review by staff.
	2023/01/30	Draft baseline report returned to contractor with required edits by ITC and PICA.
	2023/04/10	Contractor returned edited baseline report. Under review by ITC staff.
	2023/05/03	Final baseline report approved.
	2023/05/13	PICA Board approved final covenant and letter of permission.
	2023/07/06	Landowner signed final covenant paperwork. Conveyancing in progress for ITC and PICA signatures and registration with Land Titles Office.
	2023/08/22	Application to register new covenant, and discharge existing one, submitted to Land Titles Office.
	2023/10/03	ITC Board approved revised waiver (ITC-IC-2023-028)



PUBLIC COVENANTS UPDATE November 21, 2023

Nighthawk Hill NAPTEP Covenant expansion (cont.)	2023/10/12	Covenant registered on title (backdated to Aug 22, date of application).
	2023/10/13	NAEC issued and signed.
	2023/10/16	Letter of permission (waiver for irrigation) signed by all parties and finalized.
	2023/10/17	NAEC filed in Land Titles Office.
	2023/10/27	NAEC registered on title. Securement file will be closed.
R. Leader NAPTEP Covenant Salt Spring Island (3.54 ha)	2020/06/16	Application received.
	2020/11/24	ITC-2020-039: It was MOVED and SECONDED , that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board approve the conservation proposal submitted by Robert Leader to place a NAPTEP covenant on approximately 5 ha on Salt Spring Island, PID: 000-395-081, LOT 2, SECTION 72, SOUTH SALT SPRING ISLAND, COWICHAN DISTRICT, PLAN 36292 Except Plan 40974
	2020/12/02	TC-2020-112: It was MOVED and SECONDED , that the Islands Trust Council request the Secretary issue a Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Certificate for the covenanted portion of the property described as 'Lot 2, Section 72, South Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District, Plan 36292 Except Plan 40974, Parcel Identifier 000-395-081' subject to registration of a conservation covenant and completion of a baseline inventory report consistent with the standards developed for NAPTEP.
	2020/12/15	Referred for information to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee. No comments received.
	2021/04/08	Phase II application fee received
	2021/04/12	ITC staff discussion with TLC about discharging existing covenant on the property. Ongoing.
	2021/04/26	ITC staff approves contractor to conduct baseline inventory. Work underway.
	2021/05/04	ITC staff discussion with SSIC about discharging existing covenant on the property. Ongoing.
	2021/05/11	First covenant draft sent to landowner for review.
	2021/05/14	Draft covenant sent to TLC and SSIC for their Board to review as part of their discussions about discharging the existing covenant these organizations co-hold on the property. ITC staff to participate in upcoming Board meetings of these organizations to provide information about NAPTEP and this proposed covenant.
	2021/05/14	Request for legal advice about impact of clause in existing covenant, restricting ability to place additional easements on the property.



PUBLIC COVENANTS UPDATE

November 21, 2023

R. Leader NAPTEP (cont.)	2021/05/22	Staff participate in TLC Board meeting to provide background information about NAPTEP program and discuss details of this application for a NAPTEP covenant to replace or be placed in addition to existing TLC / SSIC covenant.
	2021/05/28	Received legal counsel that the existing covenant contains no restrictions on ability to place NAPTEP covenant on the property.
	2021/06/16	Discussion with landowner about rights and restrictions in the draft covenant. Ongoing.
	2021/07/05	SSIC and TLC agree to discharge existing covenant subject to registration of NAPTEP covenant. SSIC has requested becoming co-covenant holder for NAPTEP covenant.
	2021/07/29	Landowner begins discussions with mortgage provider about granting priority to the Covenant and Rent Charge. Ongoing.
	2021/09/09	ITC received and accepted final baseline inventory report.
	2022/01/21	Staff called to discuss need to get mortgage provided to grant priority to the Covenant. Followed up with email to credit union representative.
	2022/02/21	No response from credit union, informed landowner and indicated that they will need to pursue this issue.
	2022/09/26	Staff emailed to remind landowner that NAPTEP application expires December 2nd and enquire about progress with mortgage provider. Landholder discussed issue with credit union account manager and forwarded request for ITC staff to follow-up.
	2022/09/28	Staff contacted credit union account manager via email and left phone message.
	2022/11/05	Staff left follow-up phone message for credit union account manager.
	2022/12/06	Trust Council passed the following resolution: It was Moved by Trustee Yates and Seconded by Trustee Patrick, That the Islands Trust Council extend the timeline for issuing the Natural Area Exemption Certificate for Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program application SS-NAP-2020.3 (Salt Spring Island) until December 2024.
	2023/01/01	Ongoing discussions with credit union and landowner about priority agreement.
REGULAR COVENANTS		
<i>52 regular covenants on title, 0 public regular covenants in progress, 1 in-camera covenant in progress.</i>		
Property	Date	Notes
None		
ITC NATURE RESERVES WITH COVENANTS OUTSTANDING		



PUBLIC COVENANTS UPDATE November 21, 2023

9 ITC Nature Reserves are without covenants, 1 ITC Nature Reserve covenant in progress.		
Property	Date	Notes
Fairyslipper Forest Nature Reserve Thetis Island (16.6 ha)	2018/03/20	ThINC Board approves resolution to hold a covenant on Fairyslipper Forest.
	2018/03/21	CCLT Board approves resolution to hold a covenant on Fairyslipper Forest.
	2018/04/03	TFB approves negotiation of conservation covenant in favour of ThINC and CCLT.
	2018/04/06	ITC template covenant sent to partners. Trail relocation is needed before finalizing baseline report.
	2018/10/13	Hosted Management Plan Open House on Thetis Island.
	2019/02/22	Draft management plan and baseline report sent to ThINC and CCLT staff for review.
	2019/05/21	ITC Board approves management plan with minor revisions.
	2019/06/12	ThINC Board approves revised management plan.
	2019/09/26	CCLT Board approves revised management plan. Management Plan posted to the ITC website.
	2020/02/03	Trail relocation completed by contracted trail builder, Penelakut youth and volunteer labour. A Statutory Right of Way is required from the adjacent property where the trailhead and parking area are planned.
	2020/03/19	ThINC is working with the Thetis Island Residents and Ratepayers Association to obtain a trail license over adjacent private lands for access and parking for the Fairyslipper Forest Nature Reserve.
	2020/07/14	Adjacent landowner signs Trail Licence Agreement with TIRRA (Thetis Island Residents and Ratepayers Association). Staff continues to work with owner to develop permanent legal access.
	2022/04/25	Adjacent landowner extends Trail Licence Agreement with TIRRA.
	2022/06/06	Staff discussed proposed conservation covenant with ThINC, agreement to defer. Staff will reengage with adjacent landowner to discuss more formal access arrangement.
	2022/07/27	Adjacent landowner wishes to continue with informal access agreement. Staff will continue with current access and will consider varied trail options as part of the covenant negotiations.
	2022/10/04	ITC Board rescinds resolution directing staff to negotiate a statutory right of way and related section 219 covenant with adjacent landowner.
	2023/05/30	Staff re-initiated discussion about access arrangement with adjacent landowner.
Total	80 covenants registered	

Islands Trust Conservancy Expenditure Tracking 2023-2024										
GL	Description	Islands Trust								
		Approved Budget	Contribution	SAR Grant	Total Available	Spent	Remaining	% Remaining	Committed Funds	
50700-210	Admin. Support	\$ 326,086	\$ 326,086	\$ -	\$ 326,086	\$80,909	\$ 245,177	75%	\$ 245,177	
54500-210	Communications	\$18,000	\$11,700	\$6,300	\$ 18,000	\$4,999	\$ 13,001	72%	\$ 5,000	
56500-210	Contract Services	\$2,500	\$2,500		\$2,500	\$2,500	\$ -	0%	\$ -	
61100-210	Board Honoraria	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000		\$ 7,000	\$2,550	\$ 4,450	64%	\$ 5,000	
61200-210	Board Meeting Expense	\$ 1,425	\$ 1,425		\$ 1,425	\$5	\$ 1,420	100%	\$ 1,000	
61210-210	Board Training & Conferences	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600		\$ 1,600	\$0	\$ 1,600	100%	\$ 1,500	
61300-210	Property Management	\$159,930	\$102,430	\$57,500	\$ 159,930	\$46,700	\$ 113,230	71%	\$ 63,645	
61500-210	Cons Planning / Land Securement	\$26,550	\$9,550	\$ 17,000	\$26,550	\$2,503	\$ 24,047	91%	\$ -	
61600-210	Ecosystem Mapping	\$ 18,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 4,200	\$ 18,000	\$0	\$ 18,000	100%	\$ -	
63000-210	Legal	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$21,075	\$ (1,075)	-5%	\$ 6,200	
67500-210	Memberships	\$1,800	\$1,800		\$ 1,800	\$630	\$ 1,170	0%	\$ 691	
73001-210-8062	Project: ITC Plan First Nations Engagement	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	0%	\$ -	
75100-210	Salaries	\$ 578,225	\$ 448,225	\$ 130,000	\$ 578,225	\$251,945	\$ 326,280	56%	\$ 326,280	
75110-210	Benefits	\$ 146,869	\$ 146,869		\$ 146,869	\$64,037	\$ 82,832	56%	\$ 82,832	
79500-210	Subscriptions	\$400	\$400		\$ 400	\$45	\$ 355	89%	\$ -	
80300-210	Mobile Devices	\$ 3,290	\$ 3,290		\$ 3,290	\$1,509	\$ 1,781	54%	\$ 1,506	
81300-210	Training & Conferences	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200		\$ 4,200	\$1,439	\$ 2,761	66%	\$ 434	
81305-210	Travel for Training (staff)	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500	\$1,500	\$ 1,000	40%	\$ -	
82300-210	Travel	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 20,000	\$20,380	\$ (380)	-2%	\$ -	
		\$ 1,348,375	\$ 1,128,375	\$ 220,000	\$ 1,348,375	\$502,725	\$ 845,650	63%	\$ 739,265	
Restricted Funds			Opening Balance	Revenue	Total Available	Spent	Remaining	Committed Funds		
0012 8820-622	Alton Maintenance Account		\$ 107,798	\$ 6,752	\$ 114,551	\$ 5,217	\$ 109,334	\$ 1,065		
	Ruby Alton Endowment Fund		\$ 139,760	\$ 3,196	\$ 142,956		\$ 142,956			
0012 8820-614	Opportunity Fund		\$ 100,216	\$ 23,192	\$ 123,408	\$ 12,950	\$ 110,458	\$ 1,400		
0012 8940-624	Covenant Mgmt and Defence Fund		\$ 118,894	\$ 2,892	\$ 121,786		\$ 121,786			
	Property Management Fund		\$ 10,936	\$ 266	\$ 11,202		\$ 11,202			
0012 8820-681	Lasqueti Island Acq Fund		\$ 30,465	\$ 689	\$ 31,154		\$ 31,154			
	Link Island Removal Fund		\$ 36,708		\$ 36,708		\$ 36,708			
	Western Screech Owl Project		\$ 25,049	\$ 554	\$ 25,603	\$ 11,910	\$ 13,693	\$ 2,302		
	Gambier Island Acq Fund		\$ 127,190	\$ (222)	\$ 126,968		\$ 126,968			
0012 8960-158	Morrison Waxler Legacy Fund		\$ 15,081	\$ 177	\$ 15,259		\$ 15,259	\$ 4,615		
0012 8944-844	Thetis Island Acq Fund		\$ 1,335	\$ 32	\$ 1,367		\$ 1,367			
0012 8820-649	McFadden Creek		\$ 21,886	\$ 446	\$ 22,332	\$ 1,260	\$ 21,072			

COMPLETED SINCE LAST REPORT (July – September 2023)	PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER (October – December 2023)
1. STRATEGIC PLANNING/ADMINISTRATION	
Continued to assist Information Systems Team to transition to CityView application Welcomed and provided orientation to new Board members (Lisa Gauvreau and Charles Kahn) Hosted ITC Board / Executive Committee liaison meeting Completed ITC Audit Completed Progress Report for Work Plan #1 of ITC's Regional Conservation Plan 2018-2027	Recruit for Strategic Fund Development Specialist and Species at Risk Program Coordinator Develop internal processes to comply with new reserved practice for biology Participate in Contact Relationship Management software and CityView application transitions Complete Work Plan #2 (2024 – 2027) for ITC's Regional Conservation Plan 2018-2027 Complete Year 3 SAR Program Report for the Board
2. COVENANT AND PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS	
Responded to enquiries (Bowen, N. Pender & Salt Spring) Accepted transfer of 3.4 ha to create Larmour Lands Nature Reserve (Salt Spring) Registered covenant on Sandy Beach Nature Reserve (Keats); expanded covenants at Brooks Point and Nighthawk Hill NAPTEP (Penders) Conducted First Nations referrals for NAPTEP applications (Gabriola and Salt Spring)	Continue negotiations on 42 ha of land Complete land transfer to add to new Nature Reserve (Salt Spring)
3. COVENANT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT	
Management planning and First Nations engagement ongoing for two nature reserves (Link and Saturnina Islands) Conducted monitoring of 66 covenants and completed monitoring of all 33 nature reserves Launched 2-year multi-Species at Risk (SAR) survey and monitoring project (Lasqueti) Launched 4th year of Sharp-tailed Snake monitoring project on five ITC lands	Develop work plan to complete archeological assessments (Link and Saturnina islands) Complete annual monitoring of covenants Initiate SAR surveys on Lasqueti nature reserves Update species and ecosystems at risk data for internal use by planning and ITC staff Continue multi-species at risk survey and monitoring project (Lasqueti) Continue Sharp-tailed Snake monitoring project

As of September 2023 the Islands Trust Conservancy protects 113 conservation properties, 34 nature reserves and 79 covenants (of which 28 have NAPTEP certificates)



ISLANDS TRUST CONSERVANCY REPORT TO TRUST COUNCIL 2nd Quarter 2023-2024

3. COVENANT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT (Cont.)	
Continued Western Screech Owl surveys and wildlife tree inventory (Link Island and Thetis) Invasive plant removal in six covenants (North Pender, Salt Spring, Sidney) Nature reserve management: Restoration maintenance (Denman, Salt Spring, Lasqueti, Mayne); Invasive plant management (Denman, Gabriola, Link and Saturnina islands) Continued monitoring and site maintenance in the pollinator meadow restoration area at Mt. Tuam Protected Area covenant (Salt Spring) Conducted invasive species management and beach cleanups in one covenant (North Pender Local Trust Area) Conducted bullfrog population control in one covenant (Sidney Island)	Work with partners to finalize one management plan (Salt Spring) Continue monitoring bat species on ITC properties Initiate prairie oak (Garry oak) habitat restoration in one covenant (Sidney Island) Resume yellow flag iris control in one covenant (Gabriola) Continue participation in the Sidney Island Ecological Restoration Project and the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership Complete site prep for two restoration projects (Salt Spring & Sidney Islands)
4. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH	
Released a Summer edition of the Heron Newsletter and eNews Developed Draft ITC 2022/23 Annual Report Completed Species at Risk Speaker Series Issued Livingstone NAPTEP Covenant News Release Initiated production for video to tell the story of Sidney Island's conservation covenants	Release Fall edition of the Heron and eNews Ongoing social media management Launch of the 2023/2024 Will Power Campaign Complete production of a short video on the topic Sidney Island's conservation covenants
5. FUNDRAISING AND CONSERVANCY SUPPORT	
Stewardship of donors and advisors (ongoing) Presented Legacy Giving Workshop (Lasqueti) Attended Reginald Hill celebration as a contributor through the Opportunity Fund (Salt Spring) Hosted small celebration for Livingstone Forest NAPTEP covenant donor and a community celebration to open the Sandy Beach Nature Reserve (Keats)	Complete Tempest estate administration Launch National Willpower Campaign Ongoing stewardship of donors and advisors Report to Western Screech Owl research donor on impact/results of generosity Present Legacy Giving Workshop on Salt Spring Island with Salt Spring Island Conservancy

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COMPLETED SINCE LAST REPORT (September – November 2023)	PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER (December –February 2023)
1. STRATEGIC PLANNING/ADMINISTRATION	
Continued to assist Information Systems Team to transition to CityView application Recruited for Strategic Fund Development Specialist and temporary GIS Technician to support Conservancy work Worked with College of Applied Biology to develop internal processes to comply with new reserved practice for biology Developed procedure for adoption of new Trust Council Bylaw No 115 for sponsorship of NAPTEP fees Initiated development of Work Plan #2 of ITC's Regional Conservation Plan 2018-2027	Recruit for Species at Risk Program Coordinator Participate in Contact Relationship Management software and CityView application transitions Complete Work Plan #2 (2024 – 2027) for ITC's Regional Conservation Plan 2018-2027 Complete Year 3 SAR Program Report for the Board
2. COVENANT AND PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS	
Responded to enquiries (Salt Spring) Registered Received Trust Council approval of tax exemption for two NAPTEP applications (Gabriola and Salt Spring)	Continue negotiations on ~42 ha of land Complete land transfer to add to new Nature Reserve (Salt Spring)
3. COVENANT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT	
Management planning and First Nations engagement ongoing for two nature reserves (Link and Saturnina Islands) Completed annual compliance monitoring of conservation covenants Launched 2-year multi-Species at Risk (SAR) survey and monitoring project (Lasqueti)	Work with First Nations to complete Archeological assessments for Link and Saturnina Islands to begin in April 2024 Work on technology in the field updates and annual monitoring improvements Plan for continuation and expansion of Species at Risk program activities across multiple islands Update species and ecosystems at risk data for internal use by planning and ITC staff

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Coordinated with IT Mapping Services to update and improve property statistics for ITC covenants and properties	
3. COVENANT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT (Cont.)	
Continued Western Screech-Owl surveys and wildlife tree inventory (Link Island and Thetis Island) Continued monitoring bat species on ITC properties Continued Sharp-tailed Snake monitoring and habitat assessment project (Salt Spring, North Pender, Thetis) Nature reserve management: Restoration maintenance (Denman, Salt Spring, Lasqueti, Mayne); Invasive plant management (Denman, Gabriola, Link and Salt Spring islands) Planted native trees to replace invasive English holly trees removed in one covenant (Bowen)Continued monitoring and site maintenance in the pollinator meadow restoration area at Mt. Tuam Protected Area covenant (Salt Spring) Established two Garry oak meadow restoration areas in one covenant (Sidney Island) Resumed invasive yellow flag iris control in one covenant (Gabriola) Initiated control of invasive shiny geranium in one covenant (Sidney Island) Coordinated with Parks Canada to plan for protection of plant species at risk in covenants during fallow deer eradication operations (Sidney Island)	Continue participation in the Sidney Island Ecological Restoration Project and the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership

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4. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH	
Released a Fall edition of the Heron Newsletter and eNews Released ITC 2022/2023 Annual Report Published 2023 issue of <i>Caring for Your Conservation Covenant</i> newsletter Released end-of-year highlight video Produced signage for three Nature Reserves Promotion of hiring for a Species at Risk (SAR) Program Coordinator	Send holiday cards to donors and other contacts Produce signage for three Covenants and one Nature Reserve Social media management and engagement (ongoing)
5. FUNDRAISING AND CONSERVANCY SUPPORT	
Stewardship of donors and advisors (ongoing) Presented Legacy Giving Workshop on Salt Spring Island with Salt Spring Island Conservancy; general ITC presentation to Berwick House Qualicum Beach Hiring and transition of new hire for Strategic Fund Development position Link Island donor stewardship video on SAR Western screech owl survey owl box installation Opportunity Fund Impact Report 2005 - 2022 infographic mailed to 200 donors with thanks Followed up with Tempest bequest executor Gift of shares transfer form update with pro bono financial broker Implementation of 2023/2024 Will Power Campaign Willpower Campaign (National) launched	Complete Tempest estate administration Ongoing stewardship of donors and advisors

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