



Trust Council

Minutes of a Special Meeting

Date: July 29, 2025

Location: Electronic Meeting

Executive Members Present:

1. Laura Patrick, Chair, Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area
2. Tobi Elliott, Acting Chair, Vice-Chair, Gabriola Island Local Trust Area
3. David Maude, Vice-Chair, Mayne Island Local Trust Area
4. Timothy Peterson, Vice-Chair, Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area

Members Present:

5. Sue Ellen Fast, Bowen Island Municipal Trustee
6. Judith Gedye, Bowen Island Municipal Trustee
7. Sam Borthwick, Denman Island Local Trust Area
8. David Graham, Denman Island Local Trust Area
9. Susan Yates, Gabriola Island Local Trust Area
10. Lisa Gauvreau, Galiano Island Local Trust Area
11. Ben Maberley, Galiano Island Local Trust Area
12. Joe Bernardo, Gambier Island Local Trust Area
13. Kate-Louise Stamford, Gambier Island Local Trust Area
14. Mikaila Lironi, Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area
15. Jamie Harris, Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area
16. Mairead Boland, Saturna Island Local Trust Area
17. Lee Middleton, Saturna Island Local Trust Area
18. Kristina Evans, South Pender Island Local Trust Area
19. Ken Hunter, Thetis Island Local Trust Area
20. Peter Luckham, Thetis Island Local Trust Area

Members Regrets:

21. Alex Allen, Hornby Island Local Trust Area
22. Jeanine Dodds, Mayne Island Local Trust Area

Members Absent:

23. Grant Scott, Hornby Island Local Trust Area
24. Dag Falck, South Pender Island Local Trust Area
25. Aaron Campbell, North Pender Island Local Trust Area
26. Deb Morrison, North Pender Island Local Trust Area

Staff Present:

Rueben Bronee, Chief Administrative Officer
Stefan Cermak, Director, Planning Services
Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services
David Marlor, Director, Legislative and Information Services
Joe Elliott, Senior Indigenous Relations Advisor
William Shulba, Senior Freshwater Specialist
Alexandra Trifonidis, Executive Coordinator
Jason Youmans, Senior Policy Advisor
Lisa Millard, Meeting Administrator/Recorder

Others Present: There were four members of the public present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Elliott called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acting Chair Elliott acknowledged that the meeting was held on the territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3.1 Introduction of New Items - None

3.2 Approval of Agenda

By general consent the agenda was approved as presented.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A member of the public spoke to the definition of “environment” in the Glossary of the draft Trust Policy Statement and stated the following:

- The definition is sourced from the Impact Agency of Canada which focuses on the impact of large infrastructure projects and it is not sufficient for the intended purpose;
- Section 1.3 of the September 2023 draft Trust Policy Statement, which defined and supported definitions of “environment” and “unique amenities”, has been deleted;
- The current draft is problematic in the absence of contextual explanations of critical parts of the mandate and without contextual information a better definition of “environment”, which more clearly supports the intent of the *Islands Trust Act*, is needed; and
- Consideration of this matter prior to First Reading is requested.

Trustee Luckham joined the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

A member of the public spoke to Part 1 of draft Trust Policy Statement and stated the following:

- The draft states places of natural and cultural heritage are protected through Islands Trust Conservancy which results in the appearance that no other bodies of Islands Trust have the mandate to protect places of natural and cultural significance;
- References to the protection of areas of natural and cultural significance being the responsibility of local trust committees and Island Municipalities through Official Community Plan bylaws are mentioned within the Advisory Policies, Directive Policies, and Trust Council Principles sections of the draft Trust Policy Statement;
- The 2025 version of the draft eliminates the unique governance aspect of the preserve and protect mandate; and
- Islands Trust is a government body that is unique in Canada due to its mandate and it appears that trustees would feel more comfortable without being held accountable for the conservation mandate.

A member of the public spoke to the importance of making the islands more suitable for young people and all residents by enhancing the financial and economic status of the islands without harming the environmental aspects.

5. CLOSED MEETING

TC-2025-068

It was MOVED by Trustee Gedye, and SECONDED by Trustee Peterson, that the meeting be closed to the public subject to Sections 90(1)(i) of the Community Charter in order to consider matters related to the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; and that staff attend the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting was closed to the public at 1:24 p.m. and reconvened at 2:10 p.m.

Trustee Stamford left the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.1 Policy Statement Bylaw No. 183 – Consideration of First Reading – Request for Decision

Trustee Evans provided a summary of the timeline of the work done through Committee of the Whole and Trust Programs Committee on the draft Trust Policy Statement.

The Senior Policy Advisor introduced the Request for Decision and indicated the agenda package contained both a red line version showing all of the document edits since it was last put before Trust Council in September 2024 and a clean version.

Discussion ensued regarding the definition of “environment” in the Glossary and a trustee noted environment is a broad term, the environment is made up of many different ecosystems, bioregions, and microclimates, there is no holistic definition that encompasses the terrestrial, marine, and ecological environments, and it is impossible to define environment as separate from human interactions as the region was shaped and cultivated by Indigenous Peoples.

TC-2025-069

It was MOVED by Trustee Yates, and SECONDED by Trustee Boland, that Trust Council Bylaw No. 183, cited as “Trust Council Policy Statement Bylaw, 2025”, be amended by removing the definition of “Environment” from the Glossary of Terms.

CARRIED

TC-2025-070

It was MOVED by Trustee Elliott, and SECONDED by Trustee Yates, that Trust Council Bylaw No. 183 cited as “Trust Council Policy Statement Bylaw, 2025” be amended in the second sentence of the preamble language under Goal 1 from "The policies in this section aim to acknowledge the history and legacy of Indigenous Peoples in the area since time immemorial" to read "The policies in this section aim to acknowledge the history, legacy and continuing relationships of Indigenous Peoples to the area since time immemorial."

CARRIED

The merits and potential challenges of using the word “engage” instead of “cooperate” were discussed.

Trustee Stamford returned to the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

TC-2025-071

It was MOVED by Trustee Boland, and SECONDED by Trustee Luckham, that Trust Council Bylaw No. 183 cited as “Trust Council Policy Statement Bylaw, 2025”, be amended by replacing the words “Co-operate with Indigenous Governing Bodies” with the words “Engage with Indigenous Governing Bodies” in the draft Policy Statement Policy headers of Reconciliation Item 3.1.1 and Item 3.1.2.

CARRIED

The meeting was recessed for a break at 3:24 p.m. and reconvened at 3:45 p.m.

Trustee Luckham left the meeting at 3:24 p.m. and returned at 4:05 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of the term “threat” in section 2.1.5.

TC-2025-072

It was MOVED by Trustee Bernardo, and SECONDED by Trustee Yates, that Trust Council Bylaw No. 183, cited as “Trust Council Policy Statement Bylaw, 2025”, be amended as follows: by amending article 2.1.5 by replacing the words “there may be uncertainty over the threats of serious or irreversible damage from development” with “there is material uncertainty over the potential for serious or irreversible damage from development”.

TC-2025-073

It was MOVED by Trustee Yates, and SECONDED by Trustee Stamford, that the word “material” be removed from motion on the floor.

CARRIED

The question on the following motion, as amended, was then called.

that Trust Council Bylaw No. 183, cited as “Trust Council Policy Statement Bylaw, 2025”, be amended as follows: by amending article 2.1.5 by replacing the words “there may be uncertainty over the threats of serious or irreversible damage from development” with “there is uncertainty over the potential for serious or irreversible damage from development”.

CARRIED

Discussion ensued regarding section 2.2.3 which references that Islands Trust be informed by the principles for change used by the National Inquiry into *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice*.

TC-2025-074

It was MOVED by Trustee Bernardo, and SECONDED by Trustee Harris, that Trust Council Bylaw No. 183, cited as “Trust Council Policy Statement Bylaw, 2025”, be amended as follows: by deleting article 2.2.3.

DEFEATED

The use of the word “prioritize” within the Directive Policies – Ecosystem Integrity section was discussed.

TC-2025-075

It was MOVED by Trustee Bernardo, and SECONDED by Trustee Borthwick,

that Trust Council Bylaw No. 183, cited as “Trust Council Policy Statement Bylaw, 2025”, be amended as follows: by amending articles 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.3.5, 3.3.6, 3.3.7 and 3.3.8 by, in each case, by replacing the word “prioritize” with “establish opportunities for advancing”.

DEFEATED

Trustees discussed obtaining legal advice on the use of the word “prioritize” within the context of the draft Trust Policy Statement to determine if there might be unintended consequences of using the term. The Director of Legislative and Information Services indicated that following the receipt of referral and engagement responses all comments will be provided to Trust Council at which point any items that require legal opinion could be sent to legal counsel at the same time.

TC-2025-076

It was MOVED by Trustee Luckham, and SECONDED by Trustee Fast,

that Trust Council Bylaw No. 183, cited as “Trust Council Policy Statement Bylaw, 2025”, as amended, be read a first time.

CARRIED

TC-2025-077

It was MOVED by Trustee Fast, and SECONDED by Trustee Yates,

that Trust Council request staff to refer Bylaw No. 183 to the agencies, Indigenous Governing Bodies and organizations listed in attachment 3 of the request for decision dated July 29, 2025.

CARRIED

TC-2025-078

It was MOVED by Trustee Boland, and SECONDED by Trustee Bernardo,

that Trust Council request staff to seek legal advice, prior to 2nd Reading, on the interpretive implications of using the word "prioritize" in Sections 3.3.2-3.3.8 in the draft Policy Statement.

Trustees Bernardo, Harris, and Mabberley left the meeting at 5:45 p.m. during discussion on the motion and prior to the vote being called.

DEFEATED

7. NEW BUSINESS - None

8. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Tobi Elliott, Acting Chair

Certified Correct:

Lisa Millard, Meeting Administrator/Recorder