



Islands Trust Conservancy Board Executive Committee Liaison Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2023
Location: 1:00 p.m.
Islands Trust Victoria Boardroom
200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC

Board Members Present Risa Smith, Chair
Linda Adams, Board Member
Lisa Gauvreau, Board Member
Susan Yates, Trustee
Tobi Elliott, Vice-Chair, Executive Committee and ITC Board Member

Regrets Ken Thomas, Board Member

Executive Committee Members Present Peter Luckham, Chair, Executive Committee
David Maude, Vice-Chair, Executive Committee
Timothy Peterson, Vice-Chair, Executive Committee

Staff Present Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services
Kate Emmings, ITC Manager
Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer
Corlynn Strachan, Administrative Assistant/Recorder
Carla Funk, a/Strategic Fundraising Specialist

Public Attendees Three members of the public attended.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and acknowledged the meeting was held on the territory of the Coast Salish peoples.

1.1 Introductions and context for annual meeting

Chair Smith welcomed guests and initiated introductions.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following addition to the agenda were presented for consideration:

4.3.5 Climate Change adaptation

By **general consent** the agenda was approved as amended.

3. MINUTES/COORDINATION

3.1 July 13, 2022 ITC-EC Liaison Meeting Minutes (Adopted, for information only)

Received for information.

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Items for Information

4.1.1 ITC 2022/23 Year in Review – Presentation

Manager Emmings provided a PowerPoint presentation on the work of the Islands Trust Conservancy, including First Nations Reconciliation, the 2023-2026 Islands Trust Conservancy Plan, the Regional Conservation Plan, property management, Species at Risk Program, donor engagement, communications and challenges/opportunities for ITC into the future.

4.1.2 2022/23 Executive Committee Updates

CAO Hotsenpiller, Executive Committee Chair Luckham, and Trustee Elliott provided an overview of Executive Committee and Trust Council work and concerns.

Priorities and discussion included:

- Training and orientation for newly elected trustees
- Trustee interest in reviewing policies and bylaws
- Development of a sophisticated request to the province to augment funding (some feel that conservation could be a centrepiece of this)
- Reconciliation including engagement and a better referral process
- Revised policy statement (now that there is staff capacity the project will proceed)
- Housing affordability
- Water availability
- Climate Change Initiatives
- Governance review (Council has not decided on the role of conservation in the review)
- Establishing not just a Strategic Plan for Trust Council, but also goals for Trust Council, and noting that the ITC Regional Conservation Plan may provide direction on a potential format for Trust Council's Strategic Plan
- Opportunities for information sharing

4.2 **Roundtable: Focus on Collaboration**

Discussion ensued on:

- Corporate planning framework, and using the work plan from the Islands Trust Conservancy Regional Conservation Plan as a template to honour strategic goals.

- Collaboration between the Islands Trust and Islands Trust Conservancy to learn from each other, with potential for discussion through the Governance Committee.
- Using a “paradigm shift” for understanding the work of the Islands Trust and how Islands Trust deliver on its’ mandate in a more meaningful way for First Nations and everyone.
- Using the progress report to analyze the work begin accomplished by Trust Council, including its work program.

4.3 Items for Discussion

4.3.1 ITC Board - Executive Committee Areas of Responsibility - Briefing

Manager Emmings presented the briefing which summarized the areas of responsibility under internal policy and Islands Trust Council Bylaw No. 86.

Discussion ensued on:

- Local trust committee engagement with the Conservancy in an effective manner
- Embracing First Nations relationship building in our work
- Staff capacity to share knowledge with planners
- Changes to regulations for the Professional Governance Act and the impact on the work of biologists
- Regional Planning Committee work on a housing toolkit including suitable land analysis process to identify lands suitable for increase in development, and layering of mapping with conservation information for planning metrics
- The need for mapping and technical expertise, and for a professional biologist

4.3.2 Trust Council Decisions Related to Conservation – Discussion

Discussion ensued on:

- Decisions made at the March Trust Council meeting regarding the Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zone delegation without consultation with the Conservancy
- Consideration of how Trust Council deals with delegations as a whole and how to institute better practice
- Reviewing meeting procedures and policy
- Making informed decisions through consultation with First Nations, the Conservancy and partners
- Education for trustees regarding internal liaison with the Conservancy

Follow up items for trustees and ITC Board member consideration:

- Creating a mechanism to share in-house biological expertise

- Revision of the Memorandum of Agreement between ITC and Trust Council to consider conservation decisions
- Need for more education on what the Islands Trust Conservancy is and how we do conservation
- Role of governments in conservation and ability for Trust Council to participate in the conversation
- The importance of informed decision making and not making decisions without consideration. Use time to get advice and refer to others.

Manager Emmings noted that staff support would require further direction and provided suggestions including:

- Providing direction to staff through a resolution for priority items
- Trustees taking items under consideration and following up by requesting agenda items for the next meeting

It was noted that Islands Trust Conservancy or the Executive Committee could invite each other to attend their respective meetings to discuss items of mutual interest such as policy review, governance review, and conservation in decision-making.

4.3.3 Provincial Funding Request – Discussion

Discussion ensued on:

- Developing a strong business case and strategy, and appropriate timing for advancing the request
- The Governance Review
- Creating a working group or committee to move forward, with consideration for staff resources
- CAO Hotsenpiller noted meeting more frequently, instead of annually, would be more effective, and advised that the Executive Committee could present at a future ITC Board meeting to keep Board members informed and strategize on a way forward.

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It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board direct staff to investigate the requirements to create a compelling story on conservation that would be fed into a Provincial funding request.

DEFEATED

4.3.4 First Nations Referral Process Review – Discussion

Discussion ensued on:

- The complexity of the referral process and holding a separate meeting with the new Senior Indigenous Relations Advisor to discuss current framework and direction.

- Holding a joint two hour meeting on the First Nations referrals process, as this is a priority issue that was on the joint agenda, but not covered due to time restraints.

4.3.5 FireSmart Advice to Landowners – Discussion

This item was deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints.

4.3.6 Biologist Support for Planning - Briefing

Manager Emmings provided background information from the July 13, 2022 ITC/EC Liaison Meeting to support a discussion about biologist support for Regional Planning Committee (RPC). Trustee Elliott noted that she may advance further discussion at Trust Council.

5. NEXT MEETING

To be determined in late 2023.

6. ADJOURNMENT

By General Consent, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Risa Smith, Chair

Certified Correct:

Corlynn Strachan, Administrative Assistant/Recorder