



## Trust Programs Committee Minutes of Electronic Meeting

**Date:** July 17, 2019

**Location:** Islands Trust Victoria Boardroom  
200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC

**TPC Members Present:** Deb Morrison, North Pender Island Local Trustee (Chair)  
Scott Colbourne, Gabriola Island Local Trustee (Vice-Chair)  
David Critchley, Denman Island Local Trustee (electronic)  
Doug Fenton, Thetis Island Local Trustee (electronic)  
Benjamin McConchie, North Pender Island Local Trustee (electronic)  
Dan Rogers, Gambier Island Local Trustee (EC Rep) (electronic)  
Grant Scott, Island Local Trustee (electronic)  
Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Chair, Thetis Island Local Trustee (ex-officio) (electronic)

**Regrets:** Alex Allen, Hornby Island Local Trustee

**LPC Members Present:** Laura Busheikin, Denman Island Local Trustee (Chair) (electronic)  
Jeanine Dodds, Mayne Island Local Trustee (electronic)  
Kees Langereis, Gabriola Island Local Trustee (electronic)  
Laura Patrick, Salt Spring Island Local Trustee (EC Rep) (electronic)  
Tim Peterson, Lasqueti Island Local Trustee (electronic)  
Kate-Louise Stamford, Gambier Island Local Trustee (electronic)  
Jane Wolverton, Galiano Island Local Trustee (electronic)

**Regrets:** David Maude, Mayne Island Local Trustee

**Staff Present:** Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer  
Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services  
David Marlor, Director, Local Planning Services  
Lori Foster, Executive Coordinator/Recorder  
Lesley Valor, Acting Policy Advisor

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Morrison called the electronic meeting to order at 10:06 AM. Chair Morrison and Vice Chair Colbourne were present in the Victoria office boardroom with staff. The remaining trustees were present via live video feed. Trustees Fenton and Scott were available via voice call only.

The order of business was clarified such that Local Planning Committee members would be invited would participate beginning at item 4.2.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**2.1 Introduction of New Items**

None

**2.2 Approval of Agenda**

**By General Consent**, the agenda was approved as presented.

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES/COORDINATION**

**3.1 Minutes of Meeting**

**3.1.1 Draft Minutes of May 15, 2019**

**By General Consent**, the Trust Programs Committee Minutes of May 15, 2019, were adopted as presented.

**3.2 Resolutions Without Meeting**

None

**3.3 Follow-Up Action List (FUAL)**

Director of Trust Area Services (DTAS) Frater reviewed the FUAL items and the status of items in progress.

The meeting recessed at 10:15 AM to address technical issues with the electronic meeting format and reconvened at 10:25 AM.

**3.4 Trust Programs Committee Work Program**

Presented for information.

**4. BUSINESS**

**4.1 Policy Statement Engagement Plan Update**

DTAS Frater gave a verbal report on the progress of the Policy Statement Engagement Plan including working with First Nations and working with the availability of local trustees regarding setting dates for on-island meetings.

Additionally, DTAS Frater commented that BC Ferries is open to Islands Trust hosting onboard information sessions and engagement which will assist in driving interest to the planned online survey.

**4.2. Developing a Climate Emergency Strategy for Inclusion in the Strategic Plan**

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Hotsenpiller spoke to the report which suggested consideration of how to address the declared climate emergency.

Discussion ensued on the three questions contained within the report:

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?

In general, the following comments were heard on factors that moved trustees to vote to declare a climate emergency:

- A. Concerns about impacts on freshwater:
  - saltwater intrusion, increase of tourism increasing water use, increase in temperatures,
  - lower availability of fresh water and living with lack of this resource,
  - development within water limitations and anecdotal evidence that aquifers are stressed,
  - hidden culprit of sea level rise through thermal expansion impacting groundwater and septic systems.
- B. Concerns about impacts on land:
  - practices on private managed forest lands, clearcutting, concerns with replanting, dry conditions, advocate for reduction of slash burning,
  - drying out of land due to lack of cover vegetation caused by urbanization overdevelopment causing reduction of trees,
  - concern that existing zoning no long appropriate for resource availability/ecosystem stress,
  - carrying capacity concern regarding human development,
  - forest fire risk concern with fire smart practices not being appropriate,
  - concern for global impacts,
  - dieback of trees – cedar, willow, alder, salal,
  - opportunity to plant for sequestration,
  - invasive species increase.
- C. Concerns about impacts on marine ecological environments:
  - marine environment development impacts, loss of eel grass, loss of carbon sinks,
  - need for species migration corridors, lack of corridors, species at risk,
  - ocean acidification e.g. sea star die off (virus),
  - biodiversity loss, need for evaluation of human activity on habitat,
- D. Concerns about impacts by/on human activity:
  - active transportation options are challenging,
  - loss of BC Hydro power and general emergency response during extreme weather events e.g. one access only to some areas,
  - difficulty for farmers due to reduced food production because lack of water,
  - governance vacuum on climate issues, i.e. rainwater catchment.

Trustees also raised the following topics:

- natural asset protection.
- defining expectations of constituents, reluctance to make behaviour changes and difficulty in responding to constituent concerns/expectations,
- telecommunications fibre cable and bandwidth supports work from home which reduces travel emissions,

- need for support/education for local contractors, real estate sellers, triggers to control activities is lacking,
- vehicles are the biggest contributor to green house gases (GHG).

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?

In general, the following comments were heard on Question 2:

- climate emergency justifies strong policy: e.g. request no more commercial forestry in Trust Area; strongly regulate development and development practices,
- local trust committees could work regionally to expedite projects through efficiencies,
- model bylaws are useful - just local tweaking needed, education kits for proposed bylaws, community consultation, community education & outreach – dedicated staff person,
- need for data re: ferry ridership,
- need to collate and share best practices,
- need to use existing toolkits locally,
- need to clarify role of trustees, workshop for trustees - role of public comment in decision making, enable non-outraged citizens to have a voice in support of preserve and protect,
- suggestion to convene trustee phone calls/video conferences for learning on current issues,
- trustees could present progress reports via matrix to promote peer pressure or review top priorities matrix at Trust Council,
- need for setback from the sea - Trust-wide vertical and horizontal,
- lack of planner resources/staffing hampers implementation,
- need for efficiencies/regional approach,
- could give Trust Council/Executive Committee more power via Policy Statement Directive policies,
- need to limit future fragmentation – subdivision limits (10 acre min),
- need to consider community resiliency (funding available), use grants to get more resources,
- LTCs should consider climate and First Nations implication of applications - implement via standing resolution,
- Islands Trust needs to incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge,
- need for communications support for Trustees to host climate change talks (e.g. Power points, speaking notes),
- need for 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,
- need for cooperation with local conservancies – Islands Trust Conservancy and other non-profits, covenant conversation (secretariat function) combine education/engagement, help trustees facilitate meetings, workshops/forums,

- need to better highlight community innovations,
- possibility of promoting Green Shores – implement and share education materials.

Trustee Grant Scott left the meeting by way of the telephone conference bridge at 11:37 AM.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:13 PM and reconvened at 1:00 PM.

Discussion continued as the members addressed the final question.

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

In general, the following comments were heard:

- there is a need to distill today’s meeting notes to determine which committees should do which work,
- there is a need to define emergency, suggest renaming or rebranding to Climate Crisis Action Plan,
- trustees want to share information and experiences re climate actions/education strategies for talking in communities,
- work should be done to implement Coastal Douglas Fir Toolkit,
- work should be done to implement Islands Trust Conservancy Regional Conservation Plan,
- the Trust could work with regional districts for incentives e.g. wood stove,
- there is a need for education.

Consideration for next steps included the following:

- Circulating a summary of the ideas discussed,
- Integrating ideas raised on climate into the strategic plan and/or develop a separate climate crisis plan,
- Work with the budget process to determine actions in the context of the Local Planning Services review,
- Consider climate action within the Policy Statement directives checklist,
- Revise speaking notes and/or a 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,
- Develop a climate emergency communications plan including website presence,
- consider areas for measurement of emissions to report data on impacts.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**6. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Trust Programs Committee will take place on August 21, 2019 which will be an electronic meeting.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**  
**By General Consent**, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 PM.

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**Deb Morrison, Chair**

**Certified Correct**

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**Lori Foster, Executive Coordinator/Recorder**