

Trust Programs Committee Agenda

Date: April 8, 2022
Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Location: Electronic meeting, Public venue
Islands Trust
200-1627 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8R 1H8

Pages

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **AGENDA**
 - 2.1. **New Items and Re-Ordering of the Agenda**
 - 2.2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**
4. **DELEGATIONS**

None
5. **CORRESPONDENCE**
 - 5.1. **2022-02-28 Tony Law** 3 - 11

Copied to TPC by the Executive Committee at its March 8, 2022 meeting
 - 5.2. **2022-03-26 Mary Beth Rondeau** 12 - 13
 - 5.3. **2022-03-31 Harlene Holm** 14 - 15
6. **ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION**
 - 6.1. **Draft Minutes of Previous Meetings**
 - 6.1.1. **Trust Programs Committee Minutes of February 11, 2022** 16 - 22

For review and approval
 - 6.2. **Resolutions Without Meeting**

None

6.3. Follow up Action List

23 - 25

For review

7. BUSINESS - WORK PROGRAM ITEMS

7.1. Secretariat Role to Forums Within the Trust Area

Priority #2

7.1.1. Secretariat Services to Coordination Groups in the Trust Area - RFD

26 - 68

8. BUSINESS - NEW

9. WORK PROGRAM

For review and referral to Trust Council before each quarterly TC meeting

10. NEXT MEETING

Friday, May 13, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

11. CLOSED MEETING

If required:

That the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the Community Charter, Part 4, Division 3, s.90, (quote the pertinent section here, for example, (1)(a) personal information about...) and that the recorder and staff attend the meeting.

12. RISE AND REPORT

If required

13. ADJOURNMENT

*Approximate time is provided for the convenience of the public only and is subject to change without notice.

Tony Law

[REDACTED]
Hornby Island, BC, V0R1Z0
[REDACTED]

To Islands Trust Council

28 February 2022

re: Draft Policy Statement: A suggestion

Introduction

When I first read the Draft Policy statement, I thought; “This is really good.”

But as I step back, I realize I am not typical of the Trust Area electorate.

For one thing, after serving as a trustee for twenty years, I am a bit of a policy wonk – one of only two people I know on Hornby Island (apart from the trustees) who has read the complete 39 page draft (the other being the super-diligent chair of the APC).

For another, I am part of a rapidly disappearing cohort that came to the Islands in the 1970s and 1980s to lead simple lives in an area that we valued as being preserved and protected by the Islands Trust. We went to meetings. We provided input.

We are being replaced by people who are not choosing – or don’t have the option of choosing – such simple lives or experience connectivity with the Islands Trust. There are those whose complicated lives involve having one foot on the islands and the other in the city. And those who are struggling to get a toe hold on the islands with the challenges of establishing housing and livelihoods.

I fully understand that many such islanders do not have the time, energy, interest or inclination to engage in Islands Trust processes in the context of other priorities. I sense that many, perhaps most, see the Islands Trust as a centralized external bureaucracy rather than being rooted in island communities. In other words: an entity to be suspicious of rather than automatically embraced.

The Draft – what needs to be addressed

Trustees are challenged to find the appropriate balance between responsibility to the legislated object and responsibility to representing the electorate.

My reading of the Draft Policy Statement and the public response to it is that the Draft does an admirable job of addressing the object, but balance has not been achieved because it does not reflect a consensus of the electorate, whose support is crucial in implementing the object.

The Islands Trust Act, 15.2(a), requires the Policy Statement to be **a general statement of policies** and 14.4 which requires that a bylaw not be approved if it is contrary to or at variance with the trust policy statement (which can lead to the creation of very definitive policies to make it easier to clarify when non-approval should be exercised).

My reading of the Draft Policy Statement is that it has drifted too far from being the *general statement* of policies required by the *Islands Trust Act*.

There are 133 policies, some of them repeating the same policy imperative.

Rather than being general statements, they are instead statements of positions, directions and commitments that are often quite specific, often reading more like regulations than policies.

Such a long and complex document is not only outside what the legislation requires but, of its very nature, presents a barrier to public understanding and engagement.

I do not see Trust Council being able to present a publicly supported version of this document that will receive Ministerial approval in time for adoption this term – at least without significant controversy being carried forward into the next term.

A Suggestion

I am a big believer in the role of the Policy Statement. During my time as a trustee, I was twice on committees that worked on making revisions. I want this current project to succeed – which for me involves the Policy Statement being widely embraced.

I have spent countless hours going through the Draft Policy Statement formulating ideas for changes. But I have given up. More than tinkering is required.

After a great deal of thought, this is my suggested course of action:

Divide the Policy Statement into two documents.

1) The Policy Statement

- It would be submitted for ministerial approval
- It would be a statement of general policies as required by the Islands Trust Act
- It would be much short and more reader-friendly

2) Companion to the Policy Statement

- It would be established by bylaw of Trust Council
- It would include background, context, and implementation actions (now in the current Draft)
- It would be more readily amendable to address new information, issues and opportunities

Here are examples – using sections 4.1 and 4.2 - of how what is covered in the Draft Policy Statement could be divided between a new “short-version” **Policy Statement** and a “**Companion to the Policy Statement**”.

This would reduce the number of policies in these sections from 27 policies in the current draft to 11 policies in what I am suggesting.

Example: “Policy Statement”

PART 4: ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION

GOAL: To Preserve, Protect, Restore, and Sustainably Steward Trust Area Ecosystems

4.1 Environmental Integrity

Policies

(Local trust committees and Island Municipalities should ensure that Official Community Plans and regulatory bylaws are not contrary to, or at variance with, policies that apply to planning areas).

4.1.1. Proactive land use planning is essential to the preservation and protection of Trust Area ecosystems.

4.1.2 Protection is required for natural processes, habitats, and species of the Trust Area and for Indigenous cultivation and harvesting areas. In each planning area, land use planning and regulation should be used to identify, preserve, protect, and support the restoration of key elements*

4.1.3 Networks of protected areas throughout the Trust Area are necessary to preserve ecosystems in sufficient size and distribution to sustain their environmental integrity. Such networks should be identified, established, and maintained in each planning area through land use planning and regulation.

4.1.4. Emissions to land, air and water should be reduced. Such emissions should be limited in each planning area through regulation of land use and development.

4.1.5. Impacts of climate change on ecosystems should be understood and addressed. In each planning area, this should involve using land use planning and regulation to support climate adaption measures for ecosystems

*Sensitive ecosystems (cliff, freshwater, herbaceous, old and mature forest, riparian, wetland, and woodland ecosystems), contiguous, unfragmented forests and associated ecosystems, freshwater networks and groundwater recharge areas, eelgrass meadows, kelp forests, and forage fish spawning areas, species and ecosystems at risk, Indigenous cultivation and harvesting areas such as clam gardens, camas meadows, and other areas as identified by First Nations.

(Resources include the Islands Trust Conservancy Board, the best available quantitative and qualitative data, Indigenous knowledge, and community input.)

4.2 Freshwater Stewardship

Policies

(Local trust committees and Island Municipalities should ensure that Official Community Plans and regulatory bylaws are not contrary to, or at variance with, policies that apply to planning areas).

4.2.1 Loss or degradation of watershed ecosystems, freshwater networks, groundwater recharge areas, and freshwater aquatic species should be prevented. In each planning area, means to prevent this should be identified and utilized in land use planning and regulation.

4.2.2 Neither the density nor intensity of land use should be increased in groundwater regions where the quality or quantity of the supply of freshwater is likely to be inadequate or unsustainable. This should be implemented in each planning area through land use planning and regulation.

4.2.3 Fresh water quality and projections of water demand and supply (existing, anticipated, and seasonal) should be addressed in each planning area through land use planning and regulation.

4.2.4 Each island should be self-sufficient in its supply of freshwater (with the sole exception of Piers Island which is supplied by the Capital Regional District water system).

4.2.5 Additional uses of freshwater should not be detrimental to existing in-stream uses (such as for fish and fish habitat, Indigenous cultural and spiritual practices, aesthetic and recreational activities) and the maintenance of water quality in lakes, streams, and wetlands. In each planning area, this should be ensured where possible through land use planning and regulation to address detrimental impacts upon them of freshwater uses.

4.2.6 Water supply should be sourced from the storage and use of freshwater (groundwater, surface water and rainwater) rather than from the desalination of sea water. In each planning area, land use planning and regulation should support appropriate storage of freshwater and limit the desalination of seawater to specified lots where there is no ability to source and store freshwater and where desalination would not involve returning concentrations of brine into the environment.

Example: “Companion to the Policy Statement”

ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION

GOAL: To Preserve, Protect, Restore, and Sustainably Steward Trust Area Ecosystems

CONTEXT:

Environmental Integrity:

The Islands Trust Area contains the most biodiverse and endangered ecosystems in British Columbia and a number of species that are of high cultural significance to First Nations. These ecosystems are treasured for their intrinsic value and also for the many supports they provide to human well-being. An ecosystem is understood as a dynamic system of living species interacting with their non-living environment. Some ecosystems rely on a delicate mix of species and conditions that are easily affected by human activities and environmental disturbances. These ecosystems are termed ‘sensitive’ and are prevalent in the Trust Area. An ecosystem has ‘environmental integrity’ when its dominant characteristics, natural composition, structure, function, and processes occur within their natural ranges of variation and can withstand and recover from most disruptions imposed by human activity or environmental dynamics such as climate change. In the Trust Area, the establishment of networks of protected areas and unfragmented forest reserves that are large enough to contain and sustain native Trust Area species is essential to environmental integrity.

Restoration:

In the face of the global climate and biodiversity crises, it has never been more critical to preserve and protect ecosystems in the Trust Area. In addition, there is now an imperative to restore these fragile ecosystems and assist in their recovery due to the cumulative impacts of development and human use of natural areas, as well as the impacts of a changing climate. Ecosystem restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. Restoration can

happen in many ways, such as active reforestation or wetland remediation, or by simply removing pressures so that nature can recover and adapt on its own.

Adaptive Management:

The specific impacts of the climate and biodiversity crises and their policy implications may be difficult to predict in exact detail, timing, and scope. Adaptive management approaches offer pathways to minimize uncertainty and maximize policy effectiveness. These are structured, iterative processes of decision-making intended to reduce uncertainty over time through periodic monitoring and evaluation, and evidence-based policy adjustments.

Nature-Based Solutions: In seeking integrated solutions that address the impacts of climate change on both ecosystems and communities, nature-based solutions offer opportunities for multiple co-benefits. Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

Sustainable Stewardship:

As humans modify the Trust Area, ecosystems are subject to various pressures. With sustainable, regenerative use, ecosystems will be more healthy and resilient and better able to support human well-being in a variety of ways. Sustainability, in this context, is defined as the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Stewardship, in this context, refers to the responsible use and protection of natural systems, through conservation and sustainable use.

4.1 Environmental Integrity

Policies

(Local trust committees and Island Municipalities should ensure that Official Community Plans and regulatory bylaws are not contrary to, or at variance with, policies that apply to their planning area).

4.1.1. Proactive land use planning is essential to the preservation and protection of Trust Area ecosystems.

4.1.2 Protection is required for natural processes, habitats, and species of the Trust Area and for Indigenous cultivation and harvesting areas. In each planning area, land use planning and regulation should be used to identify, preserve, protect, and support the restoration of key elements*

*Sensitive ecosystems (cliff, freshwater, herbaceous, old and mature forest, riparian, wetland, and woodland ecosystems), contiguous, unfragmented forests and associated ecosystems, freshwater networks and groundwater recharge areas, eelgrass meadows, kelp forests, and forage fish spawning areas, species and ecosystems at risk, Indigenous cultivation and harvesting areas such as clam gardens, camas meadows, and other areas as identified by First Nations.

(Resources include the Islands Trust Conservancy Board, the best available quantitative and qualitative data, Indigenous knowledge, and community input.)

4.1.3 Networks of protected areas throughout the Trust Area are necessary to preserve ecosystems in sufficient size and distribution to sustain their environmental integrity. Such networks should be identified, established, and maintained in each planning area through land use planning and regulation.

4.1.4. Emissions to land, air and water should be reduced. Such emissions should be limited in each planning area through regulation of land use and development.

4.1.5. Impacts of climate change on ecosystems should be understood and addressed. In each planning area, this should involve using land use planning and regulation to support climate adaption measures for ecosystems

Trust Council can support these policies by:

- Obtaining the best available area-based mapping, science, social science, local knowledge, and Indigenous ways of knowing in order to address cumulative effects of existing and proposed development to avoid detrimental effects on watersheds,
- Identifying and monitoring the impacts of climate change on ecosystems through climate vulnerability assessments and utilizing adaptive management processes and nature-based solutions that are informed by the best available area-based mapping, science, social science, local knowledge, and Indigenous ways of knowing.
- Seeking the best available area-based mapping, science, social science, local knowledge, and Indigenous ways of knowing regarding ecosystem preservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable stewardship in the Trust Area through respectful, culturally-sensitive and collaborative approaches with First Nations, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, the Province, other government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and communities, in collaboration with the Islands Trust Conservancy Board,
- Coordinating with, and advocating to, other government agencies to foster actions, programs, and incentives that: (3.1.9) ⌚ place priority on the integrity of the environment in the Trust Area ⌚ protect the diversity of native species and habitats in the Trust Area; and ⌚ prevent pollution of the air, land, freshwater networks, and marine waters of the Trust Area
- Coordinating with, and advocating to, other government agencies to: ⌚ regulate and monitor the harvesting of fish, wildlife, and vegetation in the Trust Area so as to protect terrestrial and aquatic species populations and habitats (4.3.1) ⌚ consult with First Nations, local trust committees, island municipalities, and Trust Area communities prior to decisions regarding regulation of hunting or harvesting of wildlife or vegetation in the Trust Area (4.3.1) ⌚ consult with First Nations to preserve First Nations' traditional harvesting areas; and (new) ⌚ to protect, for public use, areas supporting naturally occurring shellfish populations and other marine life, and to establish public shellfish reserves in the Trust Area. (4.3.2)

- Encouraging the provincial government to enforce standards for the control of emissions polluting the air, lands, and waters of the Trust Area. (3.1.10)

- Advocating to other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, Crown corporations, municipalities, regional districts, non-governmental organizations, property owners, residents, and visitors to protect natural areas in the Trust Area through education, stewardship tools, acquisitions, conservation covenants and careful management, in cooperation with First Nations and the Islands Trust Conservancy Board.

4.2 Freshwater Stewardship

Policies

(Local trust committees and Island Municipalities should ensure that Official Community Plans and regulatory bylaws are not contrary to, or at variance with, policies that apply to their planning area).

4.2.1 Loss or degradation of watershed ecosystems, freshwater networks, groundwater recharge areas, and freshwater aquatic species should be prevented. In each planning area, means to prevent this should be identified and utilized in land use planning and regulation.

4.2.2 Neither the density nor intensity of land use should be increased in groundwater regions where the quality or quantity of the supply of freshwater is likely to be inadequate or unsustainable. This should be implemented in each planning area through land use planning and regulation.

4.2.3 Fresh water quality and projections of water demand and supply (existing, anticipated, and seasonal) should be addressed in each planning area through land use planning and regulation.

4.2.4 Each island should be self-sufficient in its supply of freshwater (with the sole exception of Piers Island which is supplied by the Capital Regional District water system).

4.2.5 Additional uses of freshwater should not be detrimental to existing in-stream uses (such as for fish and fish habitat, Indigenous cultural and spiritual practices, aesthetic and recreational activities) and the maintenance of water quality in lakes, streams, and wetlands. In each planning area, this should be ensured where possible through land use planning and regulation to address detrimental impacts upon them of freshwater uses.

4.2.6 Water supply should be sourced from the storage and use of freshwater (groundwater, surface water and rainwater) rather than from the desalination of sea water. In each planning area, land use planning and regulation should support appropriate storage of freshwater and limit the desalination of seawater to specified lots where there is no ability to source and store freshwater and where desalination would not involve returning concentrations of brine into the environment.

Trust Council can support these policies by:

- Identifying and supporting the protection and where possible, the continuity, restoration or rehabilitation of the watershed ecosystems, freshwater networks, groundwater recharge areas and wetlands of the Trust Area.
- Taking a precautionary approach to the sustainable stewardship of watershed ecosystems, freshwater networks, and groundwater recharge areas in the Trust Area, in cooperation with First Nations, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, other government agencies, and the public, and on the basis of the best available area-based mapping, science, social science, local knowledge, and Indigenous ways of knowing.
- Honouring the inherent rights of First Nations to access freshwater streams for cultural and spiritual purposes.
- Coordinating with, and advocating to, the provincial government, regional districts, improvement districts, and other agencies to enact legislation protecting freshwater sustainability, watershed ecosystems, freshwater networks, groundwater recharge areas, and freshwater aquatic species at risk in the Trust Area, in accordance with the Islands Trust Object. (4.4.6)
- Coordinating with, and advocating to, the provincial government to implement property tax incentives for the retention of groundwater and watershed recharge areas and freshwater wetlands in the Trust Area. (4.4.5)
- Encouraging, educating, and advocating to government agencies and nongovernmental organizations, property owners, residents, and visitors to adopt water conservation practices in the Trust Area, including through the use of innovative technologies such as rainwater harvesting, above-ground water cisterns, alternative sewage disposal systems, reuse of water, the treatment and use of grey water, and the use of water saving devices.
- Encouraging government agencies, non-governmental organizations, property owners, residents, and visitors to protect watershed ecosystems through voluntary donations, acquisitions, conservation covenants, and careful management, in collaboration with Islands Trust Conservancy.

Thank you for considering this.

I hope it is helpful.

Sincerely,

Tony Law

From: Robert Barlow
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 8:41 AM
To: Robert Barlow
Subject: FW: Schedule for Incorporating Feedback from First Nations, Treaty Alliances, and Tribal Councils in the Policy Statement Revision

From: MARY BETH RONDEAU <marybethrondeau@shaw.ca>
Date: March 26, 2022 at 3:33:35 PM PDT
To: Deb Morrison <dmorrison@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Timothy Peterson <tpeterson@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Dan Rogers <drogers@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Peter Luckham <pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Paul Brent <pbrent@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Scott Colbourne <scolbourne@islandstrust.bc.ca>, David Critchley <dcritchley@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Doug Fenton <dfenton@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Michael Kaile <mkaile@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Kees Langereis <klangereis@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Benjamin McConchie <bemcconchie@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Grant Scott <gscott@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Steve Wright <stwright@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Cc: Clare Frater <cfrater@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Schedule for Incorporating Feedback from First Nations, Treaty Alliances, and Tribal Councils in the Policy Statement Revision

Islands Trust Program Committee,
I have read up on as much info as I can on the topic of feedback from First Nations, Treaty Alliances, and Tribal Councils but I acknowledge I don't understand all of the aspects of sensitivities of these groups. It is my intention to be respectful - please forgive any areas that I may not understand any of the important aspects of this respectfulness. And, it is my understanding that inclusion and updating of indigenous interests in our Trust Policy Statement is not just desired but provincial/federal governments mandate it. My questions relate to the schedule for incorporation/further revision to the July 15 2021 TPS Revisions (TPSR) based on this feedback.

A Summary of "Feedback from Early and Meaningful Engagement with First Nations, Treaty Alliances, and Tribal Councils"

From what I can tell, the Islands Trust is undertaking consultation with these groups on the July 15th TPSR and this will result in some sort of a finalized summary of feedback or report. I understand that this report must respect and protect interests and privacy of these groups but nevertheless, there would be a document summarizing inputs while being sensitive to concerns.

Is that true?

If that is true, what is the expected date for completion of this report?

Will this report be available to public?

Amending the July 15 TPSR Based on Feedback from First Nations, Treaty Alliances, and Tribal Councils

I understand that the July 15th TPSR has very initial wording as the basis for the conversation with these groups and this wording would be updated based on the summary of feedback. For example, I have already heard from several sources of concerns with the TPSR wording from some of these groups. So it seems a reasonable assumption that the TPSR wording will need to be further amended.

Is that true?

If true, where in the schedule for the TPSR does it allow time for this input to be incorporated (preferably before first reading)?

Public Input into the Feedback from First Nations, Treaty Alliances, and Tribal Councils and any changes to the TPS

With the July 15th TPSR, the public is not really asked to comment on the changes related to First Nations, Treaty Alliances, and Tribal Councils since we don't know if it is even supportable to those groups.

Will there be an opportunity for the public to join the dialogue on any further changes to the TPSR resulting from feedback from these groups?

If so, where in the schedule for the TPSR for public to gain an understanding of the feedback and what it means to our TPS and governance?

Accelerated Schedule

At the February 11, 2022 Program Committee, many citizens were dismayed to see an accelerated schedule put forward to get the July 15th TPSR to first reading before the election and in the middle of the Public Engagement (PE) process. The majority of the Program Committee expressed similar concerns suggesting there should be time given for the full PE process to be completed. This email is to ask for clarification on how the feedback from First Nations, Treaty Alliances, and Tribal Councils as part of the process will be given full public engagement before first reading.

One final question related to the schedule for the TPSR. At the Feb 11, 2022 Program Committee, the accelerated schedule suggested that the May 13 regularly scheduled Program Committee would need to be moved to May 27, 2022 (to be 5 days after the final PE report of ISL Engineering). In those 5 days, it suggests the Program Committee would absorb all the input from the ISL report and all other streams input (including First Nation groups?), make revisions to the July 15th TPSR and be able to make recommendations to the July 8th Executive Committee before the June 21-23 2021 Trust Council quarterly meeting.

Is the Trust Program Committee intending to reschedule the May meeting to May 27th to try to accommodate this accelerated schedule?

Sincerely,
Mary Beth Rondeau,
North Pender Island

From: Robert Barlow
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 9:24 AM
To: Robert Barlow
Subject: FW: Mar. 31-22 draft Trust Policy Statement

From: David Critchley
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 10:03:47 PM
To: Dilani Hippola
Subject: Fwd: Mar. 31-22 draft Trust Policy Statement

Hi Dilani,
This was sent to me as a member of the Select Committee but it is clear after communicating with the author that it should be part of the public submissions on the Trust Policy Statement and that Ms. Holm wants to ensure that it is part of the material forwarded to the Trust Programs Committee for its consideration.

Thanks,
David

David Critchley
Denman Island Trustee, Islands Trust

“All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.”
~ Chief Seattle

Begin forwarded message:

From: HHolm <ananke@telus.net>
Date: March 31, 2022 at 6:46:21 PM PDT
To: Lee Middleton <lmiddleton@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Kees Langereis <klangereis@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Steve Wright <ibsjw@shaw.ca>, David Critchley <dcritchley@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Mar. 31-22 draft Trust Policy Statement

Hello Governance and Management Review Select Committee,

I sent this to the Islands 2050 staff:

Subsequent to my urging Trust staff find a model definition of carrying capacity, I have taken my own advice and researched existing definitions and benchmarks for the term. Unfortunately, humans are a dominant invasive species and they make all the decisions for the flora and fauna that once supported all life. We seem be willing to cull, exploit and manage everything with the exception of ourselves.

Islands in the Trust area are not isolated which means that limits of food and water don't apply. Water shortages can and are 'solved' by cisterns or simply by purchasing water by the bottle or tanker truck. Food and household necessities are more and more trucked onto the islands. How much importation of goods and technological jiggling is necessary to define the key benchmarks? It appears that the benchmark is "Oops!."

The 2019 *State of the Islands Report* https://islandstrust.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/TAS_2020-01-22_StateOfTheIsland_FinalReport-with-Survey.pdf is an outdated snapshot (an anthropogenic selfie) based on a combination of outdated data and a bucket list of what scientific research might reveal. The *State of the Islands Report* sets a threshold of 30% for "natural areas converted for human use in the Islands Trust Area" backed by air photos and satellite imagery from 2010 to 2018. There seems to be no interest in applying the precautionary principal much less using local knowledge. Currently, the Trust is awaiting staff's ground water study that appears to take years to produce the colourful graphs of what is thought to be under the ground. And, FLNRORD has commodified water via the Water Sustainability Act with the promise of dibs for first licence holders.

The 2022 draft Policy Statement supports the development of human communities, economies and transportation without establishing the carrying capacity of the environment. Please note that today is not 2030, 2040 or, much less, 2050. Is the draft Trust Policy Statement a response for Islands 2022?

I have not participated in the virtual community workshops and ask that this email be entered into the record in lieu of the consultant's effort.

My apology to committee representatives for whom I lack an email address.

Harlene



Trust Programs Committee Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date: February 11, 2022
Location: Electronic Meeting

Members Present: Deb Morrison, North Pender Island Local Trustee (Chair)
Timothy Peterson, Lasqueti Island Local Trustee (Vice Chair)
Paul Brent, Saturna Island Local Trustee
Scott Colbourne, Gabriola Island Local Trustee
David Critchley, Denman Island Local Trustee (intermittent connection)
Doug Fenton, Thetis Island Local Trustee
Michael Kaile, Bowen Island Municipal Trustee
Kees Langereis, Gabriola Island Local Trustee
Benjamin McConchie, North Pender Island Local Trustee
Dan Rogers, Gambier Island Local Trustee (EC Representative)
Grant Scott, Hornby Island Local Trustee
Steve Wright, South Pender Island Local Trustee
Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Council Chair (Ex Officio)

Staff Present: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services
Robert Kojima, Regional Planning Manager, South
Dilani Hippola, Senior Policy Advisor
Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor
Tara Todesco, Community Communications Specialist
Robert Barlow, Legislative Services Clerk/Recorder

Others Present: Eight members of the public

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Chair Morrison acknowledged that participants of the meeting were on the traditional and treaty territories of several Coast Salish First Nations. Members of the Committee and Staff were introduced.

2. AGENDA

2.1 New Items and Re-Ordering of the Agenda

The following addition to the agenda was presented for consideration:

- 7.1.1 Policy Statement Amendment Project (PSAP), Attachment 4, Community Feedback Updates from Trustees – additional response from Trustee Brent inadvertently not sent to staff for inclusion.

2.2 Approval of Agenda

By general consent the agenda was approved as amended.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mary Beth Rondeau, Mairead Boland, Mielle Chandler, George Leroux, Cynthia Rand and Donn Korbin spoke individually to the Committee. All spoke in regards to the Policy Statement Amendment Project. Comments included:

- potential timelines of the project
- resources needed for implementation of a new policy statement
- the organization and clarity of the draft policy statement

4. DELEGATIONS

None

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 From Jennifer Margison/Friends of the Gulf Islands, dated November 8, 2021 re: Petition

Trust Council referred the correspondence to the Trust Programs Committee for consideration as part of the Trust Policy Statement Project. Received for information.

5.2 From Gulf Islands Alliance, dated November 9, 2021 re: Draft Bylaw No. 183 Policy Statement and Affordable Housing

Trust Council referred the correspondence to the Trust Programs Committee for consideration as part of the Trust Policy Statement Project. Received for information.

5.3 From Maxine Leichter, dated January 22, 2022 re: Format of Trust Policy Statements

Received for information.

5.4 From Mary Beth Rondeau, dated February 3, 2022 re: Postpone First Reading of Trust Policy Statements

Received for information.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION

6.1 Draft Minutes of Previous Meeting

6.1.1 Trust Programs Committee minutes of October 29, 2021

By general consent the minutes were approved as presented.

6.2 Resolutions Without Meeting

None

6.3 FUAL

Accepted for information

7. BUSINESS

7.1 WORK PROGRAM ITEMS

7.1.1 Policy Statement Amendment Project (PSAP) - Briefing

Director Frater introduced the briefing to update the Committee with regards to the plans for Islands 2050 Phase 3 public engagement, to provide community feedback updates from trustees, and to suggest that Trust Council may wish to consider its desires for project timelines.. It was noted that no changes have been made to the draft Policy Statement of July 15, 2021. Committee discussion included:

- acknowledgement of great public interest
- significance of three areas of concern that need addressing as a priority: climate change, First Nations reconciliation, and all forms of housing
- the possibility of halting all PSAP work until next term of office
- next steps depending on community engagement results
- the public needs to understand what first reading means in the process
- the possibility to consider regular reviews of the Policy Statement
- whether or not parts of the draft Policy Statement speak to areas outside the jurisdiction of Islands Trust
- the structure and content of the draft Policy Statement

TPC-2022-001

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Trust Programs Committee recommend to Trust Council that the timeline for passage of the revised Policy Statement be guided by and reflective of the public engagement process rather than setting a timeline as currently provided in the pre-engagement materials.

DEFEATED

TPC-2022-002

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Trust Programs Committee recommend to Trust Council that the timeline for passage of the revised Policy Statement be guided by and reflective of the engagement process.

CARRIED

Committee discussion continued:

- the possibility of a simpler, shorter Policy Statement (such as by separating the directives as an appendix and providing an executive summary) and the challenge of doing so given that there is a complexity to the issues that the PS is addressing and the significance of it as a guiding document

Draft

- the possibility of explaining components of the Policy Statement;
- need to communicate why the Policy Statement needs to be revised and what actually is to be changed;
- it was noted that most directives relate to advocacy and that directives exist in the current PS as well as the draft Policy Statement
- some members of the public have confused the PSAP, the annual budget process and the Governance and Management Review

Trustee McConchie left the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

- concern that the Committee's discussion of potential changes to the Policy Statement may contribute to a perception that Islands Trust is presently amending the document whereas all aspects of the PS are decided by Trust Council
- it was noted that the *Islands Trust Act* requires a Policy Statement and that the Province will be interested in reviewing the engagement process with First Nations
- the need for a common understanding as to what the Province requires from Islands Trust in order to approve a revised Policy Statement such as what components, language or process might the Province require
- the need to discuss the PS Implementation Policy that includes a policy that a local trust committee/island municipality bylaw will not be contrary to or at variance with the Policy Statement if it fails to include a particular policy or regulation, so long as the bylaw contains sufficient reason or justification for not doing so.

Chair Morrison and Trustee Wright left the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Committee recessed at 10:41 a.m. and returned at 10:52 a.m. Vice-Chair Peterson assumed the role of Chair of the meeting.

TPC-2022-003

It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that Trust Programs Committee request staff to seek provincial staff feedback on required or desired content or structure for the Policy Statement.

CARRIED

Trustee Brent requested his comment to be included in the minutes: "Directive policies are okay, but there is a difference between a few directive policies versus many directive policies".

TPC-2024-004

It was MOVED and SECONDED,
that the Policy Statement Implementation Trust Policy be noted in public and Trust Council discussions regarding the Trust Policy Statement.

CARRIED

7.1.2 Secretariat Services Criteria

In regards to Committee's request for staff to review current criteria, and to provide feedback or suggestions for criteria for future Secretariat Services applications, Director Frater indicated that staff wished to provide an opportunity for the Committee to provide direction to staff as to what criteria the Committee would like to see. It was noted that the cost of the program is \$15,000, has been operational since 2020, and this year's funding request has been reviewed by the Financial Planning Committee and Trust Council. Committee discussion included the possibility of funding the program from savings in other areas of the budget. The Committee did not provide any suggestions for changes to the policy.

7.1.3 Living in the Trust Area Mailing Project - Briefing

Director Frater introduced the briefing, the purpose of which was to provide an update to the Committee on the mail-out project that is part of the Stewardship Education program of the Strategic Plan and to seek comment on draft materials. She noted that the intended recipients are recent land purchasers in the Trust Area but that the materials are designed so that they could be used for other purposes. Community Communications Specialist Todesco introduced the draft materials. Committee discussion included:

- sending the materials to all land-owners or residents would involve increased cost beyond the current budget of the project
- need to mention affordable housing as another of the complex challenges indicated in the pamphlet
- clarification that all the documents are to be mailed together and will be made available electronically
- change of language from "your trees" to a stewardship viewpoint
- possibility of working with environmental groups and using physical bulletin boards on various islands in distribution of materials
- whether the term "Land-use Planning" is reflective of Islands Trust values and perspective of protection of place inclusive of community; "Place Protection Planning" is a potential new way of describing Islands Trust work
- need to update the numbers of residents and non-resident property owners with the soon-to-be-released new census results

Trustee Brent left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

- other suggestions for edits to the draft materials included:
 - add a sticker to the magnet indicating "re-gift"
 - add the Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) logo in appropriate locations (it was noted that ITC is working on updating their "rack" card)
 - provide an updated map of the Trust Area
 - include more text in regards to the marine environment such as the greenshores initiative

- emphasize reconciliation work

TPC-2022-005

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Trust Programs Committee request staff to prepare budget options for direct mail to all property owners within the Trust Area.

CARRIED

In regards to design elements on the draft materials that relate to reconciliation, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor Wilcox noted that the approach is not to use design elements or photographs that may not be agreeable to First Nations or be considered as appropriation. She also indicated that there are over thirty First Nations within the Trust Area, all of whom are unique in how they would like indigenous or Coast Salish representation or artwork to be presented. In the future, Trust Council may decide to fund work with First Nations to create images that Islands Trust could use in publications.

By general consent the Committee preferred version A of the magnet and indicated a preference to include it in the mailing.

7.2 OTHER BUSINESS

7.2.1 Community Stewardship Award Program - Briefing

Director Frater introduced the briefing to provide background information on the Program, noting that it is expected that trustees will help to promote the program.

7.3 NEW BUSINESS

None

8. WORK PROGRAM

8.1 Trust Programs Committee Work Program

Director Frater provided the current Work Program

TPC-2022-006

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Trust Programs Committee forward the Work Program to Trust Council as presented.

CARRIED

9. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is on Friday, April 8, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Draft

By general consent the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Deb Morrison, Chair

Certified Correct:

Robert Barlow, Legislative Services Clerk/Recorder

Minutes are not official until adopted at a subsequent meeting.

Follow Up Action Report

Trust Programs Committee

29-Feb-2016

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 Implement Crown Land Protocol project charter V2, circulate past RFD to TPC members, keep charter on future agendas until project is complete, and consider inventory of current referrals if it helps demonstrate the need for updating the letter of understanding.	Clare Frater	Target: 31-Mar-2022	In Progress

05-Nov-2020

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 that Trust Programs Committee request staff to investigate options for a joint review with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure of road standards, incorporating the Climate Change Declaration and the Reconciliation Declaration, and report back to Trust Programs Committee.	Clare Frater David Marlor	Target: 31-May-2022	In Progress
2 that Trust Programs Committee request staff to work with Trustee Peterson to refine the Amending the Policy Statement Amendment Policy 1.2.1. RFD, and bring it back to Trust Programs Committee before the March, 2021 Trust Council meeting. ON HOLD pending staff capacity	Clare Frater Dilani Hippola	Target: 31-Mar-2022	In Progress

05-Feb-2021

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
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Follow Up Action Report

Trust Programs Committee

05-Feb-2021

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 Discuss with the province and report to Trust Council on a process to identify potential governance and/or operational change that could be adopted in order to improve the delivery and integration of all the types of services that are delivered to the Islands Trust Area. By general consent, at its Dec 16, 2020 meeting, Executive Committee put this item on hold pending review by Trust Programs Committee.	Clare Frater		In Progress

14-May-2021

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 that Trust Programs Committee request staff to review current criteria, and to provide feedback or suggestions for criteria for future Secretariat Services applications.	Clare Frater	Target: 08-Apr-2022	In Progress

11-Feb-2022

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 that Trust Programs Committee recommend to Trust Council that the timeline for passage of the revised Policy Statement be guided by and reflective of the engagement process.	Clare Frater	Target: 18-Feb-2022	Completed

Follow Up Action Report

Trust Programs Committee

11-Feb-2022

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
2 that Trust Programs Committee request staff to seek provincial staff feedback on required or desired content or structure for the Policy Statement.	Clare Frater Dilani Hippola	Target: 08-Apr-2022	Completed
3 that the Policy Statement Implementation Trust Policy be noted in public and Trust Council discussions regarding the Trust Policy Statement.	Clare Frater Dilani Hippola	Target: 08-Apr-2022	In Progress
4 that Trust Programs Committee request staff to prepare budget options for direct mail to all property owners within the Trust Area.	Clare Frater	Target: 08-Apr-2022	Completed
5 that Trust Programs Committee forward the Work Program to Trust Council as presented.	Clare Frater	Target: 18-Feb-2022	Completed

REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: Trust Programs Committee **For the Meeting of:** April 8, 2022
From: Trust Area Services **Date Prepared:** March 31, 2022
SUBJECT: Secretariat Services to Coordination Groups in the Trust Area

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Trust Programs Committee allocate for fiscal year 2022/23:
 - \$X,XXX to support the coordination of the Southern Gulf Islands Forum,
 - \$X,XXX to support the coordination of the Baynes Sound Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum,
 - \$X,XXX to support the coordination of the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership, and
 - \$X,XXX to support the coordination of the Howe Sound Community Forum.
2. That Trust Programs Committee request the Director of Trust Area Services to allocate hours of Trust Area Services staff time for direct provision of secretariat services to support the Rural Island Economic Forum.

DIRECTOR OF TRUST AREA SERVICES COMMENTS: The Secretariat Services Policy guides delivery of the Secretariat Services program. Staff preference is for Trust Programs Committee to leave specific hour allocations to the Director so staff can flexibly respond to changing circumstances.

- 1 **PURPOSE:** To provide Trust Programs Committee (TPC) with background information, and to review requests for secretariat support for coordination groups in the Islands Trust Area.
- 2 **BACKGROUND:** There are a number of coordinating groups operating in the Trust Area, largely supported by volunteer or in-kind staff effort. These bodies bring together different levels of government, First Nations and community members on a regular basis to discuss matters of mutual interest/concern.

Over the years, coordinating bodies and trustees have raised concern regarding the lack of funding for the administrative needs (e.g. meeting logistics, agenda preparation, minutes, facilitation, website hosting/posting, shared document drive) for some of the coordinating bodies and/or concern about the sustainability of relying on volunteer and side-of-the-desk coordinators.

In December 2019, Trust Council adopted the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan that includes Strategy #21: Provide a secretariat role to forums within the Trust Area.

In September 2020, Trust Council passed a Secretariat Services policy, as recommended by TPC. TPC support to forums can be via staff support through contribution of staff time, financial support, or a combination of the two. It is important to note that this is not a granting process. Islands Trust will offer the administrative support via staff time or contract.

The Secretariat Services policy states that TPC will assess opportunities to provide Secretariat Services at its first meeting of the fiscal year. If staff resources or funding remain unallocated after this meeting, TPC may consider additional opportunities at future meetings.

In May 2021, TPC requested staff to review current criteria, and to provide feedback or suggestions for criteria for future Secretariat Services applications. Due to workloads, staff were unable to achieve this in time for policy changes for this fiscal year.

In March 2022, Trust Council adopted a budget with \$15,000 for 2022/23 for secretariat services.

The following organizations have provided Letters of Interest (attached) outlining administration needs.

Coordination Group	Administrative Needs – staff time	Administrative Needs – contracted support
Southern Gulf Islands Forum	None.	\$5,000
Baynes Sound Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum	None.	\$3,000
Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership	None.	\$5,000
Howe Sound Community Forum (and Ocean Watch Action Committee)	None.	\$4,000
Rural Island Economic Partnership	Yes.	None.
TOTAL REQUESTS:		\$17,000
FUNDING AMOUNT:	Staff hours unspecified	\$15,000

3 IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

ORGANIZATIONAL: The Program Coordinator is available to assist with the Secretariat Services program. Staff estimate that up to 100 hours (approx. three weeks) may be required to manage four contracts and work with the coordination groups, as well as provide administrative support to the Rural Island Economic Partnership should TPC decide to allocate staff time.

The other programs supported by this position include First Nations engagement, the Living in the Trust Area Mailing, stewardship education programs as requested by Trust Programs Committee, Community Stewardship Awards administration, budget consultation administration, social media support, administration of housing agreements, website support, webinar organization and administration, and general support to the Trust Area Services team.

If Trust Programs Committee indicates an interest in providing administrative support to certain coordination groups, the Director will work with the coordination groups to determine the exact nature of the support, the timeframes, and expected workload. If Trust Programs Committee wishes some groups to receive more staff time than others, it would be good to have this expressed in proportions. Due to the need to respond to changing circumstances within partnerships, staff encourage Trust Programs Committee to provide general direction rather than attempting to allocate specific staff hours.

FINANCIAL: In the 2022/23 fiscal year, TPC has \$15,000 budgeted to spend on secretariat services.

POLICY: Trust Council Policy 2.1.15 Secretariat Services (see attached)

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATIONS: Following TPC's decision, staff will develop service contracts and work to determine how staff support can be provided. Information about the secretariat support for coordinating bodies in 2022/23 will be included on the website.

FIRST NATIONS: TPC is encouraged to prioritize support for coordinating bodies that are guided by the principles of inclusion and diversity and are informed by First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit understanding in keeping with the Islands Trust's Reconciliation Declaration and its commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

OTHER: N/A

4 RELEVANT POLICY: Trust Council Policy 2.1.15 Secretariat Services

5 ATTACHMENTS:

- Trust Council policy 2.1.15 Secretariat Services
- Southern Gulf Islands Forum – Letter of Interest
- Baynes Sound Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum – Letter of Interest
- Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership – Letter of Interest
- Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society - Howe Sound Forum – Letter of Interest
- Rural Island Economic Partnership – Letter of Interest

RESPONSE OPTION

Recommendations:

That Trust Programs Committee allocate for fiscal year 2022/23:

- \$X,XXX to support the coordination of the Southern Gulf Islands Forum,
- \$X,XXX to support the coordination of the Baynes Sound Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum,
- \$X,XXX to support the coordination of the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership, and
- \$X,XXX to support the coordination of the Howe Sound Community Forum.

That Trust Programs Committee request the Director of Trust Area Services to allocate hours of Trust Area Services staff time for direct provision of secretariat services to support the Rural Island Economic Forum.

Alternatives:

- 1) Defer the decision to request more information from the coordination groups.

Prepared By: Clare Frater, Director of Trust Area Services

Reviewed By/Date:



Policy:	2.1.15
Approved By:	Trust Council
Approval Date:	September 15, 2020
Amendment Date(s):	
Policy Holder:	Director of Trust Area Services

SECRETARIAT SERVICES

Purpose

1. To define a process for allocating funding and staff time with respect to administrative support for Coordination Groups in the Trust Area, in accordance with Trust Council's authority to coordinate and assist in the determination, implementation and carrying out of municipal, regional and improvement district and government of British Columbia policies.
2. To reinforce that Trust Council, its committees and the Executive Committee are not permitted to provide grants-in-aid in support of other organizations, unless consistent with the Procurement Policy (6.5.3) and the History, Heritage and Conservation Grants-In-Aid Policy (2.1.14), but may support coordination and assistance in the determination, implementation and/or carrying out of First Nation, regional, improvement district, and government of British Columbia policies.

Background

Section 8(2) of the *Islands Trust Act* establishes the discretionary powers of Trust Council for the purpose of carrying out the Trust Object. In accordance with section 8(2)(b), the Trust Council may "coordinate and assist in the determination, implementation and carrying out of municipal, regional and improvement district and government of British Columbia policies for the preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment." Part II of the Islands Trust Policy Statement further provides that:

"To achieve its object, the Islands Trust must be an educator, coordinator, and initiator, guiding individuals, organizations and other agencies in support of the object. While the Islands Trust can provide the necessary leadership, responsibility for stewardship of the Trust Area rests with many. Individuals, other government agencies, organizations, and the Province itself all have important roles to play. Cooperative actions are required of other agencies, organizations and individuals to ensure that activities are carried out in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of Trust Area ecosystems and island communities."

A. Definitions

"Coordination Group" means a group comprised of First Nations, organizations and/or stakeholders that convene to share information and collaborate or to determine, implement or carry out First Nation, regional district, improvement district, or government of British Columbia policies in the Trust Area.

"Secretariat Services" means the provision of administrative support including, but not limited to, meeting organization, meeting administration, public notices, recording and distribution of meeting notes or minutes, and website hosting and updating.

"Secretariat Services Budget" has the meaning set out in section 1.1 hereof.

"Trust Object" means the object of the trust as set out in section 3 of the *Islands Trust Act*.

B. Policy

1. Funding Source

- 1.1 By September of each year, the Trust Programs Committee will recommend to the Financial Planning Committee an allocation for the Secretariat Services budget for the following fiscal year (the "Secretariat Services Budget").

2. Policy for Providing Secretariat Services

- 2.1 Trust Programs Committee will assess opportunities to provide Secretariat Services at its first meeting of the fiscal year. If staff resources or funding remain unallocated after this meeting, the Trust Programs Committee may consider additional opportunities at future meetings.
- 2.2 Trust Programs Committee may only allocate funding to or undertake Secretariat Services for Coordination Groups that:
 - 2.2.1 have an appointed representative of the Trust Council, Bowen Island Municipality, a local trust committee, or the Islands Trust Conservancy as a member or regular participant;
 - 2.2.2 invite and encourage First Nations involvement and leadership in a manner that is consistent with the Islands Trust Council's First Nations Engagement Principles Policy and Reconciliation Declaration; and
 - 2.2.3 undertake work that coordinates and assists in the determination, implementation and carrying out of municipal, regional and improvement district and government of British Columbia policies that carry out the Trust Object.
- 2.3 Trust Programs Committee is encouraged to prioritize support for Coordination Groups that work collaboratively and respectfully with First Nations governments and Indigenous Peoples within the Trust Area.
- 2.4 When Trust Programs Committee allocates funding from the Secretariat Services budget for Secretariat Services for a Coordination Group, the amount may not exceed the direct award commitment spending level in Trust Council's Procurement Policy 6.5.3.
- 2.5 Where Trust Programs Committee commits to undertaking Secretariat Services directly, the Committee will seek staff advice regarding availability of staff.

C. Legislated References

Islands Trust Act, Section 3

Islands Trust Act – Subsections 8(2)(b) & (f)-(h)

Islands Trust Policy Statement, Part II - The Islands Trust Object and its Meaning

Policy Manual: History, Heritage and Conservation Grants-In-Aid (2.1.14)

Policy Manual: Procurement (6.5.3)

Policy Manual: First Nations Engagement Principles (6.1.1)

D. Other References

Islands Trust Council's Reconciliation Declaration, March 14, 2019

E. Attachments

N/A



Islands Trust
200-1627 Fort St.
Victoria BC
V8R 1H8

March 29, 2022

Re: Financial support for Southern Gulf Islands Forum

Dear Trust Council,

I am writing to request on behalf of the members of the Southern Gulf Islands Forum (SGI Forum) that the Islands Trust Council provide financial support of \$5000.00 for the SGI Forum initiative again this year.

The investment made by the Trust Council is needed to continue with our important work. I am dedicated to providing considerable staff time from my Constituency Office to the ongoing administration of the Forum in this partnership.

Over the past year, the Southern Gulf Islands Forum has met monthly, as well as holding two, half-day meetings on specific issues.

Good working relationships have formed and many important issues are being worked on that are relevant in each of our communities, such as: storm response, emergency preparedness, transportation, large vessel anchoring, James Island, and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA), to name a few.

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

9828 Fourth Street
Sidney, BC V8L 2Z3
Adam.Olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca
250-655-5600
saanichnorthandtheislands.com

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

Room 101, Parliament Bldg
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
250-387-8347
bcgreencaucus.ca

Last summer, we sent a letter to the Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure, to encourage the provincial government to ensure that it is meeting its DRIPA obligations in all current and future subdivision projects in the region, including that of James Island.

In September 2021, our half day meeting focused on learning about Indigenous connections with the islands (historical and present) and to discuss ways that Forum members can support challenges that Indigenous communities face with other orders of government - Eric Pelkey, WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council and Ken Thomas, Penelakut Tribe spoke to and discussed with the group.

On March 14 of this year, our half-day meeting was focused on the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's work, supported by Transport Canada, to design a new system to manage marine vessel traffic and optimize the supply chain flow. We discussed local efforts to remove anchorages to minimize social and environmental disruption, and opportunities for collaborative effort from this Forum. This meeting had the participation of 36 attendees: Including 11 members, 7 staff (including the Facilitator and note-taker), 9 presenters, 8 invited guests.

Upcoming monthly meetings will focus on water issues, active transportation, derelict boats, affordable housing, to name a few of the issues on the table.

It is important that we continue to build momentum for the SGI Forum, as such it is my hope that the Islands Trust will once again support this important initiative.

The financial support covers the costs for monthly note-takers and a facilitator for the twice a year half-day sessions. These are critical resources to having effective meetings. I will continue to provide in-kind support of organizing and hosting the ongoing administration of the Forum.

I am requesting the Trust Council support the SGI Forum initiative again this year with a \$5000 contribution to support emerging costs which may include, but not limited to, renting meeting venues, purchasing food and

refreshments (if meeting in person), and hosting a Southern Gulf Islands Forum website where upon we can share meeting information with the public.

Thank you for considering this request again this year. All participants are committed to working together toward increased health and well-being of communities in the Southern Gulf Islands area, for the benefit of present and future generations! We believe this fully encompasses the intent of the Secretariat Services funding program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Olsen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Olsen, MLA

Saanich North and the Islands

Adam Olsen, MLA Saanich North and the Islands
on behalf of SGI Forum members (alphabetical by first name)
Adam Olsen, MLA, SAN
Chief Alan Tom, Pauquachin
Ben Mcconchie, North Pender Island Trustee
Cameron Thorn, South Pender Island Trustee
Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services
Dan Rogers, Chair Galiano Local Trustee Committee
Dave Howe, SGI CRD Director
David Maude, Mayne Island Trustee
Deb Morrison, North Pender Island Trustee
Chief Don Tom, Tsartlip
Elizabeth May, MP, SGI
Gary Holman, SSI CRD Director
Gordon Elliott, WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council, Director of Operations
Jane Wolverton, Galiano Island Trustee
Jeanine Dodds, Mayne Island Trustee
Chief Joan Brown Penelakut
Laura Patrick, SSI Island Trustee
Lee Middleton, Saturna Island Trustee
Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor, Islands Trust
Chief Lydia Hwitsum Cowichan
Paul Brent, Saturna Island Trustee
Peter Grove, SSI Island Trustee
Peter Luckham, Chair SSI Local Trustee Committee
Steve Wright, South Pender Island Trustee
Tahira Rockafella, Galiano Island Trustee

From:
Steering Committee,
Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum

To:
Trust Programs Committee,
Islands Trust

March 1, 2022

Dear Trust Programs Committee Members,

For the past four years your committee has played a major role in successfully nurturing the Baynes Sound /Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum, both with direct support for administrative costs and with performing a secretariat role through Trust Area Services.

Our Forum is developing well and continues to engage a broad range of organizations and governments: the Qualicum First Nation, the K'omoks First Nation, and the Tla'amin Nation, as well as Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Provincial Government, the Comox Valley Regional District the Islands Trust and the Denman Island and Hornby Island Local Trusts, Vancouver Island University, North Island University, Island Health, BC Shellfish Growers Association, Association for Marine Stewards of Denman Island, Project Watershed, Comox Valley Land Trust, Conservancy Hornby Island and West Coast Environmental Law.

We greatly appreciate the \$2500 support we received last fiscal year, which helped to pay the administrative costs for our June and December Forums in 2021 and the continuing costs of hosting our new website. We also received funding of \$5000 from the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) last year, and together, these funds allowed us to stage these two *virtual* Forums, create reports which will go out to all participants, and set up our website.

This year, we plan to stage two *in person* Ecosystem Forums to offer our membership enriched opportunities to learn, discuss and organize together. Because these forums will be in person, and last most of a day, our costs will go up.

Just to give more insight into how fruitful our forums can be, we describe here the highlights of our most recent forum, held in early December 2021.

- Dr Terri Sutherland, from DFO, presented the results of her five year, in depth study of Baynes Sound's carrying capacity, and to what extent this marine ecosystem could sustain more shellfish aquaculture. This was followed by some excellent questions and a short discussion. Dr Sutherland suggested that further questions could be forwarded to her.
- Lisa Pierce, local project manager of the province's Clean Coast Clean Waters Initiative, reported that plastic debris was cleaned up from 180km of our area's shoreline and what was found (38 tonnes, 90%+ plastic debris from the shellfish industry) and made specific recommendations for reducing and recycling. She praised the CVRD's recent approval of a

depot near the regional landfill for sorting and storing the industry's debris. The Shellfish Growers executive director joined the discussion to describe his organization's new program for reducing plastic debris and to acknowledge more work must be done, and stated a willingness to meet and discuss the recommendations made in the presentation.

- Amber Neuman and Grace Runciman, from DFO Aquaculture, presented information about DFO's new initiative: Area-based Aquaculture Management (ABAM). This features ecosystem-based management and co-management with First Nations as well as integrated planning for a management area. This presentation was met with enthusiasm, and led to an in-depth discussion.
- Representatives of the K'omoks First Nation (KFN) shared with forum members their intention to respond to ABAM's invitation for an Expression of Interest for an ABAM Pilot Program. Forum members, including the Shellfish Growers, ADIMS, Local Islands Trusts, Project Watershed and Deep Bay Marine Station offered to check with their boards and if agreed, write letters of support. A unanimous motion was passed that instructed the Forum's Steering Committee to write a letter of support for the KFN's application.
- **Todd Boychuk, of the KFN, then invited members of the Forum, and DFO staff, to contribute to drafting the ABAM Pilot application in time to meet the deadline a week hence.** Several members did respond to that invitation, including both Denman Island Local Trustees, the executive director of the Shellfish Growers, the chair of the Denman Island Marine Stewards, the Area A rep from the CVRD, a board member of Project Watershed, the manager of VIU's Deep Bay Marine Station and members of the DFO shellfish management staff. All contributions were co-ordinated by Todd and the application was submitted in good time.

We really are learning , sharing and working together, as illustrated by this recent Ecosystem Forum. We're excited by the opportunities for improving the well being of Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel that are emerging from our collaborations.

We are asking for \$3000 from the Programs Committee, which in combination with \$5000 *as yet to be confirmed* funding from the CVRD will allow us to offer our two yearly Ecosystem Forums and cover the costs of a professional facilitator, a professional note taker, minimal administrative co-ordination, some travel expenses and catering. As in the past, overall costs will be reduced by in-kind contributions by member organizations.

We have applied for another grant as well, and hope to become more independent in the future.

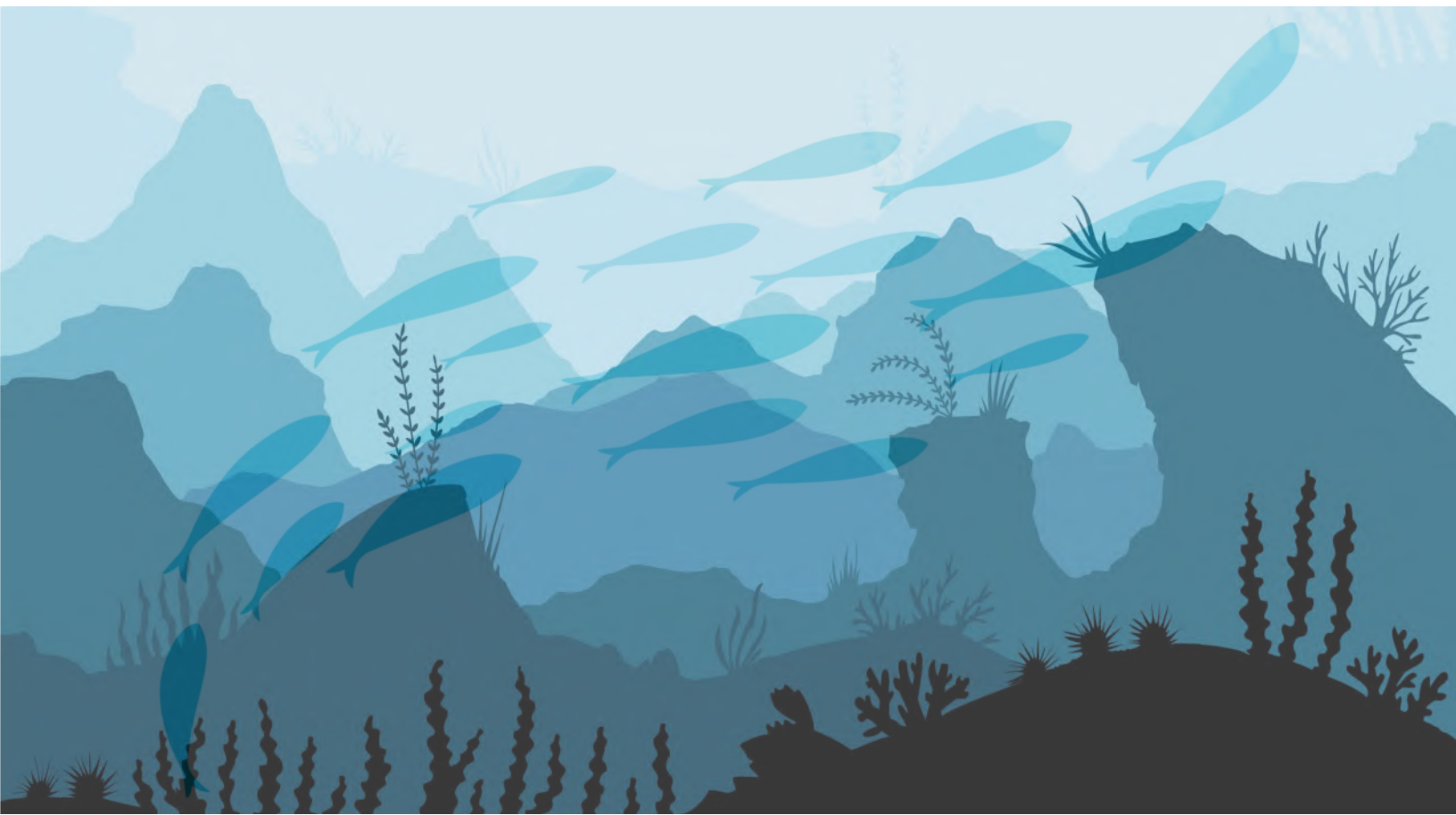
We look forward to sharing more with you when we present as a delegate at your April Programs Committee meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

Steering Committee members

Chair, Daniel Arbour, Regional Director, Electoral Area A, Baynes Sound, Denman-Hornby Islands

Co-Chair: Todd Boychuk, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, K'omoks First Nation
Vice Chair: Carl Butterworth, Manager, Deep Bay Marine Station, Vancouver Island University
Secretary: Dorrie Woodward, Chair, Association for Denman Island Marine Stewards
Treasurer: Nico Prins, Executive Director, BC Shellfish Growers Association
Member: David Critchley, Denman Island Local Trustee, Islands Trust
Member: Chris Pearce, Research Scientist, Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, Fisheries and Oceans Canada



Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum | Spring 2021 **Summary Report DRAFT**

Prepared by VMS

With the generous financial support of:



IslandsTrust



Comox Valley
REGIONAL DISTRICT

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Executive Summary

The Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum (hereafter referred to as the “EcoForum”) took place on June 11, 2021 via Zoom online conferencing. In attendance were over thirty participants from First Nations, federal, provincial, and local governments, as well as members of industry, higher education, and environmental conservation organizations. A list of participants can be found in Appendix A.

The EcoForum has been meeting since 2018 on a bi-yearly basis with three key goals:

- To create opportunities for information sharing and collaborative dialogue among diverse stakeholders of the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel ecosystem
- To identify ongoing processes and collaborative actions with potential to support the health and recovery of this ecosystem
- To share knowledge, experience, and ideas that can inform research and problem-solving

The 2021 year began with a ratified Vision Statement and Terms of Reference, a newly elected Steering Committee and a plan underway to develop communications products and investigate potential funding models. The Spring 2021 EcoForum provided an opportunity for the Steering Committee to report back to EcoForum members on progress made since Fall 2020. It also gave the Alternative Practices Committee to share some of their work with the broader EcoForum membership.

Tim Ennis and David Stapley of the Comox Valley Land Trust were invited to give a presentation to the EcoForum on the Comox Valley Conservation Partnership. In particular, the EcoForum was interested in hearing how Conservation Partnerships are organized, how decisions are made across diverse interests, its ability to effectively catalyze change, potential models for growth, stabilization of funding and administrative and staffing structures. This presentation was followed by a group discussion on the merits of the Conservation Partnership model and whether aspects of that model could be relevant to the EcoForum. There were some helpful takeaways from the presentation and discussion that will inform the Steering Committee and the EcoForum at large as it continues to search for the appropriate model for collaborative partnership that can help us move beyond discussion and into action.

The Steering Committee agreed to continue researching potential institutional models that the EcoForum could learn from and will bring more ideas to future EcoForums for information and discussion. They will also seek out additional funding options that will help stabilize the forum and allow us to seek more stable administrative support.

Please contact info@bayneslambertecoforum.ca if you have questions or comments about this report.

Introduction

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that participants of the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum live and work in Indigenous, Métis, and/or Inuit communities across BC.

EcoForum participants gathered digitally from the treaty and traditional territories of BOKÉCEN (Pauquachin), Cowichan, Halalt, Homalco, Kómoks, Klahoose, Ts'uubaa-asatx (Lake Cowichan), Lək'wəŋən (SXIMEŁŁ (Esquimalt), Songhees, TSou-ke, Lyackson, MÁLEXEL (Malahat), Penelakut, Qualicum, Scianew (Beecher Bay), səilwətaʔt/seiʔ ílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), SEMYOME (Semiahmoo), Shíshálh (Sechelt), Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose), Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo), Skw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish), SÁÁUTW (Tsawout), Stzuminus (Chemainus), Tla'amin, Tsawwassen, We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge), Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River), WJOŁŁP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam).

We want to especially thank the host communities of Kómoks, Qualicum, Snaw-naw-as and Tla'amin First Nations.

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The overarching objectives of the EcoForum are:

- To create opportunities for information sharing and collaborative dialogue among diverse stakeholders of the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel ecosystem
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This EcoForum report is intended to provide a summarized overview of discussions, decisions, and actions undertaken at the EcoForum held on June 11th, 2021. Please note that formal consensus was not necessarily achieved on each and every point of discussion, though there has usually been agreement on steps for moving forward.

The Baynes Sound & Lambert Channel Ecosystem

Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel lands and waters have been the homeland of Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. Their cultural heritage, knowledge, and stewardship of this area for thousands of years highlights the importance of this place as a unique coastal homeland.

Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel, a thermally stratified inland sea, is a highly productive ecosystem, home to a regionally unique combination of diverse marine and coastal habitats. As such, it has been internationally recognized as an *Important Bird Area (IBA)*, and nationally designated an *Ecologically and Biologically Significant Area (EBSA)*.

Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel is the highest ranked cumulative spawning and rearing area for herring in the Strait of Georgia: Thirty-eight percent (38%) of all herring spawning that has ever occurred in BC (based on >30,000 records) has occurred in this area,¹ positioning this area as a critical linchpin for the ecosystem health of the Coast. Seabirds, juvenile salmon, mollusks and other forage fish find shelter in the ecologically-distinct elements of Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel. The Sound and Channel are summer molting areas for sea ducks, with significant aggregations of waterfowl, shorebird and gull species during herring spawn. Several at-risk bird species use Baynes Sound for feeding or stop-overs.

Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel contains important foraging and haul out sites for Pacific harbour seals as well as Steller and California sea lions. Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel have been consistently used as spawning and rearing grounds for the last commercially harvested stock of Pacific herring. The estuaries and riparian areas of the Sound provide spawning and rearing habitat for coho, chum, coastal cutthroat trout and likely steelhead as well. More than fifteen salmon bearing streams drain into Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel. Intertidal eelgrass beds act as nurseries and provide protection and valuable food sources for these salmon. Significant quantities of both wild and cultured shellfish are produced within these waters.²

¹ Dr Doug Hay, retired. herring scientist, DFO in his Nov.2013 letter to FLNRO Deputy Minister Tim Sheldon

² Subsections titled "EcoForum Purpose & Goals" and "Baynes Sound & Lambert Channel Ecosystem" are based on the 2018 Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum Summary Report by Dr. Karen Hurley and Kim Dunn.

Spring 2021 EcoForum Overview

The Spring 2021 Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum took place via Zoom videoconferencing on June 11th from 9:30am-12:00pm. The event began with an introduction and land acknowledgment by Facilitator Jessie Hemphill of Alderhill Planning, followed by a lightning round of participant introductions answering the questions: Who are you? Where are you? And how are you doing today? Participants were then asked to look at a map of Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel and to place a digital stamp on the area they felt most connected to.

Presentations

Comox Valley Conservation Partnership – David Stapley & Tim Innes

The Steering Committee sees the EcoForum as having the potential to be a well-informed catalyst for influencing planners and decision-makers regarding ecosystem management of Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel. To do this effectively, the EcoForum needs a coherent overall assessment of the area's needs, threats and opportunities for recovery. The Committee has been searching for like-minded groups that have developed models for successful advocacy and impact, and this is why we invited David Stapley and Tim Ennis of the Comox Valley Land Trust to present to the EcoForum so that we may learn from their experience.

David Stapley: I started working with the Land Trust as a contractor in 2009. At that time the Land Trust had completed a report for *Nature without Borders*. The results showed there was a lot of work that needed to be done. The Land Trust initiated an invite to ENGOs to come together and work towards a strategy based on the recommendations in the Nature without Borders report. As a result, the Board agreed to make the Conservation Partnership a program of the Land Trust so that the Conservation Partnership could apply for funding and hire staff to help support their volunteers and take on bigger projects. We received grant funding and hired someone to do this work. Another important aspect was the structure we had to create in order to apply for funding, monitor progress, and evaluate outcomes. We had a Steering Committee that accomplished two things: a) it gave members a say in what programs and initiatives we would take on, and b) it allowed the Land Trust to maintain their fiduciary responsibility and control, thus ensuring accountability. It's a structure that is democratic for all members, while also keeping to the requirements of the Land Trust. Strategic planning has been key, so we do a strategic plan every three years. This has helped us align our projects with our visions and our goals, and it allows members to actively participate in helping us set priorities.

Tim Ennis: I came into the Conservation Partnership relatively recently in comparison to David. To reiterate, it was very important to have that galvanizing plan. There was no plan before Nature without Borders. In terms of our plan, once our Conservation Partnership and Steering Committee were formed, we were able to leverage that plan in successful ways. Our partnership is alive, working well, and growing. Twenty-six ENGOs in the Comox Valley are members of the Partnership, this means practically all ENGOs in the Comox Valley, except maybe one or two, are now members. This represents thousands of people who are involved in this project in some capacity or another. We meet on a monthly basis to discuss what we are up to and current challenges we are facing. We work proactively with local governments because they have the most influence on land-use decision making. Therefore, they are the target group for our advocacy efforts, and *Nature without Borders* is our flying banner.

Comox Valley Conservation Partnership Successes:

- Regional Growth Strategy Document: The CVCP has become a common point of contact for the constellation of local ENGOs, which is convenient and time-efficient for local governments. Instead of speaking to each ENGO separately, they can approach the CVCP and get information to everyone at once.
- Conservation plans based on sound and up-to-date geographic data: One of our main interests is keeping a database that is relatively up to date on vulnerable ecosystems. This sensitive ecosystem inventory provides important data that helps to support policy change.
- OCP: Working with local governments is key. We helped develop information around DPA for the Village of Cumberland through our information and data collection. We are also working closely with the city of Courtenay to do the same thing.
- External Expertise: It's important to bring external experts to support and push the envelope on conservation and help us find common ground on where we should be going on environmental protection policies. Hosting events that members and stakeholders (like government and the public) can attend is useful.
- Natural area Management: Assigning dollar figures to the "free" environmental services that nature provides to cities has been helpful in showing the "value" of conservation efforts.
- Public Engagement and Outreach: Land-use decision making can be influenced by public engagement events and outreach. At least three CVCP projects were funded through this tactic.
- Government referral agency: If a developer is proposing to do a development they have to approach the CVCP and then this is passed along to ENGO's in that area. If the ENGO doesn't have the capacity to respond, then our core team will support in getting the required information together.
- Dedicated email referrals: What we were noticing in this process was that there was not a lot of consultation prior to the development process. But now the CVCP is included at the beginning of the development process. Developers now reach out on day one.

- Strategic priorities are best set through a consensus-based model
- Dedicated Coordinator: Having a paid staff person is key.
- Funding: It's hard to get core support/funding. One of the great funders has been the provincial government through the BC community gaming grants. They will fund administrative costs. Other options may be LG Grant-in-Aid funding, and the Real Estate Foundation of BC.
- Importance of non-profit status: Charitable Organization status opens up potential funding opportunities with the government.

EcoForum participants discussed some of the pros and cons of the Conservation Partnership model as it relates to the needs of the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum.

There are some key insights from this discussion that the Steering Committee will need to keep in mind as it further researches potential models for EcoForum structure, funding, staffing, and advocacy:

- There is some funding available for administrative/staffing costs, but staffing for a full-time position would likely require a patchwork of grants and fundraising activities.
- The CVCP does not include government officials among its membership; however, other Conservation Partnerships do. Those Conservation Partnerships may have models that are more relevant to what we are looking to do.
- The CVCP uses *Nature without Borders* as a comprehensive framework that unites their membership and provides focus for their advocacy work and strategic planning.
- The organization has two tiers, a Steering Committee of 8-10 people that have the aptitude and capacity for the leadership work, and a secondary tier of members/supporters that want to stay informed through their newsletter and want to participate in other ways
- The goals of the EcoForum may not be as focused as those of the CVCP, given that we also need to look at industry and recreational needs.
- Activities on land have an effect on the marine environment, so our focus can't be too rigidly limited to oceans or else we may become unable to make the connections between land-based activities and marine ecosystem health and recovery. To that end, it may be useful to extend our network to groups like the CVCP that can help us bridge the gap between land and water.

Committee & Working Group Reports

Steering Committee Update – Daniel Arbour & Dorrie Woodward

In Spring 2020 EcoForum members were tasked with the creation of a Steering Committee. Daniel Arbour, Dorrance Woodward, Jim Russell, Carl Butterworth, Chris Pearce, David Critchley, and Randy Frank joined the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee has been meeting every month or two and has worked arduously to create the Draft Terms of Reference that were ratified at the Fall 2020 EcoForum. The Terms of Reference are now available to members upon request, please email us at: info@bayneslambertecoforum.ca

Until now the EcoForum has been generously supported by Islands Trust and World Wildlife Fund. Unfortunately, World Wildlife Fund is unable to provide continued financial and administrative support, but they kindly left us with a comprehensive report on the overlapping interests and jurisdictions related to Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel. We also used up the in-kind and financial support provided by Islands Trust, so the Steering Committee has had to take on a lot of the administrative work involved in preparing for this EcoForum.

The Steering Committee recently applied for additional sources of financial support and secured two grants for a total of \$7500 that will allow the EcoForum a modest budget for the continuation of its work during the coming year.

The EcoForum has the potential to be a significant catalyst for change in Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel. As a network working together for the long-term ecological health of this marine ecosystem. We have the people, the expertise, and the organizational tools to have a real impact. The Steering Committee is keen to host keynote presentations from groups that have been able to move from discussion to action, and could provide potential models for the EcoForum to learn from.

Website Update – Carl Butterworth

The EcoForum now has a URL (www.bayneslambertecoforum.ca) which is being hosted by the same company that hosts the Islands Trust websites. This will allow the EcoForum to have some continuity as Coordinators and Steering Committee members change over time. We also have a professional Zoom account, a Gmail account, and Google Drive for the Steering Committee to have all information and contacts centralized in one place. The website is not ready yet, but members will be notified when it is made public.

Alternative Aquaculture Practices Committee Update – Barb Mills

The goal of this committee was to see if there are viable alternatives for shellfish aquaculture that are more environmentally friendly. The committee has a diversity of talent and knowledge with representatives from DFO, Industry, ENGOs, Government, and Higher Education meeting a few times per year over the last 3 years.

The Committee focused on practices that are good for the ecosystem, while also viable for aquaculture growers. Our greatest success has been the development of a better understanding of where each stakeholder is coming from. This has allowed us to create an environment of openness for sharing information, designing joint research projects, and researching options for carrying out that research. The difficulty will be finding the funding, students, and growers to come together to make these research projects happen.

We looked into more sustainable aquaculture practices and conditions of license around the world. This research resulted in specific recommendations to the DFO regarding aquaculture conditions of license and prevention of marine debris. The DFO is implementing many of these recommendations and will also be looking at monitoring habitats. As part of these new rules, growers will be spending three months looking at the impacts of practices that could be destructive to marine ecosystems.

The years 2021-2030 have been designated by the United Nations as the *Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development*. As part of the UN's efforts, they published recommendations for a *Blue Economy* which stresses the importance of understanding and better managing the many aspects of ocean sustainability. This EcoForum is a good example of what needs to be done to implement a Blue Economy that can truly pull together local knowledge and science, diverse stakeholder interests, and ecosystem health and recovery.

Resources & Action Steps

Next Steps

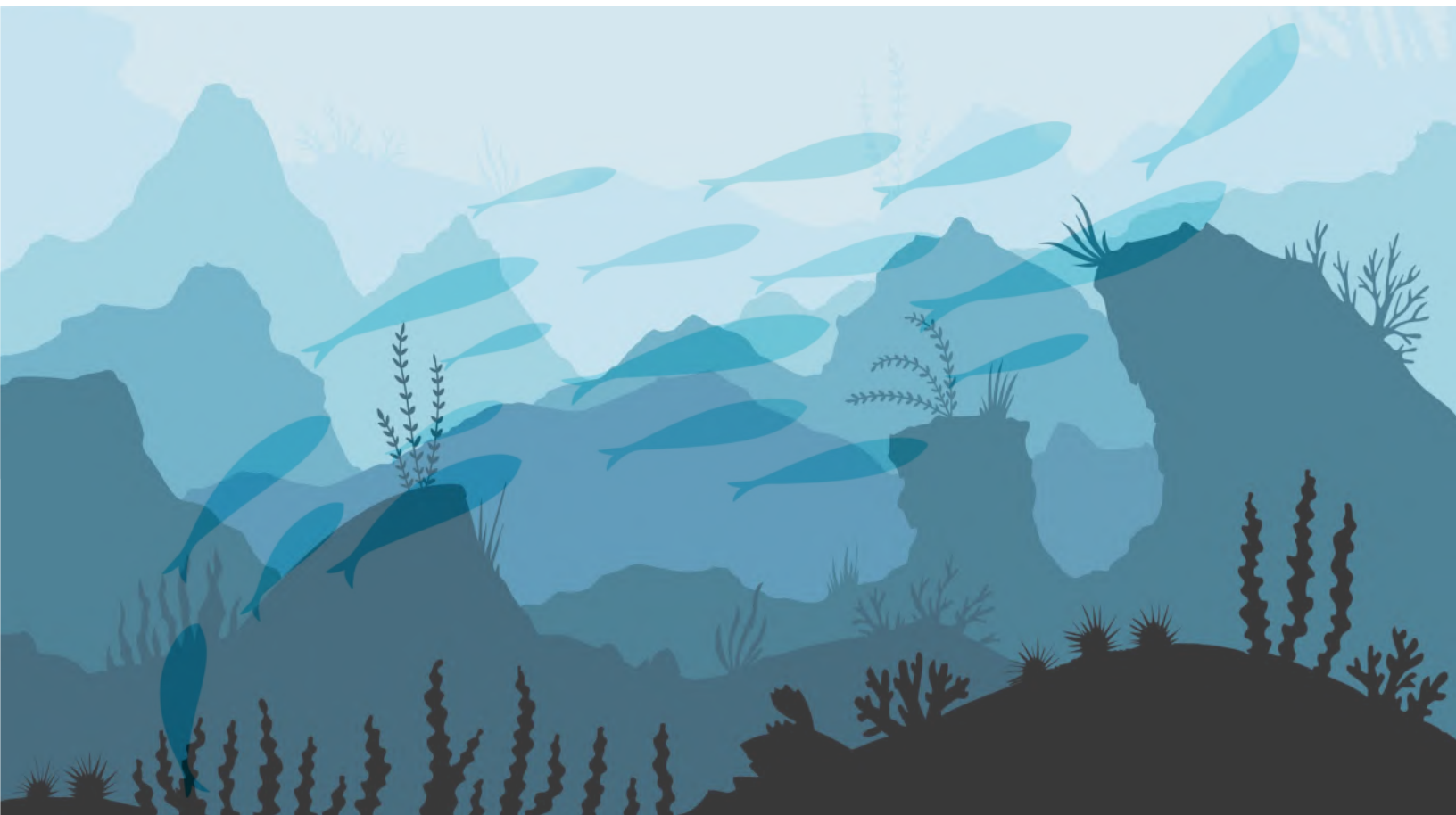
- Steering Committee will investigate options for EcoForum structure (Status Quo, Conservation Partnership, or others) and will bring that info to the Fall forum
- Steering Committee will continue to seek funding options and will learn more about practices and models that can support us to move forward
- Steering Committee will make Terms of Reference available to members
- Steering Committee will prepare a Forum Report for distribution to members
- Alternative Aquaculture Practices Committee will report back on possibility of adding more members to the Committee
- Fall 2021 Forum will be more of a decision-making forum based on recommendations the Steering Committee will bring forward

Resources Shared During the EcoForum

- <https://www.cvlandtrust.ca/cvcp/>
- <https://conservationstandards.org/about/>
- <https://kootenayconservation.ca/>
- Marine Plan Partnership: <http://mappocean.org/#:~:text=The%20MaPP%20initiative%20is%20a%20partnership%20between%20the,North%20Coast%2C%20Central%20Coast%20and%20North%20Vancouver%20Island.>
- Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Partnership: <http://okcp.ca/>
- South Okanagan Similkameen CP: www.soscp.org
- Marine Plan in Haida Nation:
http://mappocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/hg_OverviewLayout-2015-10-06-300dpi-hiWEB.pdf

Appendix A: Participants List

ORGANIZATION	NAME & SURNAME
Alderhill Planning Inc. (Facilitator)	Jessie Hemphill, Kyla Alex
Notetaker	Alderhill Planning Inc.
Comox Mayor's Office	Russ Arnott
Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD)	Daniel Arbour, Alana Mullaly
Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN)	Stuart McLean
Islands Trust (IT)	David Critchley, Laura Busheikin, Marnie Eggen
K'omoks First Nation (KFN)	Randy Frank, Todd Boychuk
Vancouver Island University (VIU)	Carl Butterworth, Timothy Green
Simon Fraser University (SFU)	Leah Bendell
Fisheries & Oceans Canada	Jim Meldrum, Terri Sutherland, Chris Pearce, Chris Marrie, Shelley Jepps, Marisa Keefe
BC Shellfish Growers Assn (BCSGA)	Nico Prins, Malcolm Cowan
Taylor Shellfish	Alex Munro
Assn for Denman Island Marine Stewards (ADIMS)	Barb Mills, Dorrie Woodward
Conservancy Hornby Island (CHI)	Serena Laskin
Project Watershed	Bill Heath
Comox Valley Nature	David Innes
Alternative Practices Committee	Doug Wright



Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum | Fall 2021 **Summary Report DRAFT**

Prepared by VMS

With the generous financial support of:



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Executive Summary

The Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum (hereafter referred to as the “EcoForum”) took place on December 10th, 2021 via Zoom online conferencing. In attendance were approximately thirty participants from First Nations, federal, provincial, and local governments, as well as members of industry, higher education, and environmental conservation organizations. A list of participants can be found in Appendix A.

The EcoForum has been meeting since 2018 on a bi-yearly basis with three key goals:

- To create opportunities for information sharing and collaborative dialogue among diverse stakeholders of the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel ecosystem
- To identify ongoing processes and collaborative actions with potential to support the health and recovery of this ecosystem
- To share knowledge, experience, and ideas that can inform research and problem-solving

The Fall 2021 EcoForum provided an opportunity for the Steering Committee and the Alternative Practices Committee to report back to EcoForum members on progress made since Spring 2021. It also provided a space for presentations and important group discussion.

The first presenter gave an overview of the new Fisheries and Oceans Canada Area-Based Aquaculture Management (ABAM) Pilot Project. The K’omoks First Nation shared that they would be applying to become an ABAM Pilot Area and the EcoForum agreed to support the KFN application, seeing this as an ideal opportunity to expand on opportunities for collaborative ecosystem planning and management.

The second presentation described the Clean Coast Clean Waters Initiative which carried out a cleanup of Comox Valley shorelines collecting over 36 tonnes of marine debris. The presenter shared some lessons from this experience that can help inform future policies meant to prevent marine debris from entering the environment.

The final presentation described research done to assess the carrying capacity for shellfish in Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel. The presentation was followed by questions and answers about the potential for shellfish aquaculture expansion in the area.

Members spoke about the risks associated with allowing ship-breaking in Union Bay and discussed whether the EcoForum should take an official position on this.

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Fall 2021 EcoForum Overview

The Fall 2021 Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum took place via Zoom videoconferencing on December 10th, 2021 from 9:30am-3:00pm. The event began with an introduction and land acknowledgment by Facilitator Jessie Hemphill of Alderhill Planning. She noted the goal of the EcoForum is to take care of an area that has been stewarded by First Nations peoples since time immemorial, and to acknowledge that we play a part in continuing that environmental stewardship by their side.

She reminded the group that there are three primary objectives for this EcoForum:

- a) to introduce Area-Based Aquaculture Management and to ensure we develop a plan for submitting an Expression of Interest for Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel;
- b) to hear from speakers about research and work taking place in the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel area; and
- c) to provide an opportunity for EcoForum members to reconnect with one another.

Presentations

Area Based Aquaculture Management – Amber Neuman

Amber Neuman is the Senior Area-Based Aquaculture Management Coordinator at Fisheries and Oceans Canada. She provided an overview of the ABAM model and explained what they will be looking for in a Pilot Project.

The ideal applicant for a Pilot Project would be an indigenous and multi-stakeholder working group, that would preferably bring together First Nations, BC Government, Industry, Community Stakeholders and other knowledgeable parties. Since the EcoForum has been bringing together these groups and has already worked to develop the relationships of trust needed to carry out this kind of work, the Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel area has potential to be an ideal location for a Pilot Project.

The ABAM model is meant to address VALUES that are unique to the target area, this could include: social, cultural, economic, and environmental values, as well as issues such as food security and other uses of the target area.

The ABAM model is already in place for some finfish management sites, but would be new for shellfish aquaculture.

The ABAM model would foresee a number of levels of coordination:

- A Regional Coordinating Committee for BC
- An Area Committee for each specific region
- An Aquaculture Management Zone for each specific zone
- License Conditions for each site

Timeline for the Pilot Project:

- Introduction & Planning 2021-1
- Collect input 2021-2
- Development 2022-1
- Collaboration & Review 2022-2
- Finalize & Implement 2023

An ideal area for the ABAM Pilot Project would have the following characteristics:

HIGH VALUE aspects:

- Existing partnerships and ongoing relationships with other stakeholders
- Minimum of one First Nation, preferably two or more if the target area overlaps traditional territories
- Opportunity for collaboration between First Nations and Industry

MEDIUM VALUE aspects:

- A defined geospatial area, that can be clearly described, mapped, and assigned as one unique Aquaculture Management Zone (AMZ)
- A descriptive explanation of existing aquaculture (minimum 5+ licensed facilities)
- Potential for growth or innovation, whether that be through growth or expansion of existing facilities, or innovations with respect to technology or aquaculture processes

If we can demonstrate success over 2021-2023 on a Pilot Project, there is potential for expansion to other areas in 2023.

During the discussion following the presentation, Todd Boychuk, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the K'omoks First Nation indicated their interest in leading the application to make Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel the next ABAM Pilot Project. This was unanimously well-received and supported by EcoForum members.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada indicated that their Aquaculture Management Group has some capacity funding available to provide support to applicants. They are also willing to support the KFN application by providing supporting documentation needed for the application. Grace Runciman of Fisheries and Oceans Canada will work with Todd to assist with the application.

There is value in involving multiple First Nations in a proposed area, especially when there are territorial overlaps. The Steering Committee will reach out to the Qualicum and Tla'amin First Nations to see if they are willing to support the ABAM Pilot Application. As the initiative progresses, boundaries for Areas or Zones can be expanded or contracted to better suit the needs of the Pilot Project. In the selection process, they will be looking for a Pilot Area that offers good potential for scalability, given that a

successful Pilot Project would ideally provide a model that could be applied to other areas in 2023.

Support was expressed by EcoForum members for choosing Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel for an ABAM Pilot Project because it provides an opportunity to demonstrate how to cooperatively accomplish goals in an area that has jurisdictional complexities.

EcoForum members agreed to seek approval from their respective organizations to write letters of support to be sent to Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Comox Valley Regional District, the Regional District of Nanaimo, Islands Trust Denman, Project Watershed, the Assn of Denman Island Marine Stewards, and the BC Shellfish Growers Association indicated their intention to seek out letters of support from their organizations. Islands Trust Denman agreed to reach out to Islands Trust Hornby for their support as well.

EcoForum participants voted to approve the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum write a letter in support of the application for a Pilot in ABAM that is being put forward by the K'omoks First Nation.

Moved by DW, Seconded by LB, Carried

Dorrie Woodward will draft the letter of support to be signed by the Steering Committee on behalf of the EcoForum.

Clean Coast Clean Waters Initiative – Lisa Pierce

This massive cleanup project focused on 180km of shoreline in the Central Salish Sea, included six marine stewardship organizations, first nations collaboration, and a huge team of community volunteers and cleanup workers.

The outcome was an astounding: 38 metric tonnes collected: 18 tonnes were recycled, 3 tonnes were reused, 16 tonnes were landfilled. Of the collected debris, 95% came from the shellfish industry. This is not surprising given that this area represents 50% or more of BC's shellfish production. While there are some examples of good shellfish industry stewards, the reality is that there is a great deal of community frustration with the industry. Aside from the derelict gear, we found other problems, such as the use of the shoreline and the high tide line as a storage site for gear, or as a dumping ground for the industry's broken gear. We also found a surprising amount of evidence that the shoreline is being used by workers to defecate. There was a significant amount of gear along the Fanny Bay and Union Bay stretch of shore, some of which required special machinery to remove. With the exception of Mac's Oysters, it was disappointing to find extremely low cooperation from industry.

The objects found during the cleanup were primarily oyster trays, floating bags, rope, predator nets, styrofoam, and zip ties, among other industry gear.

There are some lessons we can take away from this experience. Planning and funding for cleanup efforts must be ongoing, as the gear washing up on shores increases every year. The approximate cost of carrying out these cleanups is \$12/kg or \$5/lb collected. We cannot focus on cleanup efforts alone. Significant damage has been done to spawning grounds, estuaries, and other sensitive habitat. So there must be funding set aside for ecological restoration projects in order to begin reversing that damage. We need regulatory changes, including the prohibition of certain types of industry gear to ensure dangerous gear is no longer lost at sea during storms or as a result of irresponsible storage methods. Enforcement activities must be more proactive to ensure that industry is cleaning up their intertidal tenures. We need to point out that community-led cleanup crews are not allowed to enter active tenure areas to carry out cleanup efforts, so the only option is for industry to recover the lost and broken gear in those areas.

During the discussion following Lisa's presentation, Nico Prins, the new Executive Director for the BC Shellfish Growers Association expressed frustration over the inexcusable amount of marine debris documented in the presentation. He added that only 57% of growers belong to the BCSGA, the other 43% of growers have many derelict, abandoned, and non-productive farms that the Association has little influence over. They are hopeful that DFO will force these growers to become members of BCSGA in future so the Association will have a better chance of influencing behaviour among growers at large. The Association believes that much of this derelict gear is coming from those growers.

Baynes Sound Carrying Capacity for Shellfish – Dr. Terri Sutherland

This research was carried out with support from Mike Foreman FVCOM, Maxim Krassovski FVCOM, Thomas Guyondet, Ramon Filgueira DEB Model, and others. Researchers also collaborated with Gordy McLellan of Mac's Oysters, and Hollie and Greg Wood of HollieWood Oysters.

This study was a collaborative effort to develop a high-resolution, bay-wide assessment that detects change over time. The research took over 9 years to complete, and was meant to determine the ecological shellfish carrying capacity in Baynes Sound. There are challenges in estimating food availability due to vertical migration of phytoplankton, seasonal changes in salinity versus depth, the timing of spring blooms of phytoplankton, and the non-uniform distribution of phytoplankton productivity in Baynes Sound.

The research included a study of water currents and how they affect phytoplankton. They looked at two types of phytoplankton: flagellates and diatoms. They found that the areas where the greatest amount of water mixing takes place are the areas of greatest productivity for phytoplankton. This means there is a great deal of phytoplankton

productivity around Tree Island and Chrome Island, especially during South-Easterly and North-Westerly winter storms. Whenever wind mixes with water, there is a phytoplankton renewal process that leads to greater productivity.

They found that the areas most sensitive to changes are the areas of Mud Bay, Fanny Bay and Deep Bay. We should keep an eye on these areas so as to not over-exploit shellfish plots there. However, the research concluded that there is still capacity to maximize existing tenures.

Discussion following the presentation raised a couple of questions/comments:

On the impact of septic flushing and its potential effect on phytoplankton, Dr. Sutherland noted that phytoplankton prefer ammonia and tend to surge upward and may even flourish when they come across it.

It was noted that phytoplankton is vitally important as a food source for herring and other forage fish, and that these are the building blocks for overall ecosystem sustainability. There was some concern that if we maximize existing aquaculture tenures, there may not be sufficient phytoplankton to sustain a higher shellfish capacity and the needs of herring and forage fish at the same time.

Another concern raised is ocean warming and acidification. Water temperatures during the heat dome reached 26.7°C at the water surface and led to massive shellfish die-off. Going forward we will need to look at how climate change might also affect phytoplankton's ability to sustain a higher shellfish capacity.

Committee & Working Group Reports

Steering Committee Update – Daniel Arbour and Dorrie Woodward

The Steering Committee met in the Fall over several months to organize and prepare for this December 2021 EcoForum. At the last EcoForum, the Steering Committee was tasked with determining what kind of work needs to be done so that the EcoForum will have: a) a coherent picture of the health of Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel, and; b) a functional model for influencing government planning and regulatory decision-making. The Steering Committee will continue to pursue available funding sources to carry out the above. It is also possible that some of these tasks will form part of the work to be done within the Area-Based Aquaculture Management Project, should our area be approved for the Pilot.

Alternative Aquaculture Practices Committee Update – Barb Mills

The Alternative Practices Committee has been meeting for approximately three years and it has been a sometimes difficult but fruitful process that has allowed members to create trust and to have open dialogue about some of the difficulties involved in finding

alternatives to the current system. In order to work on mutual solutions we tried to focus on changes that wouldn't impact growers in terms of time or profits.

We've had some successes this year. We provided input into Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Aquaculture Conditions of License, which resulted in the development of really good infographics for growers regarding the cleanup and marine debris prevention activities that are part of growers' environmental responsibilities. Monitoring of aquaculture sites was expanded and more fines were issued this year, for a total of \$8600 in fines. The BC Shellfish Growers Association created the Shellfish Environmental Program (SHEP Label) to provide a labeling system that can help identify the growers that are more committed to environmental protection practices. With the support of the CVRD, a site will be built in Cumberland for the collection and recycling of end-of-life fishing gear.

Despite those successes, we have a number of obstacles ahead of us. The past year has been one of catastrophic changes caused by the climate crisis:

- Climate change effects, such as the heat wave that resulted in massive shellfish die-off, and record-breaking ocean temperatures
- Increasing storms, which may be partly at fault for the unprecedented levels of marine debris
- Two cases of potentially lethal septicemia were recorded on Denman Island after swimming in the ocean

The Committee identified two topics for potential research projects, but we have been unable to secure funding or a research team to carry them out.

The first would be research on clam bed netting. We want to do a comparative analysis of the pros and cons of growing clams with year-round netting, compared to partial-year netting, compared to no netting at all. If the option of no netting or partial netting proves to be financially viable, this would provide the required evidence to encourage a change in clam growing practices for local industry. Chris Pearce is looking for potential funders.

The second research project we would like to carry out has to do with the rope known as oyster blue. This would likely require some Research & Development to find an alternative rope cheap enough for growers to transition to, but effective enough that they will choose to use it over the long-run. The problem with oyster blue is not just that it enters the environment. Since oysters are grown on the rope itself, it becomes very difficult to separate the rope from the oyster shells, making rope recycling impossible and oyster shell recycling costly and less financially viable.

During general discussion it was suggested that the Steering Committee look for ways to document all the ideas that are being brought to or developed by the Alternative Practices Committee.

Discussion & Updates

Union Bay Boat Decommissioning Site Discussion

The Union Bay Site where boat decommissioning is taking place is a large lot composed of shoreline and uplands property that extends across the highway and includes areas of archaeological interest. It was licensed to be a log dump, with the uplands area used as a log sort. When the property stopped providing logging industry services, the owners approached Project Watershed to investigate the viability of ecological restoration of these areas. Project Watershed assessed the area and found that the seabed is covered in a layer of fibre that has made the area essentially dead ecologically. They found it would be difficult to replant eelgrass, but not impossible. It was identified as an important area suitable for restoration given its proximity to spawning grounds and streams. Old maps of herring spawning grounds confirm that herring used to spawn in the area where the industrial site functions today.

In order to use this site for boat decommissioning, it appears that the owners would have needed to apply for rezoning and a change to the special-use license that had previously allowed them to use the site as a log sort and dump. Studies on cumulative impacts and risk assessments have not been seen. As a result, the license has come under question and the CVRD will be hearing this case soon, so there is a process at play, and things are likely to change as that process plays out.

Hundreds of concerned citizens have already contacted local elected officials on this issue. Additional letters of concern can be sent to the CVRD and other levels of government.

The following draft motion was put on the floor:

Be it resolved that the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum write a letter to the CVRD expressing concerns about the environmental impact of boat decommissioning taking place in Union Bay, and encouraging the District to prohibit such activity unless it:

- a) is proven not to have significant negative environmental impacts on the marine environment (including impacts on the herring spawn, eelgrass, and forage fish);*
- b) has all appropriate permits;*
- c) is not in violation of any provincial, regional, or local policies, nor any First Nations rights, and;*
- d) does not negatively impact the shellfish aquaculture industry in the region.*

A discussion regarding the pros and cons of submitting a letter to the CVRD (on behalf of the EcoForum as a whole) resulted in the decision to provide the above draft motion to members, so that individuals and member organizations could submit their own letters to the CVRD and other levels of government.

It was agreed that this is a multifaceted issue that is further complicated by jurisdictional overlaps and the fact that some members of the EcoForum may be involved in future decision-making regarding this issue. As such, it would not be appropriate for every member organization to sign onto a letter at this time. It will be left up to member organizations to decide for themselves.

Resources & Action Steps

Next Steps

- Todd Boychuk will act as the Lead for the ABAM Pilot Area Expression of Interest application which is due December 31st. There is some flexibility on the deadline for documentation and letters of support
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada will determine which aquaculture licenses fit within the map for the proposed Pilot Area and will send that information to Todd.
- Local Trustees will complete a letter of support through a Resolution Without Meeting
- Stuart McLean will reach out to Qualicum First Nation to see if they are willing to support the application, and will write a letter of support from his office.
- Nico Prins will draft a letter of support on behalf of the BCSGA
- Project Watershed will seek support from their Board to draft a letter
- The ADIMS Board will draft a letter of support as well
- Todd Boychuk will host zoom meeting on December 13 and 14 to work with other EcoForum members to finalize the ABAM application
- The Steering Committee will ensure an EcoForum Summary Report will be distributed to EcoForum members

Appendix A: Participants List

ORGANIZATION	NAMES
Facilitator, Alderhill Planning Inc.	Jessie Hemphill
Notetaker	Carly Bilney
Technical Support	Alec Willie
Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD)	Daniel Arbour
Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN)	Stuart McLean
Islands Trust (IT)	David Critchley, Laura Busheikin, Marnie Eggen
K'omoks First Nation (KFN)	Todd Boychuk, Candace Newman
Vancouver Island University (VIU)	Carl Butterworth
Simon Fraser University (SFU)	Leah Bendell
Fisheries & Oceans Canada	Jim Meldrum, Terri Sutherland, Chris Pearce, Chris Marrie, Kerra Shaw, Grace Runciman, Amber Neuman
BC Shellfish Growers Assn (BCSGA)	Nico Prins, Malcolm Cowan
Assn for Denman Island Marine Stewards (ADIMS)	Barb Mills, Dorrie Woodward, Liz Johnston, Lisa Pierce, Veronika Miralles Sanchez
Project Watershed	Bill Heath, Dan Bowen
Comox Valley Nature	David Innes
Alternative Practices Committee	Doug Wright



COASTAL DOUGLAS-FIR
& ASSOCIATED ECOSYSTEMS
CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

Islands Trust
1627 Fort St
Victoria, British Columbia
V8R 1H8

Attn: Trust Programs Committee

Dear Trust Programs Committee

RE: Request for Funding for Coordination / Administration of the CDFCP in FY22/23

The Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership (CDFCP) would like to thank the Islands Trust for their secretariat support in FY21/22. The funding enabled us to upgrade our website and to secure hosting for two years. As a result of the upgrade, we have been able to integrate additional media into the site resulting in further engagement with members and local government representatives.

The CDFCP is hoping that the Islands Trust will be able to continue to provide secretariat support in FY22/23. This year we are looking for additional administrative support for;

- the organisation and delivery of workshops to increase coordination between organisations and governments involved in research, protection and restoration of Garry Oak Ecosystems;
- the production of the CDFCP eNewsletter, specifically the development of content; and
- agenda preparation, meeting facilitation and minute taking at Steering Committee, Working Group and Technical Committee Meetings.

The CDFCP is seeking \$5,000 from the Islands Trust to enable this increase in capacity.

If you require any further information in relation to how these funds will be allocated, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Darryn McConkey, RPBio (CDFCP Chair)
Senior Ecosystem Biologist
FLNRORD West Coast Region
(250) 739-8237
Darryn.McConkey@gov.bc.ca

Lyndsey Smith
Coordinator
Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership -
<https://www.cdfcp.ca/>
Mobile Number +1 236 979 3963



March 29, 2022

Request to continue funding support for:

Howe Sound Community Forum (the Forum) and Ocean Watch Action Committee

Background:

The Howe Sound Community Forum Purpose:

To provide a forum for local governments, Regional Districts and First Nations discussion to maintain and enhance the economic, environmental, cultural and social well being of the Howe Sound for the benefit of present and future generations

Members of the Forum represent the local governments and regional districts in the Howe Sound watershed. The Forum first convened in 2000, 22 years ago in June. Day long meetings take place in the spring and fall each year with up to 70 people that including NGOs, citizens and government staff attending as observers.

In October 2022 we were able to host a hybrid Forum after three successful Zoom events. We anticipate a return to in person meetings for most of the attendees with the option to dial in by Zoom.

In 2020 and 2021, Islands Trust supported partial costs for administrative support of the HSCF meetings which was most helpful in advancing record keeping, note taking and development of web tools to track actions.

Ocean Watch Action Committee (OWAC):

The Ocean Watch Task Force was a committee created out of the Howe Sound Community Forum following the Ocean Wise 2017 Howe Sound Report and the updated in 2020.

The OWAC committee met over Zoom in October 2021, January, 2022 and March 2022. Minutes and links to presentations can [be found here](#).

In 2020 and 2021 funding from Islands Trust helped to fund support for note taking, record keeping, website changes and the development an Action Tracker housed on the HSBRIIS website. Funding is matched through in-kind donations or contributions from other sources.

2022/23 Program Funding request:

Requesting similar funding to the last two years (\$4,000 in total):

Labour: *To a contract maximum of \$3,650 (\$25 /hour - \$50/hour dependent on nature of work as outlined below)*

- Support for organizing Spring and Fall Howe Sound Community Forum meetings including planning meetings, web conferencing set up and management, post forum reporting, and event management.
- Organize and hosting up four Ocean Watch Action committee meetings (planning, hosting meetings, providing meeting notes, tracking actions, website updating)
- Provide final report summarizing the work provided under the contract.

Expenses: *To a contract maximum of \$250*

- Reimbursement of a single Zoom licence fee while required during the term of the contract.
- Webhosting fee for Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative website

Travel: *to a contract maximum of \$100*

- Actual travel costs incurred to committee meetings for contractor and subcontractor (Fall forum)

With the success of our UNESCO designation in September 2021, it is more important than ever to keep these forums active and people engaged. Funding is most helpful for ensuring consistent and sustainable support.

Sincerely,

Ruth Simons
Executive Director,
Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society (HSBRIS)
Box 465, Lions Bay, B.C. V0N 2E0
howesoundbri@gmail.com
604 921-6564 778 834-4292

March 30, 2022

Islands Trust Programs Committee
c/o Robert Barlow, Legislative Services Clerk
#200-1627 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8R 1H8

To: Islands Trust Program Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to be considered for administrative support by the Islands Trust Secretariat Services Program for the 2022 Rural Islands Economic Forum (RIEF) set for October 20-22. RIEF is an initiative of the Rural Islands Economic Partnership Society <https://ruralislandspartnership.ca>

The Administrative Support the Islands Trust Secretariat provided to the 2021 Rural Islands Economic Forum contributed to the grand success of this event. An overview of the program, which engaged 80 plus islanders from across the Salish Sea can be seen here: <https://ruralislandspartnership.ca/riep-forum/2021-riep-forum-recap/>

In reference 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 in the Secretariat Policy, participants from the Islands Trust executive staff and islands Trustees from Salt Spring, Thetis, Gabriola, Pender, Saturna, and representatives from the provincial and federal levels; and NGO's who serve the islands attended the 2021 Forum.

The Forum is now an annual event and is in alignment with 2.2.3 of the Secretariat Policy. The RIEP Board is planning for the 2022 program to be offered in a hybrid format – in-person and live streamed, depending on the state of pandemic recovery. The Forum will cover a variety of topical, trending and solutions focused workshops, roundtables, presentations, plenaries and guest speakers delivered through a rural islands lens.

We thank you for the opportunity to be considered for administrative support for RIEF 2022. We are a volunteer working Board. The majority of work for planning, organizing and delivering the Forum is the work of volunteers from across BC's rural Islands. Please refer to page #2 of this letter for an outline of Forum 2021 administrative support needs.

With thanks and respectfully,



Francine Carlin, President and Board Chair (Salt Spring)

Cc: Mike Hoebel, Vice-President (Galiano) Keena Hicken-Gabberia- Secretary-Treasurer (Independent)
Rod Marsh, Director (Bowen) Julie Sperber, Director (Gabriola) Mark Lasby, Director (Quadra), Marjorie Giroux, Director, (Malcolm)

Outline Of RIEP- 2022 Rural Islands Economic Forum - Administrative Support Request

1. Tracking and processing Forum registration
2. Track inquiries for information about the Forum
3. Follow-up administration of Forum presenters, workshop leaders, etc.
4. Liaising with and providing administrative support to Forum committee members
5. Ability to work remotely and skilled in document management– xcel, word, etc; proficient online; strong organizational skills.
6. Participating in Forum Team meetings as appropriate