



## Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Minutes of Special Meeting

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Saturday, January 26, 2019</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Harbour House Hotel 121 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC</b>
<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Peter Luckham, Chair Peter Grove, Local Trustee Laura Patrick, Local Trustee</b>
<b>Staff Present:</b>	<b>Stefan Cermak, Regional Planning Manager Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer Jason Youmans, Island Planner William Shulba, Senior Freshwater Specialist Serena Klaver, Planner 1 Sarah Shugar, Recorder</b>
<b>Media and Others Present:</b>	<b>Gary Holman, Electoral Area Director, Capital Regional District Salt Spring Island Driftwood Reporter Approximately 16 members of the public</b>

These minutes follow the order of the agenda although the sequence may have varied.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Luckham called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He introduced himself, the Trustees, CRD Director Holman and staff and acknowledged that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee is meeting within Coast Salish Territory.

### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

### **3. BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **3.1 Local Trust Committee Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Chair Luckham welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented opening remarks.

### **3.2 Staff Presentation on Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) Tax Requisition for 2019 – 2020**

Planner Youmans presented an overview of Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) and the proposed SSIWPA Tax Requisition for 2019 – 2020. Planner Youmans presented a SSIWPA draft budget for April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 and reported that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will consider the proposed SSIWPA tax requisition at the Local Trust Committee meeting scheduled on January 29, 2019.

Senior Freshwater Specialist William Shulba presented an overview of the draft Salt Spring Island Water Sustainability Framework.

CRD Director Holman reported he is acting Co-chair of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance and expressed support for the collaborative multi jurisdictional approach to water resource management on Salt Spring Island.

Trustee Patrick reported she is acting Co-chair of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance and stated that freshwater management is one of the most important issues on Salt Spring Island. She expressed support for the multi agency approach to water management and welcomed feedback from the members of the public.

Trustee Grove spoke to the past work of SSIWPA, to the need for a better understanding of water resources for land use planning and welcomed feedback from the members of the public.

CAO Russ Hotsenpiller stated that the Islands Trust is committed to ensuring the service delivery of SSIWPA is as efficient as possible.

### **3.3 Q & A with SSIWPA Co-Chairs, Local Trust Committee and Islands Trust staff**

A member of the public asked if the current proposed budget has been reduced by \$14,000 due to the unspent funds of \$14,000 from the 2016/17 and 2017/18 budgets.

Planner Youmans advised that the unspent funds are still available.

A member of the public asked if there is an allocation for outreach and education in the SSIWPA budget and who is responsible for outreach and education within SSIWPA.

Planner Youmans stated that the SSIWPA Coordinator is responsible for SSIWPA outreach and education.

Trustee Patrick clarified that SSIWPA directs the outreach and education activities and the coordinator would be responsible for carrying out the directions of the SSIWPA Steering Committee.

A member of the public asked if this special budget request for SSIWPA funding could become a recurring annual tax requisition.

CAO Hotsenpiller stated the Islands Trust Act and delegated authority requires Trust Council to consider SSIWPA's tax requisition on an annual basis.

Trustee Patrick reported that the Provincial Government and the CRD are in discussions regarding the Terms of Reference for a study of Integrated Water Management to assess whether North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) should become a CRD Water Service Area and requested that this study include consideration of a multi-jurisdictional coordinating body.

A member of the public asked if the Trustees are comfortable allocating the limited SSIWPA funding only to "coordination" and expressed support for upgrading the SSIWPA budget to include additional technical work.

Planner Youmans reported that the SSIWPA budget is required to reflect the coordination authority delegated by Bylaw No. 154.

CAO Hotsenpiller reported that SSIWPA determines the project elements and if SSIWPA determines that funds need to be used for technical work those funds would need to be received from another funding source.

Trustee Patrick stated it is an opportunity to decide what SSIWPA priorities are and SSIWPA can look to other agencies for funding work beyond "coordination".

CRD Director Holman stated that SSIWPA is already seeking funds from member agencies and that is an important value of SSIWPA. It is possible for SSIWPA to look to the CRD for funding and the CRD may have more flexibility for the use of funds beyond "coordination". Director Holman expressed support for considering additional funding for SSIWPA and advised that the SSIWPA's strategic plan should be established prior to adding more resources.

Freshwater Specialist Shulba spoke to the coordination of technical work that has been done by member agencies and the additional funds that SSIWPA has received from the "in-kind" work of member agencies. SSIWPA received a \$10,000 grant from the Real Estate Foundation of BC that was in large part due to the multi-agency work of SSIWPA.

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the "blanket taxation" of the proposed tax requisition and the impact to property owners, including farmers that are not in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District and have costs for associated for their own water systems. Concern was expressed regarding the far-reaching impacts to property owners who do not benefit from the service of SSIWPA and asked if Trustees have considered proportional representation or a user-pay model.

CAO Hotsenpiller reported the special tax requisition encompasses the entire Local Trust Area and the average cost per household is approximately \$10 per year.

Freshwater Specialist Shulba spoke to the island-wide benefits of SSIWPA's work including the groundwater-monitoring program and aquifer data that is important to inform land use decisions. He stated that the draft Salt Spring Island Water Sustainability Framework is relevant to groundwater users that are not within Water Service Areas.

Chair Luckham clarified that the proposed tax requisition includes the entire Local Trust Area and the Islands Trust has received concerns from property owners on other islands including Prevost Island and Piers Island. A mechanism to geographically divide the tax requisition is not an option at this time.

CRD Director Holman reported that the proposed tax requisition would cost approximately \$1 per household per month and stated that it is important for SSIWPA's work to be relevant to the community. North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) ratepayers pay for the water treatment plant costs and the Ganges Sewer ratepayers pay for the costs related to the sewer and the community benefits from those services when drinking water and using the toilets in the Ganges area.

A member of the public asked how the Local Trust Committee will ensure that agencies such as the Ministry of Environment, the Salmon Enhancement Society and the Ministry of Agriculture join SSIWPA and asked how more participation can be encouraged at the SSIWPA table.

Trustee Patrick advised that a SSIWPA membership review would need to be a priority.

A member of the public asked for staff comment regarding the statement "The Islands Trust Senior Freshwater Specialist has proposed that administrative coordination of SSIWPA be separated from technical coordination of the Salt Spring Island Water Sustainability Framework." as stated in the staff report dated January 21, 2019.

Planner Youmans advised that staff do not have a full response to the question at this time.

Chair Luckham advised that SSIWPA would need to answer the question regarding whether the technical coordination work should be separated from the administrative coordination work.

Trustee Patrick advised that the current SSIWPA coordinator contract expires on March 31, 2019 and SSIWPA will need to answer the question regarding whether the technical coordination work should be separated from the administrative coordination work.

CRD Director Holman expressed support for SSIWPA to have more focus on the "issues of the day" including the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) moratorium on new water connections and that it would help SSIWPA to be more relevant to the community.

### 3.4 Town Hall

A member of the public expressed support for the proposed tax requisition and acknowledged the challenges inherent in coordinating agencies and working group members.

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the limitations of the funding model and that the funds can only be used for coordination.

A member of the public expressed support for the proposed tax requisition and suggested that SSIWPA funding should be an ongoing allocation. The member of the public stated that an annual requisition suggests that water management is a temporary concern and added that the vision of SSIWPA is island-wide and the budget should be increased to the maximum amount possible between the Islands Trust and the CRD. There are challenges and benefits to the multi-jurisdictional approach to water management and SSIWPA's scope of work is a "work in progress" as there are many unknown variables to consider.

A member of the public read a statement on behalf of another citizen. The statement expressed concerns that SSIWPA's results are not commensurate with the funds spent to date and that SSIWPA needs a new funding model that can be raised and used for tasks beyond coordination. The author recommended that the Local Trust Committee reduce SSIWPA's funding to a minimal level with the objective to make an orderly transition to a more practical and effective funding model.

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the absence of education and outreach funds in the proposed budget and expressed support for the previous speakers presentation regarding support to reduce SSIWPA's funding with the objective to transition to a different funding model.

A member of the public expressed support for increased funding to SSIWPA that would include tangible water conservation projects.

Trustee Grove and Trustee Patrick thanked everyone for the feedback presented.

Planner Youmans reported that the minutes from the Community Information Meeting and the Request for Decision regarding the SSIWPA tax requisition will be forwarded to the Islands Trust Financial Planning Committee. Please submit additional comments to [budget@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:budget@islandstrust.bc.ca).

CRD Director Holman acknowledged the Islands Trust for organizing this Community Information Meeting and stated that North Salt Spring Waterworks District is not currently a member of SSIWPA. Director Holman reported that a meeting is scheduled on January 28, 2019 for the Islands Trust, the CRD and the Province to discuss a Terms of Reference for Integrated Water Management on Salt Spring Island and expressed support for the Islands Trust to be included in the Terms of Reference.

CAO Hotsenpiller reported the public is invited to comment on the Islands Trust draft 2019/20 budget and an online survey is posted on the Islands Trust website: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/budget/>.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

**By general consent** the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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Peter Luckham, Chair

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Sarah Shugar, Recorder