

**ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL
TRUST PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2011
LADYSMITH B.C.

Present: Committee Members

Jeanine Dodds, Mayne (by phone)
George Ehring, Salt Spring (Acting Chair)
Sue French, Thetis
Jen Gobby, Lasqueti (by phone)
David Greer, S. Pender
Jan Hagedorn, Gambier (by phone)
Tony Law, Hornby (Chair, TPC)
Peter Luckham, Thetis (EC Rep)
Sue Ann Morrison, Lasqueti (by phone)
Sheila Malcolmson, Gabriola (ex officio) (by phone)
Beverley Neff, Saturna

Staff

Lisa Gordon, TAS Director
Sonya Sundberg, Grants Administrator
Clare Frater, Policy Analyst (by phone to item 3.3)

The meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

As Trustee Law, Chair of Trust Programs Committee, had advised he would be late to the meeting, the members agreed that Trustee Ehring would act as Chair until Trustee Law's arrival.

By unanimous consent, the agenda was approved without amendment.

2. PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Approval of Regular Minutes of November 16, 2010

The minutes were amended to clarify that the meeting was by teleconference, to spell out ICSP and to correct dates.

It was Moved and Seconded that the Regular Minutes of November 16, 2010 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

2.2 Follow Up Action List

Lisa Gordon reported on the Follow-Up Action List items and gave a brief outline of tasks underway.

3. COUNCIL REFERRALS

3.1 Community Stewardship Awards 2011

Tony Law joined meeting and assumed the role of Chair.

Lisa Gordon reported that the 2011 awards program is ready to launch with a deadline of April 29, 2011.

There was discussion about whether to increase advertising of the program to bring in more applications. There was concern it would increase staff work load. Committee members warned that ads would not be effective on smaller islands, but could provide good profile on larger islands. There was consensus that

additional advertising occur in the Bowen Undercurrent and Islands Tides only. The committee directed staff to provide a poster to hand out at local meetings.

3.2 Advocacy roles at the Islands Trust – briefing for Council

Lisa Gordon explained that the advocacy role is growing in importance, and that policy is needed in order to clarify roles and to improve effectiveness. The briefing is a first step towards developing a policy and will go to Trust Council with a request to provide more examples or scenarios of actual advocacy situations.

The committee members reviewed the Trust Council briefing and discussed the following:

- It would be useful to have a list of examples or scenarios for how to approach different advocacy situations. The guidance document could be provided in a chart format including the following items: who it is from, who it is to, what it's about, and how it is carried out.
- Guidance is also needed for how to advocate at the island level and how to differentiate trustee roles from personal opinion.
- Guidance is needed on how to advocate on behalf of the Islands Trust as an organization, rather than on external issues. Lisa Gordon clarified that this policy applies to external advocacy only, but will consider this topic for possible revisions to the communications policy.
- More clarification is needed for when an LTC chair makes a decision as opposed to the LTC as a whole. It is also not clear if an LTC needs to go to Executive Committee for approval of an advocacy position that is outside the LTC mandate.
- A member asked whether media releases issued by the Islands Trust Chair on advocacy positions, can first be circulated among trustees to provide comments. Committee members responded that the Islands Trust Chair is only allowed to take advocacy positions on statements already endorsed by Trust Council. It was also noted that advocacy positions are currently based upon the Policy Statement topics, but that a process is needed to deal with emerging issues.
- A line could be added to clarify trustee roles when speaking on behalf of the LTC or the Islands Trust when they have not been delegated as the representative.
- One committee member commented that section 3.7 of Communications Policy 6.10.ii about countering incorrect information is unrealistic as it is impossible to keep track of all the sources, especially on blogs.

The committee directed staff to revise the "Background" section of the briefing in the second paragraph to state "make other decisions that affect Trust Area ecosystems and communities."

It was Moved and Seconded that the Trust Programs Committee forward the briefing on advocacy roles as amended to Trust Council.

CARRIED

3.3 Marine advocacy program strategy – briefing for Council

Staff described work to date on the marine advocacy strategy and advised that Transport Canada has recommended the Islands Trust be involved in the consultation processes established by Transport Canada, namely the Canadian Marine Advisory Council and the Regional Advisory Council on Oil Spills. Committee members expressed support for staff attendance at the Transport Canada consultation meetings.

The committee members reviewed the Trust Council briefing and discussed that the title should reflect that the briefing is specific to shipping and not other marine issues. Staff responded that it has been left broad intentionally as many marine issues intersect with shipping. There was concern that leaving it too broad will have implications for staff time and resources. It was noted that marine issues were a high priority on the Strategic Plan.

Committee members commented that if the strategy is to go beyond shipping, topics could include point source/non point source pollution of marine environment from land-based activities, siltation from shoreline disturbance, aquaculture, species at risk, and styrofoam pollution. It was suggested those topics be added to the list at the beginning of the document already endorsed by Trust Council. New items could be sent to staff to be considered by trustees for the next strategic plan. Staff responded that the current method for addressing new topics is to maintain a list of related emerging issues which are then brought to Executive Committee as needed.

Committee members suggested that Transport Canada should perhaps be listed as an ally as they also represent subagencies that could be helpful. They also suggested that the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre is a strong advocacy group with a specific agenda and it may be necessary to explore that relationship separately.

Committee members were concerned that there are limited areas on the Salish Sea to anchor large vessels and these areas appear to be nearing capacity. It was suggested that an analysis of anchorage capacity needs to happen. Concern was also expressed about the recent ship carrying spilled radioactive materials that returned to Canada for clean-up and was anchored off Ladysmith.

The committee asked staff to ensure consistency between the use of Salish Sea or Georgia Strait.

Committee members also commented that there was a 2009 Trust Council resolution passed on sewage pollution but not all LTCs have received the recommendation. Staff responded they would follow up with Local Planning Services.

It was Moved and Seconded that the Trust Programs Committee forward the marine advocacy program strategy briefing to Trust Council.

CARRIED

3.4 Policy statement review – RFD for Council re Gas Tax funding

The committee members reviewed the Request for Decision destined for Trust Council and the attached draft *Policy Statement Review re: Gas Tax Fund Options*.

Some committee members were concerned about the high cost of reviewing the Policy Statement, even if it is externally funded. There was concern that the proposed scale of the review could make it more difficult for future Trust Councils to consider repeating the exercise. An alternative was suggested whereby a small group of staff and trustees draft a new policy statement and send it for public consultation. It was also suggested to bring costs down in the larger proposal by holding trust-wide forums only, instead of on-island consultations. Concern was also raised about who would draft the revised Policy Statement. Staff clarified that the writing function in stage 3 belongs with senior staff rather than contractors.

Other committee members responded that pursuing external funding is the only way to do the revision given that no Council has yet been willing to allocate local taxpayer funds to do it. Some members noted that the process needs to begin with a public discussion, as there is too much conversation to catch up on. Members also noted that the public have higher expectations now about the level of consultation required, compared to when the Policy Statement was first written and the associated costs are inescapable. Staff provided examples of similar project costs incurred by other local governments with similar populations.

Committee members considered the demands on staff time for the next term and discussed what an enormous undertaking it is to properly review the policy statement.

One member asked why there isn't already a process for continually updating the Policy Statement. The proposal needs to include a system that ensures the Policy Statement is reviewed regularly.

It was Moved and Seconded that the Trust Programs Committee recommend that Trust Council endorse the Policy Statement Review Options: re: Gas Tax Funding document in principle and request the Executive Committee to oversee the development of a detailed funding application to the Gas Tax Fund administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

CARRIED

3.5 Policy Statement Task Force – clarify next steps

Lisa Gordon provided an update on the work of the Policy Statement Task Force and requested input from the committee on next steps.

Committee members commented that it may be more useful to choose eight to ten priority topics from both the left and right hand column of the topic review inventory, instead of just the left column. It was also suggested that instead of picking priority topics, that the topics should be grouped under themes. Concern was also expressed that only picking the top ten from the list assumes that the Policy Statement will continue to use the same format, which may change if a review occurs. It was clarified that both the topic review inventory and the shortlist of recommended priority topics will be provided to the next Council.

Staff agreed to pass on the recommendations to the Chair of the Policy Statement Task Force.

3.6 Legislative monitoring – briefing for Council

The committee members reviewed the legislative monitoring chart and had the following comments:

- Items should be removed from the chart after Trust Council has seen them twice, unless ongoing activity is expected.
- Bill 11 requires changes to Temporary Use Permits but the forms and guidelines on the Islands Trust website are still the old ones. Staff responded that this task has been assigned to Local Planning Services and will be complete very soon.
- There needs to be a better way to follow up on work arising from legislative change. Staff responded that actions should be on follow up action lists to ensure it is on the staff work programs. The committee asked staff to prepare a request for decision for Executive Committee.

It was Moved and Seconded that the Trust Programs Committee forward the legislative monitoring chart to Trust Council and that staff create a Request for Decision for the Executive Committee to ensure there is sufficient follow up on the legislative services monitoring chart.

CARRIED

3.7 Indicator program update – methodology development

The committee members reviewed the briefing and provided the following input:

- Concern was expressed regarding the value of the work. Staff responded these indicators are those where data is easily available.
- The first three indicators seem to all relate to protected areas. Staff could describe how the first three are distinct from each other.
- The indicator for kilometers of public roads was questioned as to its relevancy. Other members felt it was useful as an indication of sprawl and settlement patterns.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

Peter Luckham reported from the Executive Committee that a recent meeting with Minister Coell was positive. The Executive Committee has decided not to sponsor new resolutions to UBCM this year.

5. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

5.1 TPC Committee Report and Work Program

Lisa Gordon presented the Trust Programs Committee work program report. NAPTEP was moved down the list and replaced by the Community Stewardship Awards for this quarter.

It was Moved and Seconded that the Trust Programs Committee forward its work program to Trust Council.

CARRIED

6. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting time was approved as follows: Monday, May 16, 2011 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Town Hall in Ladysmith.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Sonya Sundberg
Recorder

Tony Law
Chair