



**Islands Trust Council
Minutes of Quarterly Meeting
December 8-10, 2015
Victoria, BC**

Present:

Executive Committee:

Peter Luckham, Chair (Thetis)
Laura Busheikin, Vice Chair (Denman)
George Grams, Vice Chair (Salt Spring)
Susan Morrison, Vice Chair (Lasqueti)

Local Trustees:

David Critchley, Denman
Melanie Mamoser, Gabriola
Heather O'Sullivan, Gabriola
George Harris, Galiano
Sandy Pottle, Galiano
Dan Rogers, Gambier
Kate Louise Stamford, Gambier
Alex Allen, Hornby
Tony Law, Hornby
Tim Peterson, Lasqueti
Brian Crumblehulme, Mayne
Jeanine Dodds, Mayne
Dianne Barber, North Pender
Derek Masselink, North Pender
Peter Grove, Salt Spring
Paul Brent, Saturna
Lee Middleton, Saturna
Bruce McConchie, South Pender
Wendy Scholefield, South Pender
Ken Hunter, Thetis

Municipal Trustees:

Sue Ellen Fast, Bowen
Alison Morse, Bowen

Staff:

Linda Adams, Chief Administrative Officer
Lisa Gordon, Director, Trust Area Services
David Marlor, Director, Local Planning Services
Cindy Shelest, Director, Administrative Services
Carmen Thiel, Corporate Secretary (Recorder)
Jennifer Eliason, Manager, Islands Trust Fund (Dec. 9)
Clare Frater, Trust Area Policy Analyst (Dec. 9)

Guest:

Russ Hotsenpiller, incoming Chief Administrative Officer (Dec.9)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm. Chair Luckham acknowledged that the meeting was being held in traditional territory of the Coast Salish First Nations and acknowledged Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations in Lekwungen territory.

It was indicated that in keeping with the procedural rules under Trust Council Procedure Bylaw 101, new business items to be considered during approval of the agenda must be urgent.

Twenty two Trustees were in attendance with Trustees Rogers, Dodds, Fast and Morse expected shortly.

Notice of New Items and Approval of the Agenda

The Chair noted the three day agenda for adoption and asked if there were any new items.

It was agreed that Item 2.3 Bylaw Enforcement Report be deferred to Wednesday morning and that item 7.4 Disposition of Delegations and Town Hall Requests be considered following the Delegations & Town Hall session. It was also agreed to consider adoption of some proposed changes to the Strategic Plan after the session about potential review of the Policy Statement.

By general consent the three day Islands Trust Council meeting agenda for December 8-10, 2015 was adopted as revised.

WORKING WITH THE ISLANDS TRUST FUND (1)

Islands Trust Fund Manager, Jennifer Eliason, introduced Islands Trust Fund staff Kate Emmings, Nuala Murphy, Corlynn Strachan and Kathleen Williams and reviewed current activities island by island.

Trustees Rogers and Fast entered the meeting at 1:27 pm. Trustee Dodds entered the meeting at 1:31 pm and Trustee Morse entered at 1:37 pm.

Trustee Law spoke to the work of the Trust Fund Board which includes supporting local trust committee decisions. Trustee Stamford addressed the topic of management plans for specific properties, which determine the species being protected, and highlighted the importance of volunteers and their preservation efforts. Trustee Morrison described how the Islands Trust Fund can help people to protect their land, citing the John Osland Reserve on Lasqueti Island as an example.

An overview of the Islands Trust Fund programs and services was provided and the role of trustees and the opportunities for collaboration were discussed. A question and answer period ensued.

DECISION AND INFORMATION ITEMS (2)

1. GENERAL

1.1 Resolutions Without Meeting - TC-RWM-2015-005, TC-RWM-2015-006, TC-RWM-2015-007, TC-RWM-2015-008, TC-RWM-2015-009; and TC-RWM-2015-010

Provided for information.

1.2 September 2015 Trust Council Meeting Draft Minutes – Adoption by General Consent

Chair Luckham asked if there were any amendments to the minutes prior to adoption. Trustee Busheikin requested that the minutes be changed on page 12 to reflect that she voted in favour of Resolution TC-2015-110. Trustee Stamford asked that the minutes be changed under item 7.1.5 to reflect that Trustees Rogers, Stamford and Chair Luckham would also attend the Howe Sound Community Forum.

By general consent the minutes of September 15-17, 2015 were adopted as amended.

1.3 Trust Council Follow-Up Action List

Provided for information.

2. LOCAL PLANNING

2.1 Director of Local Planning Services Report

Provided for information.

There was discussion about the purpose of the Green Shores for Homes initiative. Director of Local Planning Services, David Marlor, was asked if another southern planning team meeting would be held, similar to the one held at the beginning of the current term of office. Mr. Marlor indicated that he would ask the Southern Islands Regional Planning Manager if another meeting was planned.

2.2 Local Planning Committee Work Program Report – Decision

The Committee's top three priorities outlined in the report were: community housing needs, shoreline marine planning and appropriate economic development. The Local Planning Committee's primary focus for next year will be community housing needs.

TC-2015-133

MOVED by Trustee Brent, SECONDED by Trustee Harris,

that the Islands Trust Council approve the top priorities of the Local Planning Committee Work Program Report.

There was general discussion about the priority items listed in the report.

The question on the motion was called,

CARRIED

3. EXECUTIVE

3.1 Chief Administrative Officer's Report

Provided for information.

3.2 Executive Committee Work Program Report – Decision

The top three priorities in the work program were: Governance, Policy, Strategic Planning and Trust Council; Communications, Advocacy, Policy Statement, Interagency and Public Relations; and Organizational Improvements.

There was discussion about:

- what was included under the broad category of Oil Spill and Shipping Safety Advocacy and whether anchorages fell under this category;

- how associated islands, currently within the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area, would be redistributed to other Local Trust Areas in the event Salt Spring Island incorporates; and
- whether the Executive Committee has received a request from the Mayne Island Conservancy asking that the Port of Vancouver provide supplies for communities dealing with oil spills.

TC-2015-134

MOVED by Trustee Morrison, SECONDED by Trustee Pottle,
that the Islands Trust Council approve the top priorities of the Executive Committee Work Program Report.

CARRIED

The meeting recessed at 3:05 pm and resumed at 3:33 pm.

ADAPTATION STRATEGY – PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES (3)

Chair Luckham introduced the following staff from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development:

- Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM)
- Gary Paget, Executive Director
- Marijke Edmondson, Director – Local Government Structure

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Linda Adams provided an overview of the context for an Islands Trust Adaptation Strategy. The draft principles and objectives for the future Adaptation Strategy were then discussed.

ADM Tara Faganello shared recommendations from the Minister and Ministry staff and encouraged Islands Trust to take a leadership role with the Adaptation Strategy, as follows:

- The Minister strongly encourages Trust Council to develop a full adaptation strategy and to have it available for the electorate prior to an incorporation vote on Salt Spring Island;
- Islands Trust is resilient and has seen many changes. Examples to lean on from the past are the Bowen Island incorporation and incorporations within the Capital Regional District;
- Some tools that may be used in developing the strategy are experience with the Bowen Island incorporation, the protocol agreement between the Ministry and Islands Trust regarding a framework for incorporation of island municipalities within the Trust Area; the proposed three year planning contract with a newly incorporated island municipality; and the requirement for consistency between an island municipality's Official Community Plan and the Islands Trust policy statement;
- If Trust Council looks now to resources, staff, and addressing concerns of the public regarding how the Islands Trust would adapt in the event of Salt Spring Island incorporation, the adaptation principles and objectives can serve as a communication opportunity with the public;
- the Ministry is available to help Islands Trust with the transition plan and it is a leadership opportunity for Trustees.

A question period ensued between Trustees and Ministry staff. Topics of discussion included:

- how the Minister decides whether to send the question of incorporation to cabinet;
- the Islands Trust Policy Statement provides that Trust Council take a neutral view of incorporation within the Trust Area and that each island is able to make decisions on governance structure within the *Islands Trust Act*;
- the adaptation strategy could address operational issues such as the loss of revenue and how that will affect the Islands Trust's future and articulate the processes needed to allay people's concerns about things that may have impacts on them;
- as a result of the incorporation of Bowen Island, it has more local autonomy and is less influenced by the Regional District; it has more focus on services and less on environmental

- protection; being part of Islands Trust has a low profile on Bowen Island and it hasn't been that involved in the rest of Howe Sound; high staff turnover has been an issue;
- there is discomfort about the unknown which could sway the vote negatively and Islands Trust is being asked to say it's going to be alright; we have an opportunity to re-envision our purpose and delivery of our mandate and should ask the Ministry to commit to much larger funding to address some of the opportunities for leadership;
 - we have policy statements/restrictions and our mandate "to preserve and protect"; the mandate will be diminished after incorporation and we can't minimize the effects of incorporation on Islands Trust;
 - we are a public consultation body and there is a sense that trustees want to do a public consultation about the principles and objectives of an adaptation strategy;
 - Bowen Island's Letters Patent would be baseline assumptions for developing Letters Patent for Salt Spring Island; Trust Council could recommend what amount of money Islands Trust needs for support of a consultation process; Letters Patent should clearly tell the public what their municipality would look like;
 - At the time the protocol agreement with the Ministry was made, the agreement stated that Islands Trust would receive draft Letters Patent to review in advance; now those documents are created by lawyers in another Ministry and draft Letters Patent are subject to cabinet confidence; the Ministry can share the overall framework and concepts of proposed Letters Patent with the Islands Trust; the protocol agreement could be updated in regards to some of these aspects;
 - Through its mandate, Islands Trust has a responsibility to the citizens of BC, which it has upheld for 40 years; a diminishment has been seen in terms of financial support from the Province and the Islands Trust electorate is now providing support, in part, on behalf of the Province; Why is there not more support from the Province?
 - Islands Trust has evolved over 40 years with a big change in 1989 to provide opportunity for island municipalities without having them leave the Islands Trust; over time the model can't be static, it has to change; it is important for Islands Trust to express to the Province how it wants to see changes made, if any; Islands Trust has to deal with immediate reality about incorporation and as a group in strategic planning, think about its vision and mission and dialogue over time;
 - there is support for local autonomy on Bowen Island; the island municipality has done well on some environmental matters and being a municipality has allowed them to do that; they have incorporated Riparian Area Regulation protection in their bylaw;
 - the *Islands Trust Act* provides for island municipalities; is the Islands Trust so brittle that it can't adapt to provisions in its Act?

CAO Linda Adams advised that the draft Table of Contents for the initial transition plan contains basic assumptions, principles and objectives for the long term adaptation strategy. It was pointed out that incorporation may happen regardless of how anyone feels about its impact. Trust Council can determine what the optimal situation will be and how to explain its approach to the public regarding how to get to that optimal situation.

There was discussion about the first four principles for the adaptation strategy and whether the Ministry has an idea about the cost of dedicating resources to Trust Council to make decisions about the objectives and principles of a strategy.

The meeting recessed at 5:02 pm.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015

The meeting reconvened at 8:30 am. Twenty five Trustees were in attendance. Trustee absent: Alex Allen, Hornby.

CLOSED MEETING (4)

TC-2015-135

MOVED by Trustee Morrison, SECONDED by Trustee Morse,

that the Islands Trust Council meeting be closed to the public subject to Sections 90(1)(c), (g) and (i) of the *Community Charter* in order to consider matters related to:

- labour relations or other employee relations;
 - litigation affecting the Islands Trust, and
 - receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege; and
- that CAO Linda Adams be invited to attend the entire meeting and other Islands Trust staff be invited to attend Parts 2 and 3 of the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting closed to the public at 8:30 am and reopened to the public at 9:15 am. with Trustee Allen present.

DECISION AND INFORMATION ITEMS (2) cont'd.

2.3 Bylaw Enforcement Reporting – Briefing

Bylaw Enforcement Manager Miles Drew provided a report on the number of enforcement files by local trust area and by type of enforcement. The report also included the status of open files and the length of time current files have been open.

3.3 Continuous Learning Plan

During discussion the following topics were suggested for consideration in the continuous learning plan, at future Trust Council meetings:

- Training for First Nations workshop for the March session – Consensus;
- Session on working with regional districts – ie. have federation-wide regional directors at a meeting and discuss how to work with them – Consensus;
- Bylaw enforcement rules on Ombudsperson website - have their office give a presentation – Consensus;
- Planning permits and when zoning takes precedence over Development Permits – suggestion that information could be recirculated to Trust Council on this topic. Director of Local Planning Services, David Marlor, indicated that he planned to do a survey of trustees to see where the gaps are in their understanding of land use planning and set up refresher sessions;
- Victoria office review as a session in March – the Select Committee is unlikely to be prepared to have a session on this topic – under advisement;
- Training in effective communications instead of San Juan County visit, and drop Victoria office review in March – under advisement;
- Effective Advocacy proposed for March - Trust Programs Committee is proposing this session to assist Trust Council in thinking about how we advocate and communicate and interact with other agencies and levels of government;
- Green Shores approach – an ongoing project report will be distributed to Trust Council including one initial project;
- Continuous Learning Plan topics should be ones that generally apply to all trustees;

- The Galiano Island Local Trust Committee has developed protection of shorelines material; the development permit developed on Galiano Island with the Green Shores for Homes as a template could be reviewed by Trust Council;
- Session on what is a development permit; present the Green Shores guide developed for Thetis Island at the next Trust Council meeting.

3.4 Strategic Plan – Quarterly Update

Provided for information. Staff were complimented on the way the update was designed. It was noted that “South Pender” should be removed from page 4 under Phase 3. re RAR protection.

3.6 Initial Adaptation Strategy – Briefing

Provided for information. Suggestions for topics that should be highlighted in the strategy were welcomed. A quote was considered from the November 24, 2015 letter from ADM Tara Faganello suggesting that Trust Council might examine the excess of tax revenues over local planning expenditures on Salt Spring Island, even if local voters do not support incorporation.

TC-2015-136

MOVED by Trustee Law, SECONDED by Trustee Brent,

that the Executive Committee be requested to prepare recommendations for Trust Council on a possible process to address the excess of tax revenues over local planning expenditures on Salt Spring Island in the event that Salt Spring Island does not become incorporated.

CARRIED

During discussion on the table of contents and outline for the strategy it was pointed out that the Ministry has appealed to Islands Trust to provide a transition plan and adaptation strategy that is reasonably specific on how Islands Trust would adapt structurally and economically to incorporation. It was noted that Section 5. Long Term Implications, when fleshed out, will give the Ministry the answers they are seeking. Further suggestions for topics to be highlighted in the strategy included:

- If the Ministry is prepared to engage with the Islands Trust in a more fulsome citizen engagement process, include an engagement mechanism that seeks guidance in reorganization of trust programs and services in the event of incorporation and provide a budget number for this engagement;
- Title of document – put in a modifying word either “hypothetical” or “contingent” to emphasize it is a conditional thing;
- Add wording in Section 5.4.5 making a Salt Spring municipal council accountable for the Islands Trust mandate and consider whether it could be included in the Letters Patent;

It was agreed that a WORD version of the transition plan could be distributed to Trustees for their input.

Ann Kjerulf, Regional Planning Manager for the northern office, was introduced.

The meeting recessed at 10:15 am and reconvened at 10:47 am.

3.7 Principles and Objectives for Adaptation Strategy - Decision

CAO Linda Adams introduced and presented the report.

TC-2015-137

MOVED by Trustee Middleton, SECONDED by Trustee Brent,

that the Executive Committee appoint an Adaptation Select Committee, terms of reference to be developed and approved in cooperation with staff, and that the Select Committee engage an external consultant to facilitate its work and that the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development be requested to fund the work of this committee.

Chair Luckham indicated that Trust Council had passed an earlier resolution requesting the Executive Committee and the Financial Planning Committee do this work.

There was discussion about the how the terms of reference would be developed, the time constraints for completing the study, the fact that there are two Trust Council committees already qualified to work on the strategy, staff and committee capacity, whether the Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Committee could be asked to take this on and the importance of a show of good faith and cooperation with the Ministry's request.

The question on the motion was called,

DEFEATED

Trustees Scholefield, Mamoser, Middleton, McConchie, Grams, Barber, Peterson, Critchley, Brent, Masselink, Harris and Hunter in Favour

TC-2015-138

MOVED by Trustee Morrison, SECONDED by Trustee Dodds,

that the Islands Trust Council adopt the principles and objectives to guide development of a future Adaptation Strategy regarding the potential incorporation of Salt Spring Island, as indicated in the document entitled Islands Trust Adaptation Strategy – Principles and Objectives, dated December 9, 2015.

TC-2015-139

MOVED by Trustee Morse, SECONDED by Trustee Grove,

that the motion be amended to delete "adopt" and insert "approve in principle" to read as follows:

that the Islands Trust Council approve in principle the principles and objectives to guide development of a future Adaptation Strategy regarding the potential incorporation of Salt Spring Island, as indicated in the document entitled Islands Trust Adaptation Strategy – Principles and Objectives, dated December 9, 2015.

During discussion it was emphasized that a strong public process is needed to develop an Adaptation Strategy and there was a question about whether consulting with the public would include other agencies.

The question on the amendment was called,

CARRIED

Trustees Fast, Busheikin and Brent Opposed

The question on the motion, as amended, was called,

CARRIED

Trustee Scholefield Opposed

4. ORGANIZATIONAL/FINANCE

4.1 Director of Administrative Services Report

Provided for information.

4.2 Financial Planning Committee Work Program Report – Decision

The top three priorities of the committee's work program were noted as: First Draft of 2016/17 Budget, Complete the 2014/15 Forecast, and Complete the 2014/15 Financial Statements Allocated to Local Trust Committees. It was noted that reference to the third quarter fiscal year under *Work Program Status* should read: 2015/2016.

TC-2015-140

MOVED by Trustee Grove, SECONDED by Trustee Morse,

that the Islands Trust Council approve the top priorities of the Financial Planning Committee Work Program Report as amended.

CARRIED

4.3 September 30, 2015 Quarterly Financial Report – Decision

TC-2015-141

MOVED by Trustee Grove, SECONDED by Trustee Brent,

that the Islands Trust Council approve the September 30, 2015 Quarterly Financial Report as presented.

CARRIED

Director of Administration, Cindy Shelest, noted that the potential for negative interest rates is of concern for investment income forecasts.

4.4 Financial Forecast for March 31, 2016 - Briefing

Provided for information.

Trustees were advised to wait to hear from Jag Dhau, Computer Support Technician, prior to loading updates on iPhones and iPads. Ms. Shelest reported that there has been discussion about eScribe updates and there have been some concerns with ongoing eScribe issues and upgrades. As a result, the president of eScribe will be coming to BC to meet with Islands Trust staff and Islands Trust is starting an internal review of eScribe, to evaluate how it is performing in relation to the original goals.

5. TRUST AREA SERVICES

5.1 Director of Trust Area Services Report

Provided for information.

During discussion on the report, Director of Trust Area Services, Lisa Gordon, highlighted the upcoming Salish Sea Conference which is open to the public. She noted that Islands Trust staff have been approved as presenters. It was indicated that a link can be sent to trustees for registration at the April 13-15, 2016 conference.

5.2 Trust Programs Committee Work Program Report

The top three priorities noted were: Amend Crown Land Cooperation Agreements, Review the Islands Trust Policy Statement and Protect Quality and Quantity of Water Resources.

TC-2015-142

MOVED by Trustee Masselink, SECONDED by Trustee Crumblehulme, that the Islands Trust Council approve the top priorities of the Trust Programs Committee Work Program Report.

CARRIED

5.3 Trust Fund Board Report

Provided for information. Trustee Law reviewed highlights of the report including: support for Fairyslipper Forest; Mt. Trematon Nature Reserve reparation; project with grad student re extending covenants to working landscapes; and work with the Ministry to fill a vacancy on the Trust Fund Board due to completion of term.

The Chair introduced Russ Hotsenpiller, the new Islands Trust Chief Administrative Officer, who is coming from the Strathcona Regional District.

DELEGATIONS AND TOWN HALL (5)

Jan Slakov, Citizens Climate Lobby re Climate Change

Jan Slakov and Jan Inglis spoke to the efforts of the Citizens Climate Lobby regarding climate change. Following up on its September 2015 letter to the Federal Government, calling for climate action, Trust Council was requested to send a second letter to Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister McKenna endorsing fee and dividend carbon pricing.

Graham Brazier, Gulf Islands Alliance re Strategic Plan and Marine and Shoreline Protection

Speaking on behalf of the Gulf Islands Alliance, Mr. Brazier expressed concern that the Trust Council Strategic Plan 2014-2018 does not adequately address marine issues and shoreline protection. Trust Council was asked to establish a committee, with allocated staff time and funding, to examine fresh approaches to preserving and protecting coastal shorelines and marine areas. Trust Council was also asked to consider structural changes by bringing zoning responsibility for marine and shoreline areas under the jurisdiction of the Council as a whole and removing it from local trust committees, which would require a legislative change.

Protect Grace Islet Group re Protection for Areas with Archaeological Values

Joe Ackerman and Jean Wilkinson, representing the Protect Grace Islet Group, advised that through the Grace Islet issue they have been able to engage the Province in properly implementing the *Heritage Conservation Act* and discussing the idea of a First Nations land trust with Minister Pollak and other First Nations. The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee was commended for supporting First Nations in calling for a stop to the desecration of the burial ground on Grace Islet Initiatives in the Trust Council Strategic Plan regarding First Nations were referenced and Trust Council was asked to:

- Urge the Province to strengthen the *Heritage Conservation Act* to provide full protection for First Nations archaeological sites;
- Complete the Strategic Plan activities budgeted for in the current budget cycle to improve engagement, communication and consultation with First Nations; and

- Collaborate with First Nations, archaeologists, the Provincial Archaeology Branch and land owners to identify, record and protect sensitive archaeological and cultural sites within the Gulf Islands.

Trustee Grams recognized the important work the group has done on Grace Islet and to raise First Nations issues. He recommended that Trust Council seek Executive Committee's advice on how it can approach advocacy with the Provincial Government in order to effect changes as outlined in the presentation.

Town Hall

Louise DeCario, past Galiano Island Local Trustee, commented that while she saw a lot of weighty issues in Trust Council's agenda, she noted that it is scant in relation to the object of the trust, to preserve and protect, which seems to be delegated to advocacy. Ms. DeCario questioned why there were not more agenda items from the Local Planning Committee, supporting local trust committees. She stated that she is passionate about the Islands Trust and the federation.

7.4 Disposition of Delegations and Town Hall Requests

TC-2015-143

MOVED by Trustee Critchley, SECONDED by Trustee Middleton,

that the Executive Committee look at the possibility for reorganization of committee structure of Trust Council with the possibility of creating in addition or substitution of marine matters generally.

Debate ensued on the effectiveness of the current committee structure with regard to the broad scope of marine issues.

The question on the motion was called,

CARRIED

By general consent it was agreed to have the Executive Committee write a second letter to the Prime Minister and the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change in follow up to a letter already written (re climate change).

TC-2015-144

MOVED by Trustee Grams, SECONDED by Trustee Peterson,

that Trust Council refer to the Executive Committee the address by Protect Grace Islet Group for advice on advocacy with respect to First Nations' sites.

CARRIED

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Gabriolans Against Freighter Anchorages re anchorages

By general consent the letter from Gabriolans Against Freighter Anchorages was received for information and referred to Trust Programs Committee for consideration.

The meeting recessed at 2:40 pm and reconvened at 3:00 pm. Trustee Dodds was not present.

5.4 Islands Trust Policy Statement and Vision– Briefing (see Session 6)

Provided for information.

INTRODUCTION TO THE ISLANDS TRUST POLICY STATEMENT (6)

CAO Linda Adams introduced Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development representatives Brent Mueller and Eric Nichols and reviewed the context of decisions to be made by Trust Council in policy and budget considerations.

Staff reviewed why the Policy Statement matters and explained that it is a key cog in Islands Trust operations. Through graphic representations it was illustrated how the policy statement affects planning on islands. Key components of the policy statement were noted as 1. ecosystem protection 2. stewardship of resources and 3. healthy and sustainable communities as well as guiding principles.

Policy Analyst, Clare Frater, reviewed the history of the Policy Statement and the process that was followed to create and adopt it. Suggested changes to the Policy Statement were reviewed as well as the review process, and it was indicated that staff are seeking Trust Council's input on direction of the process.

Trustee Dodds entered the meeting at 3:25 pm.

Director of Trust Area Services, Lisa Gordon, reviewed the Trust Programs Committee's proposed Policy Statement amendment process and there was discussion about whether a visioning exercise could be done concurrently.

Following the presentations, trustees discussed the proposed review process and associated budget.

The meeting recessed at 5:01 pm.

THURSDAY, December 10, 2015

The meeting reconvened at 8:30 am. Twenty six Trustees were in attendance.

2016-17 DRAFT BUDGET (7)

Trustee Grove introduced the draft 2016-17 budget noting that a zero percent increase in revenues derived from property taxes over last fiscal year is recommended.

Director of Administrative Services Cindy Shelest provided an overview of the current draft budget, assumptions and principles and highlighted proposed changes to revenue and expenses, staffing overview and proposed changes, project requests, proposal for a zero percent general property tax increase and impact on the general revenue fund surplus as well as public consultation on the budget.

A question and comment period ensued. With regard to item 7.4.4, it was suggested that the program title be renamed to read: Policy Statement Review and First Nations Engagement. It was recommended that the Financial Planning Committee take the suggestion under advisement at its next meeting.

TC-2015-145

MOVED by Trustee Brent, SECONDED by Trustee Dodds,

that Trust Council reduce the budgeted allocation for the Select Committee for Review of Victoria Office Location by \$30,000.

CARRIED
Trustee Law Opposed

DECISION AND INFORMATION ITEMS (2) cont'd.

7. SUMMARY/UPDATES

7.1 Trustee Updates

7.1.1 BC Ferries (A. Morse)

The following updates were provided:

- A 1.9% price cap was announced by BC Ferries;
- Hornby Island Local Trust Committee corresponded with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and the CAO of BC Ferries re service adjustments and noted some conflicting information; there might be some value in Chair Luckham discussing this with those entities; Trustee Law will send the Executive Committee a copy of the Hornby Island Local Trust Committee correspondence;
- Further to Islands Trust's request for a 25% fare reduction, BC Ferries is experimenting with fare reductions; Minister Stone has invited Islands Trust to provide feedback to him about ferry service adjustments hindering health and welfare of island riders and specific changes which he could direct BC Ferries to consider; would like to invite Minister Stone to visit islands to see what is involved;
- The Denman Island cable ferry has been tested over the last couple of months and BC Ferries reports that it is performing well and meeting its targets; BC Ferries has taken possession of it and the next steps are to get Transport Canada approval and set crew levels; the ferry should be running in early February and Ferry Advisory Committee and Local Trust Committee members have been invited to have a tour in early January;
- BC Ferries is doing a major redo of southern Gulf Islands routes and has had community meetings; changes were not well received and more feedback is being sought on further changes.

7.1.2 First Nations

- Denman Island Local Trust Committee has tried to meet with the K'omoks First Nation and has asked for a meeting with treaty negotiators;
- Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has a meeting on December 18th with Cowichan Tribes, at their request; it is taking place in the Salt Spring office between Local Trust Committee members and Cowichan Tribes' staff;
- Squamish Nation has taken a different approach to environmental issues in Howe Sound and announced that they have granted an environmental permit for the Squamish Woodfibre LNG; they have gone through an environmental process which resulted in 26 recommendations; three weeks later the Tsawassen Nation announced agreement of another LNG plant near Roberts Bank;
- The Hwlitsum family has a law suit against Islands Trust and others which is in early stages and they are trying to determine with the Provincial and Federal Government whether they have standing as a First Nation;
- The Executive Committee has been encouraged to meet with the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association and other participants, with advice and support from the Province, and the Executive Committee has agreed to meet;
- Thetis Island Local Trust Committee has applied for Community to Community funding and started the process for a meeting of the Nations in the Thetis Island Local Trust Area.

3.5 Strategic Plan Amendments – Decision

TC-2015-146

MOVED by Trustee Morrison, SECONDED by Trustee Rogers,

that the Islands Trust Council endorse the amendments to the ‘activities, phases and success measures’ of the Strategic Plan as illustrated in updated version of the plan (Attachment 1), dated November 25, 2015.

CARRIED

7.1.3 Gulf Islands National Park Reserve Advisory Committee (D. Masselink)

Trustee Masselink reported that the Parks Advisory Board has not met for some time and is meeting in January. He noted that Saanich First Nations have rejected the parks management plan which Parks Canada and the Advisory Board spent a long time developing. The First Nations have indicated that they want a different relationship with Parks Canada which has asked for assistance from Aboriginal Affairs. It was explained that the Parks Superintendent has worked in the last two years to re-establish relations with First Nations and is trying to figure out how Parks Advisory Board participants and First Nations may be a part of a governance concept being considered. The Superintendent has made reference to a Federal/Provincial steering committee that has not met in some time and it was suggested that it may be useful for Islands Trust to get access to that committee. It was agreed that federal staff should be contacted for an update.

The meeting recessed at 10:34 am and reconvened at 10:50 am.

7.1.4 Salt Spring Island Water Protection Authority (G. Grams)

Report received for information.

7.1.5 Howe Sound Community Forum

It was reported that the forum met on October 16th and the focus was on the announcement of the environmental assessment approval process through the Squamish Nation which had occurred the day before. The forum has concentrated on industrial impacts in the Howe Sound area as well as on residential development e.g. 8,000 – 10,000 additional proposed houses, and the possibility of a fixed link with growing support from Sunshine Coast residents. The Provincial Government has offered to consider the request for more comprehensive management plans. Estuary restoration work is ongoing. The next forum will be in Gibsons with presentations on clear seas, studying marine safety and shipping. Trust Council may be interested in a presentation.

7.1.6 Update from Select Committee re location of Victoria Office (B. McConchie)

Housekeeping motions from the committee were highlighted and it was noted that the Financial Planning Committee supported the Select Committee’s recommendation to extend the Victoria office lease to September 2017.

TC-2015-147

MOVED by Trustee McConchie, SECONDED by Trustee Brent,

that Trust Council delete the words “of the headquarters” from Section 1 – Objectives of the Terms of Reference for Select Committee – Review of Victoria Office Location document.

CARRIED

7.2 Priorities Chart – General Consent

By general consent the Islands Trust Council priorities chart was received for information.

7.3 Proposed March 2016 Trust Council Agenda Program – Information

During discussion of the program, suggestions included:

- one hour for budget discussion on March 23rd may not be enough time; take advice from Financial Planning Committee on that;
- Victoria Office Relocation should not be a continuous learning item; replace that with something else i.e, First Nations training;
- Consider longer discussion on electronic meetings.

CAO Linda Adams recommended that Trustees formulate motions about the budget before the March meeting and send them to Cindy Shelest so she can model the proposed budget changes for review/discussion at the meeting.

It was reported that the Hornby Island Community Economic Commission and Ratepayers wish to do presentations to Trust Council. A presentation by John Helliwell and a walking tour to some community housing is being planned, with a possible tour of wineries. Hornby Island Local Trustees will work with Executive Committee on these plans.

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETING – March 22-24, 2016 Hornby Island

ROUNDTABLE (8) - Trustees participated in a roundtable session to discuss common issues, concerns and successes.

As this was her last meeting before retiring, CAO Linda Adams was commended and appreciation was expressed for her twenty-five years of service to Islands Trust.

10. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm

Peter Luckham, Chair, Islands Trust Council

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Carmen Thiel, Recorder and Corporate Secretary