



Islands Trust Council Highlights March 9-11, 2021

The following is a list of highlights of Trust Council's activities and decisions during its March 9-11, 2021 meeting held electronically. These highlights are not the official minutes of the Trust Council meeting; Trust Council will adopt those at its June 8-10, 2021 electronic meeting.

Policy Statement Decision Items

Trust Council defined the words “unique amenities” to be inclusive of the cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples within the Islands Trust area and that this aspect is prioritized.

Trust Council affirmed its understanding that the “object” of the Trust include the concept of and protection of healthy and inclusive communities including housing and transportation.

Trust Council requested that Executive and Trust Programs Committees continue their work on revising the Trust Policy Statement and include policy related to sustainable communities and affordable housing.

Amendments to the Strategic Plan

Trust Council amended its Strategic Plan to include forestry initiatives, the Governance and Management Review, requests to the Province for additional funding, and the Trust Council Policy Review Project.

Budget Highlights

Trust Council approved a reduction to the minimum balance required by policy to be held in general revenue surplus from 25% to 20% of budgeted annual operating expenses, less 20% of non-tax, non-grant revenue.

Trust Council approved \$75,500 to fund the ongoing operations of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) in preserving and protecting the quality and quantity of water resources through a special property tax requisition in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area.

Trust Council deliberated on the draft budget and amended it to include the following:

- \$75,000 to fund the Governance and Management Review,
- \$50,000 to fund eelgrass mapping,
- \$15,000 to fund Stewardship education,
- \$25,000 to fund developing climate criteria,
- \$25,000 to fund a March 2022 in-person Trust Council meeting,
- \$34,260 to fund a Community Outreach staffing position.

Trust Council adopted its 2021/22 budget on March 11, 2021 and [issued this March 16th news release](#).

Trust Council Priorities Chart

Trust Council requested Executive Committee add “freighter anchorages” to Executive Committee’s list of Top Priorities.

Disposition of Delegations

Rodenticide Free B.C. Delegation Request

Trust Council directed staff to prepare a letter from the Chair addressed to the Provincial Minister of Environment urging that the Province of British Columbia introduce a province wide ban on the use of anticoagulant rodenticides.

BC Organic Extension Delegation Request

Trust Council directed staff to prepare a letter from the Chair to endorse Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Institute for Sustainable Food Systems' development and implementation of an organic agriculture and food system extension service in British Columbia.

Institute for Multidisciplinary Ecological Research in the Salish Sea (IMERSS) Delegation Request

Trust Council asked staff to provide recommendations about how to broaden engagement and capacity building within local communities, particularly with respect to involving First Nations, in the work of the Islands Trust Area.