

From: Ewout van Dishoeck [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 12:58 PM

To: northinfo <northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Susan Yates <syates@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Tobi Elliott <telliott@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Laura Patrick <lpatrick@islandstrust.bc.ca>

Cc: abarroso@gwsolutions.ca; William Shulba <wshulba@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Narissa Chadwick <nchadwick@islandstrust.bc.ca>

Subject: Common water to preserve and protect

Dear Trustees,

Please accept the attached submission as a formal contribution to the ongoing Official Community Plan review process.

A close review of the draft OCP reveals significant structural gaps across its vision, goals, and targets: an absence of quantitative baselines, missing 20-year density specifications, unstated timelines for First Nations collaboration, and open-ended growth assumptions detached from local carrying capacity. Without measurable, time-based targets, well-intentioned policy statements risk being reduced to broad discretion—lengthening development reviews, inflating administrative costs, and subjecting Trustees to intense ad-hoc political pressure.

To resolve these overarching plan deficiencies, the attached Brief proposes establishing a multi-agency co-governance body—the **Gabriola Water Stewardship Table**—adapting the proven precedent of the Cowichan Watershed Board under the *BC Water Sustainability Act*.

This Stewardship Table serves as the exact operational engine needed to resolve the OCP's broader gaps by delivering three vital benefits:

- 1.
2. **Aligning Fragmented Authorities:** It brings the LTC, Regional District of Nanaimo, Island Health, Snuneymuxw First Nation, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTT) into one body—directly aligning remote provincial subdivision approvals and drainage management with local land-use policies.
3. **Eliminating Administrative Overhead & Political Friction:** It replaces open-ended debates with clear, objective, time-based metrics, providing regulatory certainty for applicants and shielding Trustees from prolonged political conflict.
4. **Operationalizing True Co-Governance & Carrying Capacity:** It embeds Snuneymuxw First Nation Treaty rights and inherent water stewardship into local planning while grounding density caps, cluster housing reviews, and forest canopy preservation in real-time hydrogeological data.

By establishing this Table, the LTC creates the necessary framework to govern Gabriola as a **single, continuous hydrogeological commons** centered on a mandatory policy of **Island-Wide Water Neutrality**.

The Brief elaborates on the above and offers a legally defensible, science-backed roadmap that supports the Islands Trust mandate to "*preserve and protect*."

Regards

Ewout van Dishoeck