

Purpose

- 1) To establish inter-agency meetings to coordinate implementation of Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Plan 2023-2032 (WPP);
- 2) To wind down the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA); and
- 3) To develop consensus on longer term governance reforms to improve watershed protection and support reform.

Background

In 2013, Islands Trust Council adopted Bylaw No. 154 which delegated authority to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC), for the purpose of preserving and protecting the quality and quantity of water resources within the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area, the power to:

- Coordinate and assist in the determination of regional, improvement district and government of British Columbia policies;
- Coordinate the implementation of regional, improvement district and government of British Columbia policies; and
- Coordinate the carrying out of regional, improvement district and government of British Columbia policies

To date, the LTC has used this delegated authority to fund and coordinate the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA). During its lifetime SSIWPA has advanced understanding, agency cooperation, and community engagement in watershed issues. SSI LTC has identified an opportunity to renew the governance and coordination of watershed protection activities by commissioning a Situation Analysis and Options Identification Report (Econics April 2022) and a multi-agency Watershed Protection Plan 2023-2032 (Econics March 2023). Until such time that another body steps into the coordinating role, the SSI LTC will retain the role. However, the priority action for a new staff-led agency working group will be watershed protection governance and coordination.

Objective

- To confirm a preferred governance model that allows for the coordinated, cost-efficient implementation of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Plan 2023-2032.

In Scope

- Draft Terms of Reference for WPP Implementation Staff Working Group and Memorandum of Understanding for signature by agency staff;
- Meeting Scheduling/Agenda Prep/Minutes
 - 1 x SSIWPA meeting to share WPP and SSIWPA wind-down plan;
 - 6 x annual meetings(at least) between relevant staff from Islands Trust, CRD, NSSWD and the Province
 - 1 x Annual meeting (at least) between elected officials and relevant staff from Islands Trust, CRD, NSSWD and the Province
 - 1 x annual meeting among agencies and local organizations and individuals with an interest in freshwater sustainability on Salt Spring to update on WPP implementation and receive feedback;
- Procure consulting services to assist in the development of Terms of Reference for future Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service [AND/OR] Procure consulting services to advise/facilitate watershed governance decision process
- Engage First Nations to determine watershed protection plan priority actions on SSI;
- SSIWPA wind-down
 - Notifications

Out of Scope

- WPP Actions*
- New budget request for 2024/25

* This project focuses on clarifying the SS LTC’s coordinating role regarding SSIWPA and watershed protection. A future project charter could address SS LTC’s implementation of its accountabilities under the WPP and the recommended actions listed therein.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you letters ○ Advertising ○ Close out website/social media and migrate/archive content ● Use unspent special property tax revenue to fund the work 	
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Work Plan Overview

Deliverable/Milestone	Date
LTC endorse project charter and submit 2024/25 business case for use of unspent special property tax requisition funds	December 14, 2023
First agency staff working group meeting	February 2024
Final SSIWPA meeting	February 2024
Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding for agency working group signed	March 2024
Ongoing agency working group meetings and actions through 2024/25	April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025
Joint elected official/staff agency working group meeting	Fall 2024
“Big Tent” meeting between agencies, NGOs and water-interested individuals	Between January and March 2025

Project Team		Budget		
SSI Planning Staff	Project Manager	Budget Source: Unspent Special Property Tax Requisition Funds		
William Shulba	Technical Support	Fiscal	Item	Cost
Kalyaan Selvakumar	Administrative Support	23/24	SSIWPA Meeting	\$500
		23/24	SSIWPA wind-down advertising	\$500
		23/24	Total	\$1,000
		24/25	“Big Tent” Meeting	\$5,000
RPM Approval: Chris Hutton Date: 07/12/2023	LTC Endorsement: Resolution #: SS-2023-153 Date: 14/12/2023	24/25	Consultant support to help develop Watershed Protection Service Terms of Reference ¹ /Provide watershed governance advice	\$40,000
		24/25	FN Engagement	\$10,000
		24/25	Total	\$55,000

¹ If so requested by CRD