

Doug's Corner

Islands Trust Council (LTC) meeting – Jan 15 & 16th, 2019

- Link: http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/media/347018/tc-2019-01-15_agd_pkg_final.pdf

The following are some of the highlights from the Islands Trust Council meeting in mid-Jan 2019:

3 Key takeaways:

1. Completion our Trustee orientation (spread throughout our 2 days of meetings);
2. Budget for the 2019/2020 session; and
 - Budget business case presentations and debates – lots of good reading and insights available between p. 14-78 of the information package.
 - One of the key observations of this session for me was the amount of demands on the Island Trust as a whole and how little its overall operating budget is...
3. First Nations reconciliation opportunities and journey ahead:
 - a. Did you know that we have We have 7 First Nations communities in our Local Trust Area (LTC)? Penelakut First Nation, our neighbour immediately to the South, and the other 6 First Nations neighbours within our LTC area:
 - i. Lyackson (Valdes Island), but dispersed around Chemainus and area;
 - ii. Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo);
 - iii. Stz'uminus (Chemainus/Kulleet Bay);
 - iv. Halalt;
 - v. Lake Cowichan First Nations; and
 - vi. Cowichan Tribes;
 - b. It is my opinion, that we as an LTC and community, have much work ahead of us. The notion of reconciliation and while doing so, *"engaging with integrity"* was the underlying theme of our workshop;
 - c. I find it difficult to find words to describe how the First Nations presentations and orientations materials made me feel...empowered may be the best term, but it still feels somewhat inadequate. Reconciliation has become part of my personal/professional journey for a number of years now, and now, I have the opportunity to share and engage the residents in our LTC in this important and privileged work. There will be more on this at our next LTC meeting (Feb 22, 2019).

**If anyone is interested in discussing any of the above this further please don't hesitate to reach out.

Islands Trust Conservancy Board Meeting – Jan 29, 2019

- Link to the meetings page where the minutes and associated support materials/documents can be found: <http://www.islandstrustconservancy.ca/about-us/meetings/>.

The following is just a short list of things I found interesting at the last IT Conservancy Board meeting:

1. Due to the renovations at the Island Trust office in Victoria, the meeting was held at the Oak Bay Rec Centre;
2. We re-elected Kate-Louise Stamford as chair, this is done on an annual basis, hence the need to re-elect within months of the first election with the new ITC board;
3. In general, the meeting was a full and informative session, good engaged discussion among the members;
4. Soon the local Regional Conservation Plan Local Area Profiles will be completed and available on the ITC website. An excellent tool for anyone interested and for general information specific to each LTC area. – (referenced under Follow up Action Report. #1-p.11);
 - Link: coming soon;
5. Regional Conservation Plan (2018-2027) – p. 56-59;
 - a. This is an intriguing document that will not only play an essential role in future land use planning within the IT area (regional scale) but also at the LTC level. There will be a learning curve involved for the LTCs and their respective communities, recognizing the interconnectedness between the many ecosystems and the need to build greater resilience of the Islands Trust Area and the integration of conservation strategies into land use planning strategies;
 - Link: <http://www.islandstrustconservancy.ca/initiatives/planning-for-conservation/>
6. First Nations – as part of the reconciliation process, IT Conservancy has taken a proactive approach to reconciliation with the FN communities within the IT Area and started building new relationships based on trust and transparent practices, policies, and procedures. Seeking opportunities to work collaboratively with the FN communities by embracing their holistic worldviews, elders' input/insights in their regional conservancy planning processes, and where/when possible, the sharing of various ITC assets/skill sets such as ongoing planning, mapping of sensitive ecosystems within their traditional territories.

LTC (Local Trust Council) – Upcoming on Feb 22 2019...due to weather related challenges

Link: http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/media/347190/th-ltc_2019-02-13_businessmtgs_sch.pdf