

From: HHolm [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 10:54 PM
To: Denman Island Local Trust Committee <DenmanIslandLocalTrustCommittee@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Cc: Sonja Zupanec <szupanec@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Feb. 1-22 submission to the Feb. 15/22 LTC meeting

LTC members, Planner Zupanec and Upland Agricultural Consulting:

For your information and for inclusion in the agenda package for the Feb. 15/22 Special LTC meeting (attached)

Harlene Holm

Submission to the Denman Island Local Trust Committee February 15/22 special meeting.

I have a number of requests of the Local Trust Committee, Planner Zupanec and Upland Agricultural Consulting –all of whom will shape farm regulatory outcomes.

1) Please add the following to the project documents available on the Denman Island Trust website:

a. Taina Uitto's report based on surveying vendors and shoppers at a series of market days. This was a Farm Plan committee initiatives and left out of the Final Farm Plan. Ms. Uitto has promised to email a copy for me to forward to the LTC.

b. Jenny Balke's June 2013 Rural Affordable Housing Project commissioned by Denman Community Land Trust Association (DCLTA) with funding from the Comox Valley Housing Task Force. Dr. Balke's powerpoint presentation to the Task Force forum on Homelessness may also be of interest.

c. DCLTA's formal recommendations arising from Dr. Balke's report.

d. My objection to the use of islanders on the Farm Plan Steering Committee as a funding requirement whereas the bulk of the report embodies conclusions and recommendations that represent those of the Ministry of Agriculture. My objection was submitted at the time the LTC was considering adopting the Farm Plan report. I argued that the report be received for information, not adopted. This submission should be found in the record of the LTC adoption of the Farm Plan.

e. My March 16, 2021 delegation and submission to the LTC outlining the failure of proposed bylaws 228 and 229 to work within the Trust mandate, the intent of the islanders on the Farm Plan committee plus the absence of protection or even representation of wetlands and water courses in what I termed a sustainability-free zone covering nearly half the island.

2) Proposed bylaws 228 and 229 move Agriculture out of Sustainable Resources to stand alone as Agriculture. That alone is alarming. Proposed bylaw 229 allows feedlots (fenced non-grazing area) and intensive agriculture (confined in a building). I have never heard anyone on island extoll feedlots or intensive agriculture as an appropriate use.

How many numbered agricultural zones are there on Denman Island? These represent lots as small as two hectares. There are agricultural uses that exist in BC that could and would be highly destructive to the ground water and wetlands and to the health and well being of neighbours.

Please don't use proposed bylaws 228 and 229 as a starting point except to recognize what not to do going forward. The first step should be to determine what is working at an island-scale, sustainable and community-supported level. What isn't working is the Ministry of Agriculture's existing clout that allows landowners of ALR land to drain and /or divert streams and wetlands.

The Ministry of Agriculture has a mandate to support and expand agriculture as an industry. The Trust mandate is far more complex and appropriate.

3) Please look at existing OCP/bylaw regulations measured against what farming is carried on in this community. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

4) I understand that the community will be surveyed and “engaged.” Please look at Taina Uitto’s survey report as a model. Residents and particularly farmers have more to do in the spring than fill out a survey and attend meetings in order to avert regulatory damages.

Note the key vision statement and two key guiding principles that reflect the voice of islanders on the Farm Plan Committee:

* An Island where we feed each other abundantly because farming is a viable and valued foundation of our sustainable community. –Vision Statement, Denman Island Agriculture Plan Steering Committee

* Recognizing/supporting the local, small-scale, and diverse nature of Denman Island agriculture

* Recognizing the importance of healthy ecosystems and their interrelationships with farming

Harlene Holm

██████████ Road, Denman Island

Owner and farmer of ALR land

*resigned from the Farm Plan Steering Committee when it was clear the plan was and would remain hijacked