

Purpose

To develop, under the guidance of a qualified consultant, a strategic plan to guide and prioritize watershed protection work on a medium-term basis (5-to-10 years) to better support Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance member agencies in advancing effective, equitable and modernized land and water use planning.

Background

Section 24(2)(b) of the Islands Trust Act allows Local Trust Committees to regulate the development and use of land for the purposes of carrying out the object of the Trust. This means that local trust committees can use their regulatory powers to preserve, protect and guide restoration of watersheds.

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). SSIWPA has advanced understanding, agency cooperation, and community engagement in watershed issues. SSIWPA undertakes an annual work planning exercise to identify water issues of concern to SSIWPA’s membership and wider community in the hope that member agencies will undertake projects to address the issues raised. However, a longer range strategy for watershed protection on SSI has not been developed.

Objectives

This project has two objectives:

- 1) Improve the coordination of watershed stewardship and protection policy on Salt Spring Island through:
 - a) an external review of current approaches to watershed stewardship protection policy; and
 - b) Analysis of, and recommendations for, the types of planning processes, policy/guidance documents, or mechanisms that will improve watershed stewardship and protection.
- 2) to better support Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance member agencies in coordinating and advancing effective, equitable, and modernized land and water use planning by developing a strategic plan to guide and prioritize watershed protection work on Salt Spring Island on a medium term (5-to-10 years) time frame.

In Scope

- 1) Situation Analysis and Option Identification
 - Review current approaches to watershed stewardship and protection policy coordination on Salt Spring Island;
 - Review documented watershed protection issues facing salt Spring Island;
 - Stakeholder interviews w/in and outside of SSIWPA about SSIWPA and watershed protection issues generally;
 - Engagement will include subject-specific stakeholder engagement on Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystem Protection in the context of watershed protection
 - Engage First Nations in discussion about how they could be involved in water policy coordination;
 - Assess the performance SSIWPA;
 - Recommendations to improve watershed protection policy coordination based on best practices in other jurisdictions, in order to implement future watershed protection plans;
 - Recommendations to appropriately fund coordination of watershed protection policy on Salt Spring Island;
 - Recommendations about appropriate planning processes, policy/guidance

Out of Scope

- Watershed Assessments
- Implementation of strategic plan
- Development of new tools

	<p>documents, or mechanisms to improve watershed stewardship and protection; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations and justification for the 2022/23 special tax requisition amount. <p>2) Watershed Stewardship and Protection Strategic Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply POLIS Water Champion Handbook Stepping Stones; • Identify and engage relevant agencies, First Nations, stakeholders and broader community to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish stakeholder roles and responsibilities as they relate to watershed protection on SSI, as well as their respective capacities and desired outcomes; ○ Identify watershed protection challenges; ○ Identify knowledge gaps; ○ Identify and prioritize potential tools (including Water Sustainability Act) and best practices to address those challenges; • Situate SSI watershed strategic plan in the context of other plans and initiatives (CRD/NSSWD Integrated Water Management Service Review, IT Freshwater Sustainability Strategy, IT Strategic Plan, SSI OCP, SSI Area Farm Plan, SSI CAP 2.0; Islands Trust Conservancy Regional Conservation Plan) • Apply a methodology that can be reproduced across the Southern Gulf Islands and/or Islands Trust Area 	
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Work Plan Overview

Deliverable/Milestone	Date
LTC endorse project charter and direct staff to proceed with procurement	March 25, 2021
Procurement process	TBD
Situation Analysis and Option Identification Process	TBD
Situation Analysis and Option Identification report received	November 9, 2021
Strategic Plan development	TBD
Final Deliverables received	March 31, 2022

Project Team

Budget

Jason Youmans	Project Manager	Salt Spring Island Water Sustainability Top Priority Project		
Shannon Cowan	Project Coordination	Fiscal	Item	Cost
William Shulba	Technical Support	21/22	Consulting Services	\$50,000
Lisa Wilcox	First Nations Support			
Rob Pingle	Administrative Support			

Director Approval: Date: DD, MM, YYYY	LTC Endorsement: Resolution #: SS-2021-98 Date: 25, 05, 2021			
		21/22	Total	\$50,000