



Islands Trust

STAFF REPORT

February 17, 2015

File No.: 6500-20 Watershed Management

To: Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee: For the meeting of February 27, 2015
From: Stefan Cermak, Island Planner, Local Planning Services

Re: Watershed Management

PURPOSE

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) has identified watershed management on Salt Spring Island as one of its top priorities primarily in response to health advisories on the use of St. Mary Lake due to poor water quality in 2012. The Watershed Program involves a multi-jurisdictional approach to the protection and management of freshwater resources on Salt Spring Island.

The purpose of this report is for the LTC to consider a draft Trust Council Request for Decision requesting a special property tax requisition.

BACKGROUND

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) passed the following resolutions at their February 5, 2015 regular business meeting:

SS-2015-46

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to prepare a draft Trust Council Request for Decision requesting a bylaw to authorize a special property tax requisition. CARRIED

The Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority (SSIWPA) considered the proposed budget most recently at its January 16, 2015 meeting. Member agencies indicate support to SSIWPA's continued coordination via the special property tax requisition.

At time of writing this report, a draft Request for Decision was scheduled for review by the Financial Planning Committee February 18, 2015.

CORRESPONDENCE

At the time of writing, Salt Spring Island constituents have submitted five pieces of correspondence regarding the proposed 2015/16 Trust Council budget. They are unsupportive of further tax increases generally, with some specifically mentioning objections to watershed management. Any further responses received before Trust Council's meeting deadlines will be forwarded for Trust Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

As per the above discussion, staff recommend:

THAT the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee APPROVE the attached Request for Decision dated February 10, 2015 and authorize staff to forward it for consideration by Trust Council.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stefan Cermak, Island Planner

Date

Concurred by:

Leah Hartley, Regional Planning Manager

Date

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Request for Decision to Trust Council March 2015



REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: Trust Council

For the Meeting of:: March 10-12 2015

From: Salt Spring Island Local Trust
Committee

Date Prepared: February 12, 2015

File No.: SSI 6500-20
Watershed Management

SUBJECT: Salt Spring Island Watershed Management - Special Property Tax Requisition

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Islands Trust Council include a special property tax requisition for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area in the amount of \$119 500 in its 2015/16 annual budget, to fund additional operations of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee in preserving and protecting the quality and quantity of water resources within the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER COMMENTS: Trust Council's Bylaw 154 delegates additional powers to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee that enables it to undertake specific types of work that are beyond the regular LTC functions of land use planning and regulation. Bylaw 154 also requires that funding of additional operations undertaken solely in relation to the delegated powers must be funded through a special tax requisition in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area, where the related expense is \$5000 or more. *Trust Council's Policy 6.3.ii -- Special Property Tax Requisition* requires that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee solicit feedback from the affected public after providing information regarding the purpose and cost of the proposed special requisition. The feedback received must be considered by the Islands Trust Council prior to the final adoption of any bylaw that incorporates the special property tax requisition. Should Council approve the special tax requisition, it would be included in the Islands Trust Financial Plan Bylaw for 2015/16.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

ORGANIZATIONAL:

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee intends to continue to use the requisitioned funds to support the operations of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority (SSIWPA) – a multi-agency coordinating body dedicated to watershed protection on Salt Spring Island through collaborative watershed management. SSIWPA is currently focused on remediation of the St. Mary Lake watershed, a primary drinking water supply for Salt Spring Island. Future areas for focus include the Cusheon Lake watershed, other surface water drinking watersheds, and water quantity issues.

Inclusion of the funds enables the continuation of contract coordination services to administer and manage SSIWPA's operations and projects on behalf of the SSITLC. Some additional administrative work related to contract management, financial management, management of grant awards and related SSILTC work is undertaken by Islands Trust staff.

FINANCIAL:

The taxation implications of this decision would relate only to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area. The funds requisitioned would be spent to fund the additional operations of the SSITLC, pursuant to the additional powers that Trust Council has delegated to it.

Please see Appendix 1 for an additional operations budget (re SSIWPA) for 2015/16. The proposed budget includes an administrative surcharge of \$12,500 to cover Islands Trust administrative work related to the delegated powers.

Section 6(c) of Trust Council’s Policy 6.3.ii -- Special Property Tax Requisition indicates that ‘any funds, generated through special requisition, which are unspent at the conclusion of the fiscal year, will be held in reserve for the LTC’s use in subsequent fiscal year to complete the previously approved initiative...or to undertake a new program, subject to the further resolution of the LTC...’

In the 2014/15 fiscal year, Trust Council approved a special property tax requisition of \$110,000 for the SSI Local Trust Area to support the additional operations of the SSILTC, including coordination of SSIWPA. As of January 31 2015, approximately \$30,000 is projected to remain committed but unspent at the end of the 2014/15 fiscal year. These funds are committed to a “Structured Decision Making” process that will be extended beyond the fiscal year in order to be informed by concurrent technical studies. The SSILTC has passed a related resolution, supporting the use of the unspent funds for watershed management purposes (see below). If any further funds remain unspent, they would be dedicated to additional operations related to watershed management.

POLICY:

No implications for current policy.

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATIONS:

If approved, the request for a special tax requisition within the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area would be delivered to the Minister of Finance, along with the rest of the Islands Trust property tax requisition request.

The requisitioned funds are accounted for in the same manner that other Islands Trust funds are managed.

OTHER: n/a

BACKGROUND

On June 10, 2013, Trust Council approved Bylaw 154, a bylaw that delegates certain additional powers to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee to support the preservation and protection of water quality and quantity within the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area. Specifically, Bylaw 154 delegates the SSILTC the powers (from *Islands Trust Act* section 8.2(b)) to:

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

Bylaw 154 also requires that funding for related operations be achieved through a special tax requisition within the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area, where related expenditures will be \$5000 or more.

To date, the SSILTC has primarily used the delegated powers to coordinate the operations of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority (SSIWPA) - through a collaborative Structured Decision Making process leading to creation of an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for St. Mary Lake

The mission of SSIWPA is “to cooperate on the development and implementation of policies and initiatives for improved raw water quality, and coordinated management of quantity of Salt Spring Island water sources. SSIWPA member agencies ...collaborate in watershed governance and cooperate to pool resources, gather and share information, strategize on integrated policy development, and coordinate actions for improved raw water quality, management of quantity, and the health and protection of both surface and groundwater watersheds in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area.”

Coordination of SSIWPA operations is performed by a contractor with some administrative and other assistance from Islands Trust staff.

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee is requesting a special tax requisition for a second year, in order to continue operations of SSIWPA .

SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX REQUISITION

Pursuant to Trust Council Policy 6.3.ii, an individual Local Trust Committee can request a special property tax requisition for additional operations that are not included within the general operations of all local trust committees. Special property tax requisitions are approved by Islands Trust Council and must be formally requested by resolution of the Local Trust Committee. Trust Council Policy 6.3.ii includes a checklist for LTCs to follow - attached as Appendix 2.

On October 16, 2014 the SSI LTC passed the following resolutions:

SS-2014-193

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee request a special property tax requisition for up to \$107,000 from the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area in the 2015/16 fiscal year, subject to Trust Council Policy 6.3.ii, in order to resource coordination of watershed management on Salt Spring Island, using the powers delegated to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee by Trust Council Bylaw 154.

CARRIED

On October 29, 2014, the Financial Planning Committee considered a staff recommendation to account for administrative costs as part of the special tax requisition requested by the SSILTC and passed the following resolution:

FPC-2014-037

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Financial Planning Committee request written information on the staff proposal to charge an administrative levy on special tax requisitions.

CARRIED

On November 12, 2014, the Financial Planning Committee considered LTC requests for project funding and passed the following resolution:

FPC-2014-049

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the LTC Project Requests be included in the 2015/16 draft budget.

CARRIED

On February 5, 2015 the SSI LTC passed the following resolutions (citing from initial draft minutes):

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee REQUEST an allocation of the remaining funds from the 2014/15 Special Property Tax Requisition in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area to the Watershed Program to complete the 2014/15 work in accordance with *Islands Trust Council Special Property Tax Requisition Policy 6.3.ii* and that this request be forwarded to the Financial Planning Committee for consideration within the 2015/16 fiscal budget

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee DIRECT staff to prepare, in consultation with the Salt Spring Island Water Protection Authority, terms of reference, scope of work, and qualifications for services relating to water conservation and water demand management measures.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In accordance with *Islands Trust Council Policy 6.3.ii -- Special Property Tax Requisition*, public consultation has been conducted by the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee. The following consultation plan was implemented:

- Notice of the Salt Spring Island Special Property Tax Requisition was included in the Trust Council 2015-16 Budget Consultation Package.
- Trustee Grams / SSIWPA Chair published an Op-Ed in the January 14, 2015 Driftwood Newspaper explaining the intent of the special property tax requisition and inviting feedback.
- A Q&A information sheet on the Salt Spring Island Property Tax Requisition has been linked in the Trust Council 2015-16 Budget Consultation Package.
- The Q&A information sheet has been posted prominently on the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee web page as well as the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Website.
- The Q&A information sheet has been circulated on the Salt Spring Island Exchange List Serve inviting community input. Posted January 16th and reposted January 23rd, 2015.
- A News Update has been posted on Salt Spring web page seeking public input on tax requisition for watershed management.
- Invitations for feedback were sent out in early January using the Salt Spring Island Subscription Notice.
- A display ad explaining the project and inviting public input was published in the January 28, 2015 edition of the Gulf Islands Driftwood Newspaper.
- Display ads with cartoons on the website are used for visual appeal and to capture interest.

Advertisements soliciting feedback are included in Appendix 3.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC FEEDBACK RESULTS

At the time of writing, Salt Spring Island constituents have submitted five pieces of correspondence regarding the proposed budget (see Appendix4). They are unsupportive of further tax increases generally, with some specifically mentioning objections to watershed management. Any further responses received before Trust Council's meeting deadlines will be forwarded for Trust Council's consideration.

REPORT/DOCUMENT:

Appendix 1 – SSIWPA Proposed Operations Budget ('Additional Operations Budget') - 2015/16.
Appendix 2 -- Trust Council Policy 6.3.ii checklist.

Appendix 3 – Advertisements and other materials soliciting feedback re special property tax requisition on Salt Spring Island.

Appendix 4 – Public feedback received to Feb 11, 2015

KEY ISSUE(S)/CONCEPT(S):

- Collaborative watershed governance models require coordination
- Trust Council has delegated authority to enable SSI LTC to coordinate the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority
- Trust Council Policy requires the SSI LTC to request a Special Property Tax Requisition to fund this work, to carry out related public consultation, and advise Trust Council of the results.
- The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has consulted with the community on the issue of raising a \$119 500 Special Property Tax to coordinate watershed management and has provided the information as required, through this Request for Decision.

RELEVANT POLICY:

Islands Trust Council Bylaw 154
14(3)(iii) of the Islands Trust Act
Islands Trust Council Policy 6.3.ii -- Special Property Tax Requisition

DESIRED OUTCOME:

Improved water quality and quantity management on Salt Spring Island, through Trust Council approval of a special property tax requisition for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area in the amount of \$119 500 for the 2015/16 fiscal year.

RESPONSE OPTIONS

Recommended:

THAT the Islands Trust Council include a special property tax requisition for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area in the amount of \$119 500 in its 2015/16 annual budget, to fund additional operations of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee in preserving and protecting the quality and quantity of water resources within the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area.

Alternatives:

1. That the Islands Trust Council include a special property tax requisition for the 2015/16 fiscal year for a lesser amount than requested by the SSILTC, in recognition of the unspent funds from 2014/15.
2. That the Islands Trust Council include a special property tax requisition for the 2015/16 fiscal year for a greater amount than requested by the SSILTC.
3. That the Islands Trust Council not include a special property tax requisition for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area for the 2015/16 fiscal year.

Prepared By: Stefan Cermak, Island Planner, Salt Spring Island February 10, 2015

Reviewed By/Date: Salt Spring Island LTC TBD
Financial Planning Committee February 18, 2015
Linda Adams, CAO February 11, 2015
David Marlor, DLPS TBD
Leah Hartley, Regional Planning Manager – SSI February 17, 2015

Linda Adams, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix 1: Additional Operations Budget

Delegated Authority to Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee

Watershed Protection Authority

Annual Budget for the Year Ending March 31, 2016

	Description	Annual Budget
Revenue		
	SSI LTA Special Property Tax Requisition	\$119 500
	Grant Revenues	31 500
	Unspent funds from 2014/15 Special Property Tax Requisition	30 000
	Total Revenue	\$181 000
Expenses		
	Coordination contract (\$50/hr @ estimated 40 hr/week) ¹	\$85 000
	Meeting Costs (3 committees, minute taking, room rental)	8 000
	Structured Decision Making process (offset by grants)	31 500
	Water Quantity Measures	30 000
	Community Events and Communications	4 000
	Contingency	10 000
	Administration Levy	12 500
	Total Expenses	\$181 000

¹ Coordination contract may be split between a part time administrative coordinator and part time higher level coordinator, with the total cost remaining the same.

- c) Any funds, generated through the special requisition, which are unspent at the conclusion of the fiscal year, will be held in reserve for the Local Trust Committee's use in the subsequent fiscal year to:
- i) complete the previously approved initiative or program; or
 - ii) undertake a new program, subject to a further resolution of the Local Trust Committee to do so.
- d) Unspent funds can not be used to offset a general property tax requisition.

7. Special Property Tax Requisition Checklist

Budget Submission

Description of Task	Deadline	Date Completed
Local Planning Services Staff assigned to LTCs develop "additional operations" budget proposal on behalf of LTCs prior to December Trust Council meeting and submit them to FPC for review.	November FPC meeting	Oct. 16, 2014
Director of Local Planning Services presents "additional operations" budget proposals to Financial Planning Committee, with input from LTCs, indicating whether any of the proposed 'additional operations' are related to delegated powers and must be funded through a special property tax requisition.	December Trust Council meeting	Nov. 12, 2014
Financial Planning Committee makes recommendations to Trust Council regarding budget proposals made by LTCs, identifying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any that must be funded through a special property tax requisition pursuant to a Trust Council delegation bylaw (e.g. Bylaw 154). • Any other LTC proposals that it recommends be funded through a special property tax requisition, rather than through inclusion in the general Islands Trust budget. Director of Local Planning Services provides additional information to Trust Council about LTC proposals, as needed.	December Trust Council meeting	Dec. 3-5, 2014
If December Trust Council does not approve the LTC "additional operations" budget proposal for inclusion in the general Islands Trust budget, or if the LTC additional operations are related to delegated powers that must be funded through a special property tax requisition:		N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LTC passes resolution to pursue special property tax requisition to fund the "additional operations" budget proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - copy of resolution attached 	January	Oct. 16, 2014
		SS-2014-193
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LTC requests staff to conduct public consultation on the special tax requisition proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - copy of advertisement attached - if public meeting held, minutes of the discussion attached <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o written summary of public feedback attached 	Mid-February	attached
		N/A
		1 written unresponsive comment: attached
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff prepare Request for Decision (RFD) proposed by LTC for March Trust Council binder, requesting a bylaw to authorize a special property tax requisition. The RFD will include an assessment of organizational and other implications, a completed copy of this checklist along with any attached documentation. 	February FPC meeting	To DLPS Feb. 10, 2015

OPINION



2014 CNA Awards
 Gold - Excellence in Rural Reporting (Elizabeth Nolan) | Gold - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islander)
 Gold - Special Section (Best of Salt Spring Island) | Silver - Promotional Campaign (SS Conservancy Blackburn purchase)
 Silver - Multimedia Feature (Pride Festival) | Bronze - Community Newspaper Magazine (Aqua)
 Bronze - Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker) | Bronze - Arts Coverage | Blue Ribbon Award - General Excellence

2014 BCYNA Awards
 Silver - Special Publication (Gulf Islander) | Bronze - Special Publication (Aqua) | Bronze - General Excellence



EDITORIAL

Keep up the energy

Many on Salt Spring will be looking at rooftops with renewed interest this week.

They'll be looking for adequate southern exposure, a clear view of the sun and a roof pitch of between 20 and 40 degrees.

These are some of the prerequisites that made the Gulf Islands Secondary School an ideal candidate for a pioneering solar-power project. The 84 solar panels installed at the school in 2014 eclipsed any other alternative energy project on the island and put Salt Spring on the province's ever-expanding solar map.

Insomuch as Saturday's Flick the Switch event symbolized the culmination of an incredible effort undertaken by dozens of volunteers, individual fundraisers and cooperation from the Gulf Islands School District, the solar project offers hope for the Community Energy Group's further success.

THE ISSUE:

Alternative energy

WE SAY:

Solar project shines

For improvement and, fortunately, much roof space left to play with.

On the way home from the project's official launch, participants may have spotted the vacant real estate on top of the Rainbow Road Pool, ArtSpring, the Salt Spring Library or any number of private houses and workplaces in the Ganges area.

Support of similar efforts between organizations on the island stands to benefit participants in more ways than lower energy bills. As more than one speaker pointed out, producing energy on island can boost the local economy. Long after the installations are complete, energy savings get spent in the community rather than going to off-island power suppliers. More local power production can also teach us about where our energy comes from and promote energy conservation initiatives.

With the high school project already up and running, we can only hope it won't take long for the enthusiasm to spark another creative and fruitful partnership. The solar project brought islanders together under a united cause and achieved impressive results in a surprisingly short time; that's the kind of energy the island needs to promote.



VIEWPOINT by George Grams

More watershed work envisioned

The year 2015 for Salt Spring begins with renewal of more than simply the Gregorian calendar. A new term in office begins for our three locally elected officials, Wayne McIntyre, Peter Grove and myself, who have a renewed mandate from islander voters.

Those mandates empower our politicians to pursue initiatives and projects that formed part of the election campaign on which they were returned to office. Some of those projects, such as the work of SSIWPA, are critical to our ability as a community to safeguard the natural environment which furnishes us with much of the essential resources to sustain life and lifestyle, and to ensure that in planning our community we do not overstretch those resources to the point that they might become irreparably degraded.

With some wisdom the ancient Greeks identified four elements: air, earth, fire and water. Our contemporary definition of science numbers the known elements at 118, but the four classical elements are certainly at the apex of those materials crucial to sustaining life. The health of those materials is also very much interdependent. Pollute the air and the fallout will contaminate the soil. Pollute the soil and the contaminants will pollute our food and our water supplies. The chain that connects these vital resources is complex.

Understanding water quality relationships takes desk studies and field work, both of which are currently underway for St. Mary Lake. The preliminary results will form the foundation of an integrated watershed planning process beginning March 2, 2015. By late summer we hope to have a watershed management plan that incorporates the final fieldwork results, which will allow us to begin to construct policy designed to protect our source water and our

watersheds, and to implement actions in that regard.

In October of last year, SSIWPA added a water quantity review to its agenda. Our community is cognizant that our source water lakes and our aquifers are finite and that if we place demands on them that exceed their capacity to renewably supply, the results will be deleterious. Assessment of the quantity of raw potable water resources is essential to planning our community in a manner that ensures we live within our environmental means.

SSIWPA was successful in raising over \$159,000 in grants and in-kind contributions last year and that money was used to fully fund the technical studies that are currently under way. We are optimistic that our future fundraising efforts will be equally successful, which will allow us to minimize the financial demands we place on the community in order to continue our essential work.

As it did last year, in 2015 SSIWPA proposes to raise the necessary funds to manage our watersheds through a property tax requisition. The total amount of the tax requisition SSIWPA is suggesting is \$119,000, which will mean approximately \$15 per property parcel. SSIWPA will shortly be seeking input from islanders to assess the degree of support both for SSIWPA's work and for its budgetary proposals. It is important to SSIWPA to hear those views, which will be considered by the Islands Trust Council when it rules on whether the tax requisition should be permitted.

As chair of SSIWPA, I wish to voice my thanks and appreciation to those many individuals and community organizations that have taken the time and trouble to publicly and privately express their support for our work.

The writer is a Salt Spring trustee and SSIWPA's chair.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

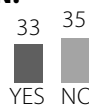
Are you feeling optimistic about 2015?

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday at midnight or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you satisfied with your property assessment?



Driftwood

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Proposed 2015-16 Budget

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Location: Islands Trust

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Item listed by: [Islands Trust](#) on January 23, 2015

Item Description:

The Islands Trust Council welcomes your ideas on its proposed annual budget 2015-2016.

Trust Council will consider your views during budget deliberations before finalizing the budget at its quarterly meeting March 10-12, 2015 on Gabriola Island.

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has requested a Special Property Tax Requisition of \$119,500 to continue funding the coordination of collaborative watershed management on Salt Spring Island.

For more information on the budget please visit: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/budget.aspx>

For more information on the Special Property Tax Requisition please visit: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/salt-spring/projects-initiatives/watershed-management.aspx>

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Sandra Smith
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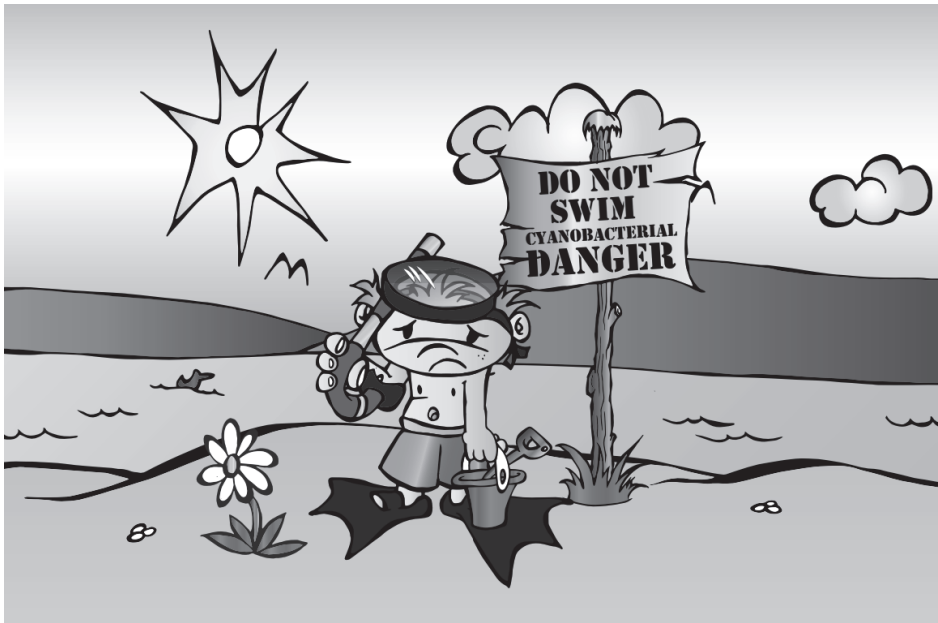


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Let's Work Together to Keep Our Watersheds Healthy!



The **Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority (SSIWPA)** is an innovative example of collaborative watershed governance in British Columbia. In endorsing this collaborative model, member agencies including the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Health, the Capital Regional District, the Island Health Authority, the Islands Trust, the North Salt Spring Water District, and the Fernwood/Highlands Local Service Commission have committed to pool resources as well as gather and share information.

SSIWPA's mandate is to integrate and prioritize key policies, and coordinate action for improved raw water quality (before treatment) starting with St. Mary Lake, followed by Cusheon Lake and other potable surface watersheds. **SSIWPA** has also begun collaborating on water quantity issues as it seeks to improve the health, protection and ecological integrity of groundwater and surface water for all Salt Spring Island watersheds.

Coordination of **SSIWPA** is funded through a special property tax requisition applied throughout the Salt Spring Island Local Trust area. Please support the **Special Property Tax Requisition for 2015/16** which keeps this collaborative group working together to improve our most vital resource.

Find out more about the Salt Spring Island LTC Special Property Tax Requisition:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/salt-spring.aspx>

or: www.ssiwatersheds.ca

Give us your feedback at: budget@islandstrust.bc.ca

Stefan Cermak

Subject: FW: budget increase/environment protection failure

From: John Callas [redacted]

Date: 30 January 2015 at 13:27

Subject: budget increase/environment protection failure

To: budget@islandstrust.bc.ca

Cc: Leah Hartley <lhartley@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Peter Luckham <pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca>, [redacted]

[redacted], "Gary Holman.MLA" <gary.holman.mla@leg.bc.ca>, [redacted]

[redacted] directorssi McIntyre <directorssi@crd.bc.ca>,
[redacted]

[redacted] info@saltspringconservancy.ca, nature@natureconservancy.ca, [redacted]

Greetings:

Your mandate appears to be "preserve island communities, culture and environment." But it seems that your personnel only protect the environment when it conveniences themselves or their associates and not the island residents. Such being the case, I am strongly opposed to wasting anymore of our tax money on the Islands Trust.

When members of an organization, like yours, go out of their way to ignore their own bylaws or to amend them in order to give preferential treatment to a select handful at the expense of the environment, it is time to clean house and replace those people with individuals who demonstrate honesty and integrity.

It is no secret that your trustees and employees use questionable methods in doing their jobs when it comes to dealing with Salt Spring's worst polluter: the Salt Spring Rod and Gun Club.*

After 55 years of damaging activities that have created a cesspool of carcinogens, hazardous waste and one deadly neurotoxin, the Ministry of the Environment is finally involved and requiring the club to do what it should have done ages ago. This positive action towards remediating a local environmental nightmare is being done with no thanks to the Trust that continues to avoid doing the right thing in order to protect their friends and associates.

Under the circumstances, it is obvious that Trust members are more interested in collecting their remuneration than protecting the environment or serving the citizens who pay them. You do not deserve more: Monetary increases, like respect, need to be earned and the Islands Trust deserve neither at this time.

Sincerely yours,

John Callas
Ganges, BC

* The MoE report indicates that the club site has dangerous concentrations of aluminum, arsenic, copper, lead and zinc based on testing of land being adversely affected by the members' ongoing activities. Further testing is sure to reveal deadly amounts of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons related to weekly skeet shooting and likely more heavy metals and hazardous waste.

Received from Dr. Patrick Callas, ND
Salt Spring Island

I am strongly opposed to the recently proposed budget increase for the Islands Trust.

I have been disappointed both with your mismanagement in regards to zoning and addressing the serious toxic metal pollution on and around the Salt Spring Rod & Gun Club land. Furthermore, my concerns on this matter were submitted to Peter Grove in 2013 and I never received the courtesy of any response. In this matter nothing was done and that is what I have come to expect of the Islands Trust. You have failed your own mission statement: to be “responsible for preserving and protecting the islands' unique amenities and environment.” There is currently toxic lead and other heavy metals leeching into the soil and groundwater along Long Harbour Road and the riparian area of Madrona Creek. You have failed to do anything about it. As a citizen and a doctor, I am deeply disappointed by this inaction.

Furthermore, there was a ridiculous zoning matter on Swanson Road in recent years regarding a duplex that should have never been considered and only speaks to poor judgement or collusion. The “duplex” was highly overcrowded with a density of inhabitants equalling an apartment building (rumoured to be up to 23 people), which was illegal and caused spilling of sewage onto neighbouring properties. First of all this housing misuse should never have been allowed to occur and certainly not been considered for rezoning. This again goes against your own mission statement and common sense.

In light of these and other issues, I do not trust you to do your job. You have inadequately managed your responsibilities at hand and simply throwing more money into your budget will not ameliorate a poor enforcement record.

Received from Jeremy I Milsom
Salt Spring Island

TIME FOR LEADERSHIP and RESPONSIBILITY

Our Gulf Islands Islands have likely been well "preserved and protected" by the Island Trust's past actions, but maybe its time to reflect on a job well done, and mostly completed. Can we allow the Trust to grow and further encroach on the already stressed out taxpayer, particularly small businesses which are frequently on the edge of failure yet continually facing punitive taxes and suffocating regulation that often undermines the economic growth that governments want to receive more taxation from.

It is overdue for the Trust to demonstrate responsibility and leadership by becoming strategically proactive and economically sensitive to the source of taxes and by accomplishing more with less. The Trust will only then be regarded as responsible.

To state that we are all going to live on less, is not so profound in these economically stressful times; most of us are already experiencing it, and have already leaned out our unnecessary spending. We taxpayers **are** stressed and will be speaking **more often and more loudly** to direct the Trust to start becoming sensitive to the economic sustainability of our Islands and to confine their course to the original Trust mandate while being (or becoming) fiscally responsible to its' constituents.

As our community experiences a decline in population, less activity in real estate transfers, less building projects and permits, potentially less tourism and less discretionary spending, the taxpayer will ask more loudly why any government organization cannot recognize that they now have surplus staff to accomplish less work. Obvious demographic trends have all but eliminated the "Development Demon" and will necessitate a new model of how our island population and economics will hold stable or develop to serve those who are able to stay. It is now time for the Trust to project realistic future needs rather than holding onto the past.

For the Trust to raise taxes every year or to even hold taxes is no longer an option, particularly while creating a more onerous environment for those who wish to continue living here, working here and doing business here. The same people who generate the tax revenue that the Trust is all too eager to spend, already "get it", it is now up to the Trust to visibly demonstrate leadership and make tough choices in the same way the rest of us do. Just as in every household and small business, every expenditure must be examined, challenged for cost-benefit, and dealt with against real needs, bypassing the capricious desires.

Private sector organizations are accountable to a customer who will determine whether they will thrive or die. We have all seen bloated and ineffective private companies fail, particularly in recent times, for not being attentive to the customer. Rarely can anyone hold a government organization's feet to the "customer satisfaction fire" ...there is no customer and someone else always pays the bill! It takes a long time to effect any change, however desirable or rational. The Islands Trust will continue to pursue "tradition and status quo", without rationalization of the cost-benefit outcome if not reminded of their accountability to the taxpayer.

As the current global economic scenario profoundly stresses the producers (enterprise and businesses) who create tax revenues, government organizations worldwide are reported to be facing very difficult operating choices as their incomes are in dramatic decline. Eliminating waste, duplication of effort, and

parallel organizations, and adopting improved technology are all likely to become more visible strategies. As the "tax-take" diminishes government spending will be forced to decline. Some government organizations will target the producers of tax, to make up the shortfall.

Those choices more often create less revenue as the producers and more innovative find other places to direct their energies and entrepreneurial leadership; plenty of examples are evident! Let me strongly urge that the Islands Trust adopt a culture of leadership and fiscal responsibility by proposing annual budgetary reductions, and accordingly find innovative ways to continue the work that is truly required to "preserve and protect mandate" as it applies to real issues, real world economics and real demographic trends. I encourage your organization to be inspired to challenge bureaucracy, the status quo, waste, duplication and the no longer relevant projects and bylaws. Become like the rest of us!

Received from Tony Maude
Salt Spring Island

A) I would like to voice an objection to the funds proposed for watershed management as there a number of bodies including the provincial govt that already are in place to manage this resource and further involvement by a local authority will only duplicate services and provide no further authority or jurisdiction over the resource. I strongly believe that the current issues around the St.Mary Ik concerns should be the limit of this group's involvement in this issue.

B) I strongly object to the creation of an Aboriginal consultant as again this is administered by the Provincial and Federal Ministries and a local staff person will provide no meaningful benefit to the local community and only increase our taxes

C) The Islands Trust should focus on cleaning up the local seashore ,in particular the Fulford Harbour area .of derelict boats and debris. This initiative is clearly within their scope and I would support the dedication of funds for that initiative .

D) The bylaw officer increased funding should only be approved if duties are expended to include parking enforcement in Ganges during summer and Fulford Harbour year around to control parking on public roads to ensure safety and the respectful use of



RWM From: February 25, 2015 To: February 25, 2015

Salt Spring Island

Resolution #	Action	Resolution Description	Resolution Date
2015-03	In Favour	That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee approve the Request for Decision dated February 12, 2015 and authorize staff to forward it for consideration by Trust Council	Feb 25, 2015