



File No.: 6500-20 – Water Sustainability

DATE OF MEETING: February 16, 2021

TO: Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee

FROM: Jason Youmans, Island Planner  
Salt Spring Island Team

COPY: Salt Spring Island Watershed Preservation Alliance (SSIWPA)

SUBJECT: SSIWPA Special Property Tax Requisition – Fiscal 2021/22

## RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee endorse the attached Request for Decision and authorize staff to forward it for consideration to Islands Trust Council.**

## REPORT SUMMARY

This report concerns a Special Property Tax requisition for Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) to continue funding the coordination of watershed protection and planning initiatives through the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA). Trust Council Policy 6.3 ii requires the LTC to approve a Request for Decision (RFD) regarding the special property tax requisition.

Appendix 1 of this staff report contains a proposed RFD requesting a special tax requisition in the amount of \$75,500, an amount sufficient to cover the costed items in SSIWPA’s fiscal 2021/22 work program.

The LTC previously considered this matter at its January 19, 2021 meeting and resolved to request a \$75,500 special property tax requisition through Trust Council.

Staff are also including the attached RFD in the agenda package for Islands Trust Financial Planning Committee’s (FPC) February 17, 2021 meeting where the budget to be forwarded to Trust Council will be decided. Staff will update FPC about the LTC’s final decision on the RFD.

## BACKGROUND

### Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA)

The LTC has been coordinating SSIWPA since 2013 using delegated authority from the Islands Trust Council (*Islands Trust Act*, Section 8(2)b, via Trust Council [Bylaw No. 154](#). SSIWPA provides a forum within which to engage multi-jurisdictional planning for the sustainability and protection of freshwater resources on Salt Spring Island. The purpose of SSIWPA is to:

- Provide a framework for freshwater resources in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area to be managed in a manner that integrates and considers both human and ecosystem needs through integrated planning, policy development and recommendations for implementation by member agencies and organizations;

- Advise on policies of regional, local and provincial government organizations that are related to freshwater resources; and
- Coordinate the implementation of those policies.

The SSIWPA [Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#) provides guidance for how the member agencies collaborate and provide a framework for the scope of work undertaken.

### **Special Property Tax Requisition**

#### *Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA)*

At its December 17, 2020 meeting the SSIWPA Steering Committee considered its funding needs for the 2021/22 fiscal year and passed the following resolution<sup>1</sup>:

**By general consent**, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance approved the draft SSIWPA Budget 2021-2022 as amended.

The SSIWPA-endorsed budget included a special property tax requisition of \$75,500. See Appendix 1.2 for approved SSIWPA budget.

#### *Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC)*

At its meeting of January 19, 2021, the LTC passed the following resolutions concerning a special property tax requisition to coordinate water sustainability policy:

**SS-2021-001**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED,**

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee request a special property tax requisition for \$75,500 from the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area in the 2021/2022 fiscal year, subject to Trust Council Policy 6.3.ii, in order to fund coordination of watershed management on Salt Spring Island, using the powers delegated to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee by Trust Council Bylaw No. 154.

**CARRIED**

**SS-2021-002**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED,**

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee endorse the special property tax requisition consultation/communications plan identified in the staff report dated January 19, 2021.

**CARRIED**

At its January 19, 2021 meeting the LTC also passed a number of resolutions detailing allocation of unspent property tax requisition funds from previous fiscal years:

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix 2 for excerpt from draft minutes of December 17, 2020 SSIWPA Steering Committee meeting re. SSIWPA budget request.

**SS-2021-004**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED,**

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee request that Islands Trust Council amend the 2021/22 draft budget to include a draw of \$30,000 from Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee surplus funds – which includes the remainder of the constituency grant received by SSIWPA in 2017 – for the development of a Weston Lake Water Availability and Climate Change Assessment Study to be carried out by a contractor in cooperation with the Capital Regional District.

**CARRIED**

**SS-2021-005**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED,**

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to develop a draft project charter and partnership agreement for a Weston Lake Water Availability and Climate Change Assessment Study to be carried out by a contractor in cooperation with the Capital Regional District.

**CARRIED**

**SS-2021-006**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED,**

That the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee approve in principle the development of, under the guidance of a qualified consultant, an executable strategic plan to guide and prioritize watershed protection work on a long-term basis (5 to 10 year time frame) to better support decision-makers in advancing effective, modernized land and water use planning.

**CARRIED**

**SS-2021-007**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED,**

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to report back with a project charter for the development of a watershed protection strategic plan generally consistent with the Request for Decision included in January 19, 2021 regular meeting agenda package and that staff investigate opportunities to harmonize plan development with the Regional Planning Committee’s Freshwater Sustainability Strategy.

**CARRIED**

**SS-2021-008**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED,**

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee requests that Trust Council amend the 2021/22 draft budget to include the allocation of up to \$50,000 from Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee surplus funds to hire a contractor to guide the development of a strategic watershed protection plan for Salt Spring Island and that the funds would only be expended with explicit approval of the Local Trust Committee.

**CARRIED**

*Islands Trust Council*

At its November 12, 2020 meeting, the Islands Trust Council Financial Planning Committee (FPC) considered a draft Islands Trust Council budget for fiscal year 2021/22 that included an assumed special property tax requisition for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area in the amount of \$75,500. This preliminary budget was approved by FPC and endorsed by Trust Council at its December 2020 meeting. A final decision about the special tax requisition will be made by Trust Council at the March 2020 meeting of Islands Trust Council.

## **ANALYSIS**

### **Policy/Regulatory**

Pursuant to [Trust Council Policy 6.3.ii](#), the SSI LTC must submit a budget program request for preliminary consideration by Trust Council in December of each year. The Local Trust Committee also has a responsibility to solicit feedback from the public minimally through a mechanism of advertising and otherwise advising the public of the purpose and value of the proposed special requisition. The feedback received must be considered by Islands Trust Council prior to the final adoption of any bylaw that incorporates a special property tax requisition. A significant portion of the public consultation may be channeled through the annual public consultation of Trust Council's budget. When presented for approval to Trust Council, the request must include a completed Special Property Tax Requisition Checklist included in Section 7 of Policy 6.3.ii (see Appendix 1.1).

### **Issues and Opportunities**

#### *Proposed 2021/22 SSIWPA Budget and Work Plan*

See 1.2 for SSIWPA's proposed work plan and budget for fiscal 2021/22 as agreed by the SSIWPA Steering Committee at its December 17, 2020 and January 21, 2021 meetings.

The SSIWPA-endorsed budget contains the following assumptions:

- Special tax requisition will be for \$75,500, in line with previous fiscal, SSIWPA steering committee's endorsed budget, and placeholder in Trust Council budget;
- Costed items anticipated to be approximately \$75,500
- Annual coordinator compensation will be capped at \$60,000;
- Annual number of meetings is assumed as follows:
  - Up to 6 Steering Committee meetings
  - Up to 6 Technical Working Group meetings

Beyond outreach and education, SSIWPA is not authorized to lead projects. Rather, it provides a forum that brings together agencies with jurisdiction over the Island's freshwater, services that provide freshwater to users, and members of the Island community with an interest in freshwater. This group helps identify pressing water sustainability issues, recommends paths to resolving those issues, and helps coordinate the efforts of lead agencies where required.

A summary of, and links to, outreach and education projects undertaken by SSIWPA in fiscal 2020/21, as well as member-agency-led projects in which SSIWPA has played a role this fiscal year, is available [here](#).

Information on past SSIWPA work can be found in annual reports available [here](#), and elsewhere on the [SSIWPA website](#).

### *Unspent Funds – Special Property Tax Requisition*

The LTC currently has approximately \$85,000 in unspent SSIWPA coordination funds<sup>2</sup> dating back to the 2016/17 fiscal year, as well as \$14,097 remaining from a provincial constituency grant received by SSIWPA but administered by Islands Trust. It is anticipated that SSIWPA may underspend its 2020/21 special property tax requisition by approximately \$3,500.

As noted in the “background” section above, the LTC passed several resolutions at its January 21, 2021 meeting to allocate a majority of these unspent funds from previous fiscal years to the development of a Weston Lake Water Availability and Climate Change Study, and to the development of a watershed strategic plan for Salt Spring Island.

### **Consultation and Communication**

In accordance with *Islands Trust Council Policy 6.3.ii -- Special Property Tax Requisition*, any proposed special property tax requisition for fiscal 2021/22 requires public consultation along with the overall Trust Council budget for 2021/22.

The LTC endorsed a special property tax requisition communications and consultation plan at its January 19, 2021 meeting that will largely see communications efforts piggyback on the greater Trust Council budget consultation.

Two questions about the proposed special property tax requisition have been included in the 2021/22 Trust Council online budget consultation survey which is open until February 7, 2021.

The introduction to the questions, the questions, and responses to date, are as follows:

#### *Salt Spring Island Special Tax Levy*

A special property tax levy is a mechanism by which the Islands Trust funds a special initiative taking place in a single local trust area through a tax levied on property owners only in that local trust area.

This taxing power can be used when a local trust committee wishes to undertake a large initiative with local significance or to take on additional operations. Since 2014, the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has funded, through a special local tax requisition, the [Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance](#) to support work related to the preservation and protection of freshwater resources on Salt Spring Island. [Backgrounder.](#)

Question	Options	Responses to date
	Yes	29

<sup>2</sup> 2016/17 - \$7,105.99; 2017/18 - \$6,976.20; 2018/19 - \$10,258.39; 2019/20 - \$60,421.13

1. Do you support a special property tax requisition in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area to fund the coordination of initiatives to preserve and protect freshwater on Salt Spring Island?	no I don't know I don't have an opinion	25 9 2
2. The special property tax requisition is proposed to be \$75,500 to fund the continued coordination of community, government and non-government organizations working together in 2021/22 to develop a framework and strategy to protect watersheds and preserve drinking water sources on Salt Spring Island.	Too much Too little Just right I don't know I don't have an opinion	21 8 8 18 8

See Appendix 3 for written comments received in response the above budget survey questions.

Staff will provide updated survey response numbers to the LTC at its meeting of February 16, 2021.

The LTC may wish to review the full suite of comments received through the survey when the Trust Council agenda package is released in advance of Council's March meeting.

Notice of the budget consultation was advertised in the Salt Spring Island Driftwood Newspaper, on the Salt Spring Exchange, and distributed through the SSI LTC and SSIWPA subscribers lists. See summary in Appendix 1.3.

No further consultation on the proposed special property tax requisition is recommended at this time. However, interested community members may wish to submit comment directly to Trust Council [here](#).

### **Statutory Requirements**

#### *Trust Council – Request for Decision*

As per Island Islands Trust Policy 6.3.ii the LTC must also approve a Request for Decision (RFD) for inclusion in the March Trust Council agenda, requesting a bylaw to authorize a special property tax requisition. The RFD is attached as Appendix 1 and includes an assessment of organizational and other implications, a completed copy of the checklist in policy 6.3.ii along with attached documentation.

### **Rationale for Recommendation**

- 1. That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee endorse the attached Request for Decision and authorize staff to forward it for consideration to Islands Trust Council.**

Initiating a special property tax requisition to fund the coordination of freshwater initiatives on Salt Spring Island requires submission of a Request for Decision (RFD) to Islands Trust Council. The RFD attached to

this staff report recommending a special tax requisition of \$75,500 reflects the costed items in the SSIWPA 2021/22 work plan.

**ALTERNATIVES**

**1. Direct staff to amend the Request for Decision (RFD) for a different amount.**

The LTC may determine that the \$75,500 special property tax requisition included in the RFD is not appropriate for the 2021/22 fiscal year. If this is the case, the LTC can direct that the amount be amended.

A potential resolution to action this is as follows:

*That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to amend the attached Request for Decision to include a special property tax requisition of \$\_\_\_\_\_, and authorize staff to forward it for consideration to Islands Trust Council.*

**2. Additional Local Consultation and Communications**

The LTC could direct staff to undertake additional local consultations. This could take the form of, for example, a locally advertised online survey or a Community Information Meeting (CIM).

Funding for such additional consultation can be paid for from the existing 2020/21 special tax requisition for watershed protection.

If the LTC wishes to direct this additional consultation, it could pass the following resolution:

*That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to undertake the following consultation and communication initiatives concerning the special property tax requisition for water sustainability:*

- 1) . . . .
- 2) . . . .

The results of such additional consultation would be forwarded to Islands Trust Council in advance of Trust Council’s budget deliberations at its March 9, 2021 meeting.

The implication of additional consultation is staff time diverted from other planning projects.

**NEXT STEPS**

Staff will forward a Request for Decision to Trust Council in accordance with LTC direction.

Submitted By:	Jason Youmans, Island Planner	February 4, 2021
Concurred By:	Stefan Cermak, Regional Planning Manager	February 4, 2021

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Request for Decision – Trust Council
- 2. SSIWPA Minutes, December 17, 2020 (excerpt)
- 3. TC Budget Survey Responses and Comments (to February 4, 2021)





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

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 \$5,000 or more.

The SSI LTC has operationalized Bylaw No. 154 by funding the coordination of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA).

The purpose of SSIWPA is to:

- Provide a framework for freshwater resources in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area to be managed in a manner that integrates and considers both human and ecosystem needs through integrated planning, policy development and recommendations for implementation by member agencies and organizations;
- Advise on policies of regional, local and provincial government organizations that are related to freshwater resources; and
- Coordinate the implementation of those policies.

To date, coordination of SSIWPA operations has been performed by a contractor with some administrative and other assistance from Islands Trust staff.

The SSIWPA Steering Committee holds regular meetings to develop strategies and recommendations to the member agencies in order to secure the long-term health, protection and stewardship of watersheds, surface and groundwater resources. These meetings are a forum for member agency representatives to cooperatively determine information gaps, and to coordinate joint actions to fill those gaps. The Steering Committee also relies on technical review, advice and reports prepared by its Technical Working Group, which consist of member agency staff and local volunteers with inter-disciplinary professional qualifications related to integrated freshwater resource management.

A summary of, and links to, outreach and education projects undertaken by SSIWPA in fiscal 2020/21, as well as member-agency-led projects in which SSIWPA has played a role this fiscal year, is available [here](#).

Information on past SSIWPA work can be found in annual reports available [here](#), and elsewhere on the [SSIWPA website](#).

Beyond outreach and education, SSIWPA is not authorized to lead projects. Rather, it provides a forum that brings together agencies with jurisdiction over the Island's freshwater, services that provide freshwater to users, and members of the Island community with an interest in freshwater. This group helps identify pressing water sustainability issues, recommends paths to resolving those issues, and helps coordinate the efforts of lead agencies where required.

See Appendix 1.2 for SSIWPA's proposed work plan and budget for fiscal 2021/22 as agreed by the SSIWPA Steering Committee at its December 17, 2020 and January 21, 2021 meetings.

### **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 1.1.

At its January 19, 2021 meeting, Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee passed the following resolution:

**SS-2021-001**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED,**

*That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee request a special property tax requisition for \$75,500 from the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area in the 2021/2022 fiscal year, subject to Trust Council Policy 6.3.ii, in order to fund coordination of watershed management on Salt Spring Island, using the powers delegated to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee by Trust Council Bylaw No. 154.*

As of publication of this RFD, and in accordance with *Islands Trust Council Policy 6.3.ii -- Special Property Tax Requisition*, the proposed special property tax requisition of \$75,500 for 2021/22 was included as an item for public consultation within the overall Trust Council budget of 2021/22.

A summary of that consultation was provided by Trust Area Services and is attached as Appendix 1.3.

This RFD is the final step in the LTC process of requesting a special property tax requisition.

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**IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION**

**ORGANIZATIONAL:**

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (SSI LTC) intends to continue to use the requisitioned funds to support coordination of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) – a multi-agency body dedicated to watershed protection on Salt Spring Island through collaborative watershed management.

Inclusion of the funds enables the continuation of contract coordination services to administer and manage SSIWPA’s operations and projects on behalf of the SSI LTC. Additional administrative work related to contract management, financial management, management of grant awards and related SSI LTC 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 SSI LTC, pursuant to the additional powers that Trust Council has delegated to it (coordination of SSIWPA).

The proposed budget is:

Coordinator Contract(s)	\$ 60,000
Meeting Costs:	\$ 1,760
<u>Events and Comm.</u>	<u>\$ 13,740</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 75,500</b>

See Appendix 2 for the proposed SSIWPA Work Plan and Budget for 2021/22.

The SSI LTC currently has approximately \$85,000 in unspent special property tax requisition funds, plus approximately \$14,000 received by SSIWPA as a constituency grant that is administered by Islands Trust.

However, at its January 19, 2021 meeting, the LTC resolved to allocate up to \$30,000 from these accumulated funds toward a water availability and climate change assessment for Weston Lake, and up to \$50,000 for the development of a watershed strategic plan for Salt Spring Island.

**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.

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**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](#)

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix 1.1 – Trust Council Policy 6.3.ii checklist  
Appendix 1.2 – SSIWPA Proposed Work Plan and Operations Budget  
Appendix 1.3 – Special Property Tax Requisition – Consultation Summary

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**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 \$75,500 in its 2021/22 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 2021/22 fiscal year for a lesser amount than requested by the SSILTC
2. That the Islands Trust Council include a special property tax requisition for the 2021/22 fiscal year for a greater amount than requested by the SSILTC.
3. That the Islands Trust Council does not include a special property tax requisition for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area for the 2021/22 fiscal year.

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**Prepared By:**

Jason Youmans, Island Planner, Local Planning Services, February 4, 2021

**Reviewed By/Date:**

Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee, February 16, 2021

Financial Planning Committee, DATE

Russ Hotsenpiller, CAO, DATE

David Marlor, DLPS, DATE

- a) approved.
  - b) 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.
  - c) Unspent funds can not be used to offset a general property tax requisition.
2. 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	November 1, 2020
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	November 12, 2020
Financial Planning Committee makes recommendations to Trust Council regarding budget proposals made by LTCs, identifying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any that must be funded through a special property tax requisition pursuant to a Trust Council delegation bylaw (e.g. Bylaw 154).</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> Director of Local Planning Services provides additional information to Trust Council about LTC proposals, as needed.	December Trust Council meeting	December 3, 2020
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:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LTC passes resolution to pursue special property tax requisition to fund the "additional operations" budget proposal:</li> </ul>	January	January 19, 2021
- copy of resolution attached		In RFD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LTC requests staff to conduct public consultation on the special tax requisition proposal:</li> </ul>	Mid-February	January 19, 2021
		LTC endorses communications and consultation plan – largely undertaken through Trust Council budget consultation.
- copy of advertisement attached		Attached
- if public meeting held, minutes of the discussion attached		N/A
o written summary of public feedback attached		Attached

**ISLANDS TRUST POLICY MANUAL**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>	February FPC meeting	February 16, 2021
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**ISLANDS TRUST**  
**SSIWPA Coordination Budget 2021-22**  
 Adopted December 17, 2020

	<b>Draft Budget 2021-22</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
SSI LTC Tax Requisition	75,500	
In-Kind Staff Time	-	1,000
Draw from SSIWPA Surplus (previously recognised Constituency Grant funds)	14,097	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>89,597</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<u>Coordination</u>		
Coordinator Contract	60,000	
	60,000	
<u>Events and Communications</u>		
Communications Materials	11,740	
Events	-	
Website Hosting	2,000	
	13,740	
<u>Meetings</u>		
Steering Committee	280	
Technical Working Group	280	
Rainwater Subcommittee	280	
Minute-taker	800	
Meeting Software Licensing Fees (Zoom)	120	
In-Kind Staff Time	-	1,000
	1,760	1,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>75,500</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Annual Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>14,097</b>	<b>-</b>
Transfer (t CRD) from SSI LTC for Project [Weston Lake Water Availability and Climate Change Study]	(14,097)	
<b>NET ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT) after transfers</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Accumulated Surplus, opening balance (March 31, 2021 est)	109,796	
Accumulated Surplus, closing balance (March 31, 2022)	95,699	

SSIWPA Workplan April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022										
	Area or Watershed	Lead Agency	Quarter:	1	2	3	4	Partners	Status	
<b>Water Availability Analysis</b>										
Detailed Hydrogeological Assessment of Water Service Area	Cedar Lane	CRD						Cedar Ln Commission, TWG, FLNR	Proposed	
Water Availability and Climate Change Assessment*	Weston	CRD						Fulford Commission, TWG, FLNR	In process	
<b>Monitoring</b>										
<b>Watershed Monitoring Program:</b>										
Observation Wells	Island	IT						FLNR	Ongoing	
Observation Lakes	Bullock	IT							Ongoing	
	Cusheon	IT							Ongoing	
	Weston	IT							Ongoing	
	Stowell	IT							Ongoing	
Water System Data Management Assistance		SSIWPA							In process	
<b>Policy and Planning</b>										
Bloom Notification Alert System	Cusheon, SML	Water Preservation						CRD, CLSC, Island Health	Proposed	
Blackburn Legacy Landfill Pollution Assessment	Blackburn	Water Preservation						CRD, CLSC, ENV	Proposed	
Watershed Protection Plan*	Island	IT							Proposed	
Proof of Sufficient Water (Time of Subdivision)	Island	IT						CRD, FLNR	In process	
<b>Communications</b>										
Rainwater Rebate Program	Island	Transition SS						CRD, SSIWPA	Funding being sought	
Groundwater Brochure	Island	SSIWPA - TWG						FLNR	In process	
Professional Design Guide for Potable Rainwater Systems	Regional ?	<i>Pending</i>						CRD, FLNR	Proposed	
Virtual Rain Tour, Online Rain Harvesting Resources	Island	SSIWPA							Ongoing	
Annual Report	Island	SSIWPA							Annually	

\*Linked projects; There could be other watersheds identified in the WPPlan.



## How was the budget survey process advertised in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area?

### Trustees

- TBD

### Social Media

- Islands Trust Facebook group page

### Print Ads

- Gulf Island Driftwood x 2
- Salt Spring Island Exchange - Feature Ad

### Email

- Notification sent to Salt Spring Island LTC e-mail subscriber list
- Notification sent to Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance e-mail subscriber list
- Direct e-mail to contact/audience list

### Website

- SSI LTC [news webpage](#) updated with special property tax info
- SSI LTC Water Sustainability [project webpage](#) updated with special property tax info
- Link to special property tax requisition [FAQ](#) included in all advertising

## **2021/22 Trust Council Budget Survey – SSI Special Property Tax Requisition**

Two questions about the proposed special property tax requisition were included in the 2021/22 Trust Council online budget consultation survey which closed on February 7, 2021.

These questions were as follows:

### **Salt Spring Island Special Tax Levy**

A special property tax levy is a mechanism by which the Islands Trust funds a special initiative taking place in a single local trust area through a tax levied on property owners only in that local trust area. This taxing power can be used when a local trust committee wishes to undertake a large initiative with local significance or to take on additional operations. Since 2014, the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has funded, through a special local tax requisition, the [Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance](#) to support work related to the preservation and protection of freshwater resources on Salt Spring Island. [Backgrounder.](#)

#### QUESTION 1:

Do you support a special property tax requisition in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area to fund the coordination of initiatives to preserve and protect freshwater on Salt Spring Island?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- I don't have an opinion

#### QUESTION 2:

The special property tax requisition is proposed to be \$75,500 to fund the continued coordination of community, government and non-government organizations working together in 2021/22 to develop a framework and strategy to protect watersheds and preserve drinking water sources on Salt Spring Island.

Is this amount:

- Too much
- Too little
- Just right
- I don't know
- I don't have an opinion

**THIS SECTION TO BE UPDATED ONCE SURVEY CLOSES ON FEBRUARY 7, 2021**

There were XX responses to question 1 as follows:

Yes: XX

No: XX

I don't know: XX

I don't have an opinion: XX

There were XX responses to question 2 as follows:

Too much: XX

Too little: XX

Just right: XX

I don't know: XX

I don't have an opinion: XX

# Have your Say!

## Islands 2050

Help set directions for Policy Statement changes:  
public survey

📅 **Open:** January 18th–February 5th

🖱️ **islandtrust.bc.ca/islands2050**

✉️ **Questions?** islands2050@islandtrust.bc.ca

## 2021/2022 Budget Consultation

Offer comments on the proposed budget: public survey

📅 **Open:** January 22nd–February 7th

🖱️ **islandtrust.bc.ca/budget**

✉️ **Questions?** budget@islandtrust.bc.ca

📘 **Learn more:** SSI Local Trust Committee's proposed special property tax requisition




Islands Trust

*Preserving and protecting over 450 islands  
and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea.*

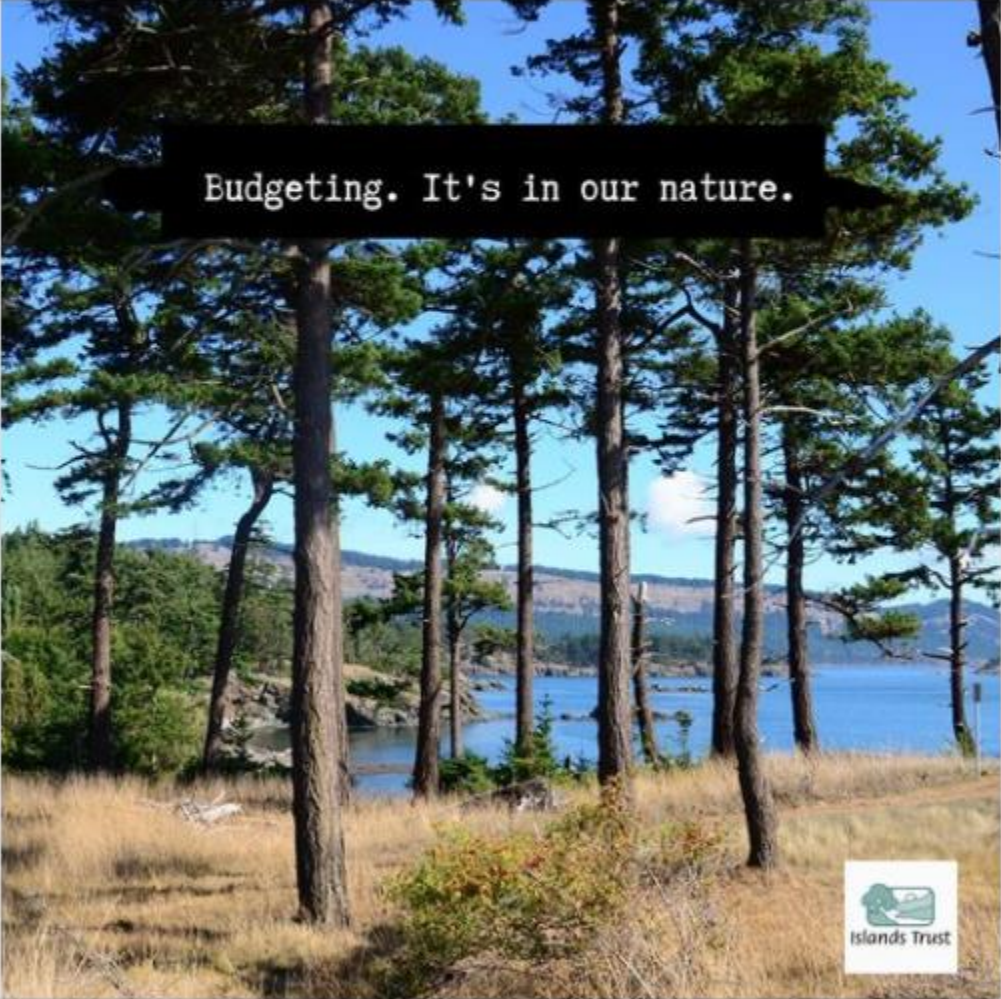
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## SSI Exchange Feature Ad



**Full Name** Gillian Nicol, Islands Trust

**Phone** 250-405-5195

**Location** Whole Island

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More information on the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area Special Property Tax requisition

Questions? [budget@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:budget@islandstrust.bc.ca)

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Photo: Islands Trust Archive

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- There was a question regarding the role of CRD staff and Island Health. Member Green reported early steps would be to communicate with CRD and Island Health.
- There was a comment that water users in the Beddis Water District would be notified although water license holders on Cusheon Lake would not be notified.

**By general consent**, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance agreed to add cyanobacteria blooms notification coordination to the SSIWPA workplan.

### 4.3 Budget Discussion

#### 4.3.1 Second Quarter 2020-21 SSIWPA Income Statement

The Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance Statement of Revenue and Expenditures April 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020 was presented.

#### 4.3.2 Memorandum re: SSIWPA Budget – Constituency Grant

Planner Youmans presented a memorandum dated December 11, 2020 regarding SSIWPA Budget – Constituency Grant.

#### 4.3.3 SSIWPA Budget 2021-2022 For Discussion

The SSIWPA Coordination draft Budget 2021-22 was presented.

The following questions and comments were noted:

- There was a question regarding whether some of the surplus funds could be allocated to the Weston Lake Availability Study.
- There was a question whether there would be a surplus of coordinator time this year. Coordinator Cowan reported she does not anticipate a surplus of coordinator time this year.
- There was a question regarding whether there are coordination projects that are wrapping up that would free coordination time for next year.
- J. Millson presented a recommendation for a Salt Spring Island Watershed Freshwater Catalogue video as part of a SSIWPA communications plan.
- The following comments were noted in the chat section of the meeting:
  - Could a communications plan (budget element) include scope for a SSI Stewardship video - staff resource access more than \$\$ budget? Accepting any strategic plan needing to support this?
  - Re: Potable Rainwater System Design Guide - communications workplan item:
    - Rainwater harvesting guidelines from CMHC [https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/water-pdf/cmhc-rainwater-handbook.pdf?sfvrsn=67aa96c9\\_2](https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/water-pdf/cmhc-rainwater-handbook.pdf?sfvrsn=67aa96c9_2)
    - MoH - Rainwater Harvest for Potable uses in BC <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air->

[land-water/water/waterquality/how-drinking-water-is-protected-in-bc/guidance-rainwater-harvesting-for-potable-use.pdf](https://www.scc.ca/en/standardsdb/standards/29480) and CSA: Rainwater Harvesting <https://www.scc.ca/en/standardsdb/standards/29480>

- If a “communications, education/outreach” contract is the only option I would propose we investigate a way of utilizing some component of this on a video
- I'd like to say that the Freshwater Catalogue video sounds like a great idea.
- There was a question regarding whether SSIWPA surplus funds be used for educational materials. Planner Youmans will discuss with Islands Trust staff to clarify whether SSIWPA surplus funds be used for educational materials.
- There was a question regarding whether additional funds from the surplus fund could be accessed during the fiscal period if necessary.
  - Access would likely require Trust Council approval to modify the SSIWPA annual budget

**By general consent**, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance recommends the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee allocate \$14,097 from the SSIWPA surplus (Constituency fund) to the Weston Lake Water Availability and Climate Change Assessment Study by the CRD.

**By general consent**, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance approved the draft SSIWPA Budget 2021-2022 as amended.

#### **4.3.4 Copy to SSIWPA: CRD Director Correspondence to Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Re: Weston Lake Water Availability and Climate Change Assessment Study Funding Request**

The correspondence was received.

## **5. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Thursday, January 21, 2021 from 10:00 – 12:00, location Web Conferencing  
Thursday, April 15, 2021 from 10:00 – 12:00, location Web Conferencing  
Thursday, June 17, 2021 from 10:00 – 12:00, location Web Conferencing  
Thursday, September 23, 2021 from 10:00 – 12:00, location Web Conferencing

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

**By general consent**, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

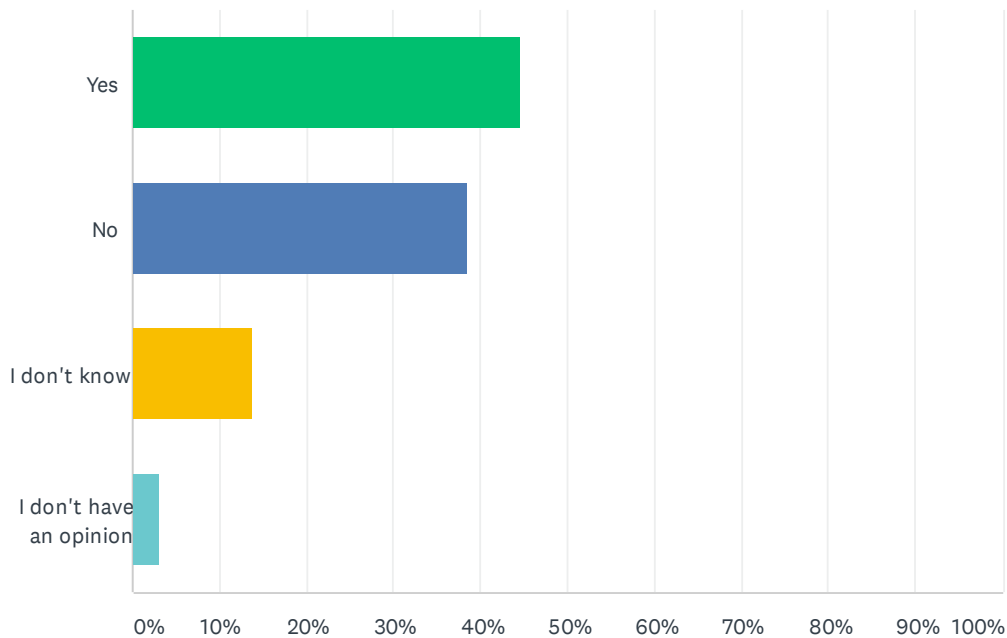
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Laura Patrick, Chair



**Q4 Salt Spring Island Special Property Tax Levy** A special property tax levy is a mechanism by which the Islands Trust funds a special initiative taking place in a single local trust area through a tax levied on property owners only in that local trust area. This taxing power can be used when a local trust committee wishes to undertake a large initiative with local significance or to take on additional operations. Since 2014, the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has funded, through a special local tax requisition, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance to support work related to the preservation and protection of freshwater resources on Salt Spring Island. Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance Backgrounder. Do you support a special property tax requisition in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area to fund the coordination of initiatives to preserve and protect freshwater on Salt Spring Island?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 533



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	44.62%	29
No	38.46%	25
I don't know	13.85%	9
I don't have an opinion	3.08%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>65</b>

## Islands Trust 2021/22 Budget Survey

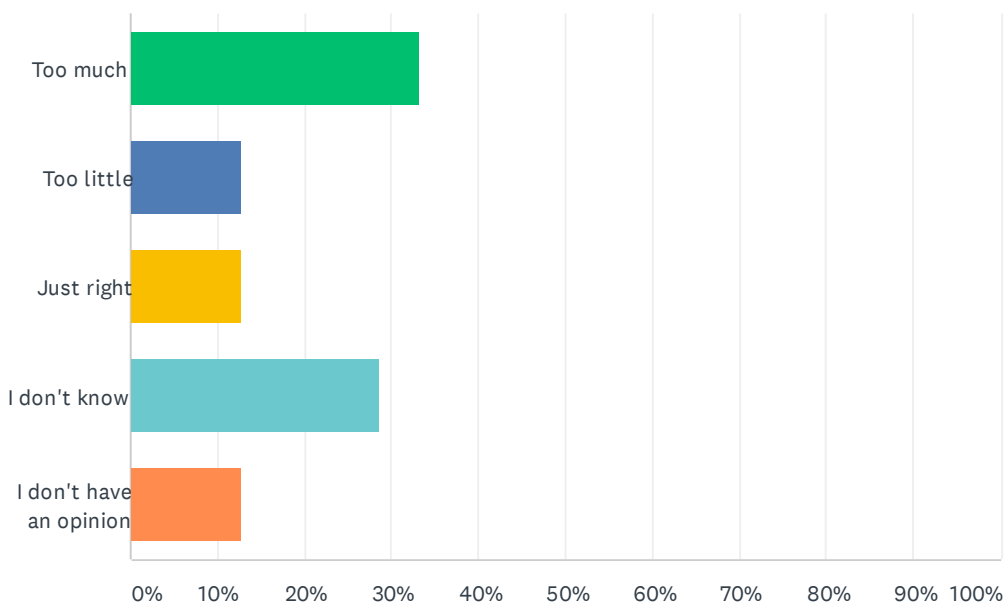
#	PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER:	DATE
1	Yet more taxpayer funded, Inefficient bureaucracy	2/4/2021 8:36 AM
2	It would seem that a simple low cost solution would be the imposition of a single water authority by the appropriate level of government. A more unified, approach that would consolidate funds and policies should be the first step.	2/3/2021 10:46 PM
3	It is not apparent from the information links provided whether or not the alliance has achieved outcomes which justify the expenditure	2/3/2021 10:17 PM
4	This is North Salt Spring Waterworks responsibility.	2/3/2021 10:16 PM
5	Time for and end to tax increases....where are the tax decreases. We are drowning in ever higher taxes.	2/3/2021 5:07 PM
6	If you fix the leaks in the system there is no shortage	2/3/2021 4:43 PM
7	Power grab	2/3/2021 2:44 PM
8	Worthwhile project but I don't have enough trust in IT to oversee this project.	2/2/2021 11:09 AM
9	Only a qualified "yes". Very nearly ticked "no". This needs careful over by an agency or unaffiliated third party that is not influenced by special interest groups. I don't think the Water Preservation Society can look at the issues objectively.	2/2/2021 11:08 AM
10	Hard choices need to be made, if you support the SSIWPA then something else needs to be cut back. How is the effectiveness of this expenditure evaluated and monitored. How do you ensure there is value for money?	2/2/2021 9:53 AM
11	Should be under primary umbrella of Trust. More specific deliverables. Lame duck group that can't authorize anything.	2/2/2021 9:38 AM
12	Not enough information	2/2/2021 8:10 AM
13	No more taxes	2/2/2021 8:06 AM
14	This should be a provincial funded lobby	2/2/2021 8:00 AM
15	NSSWater does do most of this...don't need the names of every stream on the island	2/2/2021 7:49 AM
16	probably support but have just started reading about it	2/2/2021 6:16 AM
17	This is a challenging year to add a special property tax to all residents.	1/31/2021 11:20 AM
18	I think some organized response would be helpful but don't want to see governments role and authority increase.	1/30/2021 8:17 PM
19	Preserving and protecting freshwater is critical in our region	1/30/2021 1:33 PM
20	The NSWD has done an excellent job so far in my area.	1/30/2021 11:35 AM
21	Well, it's important.	1/30/2021 9:06 AM
22	This scarce resource needs to be well managed and protected.	1/30/2021 8:43 AM
23	Done within present taxes	1/29/2021 7:04 PM
24	The preservation and protection of freshwater on SSI requires increased coordination.	1/29/2021 6:54 PM
25	I am grateful for a way to act on these issues	1/28/2021 4:19 AM
26	Surplus should be used first.	1/27/2021 7:59 PM
27	Must ensure all involved agencies are coordinated	1/27/2021 9:12 AM
28	By law enforcement of fresh water use by properties with multiple dwelling who claim farm status makes it unfair for single family dwellings.	1/27/2021 8:15 AM
29	The island needs to develop a prioritized plan for water management, both services and resources	1/27/2021 7:59 AM
30	I believe there is enough information available already on the areas with issues. When don't need to look for problems where there are none.	1/26/2021 11:12 PM

## Islands Trust 2021/22 Budget Survey

31	Water is the single biggest concern that islanders will raise next to fire risk, and the two are inextricably linked. From the point of view of climate action, we urgently need to improve our freshwater supplies to ensure our community's and our ecosystem's resilience in the challenging decades to come. To do so we will need to build hard and natural infrastructure to build/conservate supply. This infrastructure needs to be built to withstand increasing winter rains and summer droughts. We also need to implement aggressive water conservation including mass implementation of water conservation and reuse including rainwater diversion/storage, greywater and blackwater (i.e., composting toilets and/or on-island composting along with chipped wood and other biomass).	1/25/2021 3:28 PM
32	Coordination is key to sustainability. Remove the silos and act collaboratively and strategically on behalf of all water needs.	1/25/2021 11:00 AM
33	I believe a study would be appropriate but I would like an independent body -- not Islands Trust -- to initiate, undertake and monitor the study	1/24/2021 11:55 AM

**Q5 The special property tax requisition is proposed to be \$75,500 to fund the continued coordination of community, government and non-government organizations working together in 2021/22 to develop a framework and strategy to protect watersheds and preserve drinking water sources on Salt Spring Island.**

Answered: 63 Skipped: 535



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Too much	33.33%	21
Too little	12.70%	8
Just right	12.70%	8
I don't know	28.57%	18
I don't have an opinion	12.70%	8
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>63</b>

## Islands Trust 2021/22 Budget Survey

#	PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER:	DATE
1	See above	2/4/2021 8:36 AM
2	It is not clear why this could not be done without the additional funding if there was a single water authority.	2/3/2021 10:46 PM
3	Same reason as above	2/3/2021 10:17 PM
4	This should be done by volunteers	2/3/2021 10:16 PM
5	You have all the information needed to fix the leaks	2/3/2021 4:43 PM
6	Continuous funding of bureaucracy with little results.	2/2/2021 11:09 AM
7	Is this an increase or decrease over previous years? How long has this been in place? What has been accomplished? What is the long term objective and timeframe? Allowing it to go on indefinitely with little or no reported results is a no-go. Produce, or go away.	2/2/2021 11:08 AM
8	Not sure on this one as I see no plan to ensure the money is well spent.	2/2/2021 9:53 AM
9	What exactly is the money spent on?	2/2/2021 8:10 AM
10	Cut back on your staffing	2/2/2021 8:06 AM
11	good if it goes to individual or company on SSI, not if off island contractor	2/2/2021 6:16 AM
12	I get no sense of how the \$75,000 is to be spent	2/1/2021 5:47 PM
13	My understanding is that recent work by this group has been effective.	1/30/2021 2:05 PM
14	Preserving our drinking water is paramount.	1/30/2021 11:14 AM
15	So ... if water quality and/or supply is improved - then what ... an even denser amount of population!? W/out pop. control and build permit reductions, your proposals for an 'island nirvana' will contribute to Saltspring eventually becoming Singapore North!!!!	1/30/2021 10:27 AM
16	Need more info and context	1/30/2021 8:55 AM
17	I don't know enough about the project to comment on cost.	1/30/2021 8:43 AM
18	No more taxes !	1/29/2021 7:04 PM
19	The preservation and protection of freshwater on SSI requires increased coordination.	1/29/2021 6:54 PM
20	"Water is life."	1/29/2021 1:03 PM
21	Addressing water issues on SSI is critical for the economic, environmental and social resiliency of the island. The water issues on SSI are complex and require multiagency coordination and innovative approaches. We have to address water if we ever hope to tackle climate adaptation and affordable housing.	1/28/2021 10:39 PM
22	I can't imagine you can do much with that amount, but OK	1/28/2021 4:19 AM
23	Surplus should be used first	1/27/2021 7:59 PM
24	Could be higher if planned and budgeted	1/27/2021 9:12 AM
25	No by-law enforcement makes it unfair.	1/27/2021 8:15 AM
26	If a plan is to be excited additional funding will be needed	1/27/2021 7:59 AM
27	Simple solutions for simple problems.	1/26/2021 11:12 PM
28	Too little if it's a one year expense. We need a long term plan and a long term spend along with it. Addressing this problem is key to our island's viability in the coming decades.	1/25/2021 3:28 PM
29	safe, drinking water is our lifeline. Investment in water quality management is key to the survival of our island.	1/25/2021 11:00 AM
30	It is too much if Islands Trust is the coordinating body.	1/24/2021 11:55 AM