

File No.: 6500-20 – Water
Sustainability

DATE OF MEETING: February 15, 2022
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 2022/23

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 2022/23 work program.

The LTC previously considered this matter at its August 31, 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 16, 2022 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 November 25, 2021 meeting the SSIWPA Steering Committee considered its funding needs for the 2022/23 fiscal year and passed the following resolution:

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance Steering Committee approved the SSIWPA Draft Budget 2022 – 2023 as presented.

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 August 31, 2021, the LTC passed the following resolutions concerning a special property tax requisition to coordinate water sustainability policy:

SS-2021-159

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee submit the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) special property tax requisition business case attached to the staff report of August 31, 2021 including a note that this business case is likely to change pending the results of forthcoming watershed strategic planning work and forward it to Islands Trust Financial Planning Committee for inclusion in the draft 2022/23 Islands Trust budget.

CARRIED

Islands Trust Council

At its November 10, 2021 meeting, the Islands Trust Council Financial Planning Committee (FPC) considered a draft Islands Trust Council budget for fiscal year 2022/23 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 2021 meeting. A final decision about the special tax requisition will be made by Trust Council at the March 2022 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 2022/23 SSIWPA Budget and Work Plan

See Appendix 1.2 for SSIWPA's proposed work plan and budget for fiscal 2022/23 as agreed by the SSIWPA Steering Committee at its November 25, 2021 meeting.

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.

SSIWPA-led communications and education work over fiscal 2021/22 has included:

- [Water Systems Survey Report](#) that details production volume, consumption patterns and rate structures, as well as perceived operating challenges for each of the Island's community water systems;
- Development of [rainwater education materials](#) and social media campaign, including development of new video content (in process) that will be added to a virtual [rainwater harvesting tour](#) of rainwater systems on the Island;
- "[Know Your Groundwater Well](#)" brochure; and
- Participation in content delivery in [rainwater education webinars](#)

Agency-led work supported by SSIWPA over 2021/22 has included:

- Launching a Weston Lake Water Availability and Climate Change Assessment (Islands Trust/CRD). The contract for this project was awarded through a competitive process to GW Solutions and the work is now underway;
- Review by SSIWPA Technical Working Group and Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff of proposed amendments to the Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw concerning proof of water at time of subdivision (Islands Trust);
- A Situation Analysis and Options Identification Report to improve watershed protection coordination on Salt Spring Island (Islands Trust). The contract for this project was awarded through a competitive process to Econics Services and the work is now underway;
- Groundwater Monitoring project for continuous water level data collection at 12 groundwater wells and 4 lake stations (Islands Trust)

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 funds¹ 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.

\$80,000 of these unspent funds have been allocated to the Weston Lake Climate Change and Water Availability Assessment (\$30,000) and the Salt Spring Island Watershed Stewardship and Protection Strategic Plan (\$50,000). Of these allocated funds, it is anticipated that \$50,000 will be spent in the current fiscal year (21/22) with the remaining \$30,000 to be spent in fiscal 22/23.

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 2022/23 requires public consultation.

The business case submitted to Trust Council in August 2021 stated that special property tax consultations would largely piggyback on the greater Trust Council budget consultation.

Two questions about the proposed special property tax requisition have been included in the 2022/23 Trust Council online budget consultation survey which is open until February 6, 2022.

These questions are as follows:

¹ 2016/17 - \$7,105.99; 2017/18 - \$6,976.20; 2018/19 - \$10,258.39; 2019/20 - \$60,421.13

Salt Spring Island Special Property Tax Requisition

A special property tax requisition is a way for the Islands Trust to fund 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 special tax 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 Background.](#)

8. 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

☐ I don't know

☐ No

☐ I don't have an opinion

Comments (optional):

9. 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 2022/23 to develop a framework and strategy to protect watersheds and preserve drinking water sources on Salt Spring Island. Is this amount:

☐ Too much

☐ I don't know

☐ Too little

☐ I don't have an opinion

☐ Just right

Comments (optional):

Trust Area Services was unable to provide interim survey results by agenda deadline. Staff will provide these to the SS LTC as a late item for the February 15, 2022 meeting.

Appendix 2 contains a letter from a Piers Island resident expressing concern about residents of that Island having to pay into the special property tax requisition while not receiving services in return. SS LTC may wish to consider

options to provide Piers Island with planning services commensurate with the value of the tax requisition for the island.

Staff will provide updated survey response numbers and comments 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 on the Islands Trust Facebook page and distributed through the SSI LTC subscriber 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 2022/23 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 2022/23 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 2021/22 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 8 to 10, 2022 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, 2022
Concurred By:	Stefan Cermak, Regional Planning Manager	February 4, 2022

ATTACHMENTS

1. Request for Decision – Trust Council
2. Letter – Gerry Kristianson to SS LTC

- *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.

SSIWPA-led communications and education work over fiscal 2021/22 has included:

- [Water Systems Survey Report](#) that details production volume, consumption patterns and rate structures, as well as perceived operating challenges for each of the Island's community water systems;
- Development of [rainwater education materials](#) and social media campaign, including development of new video content (in process) that will be added to a virtual [rainwater harvesting tour](#) of rainwater systems on the Island;
- "[Know Your Groundwater Well](#)" brochure; and
- Participation in content delivery in [rainwater education webinars](#)

Agency-led work supported by SSIWPA over 2021/22 has included:

- Launching a Weston Lake Water Availability and Climate Change Assessment (Islands Trust/CRD). The contract for this project was awarded through a competitive process to GW Solutions and the work is now underway;
- Review by SSIWPA Technical Working Group and Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff of proposed amendments to the Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw concerning proof of water at time of subdivision (Islands Trust);

- A Situation Analysis and Options Identification Report to improve watershed protection coordination on Salt Spring Island (Islands Trust). The contract for this project was awarded through a competitive process to Econics Services and the work is now underway;
- Groundwater Monitoring project for continuous water level data collection at 12 groundwater wells and 4 lake stations (Islands Trust)

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 2022/23 as agreed by the SSIWPA Steering Committee at its November 25, 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 2022/23 was included as an item for public consultation within the overall Trust Council budget of 2022/23.

Trust Area Services was unable to provide a summary of consultation results to date. Staff will endeavour to include these as a late agenda item ahead of FPC's February 16 meeting.

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

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
Events and Comm.	\$ 9,000
<u>Surplus</u>	<u>\$ 3,840</u>
Total	\$ 75,500

See Appendix 1.2 for the proposed SSIWPA Work Plan and Budget for 2022/23.

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. \$80,000 of this surplus is already earmarked for project spending across this fiscal and next in the form of \$30,000 to 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.

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](#)

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

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 2022/23 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 2022/23 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 2022/23 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 2022/23 fiscal year.

Prepared By:

Jason Youmans, Island Planner, Local Planning Services, February 4, 2022

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	August 31, 2021
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 10, 2021
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	December 1, 2021
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"> LTC passes resolution to pursue special property tax requisition to fund the "additional operations" budget proposal: 	January	August 31, 2021
- copy of resolution attached		In RFD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTC requests staff to conduct public consultation on the special tax requisition proposal: 	Mid-February	August 31, 2021 LTC special property tax requisition business case states that consultation will occur through the greater Trust Council budget consultation process.
- copy of advertisement attached		Attached
- if public meeting held, minutes of the discussion attached		N/A
o written summary of public feedback attached		To be provided once available from Trust

ISLANDS TRUST POLICY MANUAL

<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	Area Services. February 16, 2021
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ISLANDS TRUST
SSIWPA Coordination Budget 2022-23

Adopted November 25, 2021

	Draft Budget 2021-22	In-Kind
REVENUES		
SSI LTC Tax Requisition	75,500	
In-Kind Staff Time	-	1,000
Total Revenues	75,500	1,000
EXPENSES		
<u>Coordination</u>		
Coordinator Contract	60,000	
	60,000	
<u>Events and Communications</u>		
Communications Materials	5,200	
Events	2,700	
Website Hosting	2,000	
	9,900	
<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
Total Expenses	71,660	1,000
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	3,840	-

SSIWPA Workplan April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023									
	Area or Watershed	Lead Agency	Quarter:	1	2	3	4	Partner Agencies	Status
New Project:									
Policy and Planning									
Watershed Protection Strategic Plan Phase 2	Island	IT						All	Not Started
Ongoing Projects:									
Water Availability Analysis									
Water Availability and Climate Change Assessment - Results Integration	Weston	CRD, IT						FLNR, Fulford Commission	Not Started
Groundwater Availability	Cedar Lane	CRD						FLNR, Cedar Ln Commission	Not Started
Monitoring									
Groundwater Well Monitoring	Island	IT+FLNR							Ongoing
Lake Level Monitoring	Bullock	IT							Ongoing
	Cusheon	IT							Ongoing
	Weston	IT							Ongoing
	Stowell	IT							Ongoing
Communications									
Messaging and outreach: existing materials - rainwater rebates	Island	Transition SS						CRD, SSIWPA	funding permitting
Messaging and outreach: existing materials - rain systems, groundwater & lakes (algal blooms)	Island	SSIWPA - TWG						FLNR	Ongoing
Climate Change Adaptation for Watershed Resilience...	Maxwell and Rosemurgy Lakes	Transition SS						TWG (36 person-h), SSIWPA (20 h)	Not Started
Annual Report	Island	SSIWPA							Annually

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

Trustees

- TBD

Social Media

- Islands Trust Facebook group page

Email

- Notification sent to Salt Spring Island LTC e-mail subscriber list

Website

- SSI LTC [news webpage](#) updated with special property tax info

2022/23 Trust Council Budget Survey – SSI Special Property Tax Requisition

Two questions about the proposed special property tax requisition were included in the 2022/23 Trust Council online budget consultation survey which closed on February 6, 2022.

As of February 4, 2022, there were 233 budget survey responses from the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area to the following questions:

Salt Spring Island Special Property Tax Requisition

A special property tax requisition is a way for the Islands Trust to fund 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 special tax 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](#).

8. 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

☐ I don't know

☐ No

☐ I don't have an opinion

Comments (optional):

9. 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 2022/23 to develop a framework and strategy to protect watersheds and preserve drinking water sources on Salt Spring Island. Is this amount:

☐ Too much

☐ I don't know

☐ Too little

☐ I don't have an opinion

☐ Just right

Comments (optional):

Islands Trust Facebook Page Budget Ad

Intro

✓ 678 Followers

Page · Government organization

(250) 405-5151

information@islandstrust.bc.ca

islandstrust.bc.ca

Photos

See all photos

Islands Trust
January 31 at 9:02 AM · 🌐

Budgeting. It is in our nature.

Please tell us what you think of the proposed 2022/2023 budget by filling out our survey at: islandstrust.bc.ca/budget

The deadline to participate is February 6, 2022. ... See more



Budget 2022-2023

Water Sustainability

Salt Spring Island Special Property Tax Requisition

What is a Special Property Tax Requisition?

Islands Trust Council policy enables individual local trust committees to request Islands Trust Council to include a [special property tax requisition](#) within their local trust area to fund “additional operations” that are not included in their general land use planning and regulatory role. The Salt Spring Island Special Property Tax Requisition (SPTR) will only apply to the [Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area](#), which is the only local trust area to benefit from the proposed additional operations. The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (SS LTC) has received a requisition to support watershed management since 2014 and is requesting it again for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

What kind of additional operations is the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee proposing to undertake?

In 2012, SS LTC requested that Islands Trust Council delegate it the authority to *coordinate* and *assist* in the *determination* of regional, improvement district and Government of British Columbia policies; and to *coordinate* the *implementation* and *carrying out* of regional, improvement district and Government of British Columbia policies for the purposes of preserving and protecting water resources in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area. The Islands Trust Council passed [Bylaw 154](#) in June 2013 in response to this request.

With these delegated powers, the SS LTC can now act as more than a land use planning and regulatory body – it also acts as a coordinating body for the [Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance \(SSIWPA\)](#). The SS LTC proposes to continue to fund this work through a special tax levy in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area.

What is the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA)?

[SSIWPA](#) was created in 2013 to provide a coordinated, inter-jurisdictional response to the protection and management of freshwater resources on Salt Spring Island. The SSIWPA Steering Committee is comprised of public agencies with responsibility and authority for the use and management of water resources and the watersheds in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area, as well as other water purveyors and freshwater-interested organizations. The SSIWPA Steering Committee operates on a consensus decision-making model.

Current Steering Committee member agencies are as follows: Islands Trust; Capital Regional District, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; Beddis Water Service Commission; Cedar Lane Water Service Commission; Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission (seat empty); Fulford Water Service Commission; Highland-Fernwood Water Service Commission (seat empty); North Salt Spring Waterworks District; and Scott Point Waterworks District.

Non-voting “members-at-large” sit at the SSIWPA table from Cusheon Lake Stewardship Committee; Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance; Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society; Salt Spring Island Conservancy; Salt Spring Water Company and Transition Salt Spring Society.

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.

What does the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance do?

The SSIWPA Steering Committee holds quarterly meetings to develop strategies for, and recommendations to, 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 identify information, regulatory, and policy 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 consists of member agency staff and local volunteers with inter-disciplinary professional qualifications related to integrated freshwater resource management.

Agency-led work supported by SSIWPA over 2021/22 has included:

- Launching a Weston Lake Water Availability and Climate Change Assessment (Islands Trust/CRD). The contract for this project was awarded through a competitive process to GW Solutions and the work is now underway;
- Review by SSIWPA Technical Working Group and Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff of proposed amendments to the Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw concerning proof of water at time of subdivision (Islands Trust);
- A Situation Analysis and Options Identification Report to improve watershed protection coordination on Salt Spring Island (Islands Trust). The contract for this project was awarded through a competitive process to Econics Services and the work is now underway;
- Groundwater Monitoring project for continuous water level data collection at 12 groundwater wells and 4 lake stations (Islands Trust)

SSIWPA-led communications and education work over the past year has included:

- [Water Systems Survey Report](#) that details production volume, consumption patterns and rate structures, as well as perceived operating challenges for each of the Island’s community water systems;
- Development of [rainwater education materials](#) and social media campaign, including development of new video content (in process) that will be added to a virtual [rainwater harvesting tour](#) of rainwater systems on the Island;
- “[Know Your Groundwater Well](#)” brochure; and
- Participation in content delivery in [rainwater education webinars](#)

Following on the development of the Water Systems Survey Report, SSIWPA has piloted coordinating a Water Systems Working Group that brings together representatives from the Island’s piped water systems to share information and ideas.

SSIWPA’s 2021/22 workplan is available [here](#).

Information on past SSIWPA work can be found in [annual reports](#) 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.

The majority of the annual special property tax requisition is used to hire a contractor to administer/coordinate SSIWPA and lead its education and outreach efforts.

How much of a tax requisition is proposed?

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee is requesting a \$75,500 Special Property Tax Requisition for the 2022-2023 fiscal year in order to coordinate freshwater sustainability work on Salt Spring Island. The tax requisition is based on the following proposed budget:

Coordination Contract	\$ 60,000
SSIWPA Meeting Costs	\$ 1,760
SSIWPA Community Events and Communications	\$ 9,900
Projected Surplus	\$3,840
Total	\$75,500

How much will the proposed \$75,500 watershed management tax cost me as a property owner or tenant?

Historically, Islands Trust property taxes have represented about 12 per cent of the total property tax bill to Salt Spring Island property owners. Impacts of the current COVID-19 pandemic may cause a shift in this percentage based on how operations of the various taxing authorities have been impacted. Understanding of any potential shift is not fully known at this time.

The amount of tax increase for individual property is based on a number of factors, such as, mill rate, type of property etc., and may be different for each property. More information about how property taxes are calculated for Islands Trust Areas is available on the [website](#).

Are other agencies sharing the cost?

There are several agencies, including the Government of British Columbia, that partner with SSIWPA to provide in-kind and other financial support for specific projects. In past years, SSIWPA has raised over \$150,000 in grants, direct funding, and in-kind contributions from its member agencies and other sources.

How will the special property tax requisition affect the other islands in the Islands Trust Area, outside of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area?

This special property tax requisition is only proposed for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area (which includes Prevost Island, Piers Island, Secretary islands and various other smaller islands adjacent to Salt Spring Island) and funds can only be spent in that area. If any funds are unspent at the end of the fiscal year, they can only be used for the work of the SS LTC, and cannot go into the Islands Trust's general revenues.

Who Approves the Special Property Tax Requisition?

The SS LTC's request for a Salt Spring Island Special Property Tax Requisition for watershed management will be considered by the Islands Trust Council during its budget decisions in March 2022. Islands Trust's budget consultations are now underway. Further information about the Islands Trust's general budget proposal is available [here](#).

How Can I Have My Say?

We want to hear from you. You can send your comments on any aspect of the Islands Trust Council's budget, including the Salt Spring Island Special Tax Requisition in several ways as indicated below:

Please note: All feedback will be included in public documents (subject to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation) and posted to the Islands Trust website.

1. Complete a short, anonymous [survey](#). Survey is open from Friday, Jan 21st to Sunday, February 6th, 2022
2. Email: budget@islandstrust.bc.ca
3. Write to: 1 - 500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K-2N8 or 200 – 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8
4. Address Trust Council during Public Comments session at the March Quarterly meeting. [Visit the meeting calendar for more information](#). If you wish to make a presentation as a delegation, rather than making a short statement during the town hall/public comments section, please submit a [delegation application form](#) by February 17.
5. Through one of your local Salt Spring Island trustees: [Peter Grove](#) or [Laura Patrick](#)

Click here for more information on the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/salt-spring/projects-initiatives/water-sustainability/>

<https://ssiwpa.org>

How to Contact Us for Information on SSIWPA:

Email: ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca

Phone: Jason Youmans 250-537-9144

For Information on the Islands Trust Council's proposed 2022-2023 Budget:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/budget.aspx>

From: Gerry Kristianson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Budget <budget@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Cc: Laura Patrick <lpatrik@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Peter Grove <pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Proposed Special Property Tax Requisition

As a property owner and [REDACTED] resident on Piers Island, I wish to lodge a formal protest against the proposal to continue a Special Property Tax Requisition to fund the entity known as the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA).

Under the heading “Water Sustainability”, the Trust budget documents state that the purpose of the requisition is **“to coordinate freshwater sustainability work on Salt Spring Island.”** This is reinforced by details that make clear the work of the Alliance is restricted to activities on Salt Spring Island.

Past correspondence with elected trustees and staff of the Local Trust Area has resulted in repeated refusals either to exempt Piers Island property from the requisition or to apply an appropriate portion of the resulting funds to activity consistent with Bylaw 154 which states that the purpose of the tax is **“protecting the quality and quantity of water resources within the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area”**.

Limiting use of the funds to an entity whose purpose is **“to coordinate freshwater sustainability work on Salt Spring Island”** not only contradicts Bylaw 154’s reference to the local trust area but also paragraph 7 of the bylaw which states that “for certainty, the SS LTA may not further delegate any power that has been delegated by the bylaw”. There is an obvious substantive difference between freshwater activity “on Salt Spring Island” as distinct from activity “within the Salt Spring Local Trust Area”. In other words, at present properties on Piers Island are to be taxed for an activity and series of projects from whose benefits they are excluded.

One of the first interactions between Piers Islanders and the Trust came when some of your predecessors attempted without success to force us to sever our well-established water connection with Greater Victoria. Without any help from the Trust, property owners on Piers provide through our improvement district the reliable distribution of potable water as well as a fresh water reservoir system for firefighting. If the Trust insists on continuing to impose the special levy, then surely it has an obligation to make an appropriate share of the funds available to the Piers Island Improvement District which can put the money to good use “protecting the quality and quantity” of our island’s fresh water resources consistent with the terms of Bylaw 154.

Gerald Kristianson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Piers Island