

From: Erinanne Harper <info@transitionsaltspring.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 2:19 PM

To: ssiinfo <ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Peter Luckham <pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Peter Grove <pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Laura Patrick <lpatrick@islandstrust.bc.ca>

Cc: Bryan Young <bryan@transitionsaltspring.com>; Ruth Waldick <[REDACTED]>; Gayle Baker <gayle@transitionsaltspring.com>

Subject: Transition Salt Spring Support for Watershed-based Planning Proposal

Dear Trustees Patrick, Luckham and Grove,

Transition Salt Spring is committed to partnering with local government, organizations serving our island, and community members to tackle the enormous challenges facing us with climate change. The soon-to-be-released Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan 2.0 identifies collaborative action among key agencies as key to successfully addressing the multiple threats our island faces in the coming decades.

Among the most important priorities set out in the Plan is the protection of our watersheds. This will be a focus for Transition Salt Spring's advocacy and action as we set about implementing the Plan. To that end, Transition Salt Spring is entirely supportive of Trustee Laura Patrick's proposal to develop a strategic watershed approach to land management. Ecosystem-based planning, in fact, is a keystone recommendation in the Plan.

Through this integrative lens, traditionally discrete issues can be examined together to inform public policy and action in a range of areas from water quality and supply, to village intensification and affordable housing—all in the context of preserving our unique ecosystems. Furthermore, ecosystem-based planning will help to strengthen the resilience of watersheds in the face of increasing winter rains, deeper droughts, and other stressors that bear the imprint of climate change.

A key outcome from the Plan's climate risk analysis clearly indicates that forests, soil, and aquatic health will be central to building our resilience to climate change, and therefore, protecting the safety and viability of our communities.

We support SSIWPA and its member organizations who recognize the importance of working together to find ways to better protect our watersheds. The proposed watershed-based approach will identify actions to protect the health of the water that sustains our way of island life by taking account of the state of natural systems and ecosystem functions.

Given the centrality of ecosystem-based planning in the Climate Action Plan, we commit to supporting the Trust in ensuring that watershed-based planning has community support and becomes normative. Your proposal to explore a strategic watershed approach to land management is an essential step towards effective and necessary climate action.

On behalf of the Board, I invite you to reach out to us should there be ways that Transition Salt Spring could help make this project a success.

Sincerely,



Bryan Young



Bryan Young, Chair
[Transition Salt Spring](#)

T 250-538-2396

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Sent from the unceded territories of Hul'qumi'num and SENCOTEN speaking peoples, including the Quw'utsun First Nation and Tsawout First Nation.



January 7, 2020

Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Young", with a long, sweeping underline.

Bryan Young, Chair
bryan@transitionsaltspring.com