

From: ssiinfo <ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 1:25 PM
To: Shayla Burnham <sburnham@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Request for your support for: Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alignment and Opportunities Project

From: robin@wetlandrestoration.ca <robin@wetlandrestoration.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 11:07 AM
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: robin@wetlandrestoration.ca; 'John SSIFWC' <jamssiwater@gmail.com>
Subject: Request for your support for: Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alignment and Opportunities Project

Dear Salt Spring Island Trustees,

I request you support the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alignment and Opportunities Project to develop a plan to strategically guide and prioritize watershed protection work over the next 5 to 10 years. As you are well aware, the protection of freshwater resources on Salt Spring Island is a priority that will have increasing importance as climate change continues.

As essential as it is to protect land from clearing and development in order to assure our current and ongoing needs for freshwater and to maintain vital ecosystem functions, we need to go beyond that to address the challenges climate change is bringing to our water supply and to increased fire risk. As a professional in the field of watershed restoration with extensive experience of Salt Spring Island watersheds, I know of significant opportunities to restore watershed functions within existing public and private lands on Salt Spring Island. Sources of funding are becoming available for watershed restoration through pandemic-related stimulus funding such as the Healthy Watersheds Initiative (<https://www.refbc.com/our-work/healthy-watersheds-initiative>), and it is hoped will lead to ongoing stable funding for the protection of healthy watersheds. There are major restoration opportunities in multiple watersheds that would fall into the category of low-hanging fruit.

I hope you will support the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alignment and Opportunities Project and also take strong initiative to identify, plan for and fund both the protection and restoration of critical Salt Spring Island Watersheds. We have a window of opportunity now to take action, I trust you will act on it.

With appreciation for your ongoing public service,

Robin

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