

Southern Gulf Islands Forum - Meeting Agenda

Friday May 28th, 2021 - 1:30 – 2:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466857149?pwd=cXAvRGtkZ0Z6SWdUUHdPOHc4VDhCZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 6685 7149 Passcode: 561371

- **1:30 – 1:35: Welcome/acknowledgement** (5mins)
- **1:35 – 1:40: Check-in – new attendees** (5mins)
- **1:40 – 2:15: Topics for discussion** (35mins):
 - James Island dispute
 - Guest: Mavis Underwood, Tsawout Councilor
 - Moving along, with support of CS and North Pender.. the settlers are standing up for protected rights – province not hearing their concerns – re continuity and support of rights via UNDRIP
 - They are struggling ways and means to do better financially and reclaim and protect
 - James Island – very rich in medicinal plants
 - Govt approval for development – they were kind of turned down –
 - Govt needs to hear the aural history re Douglas treaty – it wasn't a buy out –
 - When the explosives plant was no longer needed it was to be returned to them – but it got turned over to a hunting resort... so now fallow deer are invasive etc...
 - Need to get peoples to understand and stand with them to talk about remains etc...
 - So much history not understood or misunderstood by settlers..
 - James Island should have been protected by the DTA – they should get it back
 - “consultation” now hasn't allowed them to really discuss w/govt
 - Helps here that Islands Trust folks now asking and talking about this issue..
xxx
 - **ADAM**
 - Spoke w/Min Eby on this – factor need to consider is, is it in the public interest – they have to consider indigenous rights –
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 - Social, economic, environmental cost is very high around this
 - What are options going forward? –
 - Can as a group – send a message to ministry?...
 - **Jane:** can we pass resolutions at different Trust Committees or go through this Forum?
 - **Mavis** – yes good to put in writing – as support – in the context of UNDRIP
 - <https://www.faithinthedeclaration.ca/> - Faith in the Declaration is a coalition of Canadian faith houses and faith organizations working together to support the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - *Missed what Mavis continued to discuss...*
 - So many jurisdictions – hard to deal with – costly
 - Island represented so much – food security, history,
 - Now they have a economic plan with Cascadia Seawood... seaweed planting...
 - Also looking at it for a field site for Indigenous Law..
 - Deb: agreed if we could all speak out to support this issue...
 - including framing it around reconciliation
 - Adam – reconciliation is making decisions differently than we used to ...
 - Indigenous tired of tip of the hat and goes on and does something differently.
 - He and Mavis met w/MoTI (?) – yesterday – James Island came up

- He's getting a meeting with the approval officer Bret X?
 - He will draft a letter and send to all before sending out
 - Mavis – so much of the lands across Canada are unceded territories ... and so much bypasses FNs – roads, sewers, water...
 - **Laura** – James Island is in the Pender Trust - as "Affiliated Islands" - area so will bring up at next meeting on Tuesday
 - **Elizabeth**: what can she do Federally?
 - **Mavis**: re Douglas Treaty – was important to leaders of FN back then in terms of their survival but now... this article gives good background: <https://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com/news/north-pender-trustees-back-tsawout-in-subdivision-delay/>
 - **Adam**: bkgrnd – seller can't get a buyer so wanting to subdivide – not really anything Federally right now – but thinking that maybe this is just a *farce in that the developer wants Prov and Fed govt to step in and buy back for FNs...*
 - **Chat from Gary**: Is litigation aimed in part at seeking an injunction on the subdivision?
 - **Chat from Adam**: I don't believe there is any litigation currently underway. Gailus is providing legal advice on the historic aspects of the Douglas Treaty
 - **Chat from Gary** Certainly no expert, but wondering if an injunction could be a first legal step.
 - **Chat from Deb**: I feel like it is all about the social media campaign right now, not even litigation.
 - How we make this a central issue of the thriving society of First Nations in our modern world with roots in their homelands in meaningful ways to be environmental leaders in our shared future!
 - **Laura**: reminderThe province did lose to MCauw re cleanup.
 - **Talk about the letter**
 - **Chat from Gary**: Wondering if Jack Woodward would be willing to provide some advice.
 - One of the lessons of Grace Islet was that the "approval process" allowed further development of the island, which drove up the cost to the Province of eventual acquisition.
 - **Deb**: we could bring in others like Ecojustice group etc...
 - **Chat from Steve**: we need a strategy meeting. Asap
 - **Chat from Deb**: I agree with more focused strategy session!
- Anyone, anything else...?
 - **Deb** – is there a process to bring up issues that are overlapping and bringing people to meetings?
 - Adam – send to Laura to put on Agenda...
 - **Chat from Gary**: Re anchorages, wondering about how provincial ownership of seabed might play a role in resolution.
 - **Chat from Adam**: It could play a huge role and is big opportunity to discuss with Nathan Cullen. Specifically, there needs to be a discussion about how the DRIPA
 - Follow-up from last meeting:
 - **DID NOT DISCUSS** Gulf Island Water issues
 - agreement to put on September meeting Agenda
 - **DISCUSSED** Large ship anchorages - to invite Robert Lewis Manning (President - Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia) to June meeting to discuss
 - DONE (awaiting reply)
 - **DISCUSSED** James Island - to invite Nick Claxton to a meeting to discuss
 - DONE (Mavis Underwood attending in his place)
 - Administrative:
 - **DISCUSSED** Update: Islands Trust Secretariat support:

- Clare sends her regrets to this meeting but happy to report that the IT Program Committee has decided to support the Southern Gulf Islands Forum with \$3,000 and staff time <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/support-for-coordination-groups/>
 - As well they are still working to fill Gillian's position, so says 'so I don't have much support to offer in the short term.'
 - **DID NOT DISCUSS** Draft 'Terms of Reference': updates from last discussion - still to be worked on
 - **DID NOT DISCUSS** Process document: Working on a document (a go-by) for handing over of the hosting of monthly meetings and 2/yr, half-day meetings.
 - **DID NOT DISCUSS** Next half-day meeting - September 2021: sent out possible dates, via email, for you to choose from. Please reply asap, so we can get this scheduled for you to add to your calendars.
- **2:15 – 2:30 pm: Next Steps/Action Items (15mins):**
 - Issue(s) to work on?
 - Supporting Tsawout re: James Island – see Action Items
 - **DID NOT DISCUSS** Next meeting (last Friday of each month): Friday June 25th, 1:30 – 2:30
 - Next host?

ACTION ITEMS:

- **ADAM re:** James Island
 - waiting on a meeting with the approval officer Bret X for next week
 - then he will draft a letter and send to all before sending out
 - and/or others can send their own letters
- **Elizabeth** will share info with Carolyn Bennet and Mark Miller as an FYI
- **Mavis** – to send Adam xxx and he will forward to everyone on the call
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