

Southern Gulf Islands Forum - Meeting NOTES

Friday June 25th, 2021 – 12:30 – 1:30pm

- **1:30 – 1:35: Welcome/acknowledgement** (5mins)
- **1:35– 1:40: Check-in – new attendees** (5mins)
- **1:40 – 2:15: Discussion** (35mins):
 - Guest speaker:
 - Robert Lewis-Manning, OMM, CD, MBA | President | [Chamber of Shipping](#)
 - to provide an update on large vessel anchorages in the [Southern Gulf Islands](#)
 - Their org and this group have been asking the govt for change for lessening the impact of present anchorages – envir, cultural, and social
 - No pickup this far – not sure why
 - He'd like to find a solution that benefits all those impacted
 - He thinks Fed govt and port of Van have a plan (he's been seeing clues) but he doesn't know what that is...
 - Concerned for not productive in building relationships
 - He thought there would be something in the Federal budget bill
 - Eg amendments to Canada marine act not seen
 - Probably won't see until Fall... But if election will be much further out
 - Concern for Eg Re Letter from Wilkinson to Mayor of Vancouver
 - Wording was factually incorrect
 - Commercial contracting part is an integral part of picture
 - Eg not sure when cargo is going to arrive (when is commodity ready) – thus why ship sits in Cowichan bay for 3weeks waiting
 - Therefore looking to do a pilot project – shipping of coal because is much tighter controls
 - Adam: is there big difference between planning timelines for a grown agriculture vs mined product
 - Robert: mining product much easier
 - Then maybe potash..
 - Then increasing in direction of grown products
 - Laura: when we are saying no because we are trying to reduce the impacts does that harm xxx
 - Robert: no,it's understandable
 - Jane: what alternatives have less impacts?
 - Especially noise and lights – how can deal in short term
 - Robert: looking at other locations – logistics are the issue – GIs have facilities so convenient for ship's crew etc
 - One alternative might be use of helicopters to move crew to more remote sites
 - lights – needs to be regulated nationally (default is international – whereas not pertinent to this area)

- noise – routine maintenance – could be regulated – they do ask and ~40% comply
 - Ship's generator – if empty is higher out of the water so noise travels quickly – he can't think of solution for that
 - Steve: saying banning, prohibition or no doesn't get us anywhere – need to be careful of language
 - Also surprised to hear there is talk of other locales
 - Noise, light, GHGs, enviro damage – so by simply moving ships and not reducing the impacts doesn't make sense
 - How can we support you about other sites as well as installing mooring buoys
 - Robert – appreciative of comments – he agrees just moving doesn't make sense
 - He really thinks the Fed don't understand the issues in this area
 - Adam: that makes Wilkinson's response even more disturbing because he is right in English Bay
 - There are ways of making capital investments to make changes – he's sent in ideas in a letter a few years ago
 - Robert: agrees – they are having discussions on the North Coast with FNs etc but not happening on the South Coast
 - Steve: eg a lot of infrastructure came in for the cruise industry – doesn't seem to be interest in other shipping industries
 - Robert – yes solutions have to be productive for all involved
 - They are going to write the Minister before the end of July – he's happy to share draft with Adam and Elizabeth before sending
- Action Items from last meeting(s):
 - May 28th action item: to have a focus meeting re: supporting Tsawout in James Island dispute
 - **DONE** June 11th - action item: draft letter of support – Deb Morrison volunteered to do
 - June 15th sent to group for feedback and/or signatures
 - June 17th reminder sent – Deb working on final
 - **June 24th – finished/sent [Subdivision of James Island - letter from Members of Southern Gulf Islands Forum.PDF](#)**
 - **Hard copy will be mailed to Minister Fleming today.**
- Other issue(s) to work on
 - Group talked about all the people writing about the upcoming Islands Trust policy changes
 - For people writing us, give them the email: islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca to write to them
 - Deb – saying to people – 'glad they are replying – ask them to read documents and provide feedback' (instead of just complaining)
- **2:15 – 2:30 pm: Next Steps/Action Items (15mins):**
 - Next regular meeting (last Friday of each month):
 - Friday July 30th, 1:30 – 2:30pm
 - Next host?
 - ...
 - Other: draft a letter in coordination with what Robert is writing to the Federal and provincial govts