



Meeting notes from Zoom meeting on Friday November 26th, 2021, 1:30 – 2:30

In attendance (first name, alphabetical):

- Adam Olsen, MLA SAN
- Deb Morrison, North Pender Island Trustee
- Elizabeth May, MP, SGI
- Gary Holman, CRD Director, Salt Spring Island
- Jane Wolverson, Trustee, Galiano Island
- Laura Patrick, Trustee, Salt Spring Island
- Paul Brent, Trustee, Saturna Island
- Peter Luckham, Chair SSI Local Trustee Committee
- Tahira Rockafella, Galiano Island Trustee

Staff (in order of employer):

- Jake Rees, office of MLA Adam Olsen
- Laura Parker, Office of MLA Adam Olsen
- William Kelly, Office of MLA Adam Olsen
- Alexa Lewis, Office of MP Elizabeth May
- Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor, Islands Trust

Guests:

- Karyn Scott, Consultations Coordinator, Lyackson First Nation

Note Taker:

- Laura Parker

Welcome/acknowledgement, Check-in and welcome new attendees:

- MLA Olsen invited new attendees and guests to introduce themselves.

Discussion:

TOPIC: Storm response – to discuss concerns and ideas to lessen the impact of severe weather events on our communities

- Each member discussed the **concerns and impact** of what occurred in their community:
 - not prepared - severity of storm was not forecasted
 - flooding, washing away of ancestral remains
 - Including some areas that hadn't flooded before

- soil and shoreline erosion, logs washing up
 - ditches and culverts – undersized, misplaced culverts or not in place
 - infrastructure not in place or not maintained - need major repairs done before next storm
 - power outages not seen to, due to mudslide concerns
 - Sewer leakage
 - Such an increase in water, a fire hydrant was opened to release pressure
 - Trees down and mudslides
 - clearing and blockages - locals came out (always do on the islands) to take of things
 - food shortages due to transportation issues
 - sunken vessel - no authorities are taking responsibility for dealing with
 - Brings up ‘marine policies and anchorages’ issue again
 - Need to look at all systems affected
 - e.g. Saanich Peninsula Hospital Emergency department closure due to flooding
 - Emergency Alert System was not used
 - overlap of jurisdictions – confusing for residents - who do they contact?
 - “role of the CRD Emergency Program, which is not to respond directly (for roads a MOTI/Emcon responsibility), but rather to act as a coordinating body and provide public information. Communication from MOTI/Emcon to the Emergency Program could be improved. Facebook postings were both a blessing and a curse, sometimes useful, but sometimes dated and confusing...”
- Each member contributed **ideas to lessen the impacts:**
 - look at water shed system in relation to culverts and crossings
 - an aside - getting so much water in the fall & winter – let's get storage solutions for the summer
 - do proactive work not just response work
 - E.g., concerned that these extraordinary repair costs may impact/delay the repaving of Ganges Hill.
 - have shovel ready projects when get funding
 - need to have citizens prepared and supported
 - from CRD and Province – need to provide training, and address safety issues
 - need for a more coordinated approach
 - be in close communications with First Nations
 - of note for planning: there was a strong reference to the [National Adaptation Plan](#) in the Speech from the Throne

Action Items:

- each island to make assessments of issues and infrastructure needed - for Adam to take to MoTI
- Adam and Elizabeth to meet in the new year to discuss re: a coordinated approach re: provincial/federal
 - thereafter form a working group within the Forum - identify 1 rep from each island

Next Steps:

- Reminder: There is no meeting in December
- Re: presentation on 'marine policies in the Salish Sea' by Transport Canada - their cancellation to today's meeting – awaiting their reply to offer of January and February meeting
- Next regular monthly meeting: Monday January 10, 8:30 – 9:30 on Zoom
 - as monthly meetings will now be held on the 2nd Monday of each month (with exception of holidays, meeting will be moved to another Monday), from 8:30 – 9:30am
 - Email with links and calendar invites have now been sent
- The next two half-day meetings have been scheduled on the regular monthly meeting dates of:
 - Monday March 14, 8:30 – 12:30
 - Email with links and calendar invites have now been sent
 - TBD if in-person or on Zoom
 - Monday September 12, 8:30 – 12:30
 - email with links and calendar invites have now been sent
 - TBD if in-person or on Zoom

The meeting was closed at 2:39 pm