



SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS FORUM

Meeting notes from Monday May 8, 2023 – 8:30 – 9:30am

○ Attendees:

- Mairead Boland, Saturna Trustee
- Jeanine Dodds, Mayne Trustee
- Laura Patrick, SSI Trustee
- Ben Maberley, Galiano Trustee
- Dag Falck, South Pender Trustee
- Paul Brent, SGI CRD Director
- Gary Holman, SSI CRD Director
- Kristina Evans, South Pender Trustee
- Alexa Lewis, office of MP May
- Adam Olsen, SAN MLA
- Laura Parker, office of MLA Olsen, note-taker

○ Discussion:

▫ ACTION ITEMS from last meeting: Monday March 13, half-day meeting:

- **Alexa** will follow up on the flight path issue by seeking information regarding Nav Canada.
 - Yes, liaised w/contact at TC
 - Pub consult thru NAV Can – for the Van airspace – closed b4 SGI Forum was held so couldn't join in – consult is publicly available
 - Vancouver Airspace Modernization: <https://www.navcanada.ca/en/air-traffic/airspace-reviews/vancouver-airspace-modernization.aspx>
 - still awaiting contact w/NAV C person as there is a public liaison but issues w/their email right now
 - They are moving forward w/flight path changes but not sure of impact to SGIs (because of weather, safety concerns at time of flight)
 - She noted the lack of promo done to consult public consult
 - **Adam:** did CRD or IT attend?
 - **Paul:** no
 - **Mairead:** unsure if anyone attended but there was a letter sent
 - She will f/u to find out: **Action Item**

- **Kristina:** noted time of consultation was poor – most offices closed during December, election was going on..
 - **Adam:** when was letter sent? Wondering especially was engagement with FNs
 - Alexa will ask NAV Can: **Action Item**

- **Deb** will develop an initial plan for a potential SGI Forum website.
 - Deb was not present at mtg. Put on agenda for next meeting – **Action Item**

- **Laura Patrick** will research old protocol agreements to discuss at the next meeting.
 - See: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/about-us/accountability/agreements/>
 - Waiting for staff to look at protocol agmts
 - **Paul:** north Pender mtg – it came up
 - **LP:** one per each island – so would like to understand CRD, IT
 - Will check in to MoTI agrmt – **Action Item**

- **SGI Forum members** will draft letters requesting that the Provincial Government recapitalize ICET funding and make it a permanent fund that can be accessed by all communities within the Trust area.
 - **Adam:** bridge funding happened for ICET – less than needed for it to be robust
 - Happy that dock project on Mayne got funding
 - He'll continue to work to get long term investment for that

- **The SGI Forum** will consider coordinating community discussions in the fall that focus on housing and the future of the islands (50-year anniversary creates a timely opportunity to reignite the conversation). This should include all levels of government
 - **Laura:** spoke at RIEF on the issue (so was Paul and Adam) - every sector began or ended on topic of housing – no housing – no economics
 - She hosted a panel – costs, frustrations, challenges that housing projects have/take - well received. 2nd day was an action lab – and resolutions drafted on 3rd day (eg tiny homes, governance, - all islands are having same issues)
 - **Paul:** agrees everything – funding adaptability – we've reached tipping point – collective agreement – IT staff was missing
 - **Laura:** Cheryl from Min of Housing – they have a business navigator person – so suggested creating a housing navigator person

- **Issue(s) to work on:**
 - **Adam provided his updates:**
 - **June 2 – Min Fleming** joining him at ASK
 - Had Min of Safety on – roads/traffic of concern
 - So will use SSI as example so can apply to all islands
 - **Mairead:** traffic calming measures needed – people getting off the ferry racing away – should have a campaign on it

- **Paul:** same issues – need: posting of signs, lowering speed limits, enforcement
 - **Kristina:** it is locals that are causing the issues, rushing as they say they know the roads and are driving at the speed limit (but 50 is too fast on an island!)
 - **Mairead:** “remind them on the ferry - together with fire and water issues?”
 - **Gary in chat:** “MOTI commissioned cycling and pedestrian safety study for SSI has been completed.”
 - **Ben:** no lines, potholes – maintenance is an issue. Concern with summer coming up and number of people coming on island
 - **Adam:** was going on b4 COVID – RM has always been a concern – budget have not been keeping pace with inflation. also saying eco product used washes off too easily so looking for another
 - **Jeanine in chat:** “this is something all the LTC's can take responsibility for via letters, , if MOTI would allow us to have lower speeds posted that will help”
 - **Adam:** asked Dag and Kristina to write letters to Ministry – A will advocate – **Action Item**
- **Fallow deer:** mtg on Mayne coming up. A. has spoken with Min Cullen committed to talking to Forestry folks A. invited him and Min. Of Env – not heard from either yet
- **Building Communities Fund** – A. fwd ltr from Dir Brent
 - **Gary:** CRD board will decide on direction/use of funding. Needs to be equitable for each community – what set this up is the prov approach that rather than allocating to each – they distribute to boards for how they see fit
 - **Adam:** they were discouraged to go by per capita
 - **Gary:** based on projects. So municipalities get
 - **Alexa in chat:** “Could I ask that our office also be included in communications on the Community Building Fund? I'm attempting to keep tabs on CBF funding flow in SGI”
 - **Mairead:** 2023 Canada Community-Building Fund Renewal Webinar: [2023 CCBF Renewal Webinar Registration \(surveypal.com\)](https://www.surveypal.com) - she reviewed and found there is a gap re: districts – she has a letter to IT w/queries - she will share with group
 - **Adam:** please note that is the Federal one
 - The provincial is an unconditional grant. He will provide an update – **Action Item**
- **Governance of Islands** – had meeting with both Anne Kang and Ravi Kahlon
 - Building programs and services for rural communities connected to rural districts – always an issue

- Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing – spoke w/him about short term rentals, tiny homes, land use – Adam thinks they haven't considered SGIs
 - Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs - she said her goal was to help Min of Housing. Adam made her aware of challenges on SGIs – so he feels unaware of issues
 - I'm frustrated at how many times he's had to explain it with change of Ministers and staff not making them aware of it
 - **Mairead:** as a new Trustee - still confused re: different levels of funding – she will make a table to summarize and ask for input – **Action Item**
- **Discuss possible funding or resources available to share in the cost or support for the SGI Forum group going forward. Background:**
 - It was discussed at the last meeting, that so Adam could more fully participate these meetings and to remove notetaking as a recently added in-kind work our office provides, that Facilitator Judith Cullington provide a quote for her to Chair the regular monthly meetings and facilitate the half day meetings and for Carly Bilney to be notetaker for all.
 - We have since received that quote of \$5,365.50 for the fiscal year - see attached.
 - We have just been informed that the funding from the Trust Programs Committee awarded for the SGI Forum this year is \$2600.00 (last year it was *\$5k, the two prior years were for \$3k)
 - *Of note: It is most unfortunate that the funds from last fiscal could not be carried over (I don't have the amount. Gillian will be following up on this). The balance remaining could have been used to set up the domain for the SGI Forum website however, due to time constraints on various Islands Trust departments, this was not able to be done this time around.
 - This is a short fall of \$2765.50, which does not include:
 - booking larger venue for more attendees,
 - providing lunch or coffee/tea service for a half day meeting
 - or a domain for a dedicated website
- **The ideas that we've come up with to deal with** this are: requesting assistance with, reducing cost, and determining necessity:
 - **Check for assistance** in covering extra costs or support
 - do other participants have any allotted funds to share in this cost?
 - do other participants have office capacity to share in support?
 - **Adam:** happy to provide some \$\$
 - does MP and Directors have funding or ability to support for this? – **Action Item**
 - **Mairead** – Community Planning has grant funding available to apply for – she will share link – **Action Item**
 - **Gary:** LCC will have grants in aid – but has to be a non-profit
 - **Reducing services**
 - use Judith's services for the 2 x half day meetings only = \$2352.00

- and have Carly do note-taking for all meetings = \$1249.00
 - = \$3,601.00 - this is still over 'budget' by \$1001.00
- or only have Carly on contract for **note-taking services** = \$1249.00
 - have members take turns chairing the meetings
 - = \$1,351.00 remainder of 'budget' toward venue/food
- or determine if should **use the whole of amount of the funding to create a Forum website**
 - and ask members to share in the tasks of both notetaking and chairing the meetings?
- The MLA office will continue providing the in-kind work of: sending out notices, notes, and agendas, coordinating meetings, hosting via our MLA Zoom, and use of our physical office space for meetings (depending on number of attendees).
- We'd appreciate your feedback and ideas for putting on these meetings going forward.

Other items for discussion:

- **Gary: LCC election:**
 - Director sits on LCC – is 1 of 5 votes. The chair gets elected – He is going to run for chair
- **Alexa: Derelict Vessels:**
 - Creation of Vessel Remediation Fund – for cleaning up derelict boats
 - In Bill C47 – Subdivision C of Division 21 amends the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act to, among other things, *establish the Vessel Remediation Fund
 - *She will send LP info – **Action Item**
 - **Ben:** noted small craft harbours continue to get a bit of funding
 - Also: re Dead Boat Society – is a good resource
 - **Alexa:** yes, E. has been working with John Roe (sp?) for quite some time – helping with feedback on legislation
 - **Mairead:** “Is there a place in the Coastal Marine Strategy ?”
 - **Adam:** he asked Min Cullen during budget estimates – he will provide update next month – **Action Item**
- **Next Steps/Action Items):**
 - **REVIEW dates of upcoming meetings** (usually 2nd Monday of each month) to confirm in calendar:
 - June 12 - regular monthly meeting
 - July 10 - **take off for summer?**
 - August 14 - **take off for summer?**
 - **Adam agrees with taking July 10 off in summer – Action Item**
 - September 11 - **half-day meeting – block of time TBD**
 - October 16 - (**changed to the 3rd Monday, as 10/09 is Thanksgiving**)
 - November 13 - regular monthly meeting

- December 11 - regular monthly meeting
- **Action Items**
 - **MAIREAD:** will check if a letter sent to Islands Trustees re: Pub consult thru NAV Can
 - **ALEXA:** will ask NAV Can - when was Pub consult letter sent?
 - **DEB:** was going to think on an initial plan for a potential SGI Forum website
 - **DONE: LAURA PATRICK** will follow-up to provide MoTI protocol agreement – ***see addendum below**
 - **DAG AND KRISTINA:** to write letters to Ministry of Transportation re: reducing speed limits, road safety on islands, Cc Adam (Adam asked them to and he will then advocate)
 - **ADAM:** re: ‘Building Communities Fund’ provide an update re: the province’s unconditional grant
 - **MAIREAD:** re: Governance of Islands - different levels of funding - make a table to summarize and ask for input from Forum members
 - **ADAM:** follow-up w/MP office re: funding support for Forum group
 - **Mairead** – Community Planning has grant funding available to apply for – she will share link
 - **DONE: ALEXA:** send LP notes re: *Creation of Vessel Remediation Fund - ***attached**
 - **ADAM:** re: Derelict Vessels - will provide update re: “Coastal Marine Strategy” - as he questioned Min. Cullen on it during budget estimates
 - **Put out Notice to Members** – no meeting to be held July 10
- Meeting ended at 9:40

Addendum:

- **LAURA PATRICK** - follow-up to provide MoTI protocol agreement – sent email after the SGI Forum mtg:
 - “The amending agreement to the MOTI/Islands Trust agreement on roads includes a number of items including the inclusion of Road System Plans in OCPs. It also includes an interagency Task Force for the purposes of:
 - Dealing with arising issues;
 - Establishing an annual work program to: ensure staff liaison; develop legislation, bylaws and programs of mutual interest, and
 - Meet at least twice annually for the above purposes.
 - <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/document/amending-agreement-road-standards/>
 - This is a link the original 1992 agreement: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/document/letter-of-agreement-ministry-of-transportation-and-it/>
 - *“So, should we not be working on a specific request for Minister Fleming when he visits SSI? Like, lets use this task force to work on issues and opportunities! Let’s get a Road Systems Plan for SSI and the SGI! It would be better to have one plan than to have 7 separate ones in each OCP.”*