



SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS FORUM

NOTES from Monday June 12, 2023 meeting

- **Attendance** (first name, alphabetical):
 - Adam Olsen, SAN MLA
 - Aysha Emmerson, intern at MP May's office, until September
 - Ben Mabberley, Galiano Trustee
 - Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services
 - Dag Falck, South Pender Trustee
 - Gary Holman, SSI CRD Director
 - Laura Parker, office of MLA Olsen, note-taker
 - Laura Patrick, SSI Trustee
 - Lisa Gauvreau, Galiano Trustee
 - Tim Peterson, Vice-Chair, Islands Trust Executive Committee

- **Discussion:**
 - **Last month's meeting notes:** Corrections or additions?
 - Gary in chat *"Just looking at minutes, re fallow deer, CRD has established a regional geese management service, which IMO should include deer."*

 - **ACTION ITEMS** from last meeting, May 08:
 - **Mairead:** will check if a letter sent to Islands Trustees re: Pub consult thru NAV Can
 - See bottom of these notes, Addendum #1.
 - **Clare:** reiterated. Another letter will be sent shortly asking again.
 - **Adam** suggested sending to EMay's office as well
 - **Action Item for Clare**

 - **Alexa:** will ask NAV Can - when was Pub consult letter sent?
 - 06/07 Sent in email from Alexa
 - *"I have been in further contact with the NavCanada team and will be scheduling a virtual briefing between MP May and NavCanada representatives to discuss the changes to flight paths in Greater Vancouver Region and Southern Vancouver Island over the next few weeks. No further written guidance has been shared with me, but this briefing will be an opportunity to request further information and ask for necessary information on consultation process and impacts on constituents. If SGI Forum members would like to send questions to be posed at this briefing session, please send them to alexa.lewis.827@parl.gc.ca or connect with Alexa at the Constituency Office by phone at 250-657-2000."*

- **Aysha:** reiterated above reading notes from MP May – see #5 in attached PDF “MP May - SGI Forum update June 12”
- **Gary:** there used to be an advisory committee at the airport
 - **Adam:** yes there is, we go from time to time, but this would be specific to YVR flight paths
- **Deb:** was going to think on an initial plan for a potential SGI Forum website
 - Not at mtg today, not yet rec’d - **Action Item for Deb**
- ~~**DONE:** Laura will follow up to provide MoTI protocol agreement~~
 - ~~Info was provided as Addendum in 230508 SGI Forum NOTES~~
- **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)
 - **Dag:** didn't proceed bc he wasn't ready as hadn't talked to his constituents for their feedback
 - **Adam:** one thing MoTI did for the study was put counters out to collect info. - therefore perhaps Dag could send email to MoTI - suggest volume and speed be collected and data provided to constituents to determine solutions - **Action Item for Dag and Kristina, and Cc Adam**
 - **Ben:** on another note – why alternative vehicles not allowed on islands – MoTI has said in past that need to look at roads – will put in email as well to MoTI
- **Adam:** re: ‘Building Communities Fund’ provide an update re: the province’s unconditional grant
 - **see Addendum at bottom of notes** – A' emails to Ministries
 - **see attached PDF:** “GCF Briefing - A CRD Rural Electoral Area Perspective” - “a brief that was prepared by Director Brent and his colleagues at the Capital Regional District.”
 - He’s been told the program is as it is. Gary how is the CRD going to be addressing this for the islands?
 - **Gary:** CRD set up an application process for specific projects – we'll see how funds are allocated for regional areas
 - Adam: he thinks that direction given by the province is not equitable –
 - Gary: yes, he thinks rural areas are getting less than municipal
 - Adam: I have concerns of direction Min of Mun Affairs – that is not taking its role seriously
 - Suggests advocacy from IT in support of regional districts representation – **Action Item for ITs**
 - Tim: IT exec needs to be brought up to speed on this
 - Clare: she will - **Action Item**
 - Adam: will share email he sent in support of Paul Brent’s letter – **see Addendum at bottom of notes**
 - Dag: agrees and supports anything we can do about it
- **Mairead:** re: Governance of Islands - different levels of funding - make a table to summarize and ask for input from Forum members
 - Not at mtg today, not yet rec’d - **Action Item for Mairead**
- ~~**DONE:** Adam: follow up w/MP office re: funding support for Forum group – **working on**~~

- **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~~
 - ~~Info was provided as Addendum in 230508 SGI Forum NOTES~~
- **Adam:** re: Derelict Vessels - will provide update re: “Coastal Marine Strategy” - as he questioned Min. Cullen on it during budget estimates
 - Only got about 30mins with him – spoke about biodiversity – the Min. has done public consultations.
 - I've met w/EMay on this and there is a need for strong advocacy. I've witnessed whale watchers chasing whales – was on the water with the WMGs – would be good to have them working with the province
 - also talked w/Murray Rankin as he has property on SGIs and sees this happening.
 - ‘Coastal Marine Strategy’ should be turned into a ‘Coastal Marine Act’
 - **Laura:** of note – over 200 buoys in areas that are marine sensitive – so not being regulated. All of this has to be dealt interjurisdictionally
 - **Ben:** of note Canadian xxx says every citizen is allowed a mooring buoy for ind. Use and complies w/reg. - so just a caution re: ‘us’ trying to regulate. Suggests sitting down w/TC on this issue.
 - **Adam:** agrees. And need clarification with provincial jurisdiction. And need regulations administered.
 - **Clare:** she will circulate some recent legal commentary
 - **DONE** - She put in chat: [BC’s Mooring Buoy FAQ’s](#)
 - **Adam:** A Coastal Marine Act could have this all laid out in it
 - **Gary in chat:** *“It would be useful if Adam and Elizabeth could organize a meeting with relevant provincial, federal, Trust and CRD staff regarding how to better manage harbours within the gulf islands. CRD has established a sub-regional service involving the 3 peninsula municipalities regarding harbours, but have not ventured into establishing an actual management regime.”*
 - **Aysha:** E’s updates build on this conversation – **see attached PDF “MP May - SGI Forum update June 12”**
 - **Adam:** will request Elizabeth’s office organize multi agency about our water ways and moored and derelict vessels - we will cohost and can hold in our office - **Action Item for Laura Parker**
- ~~**DONE: Put out Notice to Members** – no meeting to be held July 10~~
- **ISSUE(S) BROUGHT FORWARD TO DISCUSS/WORK ON THIS MEETING:**
 - No agenda items received from members this month
 - **Laura:** response from MoTI – LP suggests f/u on (old) IT agrmt which talks about a task force of staff re: transportation issues on island
 - **Adam:** explained SSI mtg – that advocated for all SGIs – f/u from LP re IT agrmt for a task for to exist; connecting Moti, CRD, IT – creates paper trail, taking a regional approach would benefit all of us
 - **Laura (IT):** “The idea of initiating regular interagency staff-to-staff meetings is well supported by the existing letters of agreement between the Islands Trust and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure...” - **see Addendum at bottom of notes**

- **Gary:** SGI strategy excluded SGI (?) so yes, a group would be good – but what is the long-term strategy? need a lens
 - **Laura:** agree – used existing agrmts in a modern way
 - **Adam:** in present agrmt are all levels included?
 - **Laura:** I will chk w/Tim (he had to leave mtg early) **Action Item for Laura Patrick**
 - **Adam** to Gary for him to chk w/Paul Brent - **Action Item for Gary**
- **Next Steps/Action Items:**
 - **Next regular meetings, thru to end of year** (usually second Monday of each month):
 - 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:**
 - **Clare:** to send a follow-up email to NAV Canada re: “...proposed Changes to flight paths in Greater Vancouver Region, Southern Vancouver Island and sunshine coast. The Islands Trust Area.”
 - **Deb:** was going to think on an initial plan for a potential SGI Forum website
 - **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)
 - also, why alternative vehicles not allowed on islands
 - **Island Trust:** advocacy from IT in support of regional districts representation
 - **Clare:** bring IT Exec up to speed on this
 - **Islands Trust as a whole:** advocate for
 - **Mairead:** re: Governance of Islands - different levels of funding - make a table to summarize and ask for input from Forum members
 - **DONE:** Adam and Laura (staff): will request Elizabeth’s office organize multi agency about our water ways and moored and derelict vessels - we will cohost and can hold in our office – **Date of mtg: August 3**
 - **Laura (IT) re:** IT agrmt which talks about a task force of staff re: transportation issues on island - Chk w/Tim: are all levels included?
 - **Gary:** chk w/Paul: are all levels included?

Addendums from May 08 meeting:

#1. Mairead: will check if a letter sent to Islands Trustees re: Pub consult thru NAV Can

“June 5, 2023 7:03 PM - Following up on this was one of my action items from the last meeting”.

- **She received From: Clare Frater,** Sent: May 10, 2023 9:24 AM:
 - “Hello Mairead, In response to your enquiry about whether the Islands Trust was contacted by Nav Canada (a privately run, not-for-profit corporation that owns and operates Canada's civil air navigation system) regarding the flight path changes – I don’t believe we were. Below is the e-mail that Chair Luckham sent to NavCanada in February. I do not think that he received a reply. I’ve cc’d him so he can confirm this and so that you can coordinate any further work towards advocacy. At this time there is no political direction for advocacy and no Islands Trust position. Please let me know if anyone would like help with preparing a Trustee RFD for Trust Council in June. These links on our website might

be helpful to constituents on Gabriola. These are dated but have not been rescinded by Transport Canada as far as I am aware:

- [Information for Pilots and Aircraft Operators \(21KB\)](#)
- [Aircraft Operations in the Vicinity of the Gulf Islands \(12KB\)](#)
- [Map of Gulf Islands Noise Sensitive Areas \(61KB\)](#)

- **From:** Peter Luckham <pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 12:06 PM: **To:** consultation@navcanada.ca
 - Good Morning, I am the elected Chair of Islands Trust Council, I am requesting an extension to the public consultation period respecting the proposed Changes to flight paths in Greater Vancouver Region, Southern Vancouver Island and sunshine coast. The Islands Trust Area.
 - We have only recently become aware of these proposed changes from constituents, there has been to my knowledge no direct outreach to this government body whose communities' interests are potentially significantly impacted.
 - We have consequently insufficient time to respond meaningfully in the window that you have provided for engagement.
 - I am formally asking for an extension of 30 days to enable us to respond accordingly.
 - Please respond that this request has been received with the contact information for the person or persons responsible for consultation within the Islands Trusts area of jurisdiction.

Addendums from June 12 meeting:

- **From: Olsen, Adam** Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:20 AM - **To: Minister Kang and other officials**
Subject: Growing Communities Fund - Rural Electoral Areas being bypassed

"Hello Minister Kang,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me last week to hear about the significant governance challenges facing communities in my riding.

Unfortunately, I only met with CRD Director Paul Brent on Sunday to discuss the Growing Community Fund and how the policy has further added frustration in the Southern Gulf Islands.

I have forwarded his email to me along with a brief that was prepared by Director Brent and his colleagues at the Capital Regional District. You mentioned to me that your goal was to support Minister Kahlon in getting housing approved and built in communities.

As Director Brent has outlined here, even with approvals in place, none of the programs, services, or policy, is designed to prioritize housing in these rural communities.

I hope you will be able to help remove some of the obstacles that have been put in place by the various governing bodies to get these projects with approvals moving, to amend the policy guiding the GCF to provide the flexibility needed to provide funds that are essential to supporting these projects, and finally to assist with streamlining the governance processes to better reflect the goals of the community in identifying and delivering the housing needs in our rural island communities.

I look forward to working with you on this critical project."

- **see attached PDF:** "GCF Briefing - A CRD Rural Electoral Area Perspective" - *"a brief that was prepared by Director Brent and his colleagues at the Capital Regional District."*

- **From: Olsen, Adam** - Sent: Sunday, May 7, 2023 10:53:29 AM - **To: Minister Kang and other official**

"Hello all,

I am following up on this email I sent on April 24th forwarding information from CRD Electoral Area Director Paul Brent (Southern Gulf Islands) and the impact of policy for the Growing Communities Fund.

I am deeply concerned that the Province has created yet another program and negatively impacts the Southern Gulf Island communities.

As I have raised with the provincial government many times, these communities continually get overlooked and excluded from programs and services for a variety of reasons. I most recently explained these factors to Minister Kang and noted them with Minister Kahlon.

I am hoping there is some resolution to the Growing Community Fund please advise.”

- **From Laura Patrick - Sent: June 2, 2023 1:57 PM - Subject: Interagency Staff to Staff Meetings – To: Adam, IT staff, CRD Dirs...**

*Adam, thank you for facilitating the visit to the island with Minister Fleming. The idea of initiating regular interagency staff-to-staff meetings is well supported by the existing letters of agreement between the Islands Trust and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. In the 1996 Amending Agreement *(attached), it says:*

“The parties agree to maintain an Interagency Task Force for the purposes of: dealing with arising issues; establishing an annual work program to ensure staff liaison, develop further road standards agreement, and review agency initiatives, legislation, bylaws, and programs of mutual interest; and meet at least twice annually for the above purposes.”

While this agreement pertains to the entire Trust Area, it only makes sense to have a regional interagency task force for the islands in the CRD.

If using the existing agreements can facilitate and frame the interagency staff to staff meetings, I am more than happy to pursue this initiative in cooperation the CRD. Since the agreement anticipates the development of this interagency task force, I do not believe we require any political direction from the trustees to get it up and running, but staff may wish otherwise.

I also want to bring attention to the shoulder width standards. See page 31 in the attached agreement. An 1.8 m width for shoulders was agreed to for Fulford to Long Harbour.

***Note from Laura Parker re: attachments in Laura Patrick’s email:** I have not included the attachment from Laura Patrick’s email, as they are quite large. The significant point has been shared in the email. The documents are available via Islands Trust for further reading.