



SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS FORUM

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

- **Attendees:**
 - Mairead Boland, Laura Patrick, Deb Morrison, Lisa Gauvreau, Ben Maberley, Gary Holman, Adam Olsen, and Tim Peterson. Jeanine Dodds came in at the end.
 - Staff: Laura Parker and Clare Frater.
 - Regrets:
 - emails from: Paul Brent, Dag Falck, Tobi Elliot
 - declined calendar invite: Chief Rebecca David (Pauquachin), Hilda August, EA for Chief Daniels (Cowichan)
- **Open discussion - Adam asked if there is anything anyone wants to bring up**
 - “Quick recap” via AI Summary:
 - *The team discussed changes to the Land Act, issues related to dock applications, and the declaration of rights for Indigenous peoples.*
 - *They also addressed concerns about land management, inclusivity within the Islands Trust, and enforcement of protocol agreements.*
 - *Lastly, they discussed funding issues for the Islands Trust to update Official Community Plans, overloading the Trust Area Services department with tasks, and the need for better communication and consultation with local governments.*
 - **Deb:** Reminder this is a multi-jurisdictional meeting – who is chairing, can we do rotational chair, agenda topics, ...?

Discussion on changes to the Land Act, issues related to dock applications, and the declaration of rights for Indigenous peoples:

- **Ben:** Q to Adam re: changes to the Land Act – he's been trying to get dock owners to understand the implications around construction, environment, etc. – can you provide an update?
 - **Adam:** yes, a lot has to do with UNDRIP - also moratorium about putting docks in and applications - pressure is on Minister Cullen
 - Example – discussed handling of the Pender Harbor issue, the need for better communication of policy changes, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/crown-land-water/crown-land/regional-crown-land-initiatives/pender-harbour-project>
 - **Ben:** Islands Trust supported the moratorium, accepted applications – felt gov't acted inappropriately though. Eg. Up in Nanaimo they laid off staff. So that's why he wanted to get AO's take on it.

Concerns about land management, inclusivity within the Islands Trust, and enforcement of protocol agreements :

- **Tim:**
 - an agreement with Moti to establish an interagency task force for island issues - has not been acted upon.
 - And long-standing issue with an ALR inclusion/exclusion application that has caused delays and communication problems - hopes an upcoming meeting with Moti will allow striking the task force and addressing the ALR issue.
 - **Deb:** we just ran over a 3yr deadline re: ALR and bylaw land use – got extension letter but has been very slow – and puts us in an awkward position working with the Federal govt. LTC has to do the applications not the applicant.

- **Deb:** BC Hydro – realigning one of their cables – from SSI and Thieves bay (Pender) - reached out to CRD and magic lake but not Islands Trust. -IT has protocol agreements and not being upheld. So she feels other levels of govt be more proactive.
 - **Tim:** heard about from someone of SSI. Did not hear from BC Hydro.
 - **Gary in chat:** *“I’ve not heard of the BC Hydro cable issue.” Need much better coordination/communication - communities are being blindsided. Hoping that establishing a Task Force will help”*

- **Deb:** Violations of Protocol Agreements on Pender:
 - 1. Gardom Pond
 - 2. Magic Lake Sewer Upgrade
 - 3. Not even sure where the Schooner Road litigation issue around raptor dpa violation prosecution lands in the province
 - 4. BC Hydro cable
 - **Adam:** thinks it would be good for ITs to get briefed on Protocol Agreements – find out what aren’t working – and write MLAs and MPs on what isn’t working.. **1. ACTION ITEM**
 - **Deb:** agrees and could come up with an info. document w/ links to agreements etc.. So everyone knows about them...
 - **Clare shared in chat:** <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/about-us/accountability/agreements/>

- **Mairead:** need agreement like w/MoTI - that the province can fund specific things and meet anytime w/ITs when necessary. We don’t get enough funding. Min of Municipal affairs in 1990s..
 - **Deb to Clare in chat:** *“Clare ...do you know which ministry is the one that denied our litigation request around the Schooner road raptor spa violation?”*
 - **Gary in chat:** *“Deb mentioned ticketing - is this possible for DPAs?”*
 - **Deb in chat:** *“Ticketing is possible and we are considering that but on NP we won’t do it until there is a clear IT bylaw enforcement policy included with the policy change for ticketing in the ben bylaw” -*
 - **Deb to Clare in chat:** *“We just saw a proposed change to the BEN bylaw at our Friday meeting to enable ticketing... We responded that yes we want that AND it has to be accompanied by clear education, notification, and bylaw operations policy clarifications too.”*
 - **Mairead in chat:** *“FYI the agreement re funding has been removed from the website as it was deemed to be out of date.”*

Electoral Area Funding and Communication Challenges,:

- **Tim:** brought up the lack of funding for the Islands Trust to update Official Community Plans (OCPs) and land use bylaws
 - General discussion - issues surrounding electoral area funding formulas, deficits in cooperation between the CRD and electoral area directors, and the need for better communication and consultation with local government bodies.
 - highlighted the ongoing challenges, particularly the lack of receptivity from the provincial government, despite efforts from MLAs and the Islands Trust.
 - The establishment of a task force was seen as a potential solution to improve communication and decision-making processes.
 - **Adam** encouraged Tim to continue advocating for these issues and to raise them directly with the provincial government.
 - also noted the need for a comprehensive review of existing agreements.

Addressing Funding for Islands Trust OCPs,:

- General discussion - The lack of funding for the Islands Trust to update Official Community Plans (OCPs) and land use bylaws was discussed.
 - The Trust currently relies on taxpayer funding, but securing grants for policy updates is a challenge.
 - A suggestion was made to revisit a mid-1990s agreement that provided funding for OCP updates over five years, but this was deemed outdated by the ministry.
- **Tim:** expressed concern about advocating for regular provincial funding, noting that the issue was bigger than just the mentioned figures, spanning over a five-year period.
- **Adam:** agreed with Tim's assessment, noting that this was part of his mandate representing the province of British Columbia

Addressing Trust Area Services Overload

- **Tim** highlighted the issue of overloading the Trust Area Services department with tasks, causing a mismatch in workload distribution among departments
- General discussion -
 - concern that the department's task list was often three to four times longer than others, leading to difficulties in follow-up action
 - **Tim:** emphasized the need for strategic thinking to find a solution, and he suggested that the province should contribute a more reasonable portion of the operating costs.
 - noted that relying on staff would require addressing the over-subscription of tasks to the Trust Area Services department

END of discussion...

- **Any corrections to meeting notes from February 12? Did not have time to review**
- **ACTION ITEMS from last meeting, February 12 (and some from Dec): Did not have time to review**
 - Inquire w/ICBC about their role in addressing road safety issues
 - **DONE 3/01** MLA office f/u: info sent in email: *"SGI Forum: follow-up re: query of ICBC's role in addressing road safety issues"*
 - Request for briefing on the Short-Term Rental Accommodations Act

- we were awaiting confirmation of a date that Ministry staff would come to a meeting. Back and forth emails – then Minister asked staff to send guidelines and contact email to ask specific information.
 - **DONE 3/01 MLA office f/u:** info sent in email: *“SGI Forum: follow-up re: request for briefing on the Short-Term Rental Accommodations Act”*
 - Laura (staff) work w/E’s office re: language to include the idea in a draft letter for further discussion re: Indigenous Port Authority proposal
 - Follow-up - Not yet
 - Lisa: send letter to of roads and LED headlights safety concerns to Adam and Elizabeth’s offices (as both jurisdictions) for their follow-ups to appropriate Ministries
 - Follow-up?
 - Dag: look at hunting regulations on Pender
 - Follow-up?
 - ~~▫ **DONE:** To all: RSVPs for in person vs virtual attending March 11 half day meeting~~
 - Laura (staff): meetings to year end - look at schedules and perhaps change
 - Follow-up - **working on** – see below “Next Steps/Action Items”
 - Website update:
 - **DONE:** *From Gillian working away on getting the service agreement completed. Unfortunately, our finance team said no to prepay hosting etc costs, so \$680.00 will have to come out of next fiscals payment. That means Southern Gulf Islands Forum group will have already spent \$680 of what ever funding they receive this coming year from the SS program.”*
 - Adam: update the Secretariat funding request letter for the Forum group and submit it by end of March.
 - **DONE 03/27:** MLA Olsen on behalf of SGI Forum group, submit *“Letter of request for support to Islands Trust Secretariat Services”* provided as an attachment in 04/07 Reminder of meeting email
- **Issue(s) to work on today, going forward**
 - Adam had previously put ‘Dock & Harbours’ on the agenda – **within discussion above**
- **Next Steps/Action Items (15mins): Did not have time to review**
 - Next regular meeting (*usually* second Monday of each month): ***these were decided at 03/11 mtg**
 - May 13, 8:30 – 9:30am
 - June 10, 8:30 – 9:30am
 - ***Cancelled** July 08 and August 12 – taking the summer off
 - **September 9** – regular meeting date – **to be determined if works for all for the half-day meeting** (it works for both MLA & MP as they are out of session)
 - ***October 7, new date**, rescheduled from October 14 (Thanksgiving holiday)
 - ***November 4, new date**, rescheduled from November 11 (Remembrance Day holiday)
 - December 9, 8:30 – 9:30am
 - **ACTION ITEMS from today’s meeting:**
 - Island Trustees: Adam suggested it would be good for ITs to get briefed on Protocol Agreements – find out which aren’t working – and write MLAs and MPs on the issue
 - Laura (staff): Update calendar with change of schedule for meetings and send invites including Zoom link