



SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS FORUM

NOTES from Monday May 13, 2023 – 8:30 – 9:30am

- **Welcome/acknowledgement:**
 - **Attendees:**
 - Mairead Boland, Adam Olsen, Ben Maberley, Tim Peterson, Laura Patrick, Dag Falck, Jeanine Dodds, Tobi Elliott, Laura Parker (staff – notetaker)
 - Regrets: Paul Brent - away, Deb Morrison & Lisa Gauvreau - attending Islands Trust mtg, Elizabeth May - issue with link for mtg
- **Discussion:**
 - **Note: 'blue bolded text in quotations' is from AI Summary notes, as it was 'captured' better than I was able to. Purple is what I wrote ~ Laura (staff – notetaker)**
 - **ACTION ITEMS from last meeting, April 8:**
 - 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
 - **Adam: reiterated that it would be good to review for when new Trustees come on or a new MLA**
 - **Tim: agreed to discuss this at the upcoming trust council meeting - Action Item**
 - Laura (staff): Update calendar with change of schedule for meetings and send invites including Zoom link – to be completed once September date is determined.
 - **Group discussion: September 9 conflicts with Islands Trust holding a Governance committee mtg**
 - **Agreed – need to change to another date but not week of 16th as is UBCM - Action Item**
 - **Adam: ask that Elizabeth lead the September meeting, as is around Writ drop time and he'd prefer to attend than chair - Action Item**
 - **Group discussion: whether to cancel meetings in July and August**
 - **Agreed for the need of at least a meeting mid-summer, as lots come up and the next meeting is the half day meeting in September, which is a long way off**
 - **Book for end of July - Action Item**
 - SGI Forum Website (email) update from Gillian Nicol:
 - **the website is up and running - <https://southerngulfislandsforum.ca> (basic at this time until more work is done)**
 - **Caorda has 8 hours allotted for the year to work (create new pages, upload text, etc) onto the website."**

- SGI Forum funding (email) update from Gillian Nicol:
 - **The \$3000 request for funding through the Secretariat Services was approved**
 - **of that, \$680.00 has already been used for 1yr hosting costs of the website**
 - **leaving \$2,320 funding for this fiscal year, thru to March 31**

- **from Feb 12 meeting, did not cover last meeting:**
 - Adam will address re: work w/Elizabeth's office re: language to include the idea in a draft letter for further discussion re: Indigenous Port Authority proposal
 - **Adam: Not yet – but have had numerous conversations. Cousin is involved with Tsartlip Marine Stewardship Program**
 - **And just found out that funding set up under oceans protection act – is over – just as the tankers start to flow the money has stopped – not even sure the office will still be in place**
 - **also on-going conversations around dock management issue.. starting to be organized and a more coherent response to Prov govt**
 - **“Ben and Dag concurred on the timing of the program cuts and agreed on the need for further action, with Dag suggesting to raise the issue to the appropriate levels.”**
 - **Dag: very concerning re program cuts when it is most needed – what can we do?**
 - **Adam: agreed – some dramatic action needs to be taken – perhaps discussed fully in July meeting - **Action Item****

 - 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?
 - **Adam: Laura (staff) will check w/Lisa - **Action Item****
 - **Adam: have been informed that a significant amount of road paint is set to be applied in the outer Gulf Islands, with most of the major roads and some minor ones set to be covered.**
 - **Laura (Trustee): queried who played a role in this**
 - **Adam: “likely a combination of ongoing advocacy by constituents, Islands Trustees and himself – as well as scheduling or expediting due to the identified roads being a top issue in a recent governance study.”**
 - **Ben: “added that the increased budget for road painting was a response to persistent community outreach and that contractors have been reached out to supply extra parking at Montague Harbor. Both Adam and Ben praised the community's persistence in advocating for these improvements”**

 - **Tobi: “reported on a recent working group meeting hosted by the CRD and MoTI, which committed to creating three task forces to improve communication and issue direction.”**
 - **Tim and Mairead: “confirmed the positive outcome of the meeting and the commitment to collaborative communication.”**
 - **Jeanine in chat: *It would help if MOTI would tell how much it spends per year on extra work on the various Islands, and the work being done.***

- Road Safety, Infrastructure, and Budget Allocation:
- “Mairead expressed confusion over the budget allocation for infrastructure, leading to a discussion on how projects are funded and prioritized. Adam shared three examples of infrastructure projects: the highway to [Sooke], the canal road, and the Keating crossroad overpass, noting that these projects were funded through various means, including politics, emergency response, and safety concerns. The Goldstream project was also mentioned as an ongoing project that's part of a larger initiative.”
- Adam: suggested to finding priority roads and build arguments around that – understanding how MoTI makes decisions – working with community to work with and explain
- Tobi: review of Governance is crucial... what is AO’s thoughts on this? what is best strategy for the IT to reach success
 - Adam: IT has an opportunity to get this on the table for the new government – there will be a new Minister of municipal affairs – get a letter on their desk as soon as they are sworn in.
 - Mairead: shared that there will be a briefing at today’s IT Governance Committee mtg – see pg 33: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/document/governance-committee-meeting-agenda/>
 - “Adam addressed the ongoing governance issues surrounding water, dock management, land, and title claims involving First Nations and the provincial government. He suggested a review process to tackle overlapping claims created by the Crown government's governance structure, emphasizing the need for decentralized leadership for the Island Trust and First Nations.”
 - “Ben concurred, stressing that First Nations should be recognized as having clear title to their territories and that local governments should not use overlapping claims as an excuse for inaction.”
 - “Adam highlighted the necessity of modernizing the Islands Trust Act to include First Nations, given their proximity to the water surrounding the communities.”
 - “Adam urged the Islands Trust to develop a coordinated plan for the upcoming summer and fall, with Trustee Elliott proposing to make this a focus for their summer discussion.”
 - “Mairead suggested the need for external leadership due to internal structural limitations.”
 - Mairead: would it be appropriate for you as MLA to speak at a meeting?
 - Adam: yes, please invite me
 - All agreed
 - Tobi: Trust Council is June 18/19/20 - could speak to “What does FN governance look like” - Adam: I am available on 18th - **Action Item**
- Dag: look at hunting regulations on Pender
 - Not yet - he’s been building his deer fence 🦌🐾
- DONE 03/01: MLA office f/u: info sent in email: “SGI Forum: follow-up re: query of ICBC's role in addressing road safety issues”
- DONE 03/01: “SGI Forum: follow-up re: request for briefing on the Short-Term Rental Accommodations Act”

- **Other issue(s) brought up:**
 - Mairead: brought up “Payment in lieu of taxes” as it applies to Parks – she will look into it further and report back at the next meeting. - **Action Item**
 - <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/b86202f8-a5aa-465d-b544-868babfa8122>

○ **Next Steps/Action Items :**

- Next regular meeting (*usually* second Monday of each month):
 - ~~July 08~~ ~~Cancelled~~
 - **July 29? - possible date - Laura (staff) checking w/IT**
 - ~~August 12~~ ~~Cancelled~~
 - ~~September 9~~ ~~Cancelled~~ as conflicts with Islands Trust holding a Governance committee mtg
 - **September? - Laura (staff) checking w/MP May that she is available to Chair the next half-day meeting – and what date best**
 - *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
 - (*determined at 03/11 meeting)

- ACTION ITEMS:
 - **Tim:** re: need for briefing on Protocol Agreements - discuss this at the upcoming trust council meeting
 - **Laura (staff):**
 - **DONE:** check in w/MP May re: chairing September’s half day meeting and to find new date for it – **MP office to follow-up**
 - **DONE:** Cancel July 8 and August 12 mtgs
 - **awaiting reply from IT** book date for end of July mtg
 - Put discussion of ‘Indigenous Port Authority proposal’ as an agenda item for July’s meeting
 - **DONE:** follow-up with Lisa to check – re: From past meeting - Lisa: send letter re: roads and LED headlights safety concerns to Adam and Elizabeth’s offices (as both jurisdictions) for their follow-ups to appropriate Ministries
 - **Reply from Lisa** *“Yes, I am still putting that letter together. I am trying to get as much community input as I can. It is such an important issue here in Galiano. Without the ambient light from street lights, driving at night is quite dangerous”*
 - **Tobi:** to invite Adam to Trust Council meeting June 18, to speak to Governance issues
 - **Mairead:** report back re: “Payment in lieu of taxes” as it applies to Parks