

NOTES OF THE SATURNA ISLAND  
GROUNDWATER INFORMATION and PLANNING SESSION  
HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011 AT 10:00 AM  
AT THE COMMUNITY HALL, SATURNA ISLAND, B.C.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Peter Luckham</b>	<b>Chair</b>
	<b>Beverley Neff</b>	<b>Local Trustee</b>
	<b>Dian Johnstone</b>	<b>Local Trustee</b>
	<b>Gary Richardson</b>	<b>Island Planner</b>
	<b>Ron Monk</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
	<b>Jenna Foster</b>	<b>Minute Taker</b>

There were approximately seventy (70) members of the public in attendance.

**Chair Luckham** opened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. and welcomed all to the workshop. He thanked everyone for coming together to continue the discussion regarding groundwater concerns on Saturna Island. The Chair introduced the panel of presenters thanking them as well and turned the proceedings over to the workshop facilitator, Saturna resident, Ron Monk.

**Ron Monk** stated that the workshop is an opportunity to start at ground zero and build from there. He suggested some general ground rules to enhance the group discussion and decisions as follows:

- Be open to other opinions both expert and local
- Start off with the same body of information
- Allow room for different definitions of the problem
- Determine together what is the best way to proceed
- Agree on a clear definition of the problem(s)
- Move towards the solution by identifying the next steps
- Step back from the possible solution(s) and listen to others

Ron Monk reviewed the agenda for the day. He informed everyone of a couple of schedule changes. Pat Lapcevic will be the second speaker and Michael Payne the third. Mary Cooper from Mayne Island Integrated Water Systems Society is ill and unable able to attend. Mr. Monk encouraged everyone to check out the society's website and contact Mary Cooper directly with any questions.

Ron Monk stated that the workshop is being videotaped and invited Chair Luckham to explain the purpose.

**Chair Luckham** said the main intent of videotaping is to be able to disseminate the information to others who could not attend and possibly to other islands.

**Ron Monk** introduced Dr. Diana Allen as the first speaker.

**Dr. Diana Allen** commented that she has been doing research on the Gulf Islands groundwater since 1997. Saturna Island was the first field site she had and she continues to do research on the Gulf Islands; putting it into more of an international context.

Dr. Allen clarified that the groundwater concerns people are having on Saturna Island are shared by other island systems all over the world. She started off by explaining a conceptual hydrogeological model that shows where the groundwater is and how it likely moves through the rocks. She discussed the two (2) main rock types; mudstones and sandstones. Dr. Allen said the research suggests that the fractures are closely spaced in the mudstone and widely spaced in the sandstone. Therefore, the mudstone has a greater capacity for holding water. As well, the rocks tilt at different angles and there is a general potential for the water to move more in the down dip direction across the island. Dr. Allen added that the other aspect to consider is that proximity to fault zones also affects the movement of groundwater.

The presenter said that there are always questions about recharge and on Saturna Island the recharge areas are locally derived. Two things that prove this are first, there is inter-annual variation of the groundwater level. Secondly, the recharge is locally derived as proven by the chemistry of the water. The first study on Saturna Island done back in 1997 and 1998 where several wells were tested resulted in a standard water chemistry database for the island's groundwater.

Dr. Allen continued to explain that recharge occurs over a significant portion of the island as evidenced by calcium bicarbonate type water. This is very fresh water and it can be found mainly in the higher elevations on Saturna Island. Recharge is also highly dependent on topography and Dr. Allen described how higher elevations tend to receive the recharge and direct it down towards the groundwater flow system. She stated that lower elevation areas are also important to groundwater recharge.

Dr. Allen showed a graph of a Mayne Island well pointing out the normal decrease and increase of water level over the year. The pattern of this well, she stated, is typical for all the Gulf Islands.

A diagram from the 1997 study on Saturna Island where water samples were taken from all over the island clearly showed the transition of wells going towards increased salinity or sodium chloride type water.

Dr. Allen talked about the difficulty in quantifying recharge. She stated that the most common percentage used is twenty (20). Dr. Allen summarized several studies that attempted to quantify recharge with the conclusion that you cannot quantify recharge accurately.

The presenter said it is possible to identify recharge sensitive areas however. These are areas where salt water intrusion is prevalent. Dr. Allen explained that a combination of excessive pumping and limited recharge is the primary reason for an area to become stressed.

Dr. Allen showed a diagram of the freshwater lens under Saturna Island. At the top of the lens the water is very fresh, calcium bicarbonate type. When you move down towards contact with the sea water it becomes gradually more saline, sodium chloride type.

Dr. Allen described the positive effect of high topography because it forces the fresh water to push the sea water away. The higher the topography the greater the driving force to push the seawater out. There are two conditions, she stated, that draw the seawater in. The first is a low gradient and driving force which lowers the water table. Secondly, when you start pumping this draws the salt water in.

The presenter stated that the last couple of slides represent some new research aimed at developing a water security index for Canada. She described it as a community based framework to gain control of water knowledge and utilize monitoring at the community level. Then the locally gathered data could enable decision making around land use and development.

Dr. Allen continued to explain that one of the measures used is the Canadian Council of Ministries of Environment water quality index calculator. It measures water as excellent, good, fair, marginal or poor. She described the results of running the Saturna Island water data gathered from 1997 through the index. Ninety-two (92) samples from across the island were tested; fifty-one (51) scored excellent, twenty-two (22) good, seven (7) fair, seven (7) marginal and five (5) poor. Dr. Allen said that out of the thirty-five samples from East Point, six were in the poor to marginal range.

The last slide showed the aquifer vulnerability and susceptibility to saltwater intrusion for the Gulf Islands. The low lying areas of East Point on Saturna Island, all around Pender Island and the centre of Mayne Island were shown as very high risk areas for saltwater intrusion.

**Ron Monk** thanked Dr. Allen and introduced Pat Lapcevic with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

**Pat Lapcevic** invited any questions on the provincial regulatory framework i.e. Water Act and how the Act deals with groundwater now and potentially in the future. She said that she will highlight the study that was done a couple of years ago at East Point looking at the conductivity of the water as an analog for saltwater intrusion. She stated that she will talk about what they have done after the study and what they hope to do in the future.

Pat Lapcevic began by stating that groundwater is a very important and viable source of water for the Gulf Islands. The groundwater is highly variable in quality and in how it recharges (quantity). She stated that saltwater intrusion is not new.

In 2009 the Saturna Island Water Conservation Committee contacted her to initiate some study of the East Point Peninsula groundwater. The study involved two observation wells and 27 private wells and showed that East Point does have variability of quantity and quality of groundwater.

She stated that it clearly showed the impact pumping has on saltwater intrusion. There is a lack of topography at East Point and therefore, not as much recharge. Pat Lapcevic described how the study measured conductivity by calculating chloride concentrations. The results showed concentrations from 3 to 2592 mg/L. These results were compared to some previous studies of Saturna Island groundwater. The conclusion was that the East Point groundwater was worsening over time due to saltwater intrusion.

The presenter concluded that several factors are involved. The issue is related to several wells and not a single source. As well, the recharge is insufficient for a reversal of trends. Pat Lapcevic stated that the groundwater is still viable as a source of freshwater on the western end of the East Point Peninsula but is questionable elsewhere.

Pat Lapcevic continued to address what is being done at East Point. She said they are working with the owners of the East Point Cottage wells and communicate with all East Point property owners who have their wells tested. There have been two community meetings. Education and outreach are very important and will continue. She said they communicate with and provide information/advice to owners and drillers of new wells. Ongoing follow-up with owners is vital, she said, and the Water Act continues to change and support solutions.

Pat Lapcevic concluded that education and outreach were primary as well as voluntary change. She said the Water Act does have a role to play when a salty well is pumped. The presenter concluded that monitoring is ongoing and that longer term solutions may be water catchment and/or community water systems.

**Ron Monk** thanked Pat Lapcevic and introduced the third speaker, Michael Payne of Payne Engineering.

**Michael Payne** stated that Islands Trust invited him to attend the workshop because he has been working with the owners of East Point Cottages to solve their water problems. He said the main issue is saltwater in the wells along with low yield wells. Mr. Payne discussed the challenge of managing the freshwater lens under the ground which is thin on the east part of the Peninsula. The salinity of the wells, he said, is a result of natural occurrence as well as pumping. Other factors he mentioned as having a possible effect are the seasonal use of groundwater and variability of the water due to fractures in the ground.

Mr. Payne stated that they have been working on a way to manage the water use at the cottages. The water has gotten worse over time which is likely due to combined pumping over time. He also explained that some of the wells at East Point are too deep while others have the pump too deep in the well. This results in saltwater being pulled from the well and the surrounding aquifer. The presenter said the small lots at East Point have an impact because the wells are close together leading to over pumping of the aquifer.

Mr. Payne suggested that all these factors combined with limited recharge due to low topography have stressed the groundwater system.

The presenter identified some possible solutions starting with drilling shallow wells and placing pumps higher in the well. He stated that the disadvantage is you cannot pull as much water from the well so you need to include water conservation. Mr. Payne suggested that water storage could be helpful especially during the times when the groundwater is more saline. Water catchment, he explained, does require filters and disinfectant to be used inside the household. The type of container is important as well to ensure that the unused water will be directed back into the aquifer. He stressed that ongoing monitoring of wells and aquifer is vital.

Mr. Payne suggested that in the long term a community water system for East Point may be the logical solution since it alleviates some of the concern on how future development will affect the groundwater resource. The presenter noted that the challenge of a community water system is it requires strong community support and a source of funding.

**Ron Monk** thanked Michael Payne and invited a discussion between the three speakers.

**Michael Payne** asked the other speakers what they would identify as the highest priorities for individuals working to improve the situation at East Point.

**Dr. Diana Allen** responded with the suggestion to start with sampling everyone's well to build an accurate and current data base of the water chemistry. She stated that this is the first step before further planning. Her feedback on a community water system was that there is a risk because with one large well the recharge needs to be very good or the saltwater can be sucked up very fast. A network of smaller wells and pumping at sustainable rates to take advantage of seasonal rainfall Dr. Allen said, would be a more viable community water system.

**Pat Lapcevic** stated that the well depth is important and the water needs to be sampled. She said some wells are too deep because there was not enough water higher up. East Point, she continued, is made up of old sandstone and the problems are worse there because of the lack of mudstone which will hold larger volumes of water. Pat Lapcevic also described how the rock units dip north which means that a lot of the wells on the south side are saline because the rain runs north and recharges those wells.

**Michael Payne** added that the development around the perimeter of the East Point Peninsula can contribute to increased saltwater intrusion. He stated that sometimes it could be one fracture that caused a well to go salty. In the sandstone, he clarified, the fractures are widely spaced and this can also cause unusual interrelations between wells.

**Ron Monk** directed the group to take a short break for 10 minutes until 11:30 am. Ron Monk introduced the next speaker, Erwin Dyck with the Vancouver Island Health Authority.

**Erwin Dyck** said that he was available to answer any questions on the composition of water as well as information on safe drinking water.

He clarified that Vancouver Island Health Authority regulates all public wells but not wells of private residences. Mr. Dyck continued that he has been involved in discussions past and present on the water issues at East Point Peninsula.

**Ron Monk** thanked Erwin Dyck and introduced Janet Land with the Saturna Water Conservation Committee.

**Janet Land** thanked the Islands Trust, the local water committee and the presenters. She acknowledged the work of Brian Dixon-Warren over the years as sometimes a lone voice of concern until the summer of 2009 when the extent of the water issue at East Point became more prevalent.

Janet Land stated that she has lived full-time on Saturna Island for twelve years and part-time for three years. She commented that the world of saltwater intrusion is new especially when you come from the city. The understanding that each well user whether a part-time or full-time resident, has the potential to cause saltwater intrusion is very important. In addition, the continued use of a saltwater well can have a serious negative impact on all surrounding wells. The speaker added another concern is the lack of space for water catchment on small lots like hers. Janet Land continued stating that water is a common resource and while the current situation is complicated it is vital to do what is needed to protect the aquifer. She concluded that there was no one way to solve the problem and it will take working together as a community along with regulatory agencies and experts to find solutions.

**Ron Monk** commented that there was a balance between property rights and the needs of the community as a whole; he assured the group that this would be a part of the discussion as well. He went on to introduce the final speaker, Gary Richardson, Planner for Islands Trust.

**Gary Richardson** welcomed everyone. He started by clarifying that most of the lots at East Point were created before the Islands Trust came into existence. Planner Richardson said that there are one hundred and seventeen (117) small lots East Point and fifty-three (53) are still vacant. He continued to explain that almost all the subdivision has taken place except for a large lot in the centre.

Planner Richardson agreed that there needs to be a balance between recharge and the amount of water taken out. He asked the question regarding what tools the Islands Trust has available to assist with protecting the aquifer. His list of potential tools included:

- Reduce development by taking development rights away (not really feasible he said)
- Transfer development by upzoning one area and downzoning another but this is difficult with multiple owners
- Adopting bylaws such as bylaw 99 which deals with water catchment reducing some pressure on the aquifer
- Amenity zoning where the amenity could be something that promotes water conservation

- Development permits that protect natural environment and/or conserve water
- Identify areas as critical and work with experts on development permit details
- Exclusion of all sorts of activities based on best science
- Limit the number of water consuming fixtures per household
- Continued education and outreach i.e. public meetings and planning sessions

Planner Richardson concluded that the community water system solution needs to come from the community. He confirmed that the community coming together today is important to discuss what the problems are and the possible solutions.

**Ron Monk** suggested that a twenty minute question and answer period could happen until lunch arrived. He invited Capital Region District (CRD) Director, Ken Hancock, to join the panel of speakers up front. Mr. Monk reminded the group to focus on the information and understanding. He encouraged questions for the panel and for anyone in attendance.

**John Money** commented that since the East Point lens is small it would make sense to store water. He asked Pat Lapcevic and Dr. Diana Allen how they felt about ponds and surface water storage for East Point.

**Dr. Diana Allen** said you need to think about where the water is coming from. If you are storing water in a recharge area then she would be concerned about altering the natural environment. She stated that it is not a good idea to mess around in a sensitive area because not enough is known about the effects.

**Pat Lapcevic** reinforced that a sensitive area needs consideration. She said she was not opposed to storage and creating new storage with new ponds for rainwater catchment has possibilities. One must also be careful of dam storage she warned.

**Hugh Grasswick** asked whether checking sodium levels is enough when monitoring for saltwater intrusion.

**Dr. Diana Allen** responded and encouraged the use of a conductivity meter as a very practical method of monitoring. Sodium is there naturally she said, so it is better to check for electrical conductivity.

**Beverly Vreeswijk** questioned the panel on the impact of human activities such as the cutting down of trees and creating impermeable surfaces such as paved driveways.

**Michael Payne** stated that the total impermeable surface at East Point is probably less than 10%. This could increase with development but the type of rural development at East Point does not have a huge impact because the roads and driveways are not paved.

**Andrew Money** asked Ken Hancock why the regulations regarding rainwater catchment were so stringent since they made it more onerous for homebuilders.

**Ken Hancock** explained that under the current regime, a homeowner requires a covenant to address the challenges with rainwater catchment since it is seen as an unconventional way to get potable water. Part of the reason for this, he said, is it informs subsequent property owners that the rainwater catchment system has unique ongoing maintenance requirements.

Secondly, Mr. Hancock said the covenant ensures that the CRD is not held responsible or liable. He commented that the policy is currently under review and the committee has come up with a bylaw amendment that has no covenant. The committee has asked for a decrease in the building inspection fee in regards to rainwater catchment as well. Ken Hancock estimated that the cost of a well engineered rainwater catchment system is about thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) in total, which includes the cost of the roof.

**Phil Mesner** expressed his thanks to the Islands Trust for getting the community together to talk about the water issues. He commented that the issue of water is world wide and as soon as you can find common ground with your opponents the better. He concluded that solutions can be found.

*\* Note - Ron Monk announced that the meeting would break for lunch until 1:05 pm.*

Ron Monk welcomed everyone back and stated that the question and answer part of the day would continue until 1:45 pm.

**John Gaines** said he felt that the Islands Trust had become anti-development. One of the requirements for development is proof of potable water. He disagreed that water should be a provision for the initial development of land.

**Planner Richardson** responded by stating that the Saturna Land Use bylaw does not require proof of potable water for subdivisions so the decision goes to the provincial approving officer. Planner Richardson explained that he has asked the officer if he would consider rainwater catchment as proof of potable water and he said no.

**Trevor Morris** asked the panel about what effect clear-cut logging on the Indian reserve would have on East Point.

**Michael Payne** stated that East Point is a large area and it is uncertain what effect it would have. He continued that water run-off and recharge could be impacted but he is not sure of the degree.

**Dr. Diana Allen** added that there is a water catchment area in the Okanagan basin where they are testing this. She said the likely possibility is increased run-off with less recharge but then the trees will use less so that would leave more run-off. She concluded that they need to do further monitoring.

**Janet Land** asked Dr. Allen about one of the slides in her presentation showing aquifer vulnerability in the interior of the East Point Peninsula.

**Dr. Diana Allen** responded that there were so many parameters measured and a small dot was not significant on a map done at that scale.

**Bill Schermbrucker** asked about using gray water for toilets, etc.

**CRD Director, Ken Hancock** responded that the building code does provide for the use of purple water (rainwater catchment) for toilets but not gray water. He explained that gray water degrades fast and there is a risk of cross contamination.

**Erwin Dyck** with VIHA added that gray water is legally defined as sewage and has to be treated before going into ground.

**Janet Land** commented that she knows homeowners on Pender Island who have built a large cistern in their basement for rainwater catchment which is used in the toilets in the house. The key, she said, is how you design your home.

**Jude White** invited all who were thinking about or already had rainwater catchment to get together to talk about purchasing equipment as a group to keep costs down.

**Susie Washington-Smyth** followed up on an earlier question regarding the costs of rainwater catchment and the need to test more frequently.

**Ken Hancock** responded by stating that proof of clean drinking water needs to be provided.

**Priscilla Ewbank** inquired with fifty-three (53) more lots at East Point still to be developed is there some shared responsibility between private homeowners and perhaps the larger community. She said she is especially interested in examples of more socially shared solutions.

**Dr. Diana Allen** highlighted two examples. She said there is a large scale example in the Bahamas at NASA on Paradise Island where the water is piped from another island nearby. Secondly, she gave the example of West Africa where there is a community well and everyone goes to the site to collect their water. She continued that it is not possible sustain the water level at East Point. One solution she said would be for everyone at East Point to agree on a community water system that would not impact any one person significantly.

**John Money** clarified that the approving officer is an independent person who does not work for the Ministry of Highways. He added that logging does not necessarily mean clear-cutting. He said the natives had no intention of clear-cutting at East Point.

**Andrew Money** asked Erwin Dyck about the best way to treat rainwater to make it potable and what is the expense.

**Erwin Dyck** replied that the method and expense is the same for treating any kind of surface water because you cannot control the source.

**Andrew Money** asked if there was a way to increase recharge.

**Michael Payne** stated that a partial answer is that forest cover encourages groundwater recharge.

He said if you are looking at artificial groundwater recharge then a standard way to do this is to have a basin or large pond lined with sand which encourages water to infiltrate into the ground. The vegetation for this is more complex he said.

**Dr. Diana Allen** said the problem with the surface solution is that the permeability of the ground could be so slow that it has no great impact. Artificial recharge is done in areas she stated, where there is very permeable ground and a large holding capacity for the aquifer.

**Priscilla Zimmerman** commented that regulations need to change where there is a deadline for the occupancy permit. She suggested the CRD should start a certification process to get the occupancy permit.

**Director Ken Hancock** said the problem is finding someone to do that. He said an expert has to sign off and unfortunately, this is expensive but still a part of the regulation and building code. Mr. Hancock said the CRD is open to looking at it.

**John Money** suggested that the CRD will have to set up a process.

**Director Ken Hancock** replied that he would be interested to see any other jurisdiction in BC not requiring an engineer to sign off.

**Bill Schermbrucker** directed a question to Dr. Allen regarding creating ponds for rainwater catchment.

**Dr. Diana Allen** explained that when they did testing on Saturna Island, all the swamps tested were contributing to recharge. She said the one at East Point did have a different chemistry suggesting some recharge and some discharge. She clarified her earlier comment regarding that there is significant risk when you alter the natural environment especially in an area known to be sensitive.

**Dave Payton** stated that he was confused about needing the engineer to sign off which places a criteria on water catchment making it more expensive. He suggested that a group of people interested in water catchment needed to come together to discuss this in more detail.

**Director Ken Hancock** responded saying that the CRD is definitely willing to look at reducing the cost.

**Dave Payton** questioned why rainwater catchment is treated as a special case. The expense, he said, is not justified.

**Director Ken Hancock** said that water catchment and potable water are very different subjects and Bylaw 99 only refers to water catchment.

**Ron Monk** suggested that everyone take a break for 15 minutes until 2:00 pm.

Ron Monk said the next part of the meeting was to continue the discussion in small groups. He commented that one of the hurdles is that the water issues have been defined in different ways based on different concerns.

Ron Monk explained that the groups will be divided according to the color of dot on the agenda each person has. He suggested that everyone start with their same color group for the first part of the discussion and for the latter part he invited people to move around to a different table discussion if they wished. He asked that each group choose a person to report on their table's discussion once the larger group reconvened.

The task for each group was to define:

- specific problems to be addressed
- next step(s) to address the problem(s)

There were five discussion groups until 3:10 pm.

Ron Monk reconvened the large group and commented that it was very interesting to hear all the different perspectives expressed in the smaller groups. He invited the spokespeople to report on their group's discussion.

#### Group 1

**Priscilla Ewbank** reported that her group identified the water problem as having an East Point focus keeping in mind that there are other areas on Saturna Island that do not have good water either. She said her group defined sustainable water supply as including well water and water catchment. Part of the problem, she said, is the demand of future development as well as properties that use water and have no catchment. She continued that there is concern about different levels of development and regulatory requirements that are not compatible. Wells that are saline are still being used and this is a problem. She said her group discussed the need for better information concluding that the nature of well use is not equitable since wells change over time.

Ms. Ewbank identified the solutions her group discussed as follows:

- Install meters
- Utilize tax incentives i.e. an incentive for amalgamation of properties
- Provide continuing education handouts at all levels

She commented that it is useful to have larger community meetings since it brings together a broader spectrum of people. It is especially valuable, she said, to hear from experts who have investigated water issues on Saturna Island.

#### Group 2

**Trustee Dian Johnstone** said her group defined the problem as water management, island wide with a pressing problem at East Point. She reported that they discussed the issue as being a storage problem with too many users and an aquifer that does not recharge. She stated that unfair and inequitable regulations are a concern and bylaw 99 is not enough.

Her group also discussed that there is no government incentive or tax rebate to support good water management. Finally, the number of vacant properties and pending development is a big concern.

Trustee Johnstone identified her group's solutions as follows:

- Islands Trust take on an advocacy role with regulatory bodies and perhaps work with the elected representative, Elizabeth May
- Consider a rainwater collection cooperative
- Organize advocacy and education
- Owners and community groups work together to form an umbrella committee with a view to facilitate East Point solutions
- Look at retro-fitting all properties at East Point

### Group 3

**Margaret Hamer** reported that her group defined the problem as not enough groundwater to support East Point use, specifically, storage versus supply problem. The discussion she said also identified that there was no data base with respect to water well usage or a system of metering where the data could also include a measure of water conductivity. Lastly, her group thought it would be useful for wells to have an automatic shut off.

Margaret Hamer listed the following possible solutions:

- Install well meters
- Encourage use of cisterns for water catchment
- Encourage water storage
- Promote community based guidelines
- Educate community
- Encourage government bodies to update and provide better responses to problems
- Identify areas of natural drainage runoff at East Point and consider water catchment for those areas
- Establish guidelines for visitors with regards to water use
- Work collaboratively

### Group 4

**Andrew Money** stated that his group saw the problem as the demand from the aquifer exceeded the supply.

He listed some the solutions his group discussed:

- Provide general education
- Use shallower well pumps
- Install roof catchment systems as a supplement to well water
- Store water to buffer demand
- Consider both potable and non-potable storage
- Change CRD regulations to make them fair by reducing financial burdens of rainwater catchment systems when compared to well water systems
- CRD to consider role of advocacy to government regarding a decreased expense for rainwater catchment

## Group 5

**Priscilla Zimmerman** reported that her group discussed the need to understand the hydrogeology better and enhance mapping.

Some solutions her group identified included:

- Utilize water catchment and a community water system
- Provide some compensation for those who have good well water
- Install low flow well pumps
- Prevent what happened at East Point

**John Money** added that a potential solution might be to have a water system for household water use only and utilize water catchment for other water needs. He said you could identify the good wells and use them for developing small water systems. Lastly, he commented that a community system could also measure water usage.

**Ron Monk** stated that all of this is going to require money and asked the group what the next steps might be.

**Susie Washington-Smyth** suggested that information needs to go out to all community organizations including the Saturna Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA).

**John Money** commented that a possible vehicle for funds for an East Point water system might be the Capital Region District (CRD).

**Priscilla Ewbank** stated that the Saturna Island Water Committee would be a logical group to take this further. She said she also had a specific request for Dr. Diana Allen to provide an overview of her work done on Saturna Island specifically.

**Dr. Diana Allen** replied that she does not have time today. She reported that she will continue to do research on the Gulf Islands. Dr. Allen encouraged Saturna Island residents to consider setting up a monitoring system similar to the one they had in the past. Dr. Allen said that Mayne Island is interested as well and she would be very happy to provide assistance to get it up and running.

**John Money** stressed that we already know we have a problem at East Point and a plan is needed.

**Andrew Money** asked Director Ken Hancock to advocate on behalf of Saturna Island to the provincial government to reduce the cost of rainwater catchment.

**Director Ken Hancock** replied that the cost of treating and delivering water is high. Currently, he said, we have some small water districts which are costly. He said meeting the provincial standard of technology and equipment for water systems is expensive even with a hundred (100) or more rate payers. Mr. Hancock continued to say that water is a common resource and traditionally we have had a very unsophisticated approach to utilizing it. He agreed that regulation currently is a problem and yet we also need regulation. His suggestion would be to first improve the data base by developing a current monitoring program. Then, he said, solutions may be clearer.

He concluded by stating that he felt any solution would have to come from the community and the CRD would continue in a regulatory role.

**Ron Monk** added that from a community perspective the CRD would likely get out of the way if a good solution to the problem was presented.

**Chair Luckham** responded that at the next Islands Trust meeting the information from the workshop will be reviewed and a decision made about what direction to take. He commented that the role of the local Islands Trust committee is to sift through the information and find the common threads. He continued that if there is an agency or government regulation in the way of a solution, then the Islands Trust can advocate directly to those bodies. Chair Luckham concluded that more discussion would be needed.

**Trustee Dian Johnstone** thanked facilitator Ron Monk for the great job he did on planning and facilitating the meeting.

**Ron Monk** thanked the speakers for coming on a Saturday to the workshop.

**Chair Luckham** said that there will be a report come out from Islands Trust on the planning session and thanked everyone for attending.

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**RECORDER**

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**DATE**