



**GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING NOTES  
LASQUETI ISLAND MEETING CONSULTATION  
Friday, May 4, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.  
Lasqueti Island Community Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Kim Benson, Chair, Islands Trust Council  
Rose Willow, Lasqueti Local Trustee  
Linda Adams, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)  
Melinda Auerbach, Recorder

There were six (6) members of the public in attendance.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

The Chair gave an opening statement providing background on the issue of governance in the Islands Trust Area. She further explained how Islands Trust Council had decided to respond to many requests for a modification of representation with respect the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area.

The Chief Administrative Officer provided background information about the process, including the consultant's report, to date and the purpose behind receiving input and feedback from the public leading up to today's meeting and subsequent actions to be taken by Trust Council.

A presentation was made by the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer which covered background on Islands Trust governance; some facts about the Islands Trust Area; the issues for Salt Spring Island and all Local Trust Areas; some options for consideration; coordination with Regional Districts; next steps regarding Political Representation; and other governance priorities.

The Chair accepted public submissions and opened the Information Meeting to comments.

**Merrick Anderson:** If municipalities (within the Islands Trust Area) don't contribute to the Islands Trust tax base what does the Islands Trust do for the municipality?

Linda Adams replied that the Islands Trust Fund contributes to the protection of ecosystems within the whole Trust Area, including any island municipalities. Also, any island municipality's Official Community Plan must be consistent with the Islands Trust Act and, so, has to be reviewed by Islands Trust staff to ensure that. The Island Municipality also contributes to Trust Area publications and policies. Bowen Island (currently the only island municipality) is required to meet regulations by provincial agencies and may request the assistance of Islands Trust Council and staff to advocate for changes to provincial policies.

**Jack Barrett:** The time line for this review is very short. Are participants restricted to commenting on the options presented? A solution not outlined in the review presentation would be to have the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee elect four trustees and send two to sit at Trust Council. Linda Adams suggested that his suggestion reflected option 3. She agreed that it could be difficult to get input from the public back to Islands Trust Task Force in one month. Responses can be posted or emailed to the Islands Trust office. She did assure everyone that the Task Force does and will review all responses received.

**Rod Wiebe:** Noted that there was not much time to review the report. Salt Spring Island stands out in this report and in the Province - as one of the most expensive places to live in British Columbia. One option that was not noted in the report is to cut Salt Spring loose from the Islands Trust. As shown by the information it is different from the rest of the Trust islands and doesn't need the Islands Trust. An increase in the number of trustees will not make much difference to their needs. This review is going in the wrong direction by making for more government which is more costly and complex.

Linda Adams responded by advising that the Provincial Government was not understood to be willing to consider - at this time - a change in the boundaries of the Islands Trust Area.

**Laurie Bergen:** It might be time to give Salt Spring their own Islands Trust. It might even be time for a Howe Sound or Southern Islands Islands Trust. Such a rearrangement could address areas of common concern and still keep the concept and purpose of the Islands Trust.

**Peter Johnston:** It does not seem that two more Trustees for Salt Spring is likely to take much pressure off. More planning time may actually be more useful to the Local Trustees' needs.

**Linda Adams:** Right now, Salt Spring is getting planning time that is more in line with their size. This has not always been the case.

**Peter Johnston:** The provision of planning services seems contrary to the Islands Trust Mandate since the nature of submitting applications is to push the boundaries put in place to enhance the Islands Trust Mandate. It may be better to have the Islands Trust structured as an oversight body to review all development applications. Our society is very focused on individual rights and I would like the Islands Trust to have more powers over an individual's privileges.

Linda Adams: having land use planning authority is very important to preserving the Islands Trust Area. Right now, the Executive Committee must review all bylaws of the Local Trust Committees to ensure that they are in compliance with the Islands Trust Act.

**Merrick Anderson:** Land use planning can be very positive. It is important that the Islands Trust is able to attract very good planners.

**Pat Forbes:** Planning is also the means of allowing housing to keep a mixed community.

Linda Adams stated that innovative solutions, for housing, are being attempted in other Local Trust Areas.

**Peter Johnston:** If one island wanted four trustees instead of two would the extra cost be borne by that island or the whole Islands Trust. It works better for me if each island were to pay directly for more trustees.

**Laurie Bergen:** If the Province is not interested in looking at what we want why should we look it at the way they want? Lets lobby for what we want?

Kim Benson stated that the question of representation is very strong for Salt Spring and Trust Council agrees so they are willing, at this time, to follow the Province's agenda even if it is not ideal.

**Peter Johnston:** This feels like a slippery slope to start down. I personally like the idea of only two Trustees going to Council, even if four elected. The extra Trustees could relieve some of the burden of local needs similar to how the Advisory Planning Commission takes some of burden from the Local Trustees.

**Peter Johnston:** What is Trust Council thinking about the structure of the Executive Committee? Linda Adams responded that the Executive Committee structure can't change without a legislative change to the Islands Trust Act either.

The Chair adjourned the Community Information Meeting at 2:41 p.m.

I certify that this is a fair and accurate summary of the submissions made at this Community Information Meeting.

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Recorder