



Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance

Notes of a Special Meeting

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, June 12, 2018
Location: Community Gospel Church, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road
Salt Spring Island

Members Present:

George Grams, SSIWPA Chair, Islands Trust Trustee; Sharon Bywater, (for Lorrie Hunt) Fernwood Water Service Area Commissioner; Doreen Hewitt, Beddis Water Service Area Commissioner; Dale Green, Pat Lapcevic, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR); Wayne McIntyre, SSIWPA Deputy Chair and Capital Regional District (CRD) Salt Spring Island Electoral Area Director; Robert Steinbach, North Salt Spring Waterworks District Representative

Conservation and Efficiency Working Group Members:

Sandra Ungerson, Chair, SSIWPA Conservation and Efficiency Working Group; Rob Kline

Technical Working Group

John Millson, Chair, SSIWPA Technical Working Group; Sylvia Barroso, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR); Fred Beall, Member at-large

Staff Present:

Shannon Cowan, SSIWPA Coordinator; Stefan Cermak, Islands Trust Regional Planning Manager, Islands Trust; Justine Starke, Islands Trust Island Planner; William Shulba, Islands Trust Senior Freshwater Specialist; David Marlor, Islands Trust Director Local Planning Services; Mike Wei, Facilitator; Sarah Shugar, Recorder

Special Guest:

Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of BC

Member of the public:

Ron Hawkins

Chair Grams welcomed everyone in attendance at 10:10 a.m.

Justine Starke presented an overview of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) and introduced the objectives for the strategic planning special meeting.

Mike Wei presented the agenda for the meeting.

Mike Wei presented some elements of the Water Sustainability Act (WSA) in the context of SSIWPA's workplan.

The following questions/comments were noted regarding the presentation:

- The priority of access to water is based on the date of licence (FITFIR) and the water licence is attached to the property title.
- How would the connection between groundwater and rights to a stream be made? It would be evidence and geology based.
- There is a three-year transition period in the WSA and there are regulations regarding date of first use.
- Water licenses are not issued for groundwater for household use and are issued for irrigation or commercial use.
- How big is the problem that we want the government to solve? Is it big enough that it would benefit from having the government provide policy?
- There are applications that will be denied because a stream is fully allocated. Fulford Creek is a designated sensitive stream.
- There are applications for streams on Vancouver Island that are denied unless the applicant can demonstrate sufficient water storage.
- Can area based regulation require monitoring? The government authority to make regulation is very broad. If a connected stream is not being monitored how do you show that it is impacted? Do you focus on what you think is the problem or do you approach it broadly?
- If the plan does not contain legislative change or statutory recommendations the Minister can accept the plan otherwise it would be referred to the Cabinet.
- The Township of Langley has a draft water management plan that has not been adopted.
- The WSA outlines the process for Water Sustainability Plans.
- The Minister or another party can initiate a water sustainability plan.
- The Allocation Plan for SSI was developed in 1993.
- Is there funding that is attached once the province has approved a WSP to be done?
- The Township of Langley did receive funding but there is not a water sustainability fund that communities can apply to.
- A water plan would allow you to adjust rights or the province could take back some of those rights. One of the reasons the Langley plan was put forward was due to significant issues with groundwater.
- How do we know what the right tool is? Is there a metric?

Honourable Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin, staff and Trustee Peter Grove arrived to the meeting at 11:02 a.m. Introductions were carried out.

Refreshments were served at 11:10 a.m.

William Shulba presented a short film on freshwater in the Islands Trust Area.

Honourable Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin expressed support for the work being done to preserve and protect freshwater resources.

Honourable Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin left the meeting.

William Shulba introduced the instructions for the next portion of the meeting. The group divided into the following three groups / areas of interest:

1. Water Supply and Conservation
2. Watershed Protection

3. Groundwater

During the working lunch period, group members developed problems related to the water resources and watershed protection in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area, and questions related to the problems within the theme of their table. Facilitators were assigned to each of the groups to assist each group to refine their problems.

After lunch, the group returned to plenary (all participants as a single large group).

The 'Watershed Protection' group spokesperson presented the results from that group summarized as the following proposed problems:

- i) We need to preserve hydrological processes through watershed protection planning.
- ii) There is a lack of coordination of fundamental data management.

The 'Water Supply and Conservation' group spokesperson presented the results from that group summarized as the following proposed problems:

- iii) How can we use the finite water supply in the most consistent, fair, equitable and sustainable way?
- iv) There is no water conservation requirement in the B.C. Building Code and this is a disincentive to water use efficiency.
- v) There is not enough water conservation and education (incentives) on Salt Spring Island for effective conservation behaviour.

The 'Groundwater' group spokesperson presented the results from that group summarized as the following proposed problem:

- vi) In a place where surface water is fully recorded, large demand(s) for groundwater could be impacting other users or environmental uses.

There were several questions posed and full plenary discussion about the presentations by each group. The notes and results of the plenary portion are more fully presented in the workshop report by Facilitator Wei.

Facilitator Wei presented some of the ways that problems and questions generated by the breakout groups in this meeting could be used to generate Integrated Freshwater Management (IFWM) Program questions for SSIWPA. He then presented the SMART method for testing that tasks in the existing IFWM workplan are appropriate and effective.

SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound.

Facilitator Wei presented three example tasks from the existing IFWM Workplan, and a series of questions that were developed in advance of the workshop to be used to filter the tasks to ascertain whether they were appropriate and necessary, and in the right order for SSIWPA to undertake.

Filter criteria for SSIWPA tasks:

1. Does it relate to the problems? Which one(s)?
2. Is this something on which SSIWPA should focus?
3. Does the task require the effort of multiple partners? (Is it a sole agency responsibility?)
4. Will task directly benefit multiple parties (or not)?
5. Is the task at the right scale?
6. How urgent is it? This year, 3 yrs, 5-10 yrs? Is the task in the right order?

It was suggested that clear definition of any item in the workplan (objective, task or otherwise) should be applied.

Two suggestions for additional filters were put forward:

7. What are the implications if we don't do it? (What other communities have done it?)
8. Use a weighting mechanism for determining whether tasks belong on the SSIWPA workplan, or not:
 - a. Estimate degree of impact (on community) of doing the task.
 - b. Estimate the group's ability to do it.
 - c. Multiply potential impact (or impact of not doing the task) by the group's ability to achieve it.

The three example tasks were discussed with respect to the SMART and the filtering criteria. The resulting discussion notes are included in the workshop report by Facilitator Wei.

Facilitator Wei proposed the first Next Step following the workshop was that he would synthesize the results from the problems that groups generated in this meeting into possible Objectives and recommendations in the workshop report.

Coordinator Cowan presented four options for possible steps for discussion by the group that were pre-developed by the facilitators:

- i) SSIWPA forms a subcommittee of agency staff
- ii) SSIWPA directs TWG
- iii) Islands Trust staff, coordinator
- iv) Special meeting(s) of Steering Committee

The first option was changed to read:

- i) SSIWPA forms a subcommittee (it may contain steering committee members, working group members and agency staff) to generate a strategic plan.

By general consent, first revised option was preferred by the workshop participants.

It was suggested that these Workshop Notes and the pending Workshop Report by Facilitator Wei be delivered and considered by all participants prior to Steering Committee deciding next steps.

Islands Trust Staff and Coordinator acknowledged and thanked Facilitator Wei.

Facilitator Wei thanked each participant for contributing to the workshop.

Chair Grams acknowledged and thanked the facilitators, participants and observers.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 pm.

George Grams, Chair

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Shannon Cowan, Recorder