



# Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance

## Regular Meeting Agenda

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**Date of Meeting:** Friday, January 20, 2023 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
**Location:** Zoom Web Conferencing

### Acronyms:

CRD - Capital Regional District

MoF – British Columbia Ministry of Forests

GW – Groundwater

NSSWD - North Salt Spring Waterworks District

SSIWPA - Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance

TWG - SSIWPA Technical Working Group

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### 3. MINUTES

3.1 Draft minutes of the November 25, 2022 meeting of the SSIWPA Steering Committee – Attached for approval pp. 4 - 10

### 4. BUSINESS ITEMS

Readers are invited to review the following, as important refreshers:

**Islands Trust Salt Spring Island Watershed Stewardship and Protection Coordination Situation Analysis and Options Identification Report by Econics, April, 2022:**  
[https://www.ssiwpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Public-Library/SSIWPA-Projects-Reports-and-Presentations/Watershed-Stewardship-Situation-Analysis\\_by-Econics.pdf](https://www.ssiwpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Public-Library/SSIWPA-Projects-Reports-and-Presentations/Watershed-Stewardship-Situation-Analysis_by-Econics.pdf)

**SSIWPA Steering Committee Terms of Reference:** <https://www.ssiwpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Public-Library/SSIWPA-Structure-and-Management/SSIWPA-TOR-Current.pdf>

**Islands Trust Council Bylaw no. 154 to delegate to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee certain powers related to preservation and protection of water resources in the Local Trust Area:** <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/document/delegation-bylaw-no-154/>

- 4.1 Steering Committee Chair's report
- 4.2 Informal member updates (< 1 minute)
  - 4.2.1 Technical Working Group – brief verbal update (Chair John Millson)
  - 4.2.2 Water Systems Working Group – brief verbal update
- 4.3 Report on SSIWPA coordination and actions
  - 4.3.1 SSIWPA resolved action logs, ongoing and completed pp. 11-13
  - 4.3.2 SSIWPA coordinator reports – November & December 2022 – pp. 14-17
- 4.4 SSI Watershed Protection Coordinated Projects Update:
  - 4.4.1 Watershed Protection Plan by Econics for Islands Trust - Memo pp. 18-19
- 4.5 Islands Trust SSI Watershed Protection Fiscal Year 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Financial statement – to be appended, when received
- 4.6 Watershed protection priorities and budget for fiscal year 2024 – verbally by Islands Trust
- 4.7 Membership
  - 4.7.1 Annual election of SSI Watershed Protection Alliance steering committee chairperson
  - 4.7.2 SSIWPA steering committee membership terms
  - 4.7.3 SSIWPA TWG membership terms – p. 20
- 4.8 Correspondence about Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection (For Information)
  - 4.8.1 Letter from Salt Spring Solutions and reply 2022-12-10 by SSIWPA Coordinator re: watershed protection/climate action grants – p. 21-23
  - 4.8.2 Letter from Islands Trust Staff 2023-01-06 re: Trustee Patrick as SSIWPA representative for the next fiscal year – p. 24
  - 4.8.3 Letter from Member of the public to Member of the public forwarding a reply from SSIWPA Coordinator dated 2023-01-07 re: SSI Water Systems Survey 2020 Report and SSI Groundwater and Lake Level Monitoring project by Islands Trust – pp. 25-26
  - 4.8.4 Letters and replies between Member of the public and SSIWPA Coordinator dated 2023-01-09 and 2022-01-11 re: SSI Groundwater and Lake Level Monitoring project by Islands Trust – pp. 27-29

4.8.5 Letter from BC Conservation Foundation (Nanaimo) re: Community Stream Flow Monitoring received on social media messaging. SSIWPA Coordinator has replied to set a time for a conversation late January, 2023 – p.30

4.8.6 Letters and replies between SSIWPA Coordinator and Ministry of LWRS dated 2022-12-15 re: Provincial Regulation and Incentives for Small Rural Water Systems and Rainwater Harvesting – pp. 31-33

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

**6. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**Friday April 28, 2023 10:00 – 12:00**

**Friday June 30, 2023 10:00 – 12:00**

**Friday September 29, 2023 10:00 – 12:00**

**Friday November 24, 2023 10:00 – 12:00**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**



# Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance

Regular Meeting Minutes

**Date of Meeting:** Friday, November 25, 2022

**Location:** Electronic Meeting

**Members Present:** Laura Patrick, SSIWPA Chairperson, Islands Trust Trustee  
Karla Campbell, Capital Regional District, Electoral Area Senior Manager  
Alan Martin, Fulford Water Service Area Commission  
Sandra Ungerson, North Salt Spring Waterworks District Trustee  
Gary Holman, Vice Chair, Capital Regional District SSI Electoral Area Director  
Tim Slaney, Scott Point Waterworks District  
Margaret Thomson, Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance  
Jason Griffin, Cedar Lane Water Service Area Commission  
Carollin Wentworth, Fernwood-Highland Water Service Area Commission (new SSIWPA member representative)

**Member Regrets:** Sylvia Barroso (on leave), Ministry of Forests  
Beddis Water Service Area Commission

**Members At-Large:** Deborah Miller, Transition Salt Spring Society  
Doreen Hewitt, Cusheon Lake Stewardship Committee  
Ian Peace, Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society  
Lewis Muirhead, Erskine Water Society (new SSIWPA member at-large representative)  
Pierre Mineau, Salt Spring Island Conservancy

**Members At-Large Regrets:** Rhonan Heitzmann, Salt Spring Water Company

**Technical Working Group Liaison Present:** John Millson, Technical Working Group Chairperson  
Ken Nentwig, Technical Working Group Member At-Large

**Staff Present:** Shannon Cowan, Coordinator  
Anthony Fotino, Islands Trust Island Planner  
Jenn Baddeley, Recorder

**Others Present:** 1 Member of the Public

These minutes follow the order of the agenda although the sequence may have varied.

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Patrick called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and welcomed everyone to an electronic meeting. Chair Patrick acknowledged the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance is meeting on Coast Salish First Nations treaty and traditional territory. Introductions were carried out.

## **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**By general consent**, the agenda was approved.

## **3. MINUTES**

### **3.1. Draft minutes of the September 23, 2022 Regular Meeting of the SSIWPA Steering Committee**

**By general consent**, the minutes of the September 23, 2022 Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance Regular Meeting were adopted.

## **4. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **4.1. Chair's Report**

Chairperson Patrick noted the recent election and the need for the new Islands Trust Local Trust Committee (LTC) to appoint a Trustee to SSIWPA. Chairperson Patrick also welcomed newly elected Trustee Harris to the LTC and made the announcement that the new Chair for the Salt Spring LTC is Chair Peterson.

### **4.2. Informal Member Updates**

Member Miller introduced herself and identified her role with Transition Salt Spring Society. Member Miller announced the new arrangement with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for the Mount Maxwell Project. Staff Shulba will be bringing similar projects to other Gulf Islands.

Member Slaney introduced himself and identified his role with Scott Point Waterworks District. Member Slaney noted the low rainwater levels this fall.

Member Martin introduced himself and identified his role with the Fulford Water Service Area Commission.

Staff Fotino introduced himself and identified his role with the Islands Trust.

Member Thomson introduced herself and identified her role with the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance. Member Thomson noted that the McFadden creek has been flowing for two weeks.

Member Hewitt introduced herself and identified her role with the Cusheon Lake Stewardship Committee. Member Hewitt noted that no current readings of Cusheon Lake have been performed recently and that there is some concern that contaminants from Beddis Road could enter the lake with heavy rainfall.

Member Holman introduced himself and identified his role as Director for Salt Spring Island Electoral Area, with the Capital Regional District (CRD). Member Holman reported that the CRD is hiring a new Water Manager for Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands and that the LCC referendum was successful. Member Holman noted that the CRD intends to continue the storm water rebates for water storage. Member Holman reported that a meeting will be set up soon with the North Salt Spring Water District to discuss tiny homes. Member Holman noted that proposals for Mount Maxwell road infrastructure and Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) plant residuals has been brought forward at CRD.

Member Griffin introduced himself and identified his role with the Cedar Lane Water Service Area Commission. Member Griffin noted that two new wells have been drilled on the perimeter. Member Griffin would like SSIWPA to discuss well-drilling with the province.

Member Millson introduced himself and identified his role in the Technical Working Group. Member Millson reported that he is leading a multi-organization group that will be creating a film about freshwater on Salt Spring Island. Member Millson noted that two new projects will be occurring in Xwaaqw'um (Burgoyne Bay).

Member Campbell introduced herself and identified her role with the Capital Regional District. Member Campbell noted that a report to approve a project charter was taken to the Fulford Water Service Area Commission and that Weston Creek water system repairs will be done this fall.

Member Nentwig introduced himself and identified his role in the Technical Working Group.

Member Lewis introduced himself and identified his role in the Technical Working Group and

with the Erskine Water Society.

Member Mineau introduced himself and identified his role with the Salt Spring Island Conservancy. Member Mineau announced that the Conservancy is now the owner of the lower reaches of Cusheon Creek. Member Mineau noted his concerns regarding the remodeling of the Roberts Lake area and potential future impacts. Member Mineau noted that he participated in a water milfoil survey in Cusheon Lake lead by the SSIWPA Coordinator, and found that there were large amounts of algae in the lake, as well as a monoculture of one aquatic plant species (not water milfoil).

Member Ungerson introduced herself and identified her role with the North Salt Spring Waterworks. Member Ungerson reported that the governance committee is running again and that North Salt Spring Waterworks has started a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process with Islands Trust. Member Ungerson noted that they are also working on the Maxwell watershed project with multiple other partners. Member Ungerson reported that with the recent rains, St. Mary Lake and Maxwell Lake were refilling but now with the lack of rains the water levels are going down. If rainfalls do not increase, it may be required to implement first-time winter water restrictions.

Staff Baddeley introduced herself and identified her role as minute-taker for this meeting, and staff with the Islands Trust.

Member Peace introduced himself and identified his role with the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society. Member Peace noted his concern over November's low rainfall levels. Member Peace noted that he would like SSIWPA to start meeting in-person again. Member Peace reported on the work being done at the Sea Wall and Sea Garden in Fulford by Parks Canada. Member Peace noted he participated in the water milfoil lake survey in Weston Lake along with the SSIWPA Coordinator and Member Mineau.

#### **4.2.1. Fernwood-Highland Water Service Commissioner SSIWPA Member – Carolin Wentworth**

Member Wentworth introduced herself and identified her role with the Fernwood-Highland Water Service Commission.

#### **4.2.2. Update Member and Contact List**

Coordinator Cowan has requested that SSIWPA Members update their contact information by Monday November 28, 2022.

### **4.3. SSIWPA Actions and Decisions; Coordinator's Report**

#### **4.3.1. Actions Log**

The report was received for information. There was a question about the cancellation of the hydrogeological study (University of Victoria) that was to be performed next to the Fulford Estuary. Coordinator Cowan noted it was cancelled due to Covid.

#### **4.3.2. Actions Completed**

The report was received for information.

#### **4.3.3. SSIWPA Coordinator Reports – September, October 2022**

The Coordinator Reports Dated September and October, 2022 were received.

Coordinator Cowan reported on the milfoil surveys conducted in Weston Lake, St. Mary Lake, Stowell Lake and Cusheon Lake.

Coordinator Cowan noted that they have been in contact with the Stqeeye' Learning Society and that there is interest to work with SSIWPA.

#### **4.4. Workplan Project Updates 2022-2023:**

##### **4.4.1. Watershed Stewardship and Protection Plan (Econics)**

Coordinator Cowan updated the group on the Watershed Stewardship and Protection Plan on behalf of Kirk Stinchcombe (Econics). Coordinator Cowan noted that there has been Watershed Protection Plan Working Group member turnover as of late and correspondence with the province to replace the provincial working group member on leave is underway. Coordinator Cowan reported that she and Kirk Stinchcombe are currently working on finalizing the list of actions in the Plan. Coordinator Cowan reported that Staff Fotino is working to move the fiscal year 2024 special tax requisition forward through Islands Trust.

#### **4.5. Budget 2022-2023 Update**

Coordinator Cowan noted that no financial report has been received yet from the Islands Trust. Once received, the report will be distributed to SSIWPA members.

Chairperson Patrick reported on the Islands Trust Quarter Two Financials, which includes coordination, the Weston Lake project, and the Watershed Stewardship and Protection Plan.



There was a discussion regarding future projects and how they may be funded.

#### **4.6. For Decisions: SSIWPA Draft Workplan 2023-2024**

Coordinator Cowan reviewed the draft watershed protection coordination workplan as presented in the agenda.

There was discussion regarding the partner agencies' capacities and funding in relation to the projects in the workplan.

Some of the following items were noted in the discussion:

- The Groundwater Recharge Mapping project should be reviewed at TWG first prior to steering committee or local trust committee receipt
- Regarding suitability of projects for coordination, it was mentioned that SSIWPA's annual workplan consists of convening member organizations and carrying out education and communications actions.
- The groundwater wells being drilled on the perimeter of the Cedar Lane Water Service Area may be impacting Cedar Lane groundwater rights, and require information/liaison with the provincial government. It was noted this concern is not suitable to add to the coordination workplan as a project, since it would require to come from the CRD staff and operations who will lead such a project.
- This coordination of projects for next fiscal year item will be readdressed at the January 2023 SSIWPA meeting.

**ACTION 2022-06: Coordinator Cowan will discuss the Cedar Lane groundwater availability/authorizations situation with Member Griffin for Cedar Lane Water Service Area Commission in a separate meeting.**

There was discussion regarding the roles and responsibilities of SSIWPA Coordination. It was suggested that this topic be readdressed after the Watershed Protection Plan is completed.

#### **4.7. For Decision: SSIWPA Draft Budget 2022-2023**

The item was deferred until the January 2023 SSIWPA meeting because of the watershed protection coordination for fiscal year 2024 ongoing discussion. Coordinator Cowan will present a breakdown of the proposed budget at the January 2023 meeting.

#### **4.8. For Decisions: Technical Working Group Report**

Member Millson reported on the education and outreach work being done by the Technical

Working Group regarding freshwater stewardship.

**By general consent**, the SSIWPA Steering Committee requests that the Islands Trust considers staff resources to explore watershed hydrology aspects of the EcoAction project at Lake Maxwell.

#### **4.9. Salt Spring Island Water Systems Group Update**

This item is deferred until the January 2023 SSIWPA meeting.

#### **5. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**Friday, January 27, 2023** – 10:00-12:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 28, 2023** – 10:00-12:00 p.m.

**Friday, June 30, 2023** – 10:00-12:00 p.m.

**Friday, September 29, 2023** – 10:00-12:00 p.m.

**Friday, November 24, 2023** – 10:00-12:00 p.m.

#### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

**By general consent**, the meeting adjourned at 11:56 A.M.

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Laura Patrick, Chair

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Jenn Baddeley, Recorder



**Action and Decision Log**  
**Dated: December 01, 2022**

Items completed this fiscal year are in the “Resolutions and Actions Completed FY2023” table.

Item	Action or Decision	Who	Status
<b>2022-07</b>	Steering committee urges Islands Trust to consider staff resources to explore watershed hydrology aspects of the EcoAction project at Lake Maxwell.	Laura Patrick, Islands Trust Representative at SSIWPA	?
<b>2022-05</b>	Provide public education on aquatic vegetation and invasive species concerns (eg milfoil) in SSI Lakes. – May include newsletters, social media, media advertisements, signage at lakes.	Water Preservation Society (possibly in conjunction with SSIWPA Coordinator, SS Conservancy & CRD Parks and Recreation)	Completed – St. Mary, Cusheon, Stowell  In process – Blackburn, Bullock and confirmation at Weston
<b>2022-04</b>	TWG to identify data gaps in rainwater harvesting public education and to fill those gaps with the help of the SSIWPA Coordinator and the approved communications and outreach SSIWPA budget	TWG	In process
<b>2022-03</b>	The Islands Trust Groundwater Wells Monitoring project update will be a standing item on the TWG agenda.	TWG	<i>Ongoing</i>
<b>2022-01</b>	Steering committee urges the Islands Trust to undertake the Salt Spring Island Groundwater Availability Assessments in coordination with the province and the CRD for the development of land use planning tools.	SSIWPA	?
<b>2021-20</b>	Coordinator Cowan will continue to provide administrative support for Salt Spring Island Water Systems Working Group quarterly meetings.	Coordinator	<i>Ongoing</i>
<b>2021-14</b>	Direct coordinator to prioritize the “Watershed Stewardship and Protection Plan” among other workplan coordination tasks during phase 1	SSIWPA	<i>Completed and Ongoing</i>

	(2021-10 through 2022-01) and phase 2 (2022-03 through 2022-09), if applicable.		
<b>2021-17</b>	Invite a water authorizations specialist to a future meeting	SSIWPA	Not started
<b>2021-18</b>	Continue to support the work of the Transition Salt Spring Society	SSIWPA	<i>Ongoing</i>
<b>2021-08</b>	Technical Working Group to provide advice and technical assistance in review of the script for one or more Salt Spring Island watershed stewardship videos in accordance with the attached Scope of Work Memorandum dated June 9, 2021.	TWG	<i>Ongoing</i>
<b>2020-12</b>	Provide administrative and coordination support to ongoing Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC)-led well and lake monitoring initiatives	Coordinator	<i>Ongoing</i>
<b>2020-06</b>	Direct the Technical Working Group to review Freshwater Catalogue at its quarterly meetings	n/a	<i>Ongoing</i>
<b>RESOLUTION 2019-06</b>	Work with Islands Trust staff to develop a strategy to engage and invite First Nations to participate in SSIWPA	Coordinator	<i>Ongoing</i>
<b>2020-01</b>	Further investigation needed re: best approach for island-wide water availability and sustainability	n/a	<i>Ongoing</i>
<b>POSTPONED:</b>			
<b>2020-16</b>	Technical Working Group to complete a peer review of the upcoming technical report prepared for the SS-LTC regarding the Groundwater Preservation Project	SSIWPA TWG	<i>Postponed - report expected Winter 2022-23</i>
<b>2019-07-05</b> 5.1	Write a public education letter - impacts of illegal bulk water draws from lakes; impacts of tampering with beaver dams; refer Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) toll free tip line.	Chair Patrick	<i>Postponed</i>
<b>2018-07-20</b> 4.8	Committee Members will review the minutes of the Strategic Planning Meeting (June 12, 2018) at a future meeting.	ALL- unassigned	<i>Postponed</i>
<b>2018-02-23</b> 4.5	Revisit the TWG CRS proposal following receipt of the Golder Groundwater Budget Report.	Steering Committee	<i>Postponed</i>
<b>2020-08</b>	Direct TWG to review Fault Zone Hydrogeological Project in Fulford Harbour	n/a (project lead no update 1.5 years)	CANCELLED



## Resolutions & Actions Completed

FY2023  
As at December 31, 2022

Item	Action or Decision	Who	Status
<b>2022-06</b>	Coordinator will discuss the Cedar Lane groundwater availability/authorizations situation with Member Griffin for Cedar Lane Water Service Area Commission in a separate meeting.	Coordinator	COMPLETED
<b>2022-02</b>	SSIWPA members to comment on the draft strategy actions by October 1, 2022.	SSIWPA	COMPLETED
<b>2021-16</b>	Participate in at least two special meetings during the period, as requested by "Watershed Stewardship and Protection Plan" project consultant, called by SSIWPA Chair and coordinated by the coordinator.	SSIWPA	COMPLETED
<b>2021-14</b>	Direct coordinator to prioritize the "Watershed Stewardship and Protection Plan" among other workplan coordination tasks during phase 1 (2021-10 through 2022-01) and phase 2 (2022-03 through 2022-09), if applicable.	Coordinator	ONGOING
<b>2021-19</b>	Request Technical Working Group to recommend water requirements for secondary suite draft bylaw revision	TWG (Coordinator support)	COMPLETED memo to SSIWPA June 24, 2022
<b>2022-01</b>	Email Water Systems Working Group April 2022 draft minutes to SSIWPA membership	SSIWPA	COMPLETED May 2022

**SSIWPA Coordinator's Report  
For the Period November 1-30, 2022 page 1 of 2**

**Administrative Task Area**

**1. Organize Steering Committee Meetings:**

Nov 25 2022: quorum, meeting link and invite, agenda distribution and compilation

**2. Manage SSIWPA membership lists and coordinate process to fill vacancies:**

Fernwood-Highland and Erskine new member orientation

**3. Records Management:**

Adopted minutes to Trust files, website, signatures

**4. SSIWPA Website:**

updates to public document library

new subscriber admin and water storage challenge volume data admin

**5. Mail-outs and public outreach:**

none

**6. Public inquiries and correspondence:**

Climate Action Plan Data Compilation and sharing

**8. Reporting:**

Created coordinator's report for November

**9. Action List and Decision Log**

Updated action and decision log - Steering

Updated action and decision log - TWG

**10a. Administration of Technical Working Group**

minutes, agenda and web library for TWG November meeting

records for TWG educational materials, distribution to TWG

meeting facilitation November 14, 2022

outreach to TSS about Maxwell Climate Adaptation project

<b>SSIWPA Coordinator's Report</b> <b>For the Period November 1-30, 2022 page 2</b>	
<b>Coordination Task Area</b>	
<b>C) Financial Reporting and Budgeting:</b>	
Updated draft budget and workplan 2023-24 budget to actuals tracking	
<b>D) Coordination and Facilitation:</b>	
<b>1. Facilitate SSIWPA Regular Meetings</b>	
25-Nov	
<b>2. Inter-agency Correspondence</b>	
with working group reps with IT planning staff, Trust finance staff with member representatives about coordinated projects with contractor for Watershed Protection Plan	
<b>3a Water Availability</b>	Text
Water Systems Survey - review of one agency's 2018 data used in one table	
<b>3b Monitoring</b>	
<b>3c Watershed Stewardship and Protection Strategic Plan</b>	
Meetings with working group members (NSSWD, CRD, IT) Data and content input to Draft Plan writing by consultant	
<b>3d Communications and Outreach</b>	
TWG outreach materials coordination and special meetings for development confirmed graphic designer availability	
<b>5 Annual Report</b>	
Collating information about communications, projects, outcomes for last fiscal	
<b>7 Organize and facilitate community engagement:</b>	
Water Systems Working Group meeting - agenda, facilitating, recording, distribution	

**SSIWPA Coordinator's Report**  
**For the Period December 1-31, 2022 page 1 of 2**

**Administrative Task Area**

**1. Organize Steering Committee Meetings:**

none

**2. Manage SSIWPA membership lists and coordinate process to fill vacancies:**

none

**3. Records Management:**

Terms of Reference review, to staff

Review and revise draft November meeting minutes - steering and TWG, distribute

Adopted minutes for Steering and TWG to Trust files, website, signatures

**4. SSIWPA Website:**

prepare newsletter post (research)

updates to public document library

new subscriber admin and water storage challenge volume data admin

**5. Mail-outs and public outreach:**

none

**6. Public inquiries and correspondence:**

Phone and email response to inquiry from Quadra Island - Rainwater Harvesting;

Local inquiry about SSIWPA work products; Solutions Lab inquiry

**8. Reporting:**

Created coordinator's report for December

**9. Action List and Decision Log**

none this period

**10a. Administration of Technical Working Group**

meeting coordination for January

TWG Know your Freshwater education planning meeting Dec 2nd



<b>SSIWPA Coordinator's Report</b>
<b>For the Period December 1-31, 2022 page 2 of 2</b>
<b>Coordination Task Area</b>
<b>C) Financial Reporting and Budgeting:</b> none
<b>D) Coordination and Facilitation:</b>
<b>1. Facilitate SSIWPA Regular Meetings</b> none
<b>2. Inter-agency Correspondence</b> with working group reps with IT planning staff, Trust Program Coordinator with member representatives about coordinated projects with CRD water quality lab, NSSWD staff, CRD staff about Climate Action Report Card data
<b>3a Water Availability</b> Water Systems Survey 2020 Report Review/Update, outreach to NSSWD, IT
<b>3b Monitoring</b> Climate Action Plan Report Card - coordination of data, submission to TSS
<b>3c Watershed Stewardship and Protection Strategic Plan</b> Meetings Review and coordinate edits to Draft Plan with by consultant
<b>3d Communications and Outreach</b> TWG outreach materials coordination and special meetings for development Solutions Lab correspondence Research about rainwater for multi-family dwellings, community-scale
<b>5 Annual Report</b> Collating information about communications, projects, outcomes for last fiscal

# MEMO

To: Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance  
From: Kirk Stinchcombe, Managing Director, Econics  
Date: 11 January 2023  
Re: Update on development of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Plan

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The following memo provides a brief update on status of development of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Plan.

As a reminder, an inter-agency working group has been struck and tasked with developing this plan. Work commenced in mid-2022. This project is funded by Islands Trust and supported by Econics and the SSIWPA coordinator. The intent is that the final plan will be endorsed and implemented by four partner agencies (Capital Regional District, Islands Trust, the Province, and North Salt Spring Waterworks District). The inter-agency nature of this is plan a major differentiator from previous strategies of this kind.

The current working group members are as follows:

- Karla Campbell, Capital Regional District
- Vaughn Figueira, North Salt Spring Waterworks District
- John Millson, SSIWPA Technical Working Group
- Narissa Chadwick, William Shulba, and Anthony Fotino, Islands Trust
- Support team: Shannon Cowan (SSIWPA) and Kirk Stinchcombe (Econics)

Since the last update to SSIWPA in September, the working group encountered significant project delays, primarily due to staff turnover and life change. However, the process is now back on track and a substantially complete document is in place. Working group members are preparing to shepherd the final plan through their respective internal approval processes over the next several months.

Below is a table that sets out the current 20 draft plan actions. When reviewing these, there are a few important points to keep in mind:

- These are draft actions and have not yet been presented to or approved by leadership in any of the partner agencies. Actions are not yet policy of any partner agency.
- The Provincial Government has not had input into plan development since October due to staffing constraints. As such, actions under Provincial jurisdiction are subject to change and do not necessarily reflect Provincial policy or planning.
- Considerably more detail on each action is provided in the draft plan itself including responsibility, schedule, priority projects, and preliminary cost estimates. This will be shared with SSIWPA in the coming weeks.
- The intent is that at least all four core agencies' logos will be on the front cover of the final plan. This implies that each agency will endorse it through their internal approval process and commit to implementation.

Tasks remaining are as follows:

- complete final revisions to the draft plan;
- agency approvals; and,
- reengage key Provincial Government staff to re-secure support for this project and commitment to actions under Provincial responsibility.

**Draft Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Plan Actions  
Preliminary Draft V8 - Not Policy of Participant Agencies**

<p><b>Watershed Ecosystem Science</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement or continue flow and level monitoring for priority lakes and streams.</li> <li>2. Implement or continue water quality monitoring for priority lakes and streams that addresses nutrients and contaminants of concern.</li> <li>3. Update hydrology and watershed ecosystem base maps and datasets.</li> <li>4. Develop or update availability assessments for priority lake watersheds.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Groundwater Science</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve management of groundwater data to inform decision making.</li> <li>2. Continue to develop a coordinated long-term groundwater monitoring program, including monitoring saline intrusion along coastal zones.</li> <li>3. Continue groundwater recharge potential mapping and delineate areas likely to have hydraulic connectivity with surface water.</li> <li>4. Continue groundwater availability assessments including delineating well catchment areas and identifying aquifer supply capability.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Water Use Efficiency and Stewardship</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the freshwater stewardship and outreach efforts of Salt Spring community and volunteer organizations.</li> <li>2. Improve access to relevant water use efficiency resources for residents and businesses.</li> <li>3. Continue to deliver education and provide incentives to promote rainwater harvesting.</li> <li>4. Continue to improve water use accounting procedures and regularly conduct water system consumption surveys.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Watersheds and Drinking Water Protection Planning</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Integrate water availability and vulnerability information into land use policies and regulations.</li> <li>2. Establish groundwater regions as a focus for land use planning on Salt Spring Island.</li> <li>3. Harmonize local and provincial guidelines, policies, and regulations for proof of sufficient water requirements for development applications.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Water Allocation Planning</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update the Provincial Government Water Allocation Plan for Salt Spring Island.</li> <li>2. Investigate use of Provincial Government regulatory instruments including water objectives, area-based management plans, and drilling authorizations for all or part of Salt Spring Island.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Watershed Protection Governance and Coordination</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collaborate with First Nations with territorial interests in Salt Spring Island and waters and with Indigenous organizations.</li> <li>2. Complete governance review to ensure that watershed protection and stewardship administrative and coordination arrangements are optimized.</li> <li>3. Continue to convene a multi-organization forum for communication and coordination about watershed protection activities.</li> </ol>



**Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance**

**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP  
Terms of Service**

Members attending the TWG regular meeting January 9, 2023 who confirmed their term are denoted by \*; all other members are unconfirmed at this time.

<b>Member Name, Position</b>	<b>Term Beginning</b>	<b>Term Ending</b>	<b>Join Date</b>
Jos Lussenburg*, Member at-Large	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2023	2016
John Millson*, Chair	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2023	2017
Ken Nentwig*, Member at-Large	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2023	2022 (April)
Ian Peace*, Member at- Large	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2023	2020 (June)

Karla Campbell, Ex Officio, CRD	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2023	2022 (September)
William Shulba, Ex Officio, Islands Trust	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2023	2017
Robin Annschild, Member at-Large	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2023	2020
Lewis Muirhead, Member at-Large	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2023	2022 (April)

On leave until 2024: Sylvia Barroso, BC Ministry of Forests, Ex Officio Member

**Subject:** Re: Solutions lab  
**Date:** Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 12:44:17 PM Pacific Standard Time  
**From:** Shannon Cowan  
**To:** Kristin Peebles  
**CC:** ssiwpa, Shannon Cowan  
**Attachments:** Untitled.jpeg

Hello Kristin,

Thanks for your mail. Forwarding to my SSI Watershed Protection Alliance email as this pertains to watershed protection coordination, and to my Foundation email as it's about grant opportunities.

Thanks to SS Solutions for aiming to get applications out for funding a Solutions Lab. I think that a process of engagement with each of the agencies will be part of the first steps, yes?

I (and others on SSIWPA) do believe that a Solutions Lab is one of many tools that might be feasible for implementing many of the strategies that will be released in the 10-year SSI Watershed Protection Plan. Islands Trust will be receiving the final draft of that Plan at SSI Local Trust Committee in late Jan/early Feb 2023 for approval. However, it will take the willing participation of the NSSWD, Islands Trust and CRD at a minimum to act in a coordinated manner on grant applications for a SS Solutions Lab. You'll need their participation, so ideally you'd approach each of their governing councils to request staff time, correct? And letters of support? Ideally it would also include Island Health and other local water districts.

Grant funding: Bold below is the one I think fits best. Although you may want to apply to all of them.

Actually, the Salt Spring Island Foundation is partnering with the Victoria Foundation to administer this program:  
<https://communityservicesrecoveryfund.ca/>

In that program, non-profits as well as registered charities are eligible. So, I immediately thought of SS Solutions for that one.

However, that one is geared to "pandemic recovery" projects. However, because they are community-wide, it may be useful/viable.

Here is an FAQ page for it:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/630fb9c62d1b2e76d032706c/t/637e88bb6a30971cc4db7de8/1669236924644/CSRF+Frequently+Asked+Questions+Nov+23.pdf>

In all other granting programs at SSI Foundation and Vic Foundation, the organization applying must be a registered charity. I don't believe SS Solutions is such, but you could partner with TSS or another registered charity on island in order to apply to any of the following:

1) SSI Foundation Community Grants - opens late Feb, closes March 31, 2023. Capped at \$7,500 for capacity-building and direct service projects.

More info: <https://ssifoundation.ca/community-grants/>

2) Victoria Foundation Community Grants - applications **February 28 to April 4, 2023**

<https://victoriafoundation.bc.ca/community-grants-program/>

3) Vancouver Foundation Participatory Action Research Grants (up to \$20,000 for a "convene" grant - applications open Jan 2023 so perfect timing).

Your project seems to fit this perfectly - though it will have to involve academic researchers.

<https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grant-seekers/find-grants/participatory-action-research-grants/>

Provincially, there is a Watershed Security Strategy and Fund that is in the process of development. It began last year, and is poised to launch Fall 2023. It is slow because of public engagement and Indigenous engagement to get lift off. So, together with SSI Watershed Protection Alliance as a roundtable of all of the local agencies and groups involved with freshwater protection on SSI, your team may want to consider an application in fall 2023/winter 2023 that includes a Solutions Lab and perhaps other projects on SSI, via this funding:

Here is the website:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/watershedsecurity/>

Here is the graphic to show how they are developing it:



I'm available for a short call on Tuesday if you want to discuss any of this. I will then be available in the new year.

Thank you for pursuing this, Kristin!

Best wishes,  
Shannon

On Dec 10, 2022, at 11:57 AM, Kristin Peebles <kristin@saltspringsolutions.com> wrote:

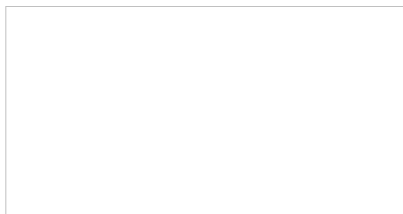
Hello Shannon,

I am currently researching grant opportunities for Salt Spring Solutions and partners to develop a solutions lab for

solving the water moratorium on Island and develop solutions that address not just the housing crisis, but also issues of climate change, equity, and infrastructure in our community. I wanted to reach out to you to see if you can advise me of any grants from either the Salt Spring or Victoria Foundation that might apply.

Thank-you for your assistance,

Kristin Peebles  
Administration Coordinator



Visit our [website](#) and [social media](#)

**Subject:** Newly Appointed Trustee to SSIWPA Committee

**Date:** Friday, January 6, 2023 at 9:18:57 AM Pacific Standard Time

**From:** Jennifer Baddeley

**To:** SSIWPA

**CC:** Daniela Murphy

Good morning Shannon,

At the last Local Trust Committee Meeting on December 13, 2022, the Local Trust Committee appointed Trustee Patrick to be the interim representative for the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance.

Resolution SS-2022-17 5

It was Moved and Seconded,

That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee appoint Trustee Patrick to be the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee interim representative for the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA).

Cheers,

**Jenn Baddeley** (*she/her/hers*)

Office Administrative Assistant

Islands Trust | 1-500 Lower Ganges Road | Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2N8

T: 250-538-5609 | 250-537-9144 [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)

You can also reach us toll-free via Service BC 1-800-663-7867 | 604-660-2421

### **Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea**

*I respectfully acknowledge that the Islands Trust Area is located within the treaty lands and territories of the BOKÉĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, K'ómoks, Lyackson, MÁLEXEL, Qualicum, scáwáθən, səllilwətaʔ, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Spune'luxutth', SʔÁUTW, Stz'uminus, ʔaʔəmen, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, WJOLELP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwi, Xwsepsum, and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm First Nations. Islands Trust is committed to reconciliation and to working together to preserve and protect this ecologically, culturally, and spiritually significant region in the Salish Sea.*



Correspondence for information to SSIWPA, as response sent to a third party - Galiano Island

**Subject:** Fwd: Water Systems Survey Report 2020

**Date:** Friday, January 6, 2023 at 4:50:27 PM Pacific Standard Time

**From:** Shannon Cowan

**To:** ssiwpa

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject: Re: Water Systems Survey Report 2020**  
**Date:** January 6, 2023 at 2:12:01 PM PST  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Shannon Cowan <[shannonecowan@gmail.com](mailto:shannonecowan@gmail.com)>

I promised to get back to you with this information.

My contact for the information on water studies is Shannon Cowan, who is the Coordinator for the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA). She was not available until the new year, but we were able to talk today. She sent the information below and told me the following:

SSIWPA first did a pilot study for the Groundwater Well and Lake Monitoring Project. There was a report issued to the funders but it didn't have any data and was not made public. The Pilot was funded by 4 groups (Islands Trust, Real Estate Foundation, Province and CRD).

The Pilot was followed by a study that gathered data on 12 wells and 4 lakes. Probably at least some data gathering is ongoing, but I didn't think to ask that. William Shulba has promised a report on this sometime this year. It will take a while partly because it has to be reviewed by several groups before finalized.

Another "study" was the Water Systems Survey published in 2020. Below is a link to that study. This was a survey of 16 SSI water services, mainly their usage and rates. See disclaimers below from Shannon. As Shannon says, if you have questions, you can contact her. I'd also be glad to answer any questions that I can.

Hope you had a good holiday! [REDACTED]

On Jan 6, 2023, at 1:48 PM, SSIWPA <[ssiwpa@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssiwpa@islandstrust.bc.ca)> wrote:


Hello [REDACTED]

Here is the Salt Spring Water Systems Survey 2020 report:

<https://www.ssiwpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Public-Library/SSIWPA-Projects-Reports-and-Presentations/Water-Conservation/SSIWPA-Water-System-Survey-Report-2-1.pdf>

When you share this, which you may do because it's public, it would be wise to indicate that North Salt Spring Waterworks has recently informed me there is an error in data that they provided for one of the tables. This was pointed out two years after data collection and one year after publication by a board member. It was not yet confirmed by NSSWD staff. I think I've corrected it in a newer version of this report, but I require sign off by their staff or at minimum review by technical working group to re-publish so at the moment this is the existing adopted report only, and there may be a new version with one number changed that will come out this year.

I think that above statement is an important piece of info to give the person who asked you for this information. Also, please tell that person that if there are questions she could directly call me anytime and I'll arrange a conversation with her and can arrange to take her questions to the appropriate parties/groups.

Thank you for supporting the education of all members of the public, 

Best wishes,

Shannon Cowan

<image001.jpg>

Coordinator,

Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance

[ssiwpa@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssiwpa@islandstrust.bc.ca)

[www.ssiwpa.org](http://www.ssiwpa.org)

604-839-3964

**Subject:** Re: Re Water Meters and SSIWPA

**Date:** Monday, January 9, 2023 at 5:29:44 PM Pacific Standard Time

**From:** SSIWPA

**To:** [REDACTED]

Hello [REDACTED]

It was a bit troubling in my mind that I could not find any digital records of the presentation that was made to the public in 2019 after establishment of the monitoring wells, so I searched other years of archival reports, and presentations.

I have found it in 2020 in December!

[Here is the link to the slides.](#) I'm not sure this is very informational, as it was a very technical and wide-ranging presentation, without a lot of specific detail of the study until the final few slides.

I'm almost, well actually 100% certain that this date is incorrect in the slides, because there were no public gatherings in 2020 in December! I'm not sure how that error came to be, but I believe this is a record of the presentation that was given by William Shulba at the Salt Spring Island Library in December 2019 about the Groundwater Monitoring stations that were established on Salt Spring Island.

Thanks for your patience as I tracked my historical information in my mind.

Best wishes,  
Shannon

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** Monday, January 9, 2023 at 2:41 PM

**To:** SSIWPA <ssiwpa@islandstrust.bc.ca>, [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Re Water Meters and SSIWPA

Thank you Shannon.

Very clear and comprehensive.

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: SSIWPA <ssiwpa@islandstrust.bc.ca>

Date: 1/9/23 14:01 (GMT-07:00)

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Re Water Meters and SSIWPA

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for your follow up inquiry.

This will be included, with your names redacted, in an upcoming agenda package of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance Steering Committee, as information. This is part of the SSIWPA Correspondence protocol.

Here is some background on the volunteer observation well groundwater monitoring on Salt Spring Island:

The groundwater level monitoring site selection began with advice from the SSIWPA Technical Working Group, and was carried out by Islands Trust staff in partnership with a hydrogeologist at the Ministry of Forests, Water Protection office in Nanaimo and with funding as outlined in the previous email that you received.

In 2017 and 2018, sites were selected as broad groundwater “regions” and through a public outreach project coordinated by SSIWPA, wellowners who had an “inactive” well were selected as volunteers for the monitoring in their well. Well monitoring stations were installed in 2018 and 2019 for this ongoing monitoring project.

Generally, for such a voluntary monitoring project or program to be most feasible, it’s ideal to select unpumped wells that are not currently in use and which the province deems “inactive”.

On Salt Spring, 10 of the 12 wells that are being monitored are inactive. A licensed professional was required for all monitoring equipment installations into groundwater wells.

Four lake monitoring stations were added to the program since monitoring groundwater inflow and outflow to lakes in the groundwater regions is additional data that adds to the picture of changing hydrogeological conditions over time. As well, several SSI lakes did not have previous lake level and flow monitoring by water purveyors or by the CRD, so these lake level data continue to inform other initiatives.

The dataloggers that are installed in the Islands Trust’s Groundwater Monitoring project are PINE Environmental #180004484 & #190003539 [Level loggers, 1 Barologger]. They are equipped with direct read cables so the data may be downloaded directly to a tablet. The installation of any equipment into a groundwater well, both active wells and inactive (unpumped) wells requires the labour of a professional Well Pump Installer.

Due to staff leave and only one freshwater specialist for the entire Islands Trust Area, the development of a draft report and data analysis and appropriate review will take time in 2023.

I am not able to provide a date when the results will be publicly available, except to say that Islands Trust and/or SSIWPA ([www.ssiwpa.org](http://www.ssiwpa.org)) will provide notice to the public either as an item in a Local Trust committee agenda package, or other public news item.

The very preliminary reporting with hydrographs resulting from the one year pilot study were presented in a live presentation hosted by SSIWPA December 10, 2019 and delivered by the Islands Trust Senior Freshwater Specialist. That presentation has not been recorded or digitized.

They were so preliminary that no public results report was created and the report to the funder was simply a completion report on establishment of the deliverables ie. setting up and ensuring feasible, reliable data at all of the monitoring stations, and did not contain any groundwater level analysis data.

I’d be happy to set a time for a phone call to discuss with you the particulars of how the project was coordinated to begin the pilot if you are pursuing this in your area. There is also a volunteer

observation well groundwater monitoring program in [Nanaimo area](#), Sooke area and the [Columbia River Valley](#).

Sincerely,

Shannon Cowan  
Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance, Coordinator

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Monday, January 9, 2023 at 10:41 AM  
**To:** SSIWPA <ssiwpa@islandstrust.bc.ca>, [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re Water Meters and SSIWPA

Hello Shannon,

Thank you for the information you have provided about the water studies on Saltspring.

[REDACTED] would be very interested in information about the type of meters being used in the domestic well metering study.

Could you advise [REDACTED] or direct [REDACTED] to someone who can?

I look forward to seeing the report on the study - do you know when that might be available this year?

I would be very interested in seeing the results of the pilot study which was completed before this further study commenced.

Regards and many thanks,

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

Received on the SSIWPA Facebook Messenger App:

Hello! I work in Nanaimo with the BC Conservation Foundation and we're piloting a community flow monitoring network, bringing groups monitoring streamflow together to learn, train, share knowledge/equipment and collaborate. I just read through the Islands Trust freshwater strategy and it mentions your groups has done some flow monitoring. Would you be willing to tell me a bit more about the work you're doing, and if joining our spring network meeting would be of interest? We currently have 7 groups from the Regional district of Nanaimo/Comox RD and 3 from the Capital RD. We have identified the Gulf Islands as being data deficient, so it would be great to connect and learn more about your program.

I can be reached at: [trodgers@bccf.com](mailto:trodgers@bccf.com) or 250-919-3805. Thanks! - Thea

**Subject:** FW: Small Water Systems  
**Date:** Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 9:37:02 AM Pacific Standard Time  
**From:** Doyle, Jessica FOR:EX  
**To:** SSIWPA  
**CC:** Melnechenko, Cali FOR:EX  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Hi Shannon,

Please see the response from water policy below.

Thanks,  
Jessica

---

**From:** Water Policy LWRS:EX <Water.Policy@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 16, 2022 9:31 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Jessica FOR:EX <Jessica.Doyle@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Barroso, Sylvia L FOR:EX <Sylvia.Barroso@gov.bc.ca>; Melnechenko, Cali FOR:EX <Cali.Melnechenko@gov.bc.ca>; Water Policy LWRS:EX <Water.Policy@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Small Water Systems

Hi Jessica,

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you! Here is a response for the questions in yellow. Please let me know if you'd like to discuss.

Cheers,  
Cassy on behalf of the Water Policy Team

Given the challenges for Small Water Systems since the inception of the WSA, and given that the WSA legislation is aimed at standardization and regulation, but also given that we know rural areas will never be amalgamated and centralized for potable water delivery to the extent of urban areas, what are the parts of the WSA that could be changed to both enable standards, but also enable and empower and incentivize small water utilities to employ alternative potable water systems like rainwater for potable use in MFDs?

**Response:**

The purpose of the *Water Sustainability Act* is to ensure a sustainable supply of fresh, clean water that meets the needs of B.C. residents today and in the future through the management of the diversion and use of water resource. Water pricing under the WSA and the Water Sustainability Fees, Charges and Tariffs Regulation are not intended to incentivize, rather they were developed under a cost recovery model and informed by a [review and public engagement](#).

With respect to rainwater – currently rainwater is not vested in the Crown under [WSA s.5](#). Only surface water from natural watercourses (as defined under “stream” in WSA s.1) and groundwater (water naturally occurring below the surface of the ground) are vested in the Crown and are regulated under the WSA. This means that the collection of rainwater is not regulated by the Province and water licences or other authorizations are not granted for rainwater collection. It is important to note, however, that if rainwater is

mixed in with surface water or groundwater (e.g., collected in a dugout that intercepts groundwater or stream water), then authorization from the Province under the WSA is needed to divert, use, or store that water. ([More information on dugouts is available online](#)).

With respect to changing water management for particular users, the Province is currently exploring how watersheds could be better protected and managed to create a healthier and more resilient future. This [Watershed Security Strategy and Fund](#) is looking at watershed security related themes, including watershed governance, data and science, reconciliation, drinking water, land use planning, supply and demand, among others. Engagement on the [discussion paper](#) is closed, however another round of engagement will take place in 2023. We invite you to provide feedback on your perspectives for small water utilities at that time and changes you'd like to see in the WSA at that time.

---

**From:** Doyle, Jessica FOR:EX <[Jessica.Doyle@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Doyle@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 2, 2022 10:22 AM  
**To:** Water Policy LWRS:EX <[Water.Policy@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Water.Policy@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Barroso, Sylvia L FOR:EX <[Sylvia.Barroso@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sylvia.Barroso@gov.bc.ca)>; Melnechenko, Cali FOR:EX <[Cali.Melnechenko@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Cali.Melnechenko@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Small Water Systems

Hello,

Forwarding the email below from the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection coordinator. Question is highlighted in yellow.

Thanks,  
Jessica

---

**From:** SSIWPA <[ssiwpa@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssiwpa@islandstrust.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 2, 2022 6:46 AM  
**To:** Barroso, Sylvia L FOR:EX <[Sylvia.Barroso@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sylvia.Barroso@gov.bc.ca)>; Melnechenko, Cali FOR:EX <[Cali.Melnechenko@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Cali.Melnechenko@gov.bc.ca)>; Doyle, Jessica FOR:EX <[Jessica.Doyle@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Doyle@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Small Water Systems

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Dear Sylvia,



Cc: Jessica Doyle  
Cc: Cali Melnechenko

In my work with Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection coordination, I've been bumping up against very concerned small water system managers, trustees and board members for years now.

Some of their concerns include:

- the high cost of creating new water systems, where we need to be doing that for affordable housing development and creating rainwater-based systems
- the realities of managing small water systems with volunteers – for data collection without smart metering and the SCADA monitoring for leaks, etc. (Some of the systems do have this in place.)
- the cost of replacing infrastructure

Sylvia, in my experience, your voice at SSIWPA has been very keen to have me liaise with water systems managers and to bring together this group on Salt Spring Island in hopes it will enable enhanced standards of practice, data collection standards and understanding of the challenges and opportunities they face.

At this time, I convene the group of them on Salt Spring Island to share information and resources approximately 3-4 times annually.

This is a question that has been in my mind since listening to what is very difficult for these system managers, and I put it to you now as you are the Water Sustainability Act experts in the room. Thank you for your time to give this some thought:

Given the challenges for Small Water Systems since the inception of the WSA, and given that the WSA legislation is aimed at standardization and regulation, but also given that we know rural areas will never be amalgamated and centralized for potable water delivery to the extent of urban areas, what are the parts of the WSA that could be changed to both enable standards, but also enable and empower and incentivize small water utilities to employ alternative potable water systems like rainwater for potable use in MFDs?

Best,

Shannon Cowan



Coordinator,  
Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance  
[ssiwpa@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssiwpa@islandstrust.bc.ca)  
[www.ssiwpa.org](http://www.ssiwpa.org)  
604-839-3964