



Islands Trust Fund

**Trust Fund Board –
Long-term Funding Committee Meeting**

July 24, 2007, 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Maple Room (2nd Floor), Cowichan Centre, 2687 James Street, Duncan

MINUTES

In attendance:

Louise Bell
Peter Lamb
Sheila Malcolmson
Gary Steeves (by telephone)

Staff:

Clare Frater, Communications and Fundraising Specialist

1. Agenda

The committee reviewed the agenda and added the following items:

3. Purpose of Committee
5. Committee membership

The committee members approved the agenda as amended.

2. Election of Chair

Committee member Louise Bell was elected to the position of Trust Fund Board Long-term Funding Committee Chair by acclamation. As Louise Bell is not on the Trust Fund Board, Committee member Sheila Malcolmson offered to provide verbal reports at Trust Fund Board meetings.

3. Purpose of Committee

The committee decided that a purpose statement should be developed to encompass the following concepts:

- the committee will focus on identifying long-term reliable sustainable and substantial funding mechanisms for consideration by the Trust Fund Board;
- the committee will explore multiple funding options simultaneously;
- the final product of the committee should be a comprehensive strategy with achievable, measurable goals.
- the committee should remain conscious of the Islands Trust Fund's positive relationships with other conservancies and the current competitive fundraising environment;
- the committee should identify funding mechanisms that aim to reduce the Trust Fund Board's current reliance on property taxes;
- ideally, funding sources should not be subject to the whims of politicians or the Province;
- ideally, the Board will have the discretion to determine how any new source of funding is used;

- the committee should be guided by the general principle that efforts to secure funding should respect the values of Islands Trust and Local Trust Committees (e.g. retain social diversity and rural character of the islands);
- the committee should have clear reporting procedures to the Trust Fund Board and Trust Council; and
- the committee should have a defined membership structure.

4. Review of “Potential New Revenue Sources for Islands Trust Fund”

The committee reviewed the list of potential funding sources provided at the May 30, 2007 Trust Fund Board meeting (item 3.8). After discussing each item on the list the committee decided to:

1. Remove the following options:
 - a. Legislative change to enable BC Ferries to collect a surcharge on tickets that would generate revenue for Trust Fund Board activities.
 - b. Local Trust Committee Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw amendments to allow additional use or densities in exchange for an amenity (as defined in the bylaw), one of which could be a land or financial donation to the Trust Fund Board.
 - c. Islands Trust planners to ensure people proposing new developments requiring bylaw amendments are advised of the option of providing an amenity to the Trust Fund Board and are referred to the Trust Fund Board for further discussions.
2. Add the following three options:
 - a. Annual contribution from the Province
 - b. A parcel tax.
 - c. A voluntary surcharge in favour of the Trust Fund Board collected by Gulf Island bed and breakfasts and grocery stores.
3. Recommend that the Trust Fund Board move ahead immediately with developing capacity to accept donations by credit card and through the Internet.
4. Re-order the list within the categories provided.

The members discussed the need to frame any request to the Province in terms of the significant beauty and importance of the region.

5. Committee Membership

The committee discussed inviting one or two members of the public to join the committee. the committee directed staff to provide advice at the next meeting about inviting members to the public versus advertising the opportunity. Staff will also explore whether there is a need to advertise future meetings under the *Community Charter* and what budget is available for travel and honorariums.

6. Next Steps

Staff

1. Draft Long-term Funding Committee purpose statement and circulate to committee members for feedback via e-mail.
2. Update the “Potential New Revenue Sources” document to reflect the committee’s changes.
3. Seek legal opinions about long-term funding options that require legislative change

4. Undertake further research into each option regarding its viability as a long-term funding source
5. Hold informal conversations with contacts in the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Community Services to seek their input on this initiative
6. Research information relating to the membership of the committee
7. Research the need to make future committee meetings public under the *Community Charter*
8. Develop growth and funding projections for the Islands Trust Fund for the purpose of determining the amount of funding needed and future funding challenges both for property management and all Trust Fund Board operations.

Committee

1. Suggest members of the public who could be approached about joining the committee.
2. Peter Lamb to circulate information from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities regarding allocation of the provincial property transfer tax.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held via teleconference between September 17 and 19th with the final date and time to be confirmed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10.