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April 14th, 2019

To: Islands Trust LTC (also for inclusion in LTC minutes)

Re: Comments regarding Feb 25th meeting and current agenda

Having read through the minutes of the previous meeting (February 25th, 2019), and the agenda for this meeting (April 15th, 2019), I have detailed below several points we would like to discuss with the LTC:

1. *February 25th, 2019 agenda item 12.2, "Town Hall"*

We would like to express our concern regarding what appears to be an attempt to use "best practices" and "administrative fairness" to restrict and limit community engagement (noting that details of exactly what these "best practices" and "administrative fairness" were not recorded in the minutes, nor could any references be found in a cursory search on the Islands Trust web site).

Unilaterally restricting two-way interactions to only the beginning of the LTC meeting is a significant step backwards, since new information and even entire topics are often raised during the meeting that community members were not aware of at the start of the meeting. To deny community members the ability to speak to these newly raised topics and information until the next LTC meeting seems punitive, overly bureaucratic and administratively unfair, and will increase a sense of separation and hierarchy that is not healthy for the partnership between the Islands Trust and the community. Thus, we strongly encourage the LTC to continue to permit a second Town Hall at the end of the meeting for the reasons above.

2. *February 25th, 2019 agenda item 10.3, "The Indigenous People of the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area Briefing Binder and Trustee Toolkit - for discussion"*

We were unable to find a copy of this document that was discussed here, either in the previous agenda packages, or on the Islands Trust web site. In the future, it would be helpful to include a reference to documents discussed, or if they are not yet available, make that clear in the minutes.

3. *February 25th, 2019 agenda item 10.4, "Community to Community Forum - for discussion"*

We would like to emphasize the section titled "Early Stages of Proving Sincerity Will Require Increased Resources" on page six of the Islands Trust "First Nations Communication: Tone and Language Guide". The last attempt at having a community meeting with a representative from the Tla'amin Nation, back in October of 2017, was, in our opinion, not a success. We must do better, and this *will* require resources, commitment, humbleness, and a willingness to deviate from the standard Islands Trust way of doing things. What we're doing right now isn't working well, thus, we need to change how we're doing things. One way to start is to commit the funds required to make a second visit possible, and to learn from our past mistakes.

4. *February 25th, 2019 agenda item 10.5, "Electronic Meetings - for discussion"*

Without clear policy, there is a risk that LTC meetings will become two-tiered, primarily face-to-face meetings for some LTCs, primarily electronic for other LTCs in locations viewed as "more difficult" to get to. This becomes an issue of fairness, given that electronic meetings are vastly inferior in terms of engagement, expressiveness of communication, and ability for the public to participate.

We would furthermore note that if an investment in infrastructure is undertaken, we would strongly recommend that the Islands Trust follow the lead of other governmental agencies in providing recordings of the meetings for the public who are unable to attend, especially given that LTC meetings are held during normal business hours, which makes it difficult for people with inflexible working hours to attend. Recordings would also help disabled and elderly community members who may not be able to attend in person, but who would like to stay engaged. This would also address issues where the minutes do not capture (nor should they capture) the full extent of the discussions held at LTC meetings.

5. *April 15th, 2019 agenda item 11.1, "qathet Regional District - 2019 Agricultural Land Use Inventory & Agricultural Water Demand Model - Staff Report"*

We wanted to note that some ALR-designated land on Lasqueti is not visible from public roads. It may also be useful to have an on-island liaison to provide transportation services when the "windshield" survey is conducted. This will reduce costs and provide local knowledge that can avoid issues such as roads that are difficult to turn around on, etc.

Sincerely,

David & Laura Slik