



Making a difference...together

REPORT SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION MEETING OF Thursday, July 10, 2025

SUBJECT SSI Harbours Fall Workshop Costing

ISSUE SUMMARY

To consider hosting a second Harbours workshop with breakout groups in the Fall of 2025.

BACKGROUND

The Salt Spring Island Local Community Commissions (LCC) strategic plan identifies Economic Sustainability as a strategic priority with an objective to revitalize Ganges Village. This includes an initiative to explore options for an LCC role in Ganges Harbour management. As part of this initiative the LCC wants to better understand the positions and interests of the First Nations, local community groups, neighbours, and users of the harbour. This is to determine what is being done and if there are potential actions that could be progressed. As well as to consider how the LCC can play a role.

On April 10, 2025, the LCC facilitated a Salt Spring Island Harbours Roundtable Workshop meeting on Salt Spring Island. A group of almost 40 individuals attended with representation from two First Nations Bands, the LCC, Islands Trust, the Harbour Authority, community interest groups, commercial marine operators, environmental stewards, residents of boats living in the harbour, and others.

The information and perspectives from the roundtable are to be utilized to determine next steps. The primary action was to hold another workshop with a smaller group to identify how to move forward. A summary of the next steps that were expressed included the following:

- To host another workshop with smaller break out groups
- The need to ensure the harbour is included in the discussions of the future land use planning bylaws with Islands Trust
- The importance of collaboration and partnerships and the need to involve First Nations, and various stakeholders including: liveaboards, government agencies, commercial operators, local residents, and the tourist industry.
- The need for continued management of pollution and derelict vessels in the harbour
- Further evaluation of innovative approaches to improve the Harbour is required.

At the May 8, 2025 regular meeting the LCC passed the following motion:

"That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission (LCC) request that staff report back on the opportunities and implications of holding a follow-up harbours roundtable workshop in the fall 2025 to discuss harbour management, regulatory and service options for the future."

There was no funding allocated to the April Harbour Roundtable Workshop. The session was run by CRD staff despite not being in the 2025 workplan. To facilitate a second workshop while addressing other LCC priorities staff are requesting funding to support a facilitator in addition to staff to support smaller break-out groups, note taking and reporting back to the LCC on additional action items. Should the LCC wish to limit participation to 10-15 and not have smaller group discussions staff may be able to facilitate the workshop with existing resources.

To allocate funding to support the workshop a service delegated to the LCC needs to be identified. Service 1.236 SSI Small Craft Harbour was established under bylaw 2730 as the local service for the purpose of establishing, acquiring and operating small craft harbour facilities to serve the residents of the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area.

The Small Craft Harbour Service has \$1,480 allocated in 2025 to support Contract for Services. This funding is typically used to support contracted repairs and maintenance however Fernwood Dock will be undergoing major upgrades in 2025 supported by Capital Reserves and Community Works Funding. Preventative maintenance and repairs scheduled for 2025 will therefore be deferred to 2026 providing surplus funding to support a second workshop.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission request staff proceed with organizing a second Harbours Roundtable Workshop in 2025 funded by the 1.236 Small Craft Harbours Service.

Alternative 2

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission request staff proceed with organizing a second Harbours Roundtable Workshop in 2025 with limited participation, reduced scope, and no additional funding.

Alternative 3

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission refer the report back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Harbours Roundtable Workshop #2	
Facilitator (Facilitation, note taking, final report)	\$1,000
Room Booking (20.90/hr)	\$62.70
Print Materials / Advertising	\$250
Refreshments	\$50
Total	\$1,362.70

CONCLUSION

The LCC hosted a Harbours Roundtable Workshop to initiate stakeholder discussion while exploring options for the role of the LCC in Ganges Harbour management. As part of this initiative the LCC wants to better understand the positions and interests of the First Nations, local community groups, neighbours, and users of the harbour. One of the action items from the workshop was to facilitate a second workshop with smaller break out groups. To facilitate this funding will need to be allocated to support facilitation, note taking and a final report with additional recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission request staff proceed with organizing a second Harbours Roundtable Workshop in 2025 funded by the 1.236 Small Craft Harbours Service.

Submitted by:	Dan Ovington, BBA, Senior Manager, SSI Administration
Concurrence:	Stephen Henderson, MBA, BSc, General Manager, Electoral Area Services