



Making a difference...together

Salt Spring Island Administration  
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File No: 0220-20

SSI Water Preservation Society,  
PO Box 555  
Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2W2  
Via email: [ssiwps@gmail.com](mailto:ssiwps@gmail.com)

To whom it may concern:

**RE: Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society - Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation Capacity Grant Letter of Support**

As the locally elected Capital Regional District (CRD) Director for Salt Spring Island, and on behalf of the CRD, I am urging support of the Habitat Trust Foundation for the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society's (SSIWPS) application for a Capacity Grant.

Salt Spring Island is an unincorporated Electoral Area lying within the CRD, which in collaboration with Islands Trust, serves as our local government. The CRD provides a range of services on Salt Spring, including five area-specific water districts providing potable water to almost 600 households from surface and groundwater sources. The CRD also provides potable water to all of the Greater Victoria area from the Sooke Lake reservoir and watershed which the CRD owns and manages.

All of the Salt Spring water districts are overseen by volunteer Water Commissions comprised of local ratepayers elected at Annual General Meetings. The CRD also collaborates with numerous volunteer organizations such as the SSIWPS on broader water conservation and protection education, advocacy, and other initiatives.

The SSIWPS project will help build capacity for two of Salt Spring's largest conservation land stewards on the island, the Water Preservation Society and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC), through the development of shared data management infrastructure, and by enabling peer-to-peer skill sharing, supported by the local expertise of Transition Salt Spring's Climate Adaptation Research Lab. It will foster collaboration among these non-government organizations, private landowners, and citizen scientists to facilitate collective stewardship of a vital drinking watershed, the raw water source for the CRD Beddis Water District. By building a protocol for monitoring key wildlife species and their habitat which transcends property boundaries, this collaborative framework will be transferable to SSIWPS and SSIC conservation efforts in other watersheds, and across the CRD and beyond.

The ongoing work and commitment of the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation is essential to further environmental and wildlife protection in our Province. The SSIWPS project will make an important contribution to these goals on Salt Spring Island and elsewhere.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gary Holman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of a vertical line that extends downwards.

Gary Holman  
CRD Electoral Area Director, Salt Spring Island

