



MINUTES
Annual General Meeting
June 17, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Sarah's Longhouse, Old Massett

In Attendance:	Representing:	Member
	Graham Island Central	Maureen Bailey
	Graham Island South	Clyde Greenough
	Area 'E'	Laurie Chisholm
	Graham Island North	Bret Johnston
	Skidegate Band Council	Billy Yovanovich
	CHN Old Massett	Lisa Hageman
	Old Massett Village Council	Freda Davis
	CHN Skidegate	Erica (Gidin Jaad) Reid
Chair & Staff:	Chair	Huux Percy Crosby
	Chief Operations Officer	Carla Lutner
	Finance & Admin. Assistant	Ruby Decock
	Communications Officer	Joey Rudichuk
Regrets:	None.	

Note: The following is an accurate reporting of the meetings as they occurred, however these minutes are not to be construed as a verbatim report of all conversations that transpired, but rather a reflection of the outcome of those discussions, where necessary members have been quoted as closely as possible.

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Gwaii Trust Board of Directors was called to order at 1:09 pm.

2. Excusals

No excusals.

3. Welcome to the Public

The Chair welcomed the members of the public for joining the meeting and provided an overview of the meeting's agenda.

4. Introductions

The Board, staff and guests were introduced by the Chair.

5. Message from the Chair

The Chair expressed his gratitude for having the ability to serve on the Gwaii Trust Board in 2022/23 and thanked the Directors and staff for their dedication, care and responsiveness to help the Haida Gwaii communities throughout the pandemic. He identified the Boards main priorities this past year included:

- The external review of Gwaii Trust's programs and processes
- Bringing the Athlii Gwaii Legacy Trust under local stewardship;



- Transitioning investments to reduce the volatility of Gwaii Trust’s portfolio and to ensure they were sustainable, fossil fuel-free investments.

6. Call for amendments to the agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda. Request to add a prayer to the agenda.

Director Gidin Jaad Erica Reid said a prayer.

7. Call for adoption of the agenda

The Members of the Gwaii trust Society made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of a prayer.

Moved by: Clyde Greenough
Seconded by: Billy Yovanovich **CARRIED**

8. Call for the Adoption of Previous Minutes

The Members of the Gwaii Trust Society reviewed the May 14, 2022, Annual General Meeting minutes. After discussion, the Board of Directors made a motion to approve the minutes with changes to item #9.

Moved by: Bret Johnston
Seconded by: Laurie Chisholm **CARRIED**

9. 2022 Annual Report

The 2022 Gwaii Trust Annual Report was presented by the Chief Operations Officer. There was a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Report as presented.

Moved by: Clyde Greenough
Seconded by: Billy Yovanovich **CARRIED** **MR# 2023 -01**

10. Auditor’s Presentation of 2022 Audited Financial Statements

Derek Lamb from Chan Nowosad Boates presented the 2022 audited financial statements for Gwaii Trust.

11. Acceptance of the 2022 Audited Financial Statements

The Board accepted the 2022 audited financial statements for Gwaii Trust

Questions for the Auditor

Leslie Bellis (51 Minutes)

- What is the rate of inflation? **Response** - 6.3% for 2022.
- Rediscovery is receiving \$30,000.00 from GT and transportation costs have gone up and CHN and Old Massett Village Council don’t want to manage us anymore. Just wanting to know if there can be an increase to the amount of funding to account for inflation. How do I get this increase? **Response** – the Kids Camps funding is set during the budget process, you can send in your request or mention it here at this meeting.

Mark Baggaley - Question about whether Gwaii Trust has protection when project infrastructure investments don’t meet their milestones because he understands that if this happens, that there is a potential to lose money on investments.



Response —All investments have risk. There is risk to equities (stock) and there is a large opportunity for loss in these, the infrastructure investments are not in one company but a portfolio of infrastructure investment which is diversified by having two infrastructure investment managers. We also work with an actuary that analyzes the risk and how that company has done in the past and project how it will do in the future. 30% of Gwaii Trust’s investments are invested in infrastructure because the advice we received is that it is one of the lowest risks Gwaii Trust can make and still get a return as compared to bonds which is currently providing a negative return. Each manager of have only has 15% of the portfolio and we are not funding that average 100% but only a portion of it. The diversification is also further increased by the numbers of projects and the types of projects that are being invested in.

Paul Biron - Do we have local infrastructure investment on Haida Gwaii? **Response** – that is what the AGLT is going to be focused on – projects such as energy and restoration. Also, the GT investment policy states that we can invest in a local company. Requirements are that the company has a current business plan and show revenue – called private placement. Up to 10% of our portfolio could be invested in a local business, but we haven’t had anyone that has come forward with a business plan that demonstrate the needed revenue.

Arnie Bellis - What is the strategy of maintaining a local investment so that all can benefit? The reason is that we invest in everything in this world, but our island is going through change. Is there a plan for transitioning into a newer economy on Haida Gwaii? Gwaii Trust should be part of that. Every time I talk to Gwaii Trust about change, I am told to speak to my local Director. Concern about little to no public forums so that the public can provide input to the Board. For example – Rediscovery programs are a non-monetary investment which provides a non-monetary return for the future of this island.

Response – We went to each community to inform them about AGLT and we believe it is the answer to local investment. We are trying to make the transition you have identified, but we are having challenges in getting the AGLT funds to move forward. There’s \$59 million dollars available and waiting to be released.

Pansy Collison – Concerned that there is \$94 million dollars in the GT and \$59 million in the AGLT how much interest is made from the bank account? **Response** – There is \$14 million at December 31, 2022 in the bank which was not earning interest, but it moved soon after to the investments.

Maureen Brown - Identified that she didn’t get funding on a grant for Haida Language resources years ago. Wondering how Haida Language funding is determined and if Xaad Kil or SHIP are the only ones that receive Haida Language grants? I’m working on resources for the Haida Memorial wall – received \$15,000 from CHN and there’s a lot of Haida on and off island that would like these resources. With the initial funding we have received, we are going to need a lot more funds.

Also accountability for funds – how are grant recipients accountable to the community for funding they’ve received. I would like to see a public forum with successful applicants on their projects / what they did because I see a lot of money going out and not an outcome.

Would like Gwaii Trust to contribute funding the memorial wall. I would also like to publicly thank Director Freda Davis for her time contributing to this project. **Response** – Will ask Carla and her staff to get in touch with her.

All grantees are required to report back to the Board. They must provide receipts and invoices and we know exactly what was spent on the project. But what I’m hearing is that we’re not doing a good job in relaying that information onto the public. Need a showcase.



Lonnie Larsen - Request for more information about Northleaf and Axium Investment firms.

Response - Axium is a Canadian based company located in Montreal created by engineers and they have an emphasis on renewable projects. Axium also were involved with the projects in Old Massett. They are familiar with the Northwest. The Board really liked Northleaf’s business services, their values and what they were investing in. They also had a component of Canadian dollars.

Moved by: Maureen Bailey
Seconded by: Laurie Chisholm **CARRIED** **MR# 2023 -02**

12. Appointment of the Auditor

The Members of the Gwaii Trust Society appoint Chan Nowosad Boates as the auditor for the 2023 fiscal year.

Moved by: Maureen Bailey
Seconded by: Clyde Greenough **CARRIED** **MR# 2023 -03**

13. Member Appointments

Community	Director	Alternate	Term Expiry
CHN Old Massett	Lisa Hageman	Vince Collison	2025
CHN Skidegate	Gidin Jaad Erica Reid	Desi Collinson	2025
Area E	Flavien Mabit	Laurie Chisholm	2025
Graham Island Central	Maureen Bailey	Berry Wijdeven	2025

Moved by: Bret Johnston
Seconded by: Clyde Greenough **CARRIED** **MR# 2023 -04**

14. Recognition of outgoing Board members

The Chair recognized the following outgoing Gwaii Trust Directors:

Gaagwis Jason Alsop, Alternate, CHN Skidegate
Elizabeth Condrotte, Alternate, Graham Island Central

Elizabeth Condrotte, the former Alternate for Graham Island Central, attended the meeting in-person and was presented with a gift of a paddle. It was noted that the other outgoing member not in attendance would receive his gift at a later date.

15. Questions from the Public

Leslie Bellis - Thank you to the Board and a big thank you to the staff. The Soup Kitchen thanks you, we would not be able to operate without your support. Rediscovery is struggling and increased costs in bookkeeping and insurance. Expect a letter from Rediscovery regarding the need to increase grants for Kids Camps.

Arnie Bellis - Mentioned interview for the GTS 5-year review. He mentioned his involvement with the Lyell Island blockade and the passing of a member of the community who passed that participated in the Lyell



Island. Gwaii Trust was a big topic of conversation amongst those who stood on the line during a recent gathering. Should have an annual recognition for Lyell Island blockade. Mentioned how the reduction of the cut on Lyell Island has shifted to an increase in the Annual Allowable Cut on Graham Island. Identified how the off-island members do not benefit from the Gwaii trust. Two levels of citizenship between the on-island Haidas & Off-island Haidas. Although our constitution states that we are all equal, it isn't through Gwaii Trust. Identified the issue of only getting reimbursed on travel grants for Jr. All Native basketball tournament. Express the hardship of not being able to receive the funding prior to travel. They needed the money before they travelled and not after. The attitude was that they were trying to swindle somebody. Identified the lower education in Old Massett (gr 3 level) and these residents can't write proposals. We do not want a return in financial, but a return in investment in development in youth. We need to treat everyone equally and the constitution of the Haida Nation should be reflected in the Gwaii Trust constitution.

Response – the report from Sauder, we will be reviewing it and then proceeding to strat planning to address any issues identified out of this study.

Mark Baggaley – Identified how suicide impacted his family. He mentioned that to his knowledge out of the 2.5 Million of mental health programming, there is not one program on HG that is fully sanctioned and supported for men. (78% of suicides are men). Completing a study on how suicide is impacting this island, we need to be proactive. Memorial fund goal to create a crisis line. Ask who is on the Health Committee?

Response – there is no Health Committee.

Asking GT to start thinking about what is really important here – act like it is business as normal or do we start looking at ways we can make a change? The only way we can honor those who left us by suicide, by trying to deal with this. Requesting GT to look at funding a crisis line and a long-term goal of a treatment centre. Costs would be about 700k a year. **Response** – I agree with you that this is mental wellness for men – everyone thinks we are the answer. We need something from you to help. We can't be everything to everybody. Give us something in writing so that we can help you.

Elizabeth Moore – Nov 16 1985 is the anniversary of the standoff at Lyell Island. I would like to see an annual or every 5 years an Athlli Gwaii recognition of the people who stood on the line, especially the elders. Only seen one public acknowledgement of what these peoples did, so that our children and grandchildren don't forget. Need to do an investment of dummies workshop for those who can understand what the Auditor presentation on the financial statements. Literacy level isn't high, we need that extra support. Money for travel, it needs to be before the travel and applications need to be simplified for proposal writing. I stopped writing them because they have made it too difficult. Without Gwaii Trust the Xaad Kiil language nest wouldn't have run, only \$15,000 and it went on for seven years with a lot of volunteer support. How are we going to get \$300 reimbursement if we have such a high unemployment rate and low income inaccessible for paying for travel. It needs to be equitable for access to the funds. For the Youth Board, the youth to be the chair for that group, help them to do it so that they develop into adults instead of adults telling them what to do. Agree with mental health issues, residential school has left a lot of people with trauma. All of these issues are related. These are our funds, the Board isn't the bosses.

Steve Samuels - issue with travel bringing in receipts after applying and now there is an issue without applying first. Wondering why things have changed? Feels like there is no trust, like the Trust thinks everyone is lying or trying to rip them off. Reporting was dropped off in mailbox during Covid and was lost.

Response: Carla will follow up directly with Steve on that.

Warren Foster – an opportunity for the trust to hire a proposal writer, need someone to help. Reminder that Community Futures is here on island because of Gwaii Trust and is one factor of local investment. Thank the



Board for all their efforts. Percy thanked him for his contributions. Finding a proposal writer is an issue. Will be on the agenda. Carla – needs to have an arm's length to fund for a grant writer – searched for a non-profit - How do we build capacity – addressed in Strat planning. Having a hard time retaining staff for funding mental wellness on island.

Colleen Williams – thanked Warren Foster for his contribution to getting the funds for the Athlii Gwaii reunion. It's coming up to 40 years and those that stood on the line are getting older. Believes that Gwaii Trust should fund an annual event, without a grant, for those that stood on the line to travel to every village. Propose another special project grants. The first one was \$180,000 for the reunion to bring all the people home and costs are higher now. Also GT should have a photo of those at Lyell Island at their offices. Get up to date photos of those that stood on the line. It's such a huge cost for someone to take on to get the money to run something like this.

Maureen Brown – wondering if what I noted earlier in the meeting was noted. **Response** – we have noted it and Carla will be reaching out to you.

Karen Dean - names of those stood on the line at the beginning of the report – reminds of their sacrifice – I participated in the survey – there seems to be a disconnect between the board and the people. Would like to see a public forum after strategic planning to present results.

The current grant application is like putting a square peg in a round hole, it doesn't fit with Haida Gwaii. Could do things differently, things like verbal proposals or assistance with proposals. Recommend looking at First People's Cultural Council's applications, drop downs and instructions tell you exactly what is eligible. Would like to see more details on what was funded, just a paragraph on everything that was funded and successful applications right on the website. Will the Board be coming back to the communities with a draft of the strategic plan for public consultation? **Response** We will take away and discuss as a Board.

Jaskwaan Bedard - Online question – Have done a lot of work with First People's Cultural Council, was on their Board and currently involved in a lot of their programming. They are an indigenous run and indigenous led crown corporation. They have done a lot of work on fixing reporting requirements, removing barriers in their reporting requirements for indigenous communities. Suggest that the GTS look at indigenous values – Haida Values – first and foremost. Need to move forward and remove the barriers to grant funding.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:21 pm.

Moved by: Clyde Greenough CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 3:50pm

E-SIGNED by Percy Crosby
on 2024-06-04 17:41:45 PDT

Huux Percy Crosby, Chair

E-SIGNED by Carla Lutner
on 2024-06-03 10:36:23 PDT

Carla Lutner, Chief Operations Officer

/rd