



May 31, 2025

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

In Person

In Attendance:

Chair Huux *Percy Crosby*, Maureen Bailey, Stephen Grosse, Lori Wiedeman, Flavien Mabit, Ooka Pineault, Billy Yovanovich, Lisa Hageman, Gidin Jaad *Erica Jean Reid*, Bret Johnston, Karen Dean, Emmy O’Gorman, Terry Carty

Regrets:

Donald Edgars, Goox *Laura Beaton*, Lisa Bell, Berry Wijdeven, Tarah Samuels

Staff:

Chief Executive Officer Latasha Williams, Communications Manager Jen Bailey, Executive Assistant Angel Brown, Grants Team – Pam Hill, Tando Dwyer, Michelle Prouty, Evelyn Lavrisa, Finance Coordinator Micha Sakalauski

Note: The following is accurate reporting of the meetings as they occurred; however, these minutes are not to be constructed 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 was called to order at 1:02 pm.

2. Introductions

The Chair introduced the current Board of Directors and the staff of the Gwaii Trust Society.

3. Excusals and Proxies

Donald Edgars and Lisa Bell regretfully could not make it due to Haida Grad. Billy Yovanovich agreed to be Donald’s proxy.

4. Message from the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone and spoke about his tenure as Chair. He was humbled to serve on the Gwaii Trust Board and proud of what was accomplished. It was not an easy year but ensuring that that staff had a safe and supportive environment to work was an important priority. Upholding the foundations of the Gwaii Trust, working together, and honouring those who came before were major focuses. Percy agreed to stay as Interim Chair until CHN has selected a new Chair, hopefully sometime in June 2025.

5. Amendments to the agenda

Agenda item 10 was removed as this was covered in the pre-AGM meeting.

6. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda for May 31, 2025, Gwaii Trust Society Board of Directors Pre-AGM meeting is approved with the amended action above.

Motioned by Lisa Hageman. Seconded by Bret Johnston.

CARRIED

7. Adoption of the previous AGM Minutes of May 25, 2024

The previous meeting minutes from the 2023 AGM were adopted.

Motioned by Maureen Bailey. Seconded by Lori Wiedeman.

CARRIED

8. Auditor Presentation: 2024 Audited Financial Statements

Derek Lamb from Chan Nowosad Boates presented the audited Financial Statements. He explained the integration of the Athlii Gwaii Legacy Trust into the Gwaii Trust Society and walked through the error on the calculation of the restricted capital on the AGLT Fund. In 2007 when fund was repatriated to Haida Gwaii under the Gwaii Forest Charitable Trust, there was an error on the amount of restricted capital that must be held. This error has continued until it was noticed in March 2025, and if not fixed, could have considerable implications on the Athlii Gwaii Legacy Fund. The Board of Directors has presented a proposal to Canada and the Province of BC on fixing this without any impact on the Athlii Gwaii Legacy Fund and are waiting to hear back.

9. Call for Auditor Appointment

Chan Nowosad Boates was approved to be the auditor for 2025.

Motioned by Maureen Bailey. Seconded by Flavien Mabit.

CARRIED

10. Removed

11. CEO Report

Latasha Williams spoke about the work of the staff in the previous year. 2024 was a year of big challenges and work to develop the grant streams under Athlii Gwaii Legacy Trust. It was renamed Athlii Gwaii Legacy and has hired Evelyn Lavrisa as the AGL Project Specialist. As soon as the calculation error is sorted, then grant streams will be immediately released. She spoke about the projects the Gwaii Trust staff are currently working on.

12. Director Appointments

<i>Community</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>Term Expiry</i>
Area E	Flavien Mabit	2027
CHN Skidegate	Goox Laura Beaton	2027
CHN Old Massett	Lisa Hageman	2027
Graham Island Central	Maureen Bailey	2027

Motioned by Billy Yovanovich. Seconded by Lisa Hageman.

CARRIED

13. Director Acknowledgement of Alternates

<i>Community</i>	<i>Alternate</i>	<i>Term Expiry</i>
Area E	Emmy O’Gorman	2027
CHN Skidegate	Gidin Jaad Erica Jean Reid	2027
CHN Old Massett	Tarah Samuels	2027
Graham Island Central	Berry Wijdeven	2027

14. Recognition of Outgoing Board members

The Chair recognized the following outgoing Gwaii Trust board members:

<i>Director/Alternate</i>	<i>Community</i>
Huux Percy Crosby	Chair
Stephen Grosse (alternate)	CHN Old Massett
Laurie Chisholm (Director)	Area E
Vince Collison (posthumous)	CHN Old Massett

Flavien Mabit accepted Laurie Chisholm’s paddle on her behalf, and Vince’s paddle will be given to his family. Gidin Jaad Erica Jean Reid sang the paddle song and Percy, Stephen, and Flavien danced the paddles.

15. Public Q & A

- a. (Tammy Gates) Question to the Auditor: **Is there a list of the companies included in the Investments?**
 - i. *Response from Auditor:* Audit does not review that level of detail in the investments.
 - ii. *Response from the Board:* Details of the investments are reviewed closely. As an example, a few years ago there was a small cash account under the PH&N Commercial Mortgage Fund of approximately \$5,000. In that cash account, there were several fossil fuel companies found to be included. Gwaii Trust pushed back and PH&N created a non-fossil fuel fund for our investments.

- b. (Tammy Gates) Question to the Auditor: **Honorarium amounts are high. Is there a list of individual Honorarium payments? In previous years the distribution was included.**
 - i. *Response from Auditor:* The Honorariums are understandably high with all the meetings for AGLT and with HR turnovers. The breakdown is not an Audit requirement as the Society does not receive ongoing Government funds to operate.
 - ii. *Response from Chair:* It is not a requirement and is not listed.
 - iii. *Response from Public (Warren Foster):* Years ago, we did not pay Honorariums and relied on consultants to tell us what we should or should not do. We felt, as locals, we could do a better job, and we adopted Honorariums. It is far more valuable to be paying our own people than to hire consultants.

- c. (Valine Brown) Question to the Board: **When Athlii Gwaii is implemented can you talk about what the Renewables will cover?**
- i. *Response from CEO:* We have the details ready as soon as we have approval to proceed ahead. If you look at the Clean Energy sections of New Relationship Trust, we have spent a considerable amount of time learning from New Relationship Trust and will virtually mirror the same opportunities for grants and distribution. We have hired an employee to implement those grants and when we are ready, we will also be hiring an AGL Project Manager.
- d. (Valine Brown) Question to the Board: **A few years ago, there was an outside team that surveyed and interviewed island people about the Gwaii Trust Society. Is that report available to read?**
- i. *Response from CEO:* The Community Grant Specialists also have met with Art applicants to get feedback. The Sauder report that was completed a few years ago is on the website and available for reading.
- e. (Rosemary Hart) Question/Comment to the Board: **Thank you Gwaii Trust for your support with Rediscovery Camp. There will be 120 students participating in the month of June. An update for the Board, with the Carl Hart Foundation, the Canucks have donated \$250,000 to our Foundation.**
- i. *Response from Chair:* Those are great updates. Háw'aa, thank you for the good news and for all your hard work.

16. Door Prizes

The two door prizes were won by Veronica Dix and Tammy Gates.

17. Adjournment

The Chair called for adjournment at 2:12 pm. Billy Yovanovich motioned to approve.