



Decision List BC Meeting April 21, 2026

Subtitle	Weekly BC meeting
Date	04/21/2026
Time	9:30 – 12:00
Location	Courtroom
Chair	Governor Johnson
Attendees	Jonathan Johnson and Bruce Zagers
Absentees	Eviton Heyliger

1.0.0 Welcome

2.0.0 Minutes

Attachment:

BC Meeting Minutes 14-04-2026

Decision:

BC Minutes Approved.

3.0.0 Discussion papers

3.0.2 BC Proposal Carnival 2026

The Department Community Development & Culture will leadership to ensure the continuity and successful delivery of this highly anticipated cultural event, particularly in light of the significant milestone of its 50th anniversary. Saba Carnival 2026 is scheduled to take place from July 24 to August 2, 2026.

This year the Carnival budget will continue to remain under the responsibility of the Community Development and Culture Department. This arrangement is necessary as the process of recruiting new board members is currently underway, with interviews in progress. The selected board will shadow the Department throughout this year's Carnival and subsequently assume full responsibility for the planning and execution of Carnival 2027. A separate proposal will be submitted when the new board members are recruited.

Carnival remains one of Saba's most prominent annual cultural events, fostering strong community participation while also engaging members



of the Saban diaspora. In preparation, the Department has developed a comprehensive program of events for the Carnival period.

Decision:

BC Proposal Approved.

3.0.3

BC response to consultation SZW – Unemployment benefits

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) has submitted a draft proposal for the 'Temporary Unemployment Benefit regulation BES' for consultation. This regulation (starting 1 jan. 2027) would allow employees who lose their jobs to receive benefits for a maximum of three months. Following a joint meeting with the Executive Council (BC) and the Island Council (IC), a letter will be sent expressing their shared positive opinion about the initiative to introduce unemployment benefits to the Caribbean Netherlands. The letter, in addition, requests consideration on the following points: finance and structural regulation, the limited duration and the local job market, call for the realization of an employment history register, clarification regarding civil servants, and the importance of a communication plan. With this BC proposal we ask BC to approve and sign the letter to the Ministry.

Decision:

BC Proposal Approved.

3.0.6

Provision building and road maintenance

In 2025 several reports were published showing that more structural funds are needed for planned infrastructural maintenance and investments on Saba. The reports advise the national government to take their responsibility in this. While investments are often funded through special purpose grants, the public entity currently faces a particular challenge with the planned maintenance of buildings and roads. Due to the lack of structural resources, maintenance is reactive instead of planned, and only the highest priorities are being addressed.

The annual maintenance requirements are estimated at approximately \$1,500,000 for buildings and \$3,300,000 million for roads, while current budget allocations amount to only \$580,000 and \$800,000 respectively, resulting in a significant structural funding deficit. The surplus of 2025 provides PES with an opportunity to create this much needed provision for planned maintenance. It is proposed to allocate \$920,000 for



buildings and \$2,500,000 for roads in 2025, representing the balanced contribution needed to begin addressing the maintenance backlog. Despite this, a residual funding gap will remain in subsequent years. It must be stressed that the recent reports underline the responsibility of the national government to ensure sufficient funding for maintenance, replacement and investment costs of infrastructure. However, by creating this provision PES makes a first step and contributes to a structural solution.

Decision:

BC Proposal Approved.

3.0.7

Sea and Learn Susidy 2026

Sea & Learn Foundation has submitted a subsidy request for 2026 for a total amount of \$93,853. The subsidy is requested to contribute to expertise, supplies and operations, and coordination for the following activities and areas:

- Sea and Learn: \$20,055

This program is an expanded version of YELP that partners with the Saba Reach Foundation's Replay program to support teens facing personal or family challenges. It uses scuba diving as a way to build accountability, resilience, and personal growth, especially for at-risk youth, as part of a larger, multi-year initiative focused on strengthening families.

- Adopt a Box: \$7,355

This is a fantastic project which is part of Saba's product enhancement and already ongoing. Creating a walking tours and scavenger hunts, while beautifying the meter boxes on island.

- Create and Learn: \$19,655

The goal is to inspire a new generation of creativity while bridging intergenerational involvement and socialization by reinforcing the values of traditional craftsmanship and art forms. (Second edition event).

- YELP: \$16,000

This program is an expanded version of YELP that partners with the Saba Reach Foundation's Replay program to support teens facing personal or family challenges. It uses scuba diving as a way to build accountability, resilience, and personal growth, especially for at-risk youth, as part of a



larger, multi-year initiative focused on strengthening families.

Operating Expenses: \$30,788

Decision:

BC Proposal Approved.

3.1.0

Visit Statia

In June last year an MoU was signed between the Public Entities Saba and Statia to collaborate on animal control projects through the exchange of knowledge, capacity and other resources (Dossier 1018). Over the past months, the islands have worked well together on the exchange of knowledge on the invasive species control projects. While Statia can assist Saba with for example veterinary capacity, Saba can help out with butchering capacity on Statia, as well as knowledge exchange on the use of thermal drones. Over the past months, our animal control assistant, has become quite an expert in the use of the thermal drone, which has greatly enhanced the effectiveness of the hunting teams. It would therefore be helpful to send him over for a visit to the island. An exchange with Statia would also benefit his development, as he would be able to learn from other local hunters and get experience in a larger butcher facility.

Additionally, 2 policy advisors would like to visit the island to make concrete agreements on further collaboration possibilities. This would also provide the opportunity to touch base with the OLE and Stenapa on NEPP projects in general.

Decision:

BC Proposal Approved.

4.0.0

Formalities & Action list

5.0.0

Incoming pieces/request (on paper)

6.0.0

Announcements

Governor Johnson

Commissioner Zagers



Commissioner Heyliger
Island Secretary Streppel

7.0.0 Signing

8.0.0 Closing