



AGENDA
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
August 30, 2022, 6:30– 8:30 PM
Held virtually via MS Teams

In light of the Saanich Communicable Disease Plan related safety measures, this meeting will be held virtually via MS Teams. Details on how to join the meeting can be found on the committee webpage – [Resilient Saanich Schedule, Minutes & Agendas](#). Please note that individuals participating by phone are identified by their phone number, which can be viewed on screen by all attendees of the meeting.

- 1. Territorial Acknowledgement** Chair T.Stevens

- 2. Call to order & agenda** Chair T.Stevens
 - Approval of agenda

- 3. Adoption of Minutes**
 - June 28, 2022 meeting

- 4. Receipt of Correspondence**
 - Correspondence will be attached once available

- 5. Presentation on Private Land Stewardship Options (20 min.)**
 - Lead: Darren Copley, Environmental Education

- 6. Update on Council Response to RSTC Milestone 2 Report (10 min)**
 - Lead: Councillor Rebecca Mersereau

- 7. Update on First Nations relations (5 min)**
 - Lead: Tory Stevens

- 8. Update on Urban Forest Strategy (10 min)**
 - Lead: Eva Riccius

- 9. Environmental Policy Filter Working Group (30-40 min.)**
 - Lead: Brian Wilkes

* * Next Meeting: September 15, 2022

In order to ensure quorum, please email megan.macdonald@saanich.ca if you are not able to attend.

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Via Microsoft Teams

June 28, 2022

Present: Tory Stevens (Chair); Kevin Brown; Tim Ennis; Purnima Govindarajulu; Stewart Guy; Chris Lowe; Brian Wilkes; Bev Windjack; Jeremy Gye

Guests: Cassandra Cummings; Alison Kwan

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager of Parks; Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner; Nancy Chaggar, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Councillor Rebecca Mersereau

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

Chair T. Stevens read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by B. Windjack and Seconded by B. Wilkes: "That the Agenda for the June 28, 2022 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be approved."

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by C. Lowe: "That the minutes of the May 24, 2022 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

DIAMOND HEAD CONSULTING (DHC) UPDATE ON STATE OF BIODIVERSITY REPORT

C. Cummings, project manager for the State of Biodiversity Report, presented a project update to the Committee and noted the following:

- Background reviews have begun, and two rounds of field work with a total of 152 site visits have been completed.
- DHC is coordinating with the Urban Forest Strategy through knowledge transfer and data sharing.
- Spatial data analysis is ongoing.
- Further engagement with the Committee is yet to occur; DHC is flexible on how engagement time may be used.
- A minimum patch size of half a hectare was selected.
- Seven draft maps were shared with the Committee illustrating data collected by DHC.

- Next steps include: incorporating additional data into maps; developing table of contents and report contents; and finalizing maps.
- DHC will continue to engage with the Committee as the project progresses.

The following discussions ensued in response to the presentation:

- It is DHC's preference to further refine the maps before they are shared with the Committee.
- The maps produced by DHC will be made publicly available online.
- As part of the Urban Forest Strategy review, DHC has taken the CRD cover map and analyzed it for accuracy. DHC is currently in the process of writing a technical memo that will describe the results and the methodology used to compare.
- It was expressed that species and abiotic factors should be considered as part of the State of Biodiversity Report.
- An expert workshop is not included as part of the DHC contract; however, it may be possible to use budget funds from other areas to hold a workshop.
- DHC has a total of 40 hours for engagement with the Committee.
- It would be helpful to have experts included in the engagement process with DHC and RSTC as they may be able to answer some questions about the state of biodiversity in Saanich.

MOVED by S. Guy and Seconded by J. Gye: "That the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee hold a workshop with external experts."

CARRIED

DECISION ON MILESTONE 3 WORKPLAN

- Staff are to prepare a complete package for Council with the Environmental Policy Framework including a State of Biodiversity Report and a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
- Milestone 2 will carry on until the State of Biodiversity Report is complete.
- Environmental Policy Framework gap analysis should be an explicit line item for the Milestone 3 workplan.
- The gap analysis should address the conflict between housing development and preserving the environment.

MOVED by J. Gye and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the Milestone 3 workplan be approved, with the addition of a line item for completing the gap analysis on the Environmental Policy Framework."

CARRIED

DECISION ON SECRETARIAT POSITION

- A scope of work for the Secretariat position has been drafted and circulated to Committee members for feedback.
- The budget for this position has been previously approved.
- The question remains about whether the Committee wishes to proceed with hiring a Secretariat.
- The scope of work includes supporting the Chair and Committee members.
- It was suggested that this decision be deferred until the scope has been further refined.
- The Committee needs extra help to pull together the pieces of work completed.
- There are various ongoing initiatives with the District that may also contribute towards the RSTC's scope of work.

- An updated scope of work will be sent to staff.

MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by J. Gye: “That the District of Saanich hire a Secretariat for the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee.”

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM RSTC WORKING GROUPS

The Chair provided an update from the Environmental Policy Framework (EPF) working group and noted the following:

- The working group would like Saanich Council’s approval in principle for the principals and goals.
- The draft EPF has already been sent to the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council.
- The document includes a graphic illustrating the Official Community Plan as the overarching policy document, the EPF, the principles and goals, and the policy areas. Some adjustments are still required on the graphic and introduction.

MOVED by C. Lowe and Seconded by B. Wilkes: “That the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee send the draft principles and goals of the Environmental Policy Framework to staff for a presentation to Council.”

- Should Saanich Council endorse the principles and goals, they may then direct staff to forward them to Planning staff for consideration in the Official Community Plan update.

CARRIED

EVALUATION MATRIX/EVALUATION TOOL

- A Working Group is required to complete work on the evaluation matrix.
- Working Group members will include: C. Lowe, P. Govindarajulu, B. Wilkes.

ABIOTIC AND PUBLIC HEALTH DISCUSSION

K. Brown led a discussion to clarify the breadth and depth of “environment” for the Environmental Policy Framework and noted the following:

- People differ in what is considered as important when it comes to environment.
- The Environmental Policy Framework (EPF) requires a clear and comprehensive framing and description of “environment”.
- The Briefing Note provided by Kevin Brown may be appropriate in an appendix to the EPF Report, with some reference to it in the body of the document.
- There should be an overlap among District departments with respect to environmental issues and priorities.
- The EPF principles and goals address the question of communication between departments as it relates to environment.

ELECTION OF NEXT RSTC CHAIR

Tory Stevens was elected as the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee Chair for the next term.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from B. Windjack, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

DRAFT

Environmental Policy Framework policy filter

As part of the Resilient Saanich Program, Council requested a policy and program evaluation matrix, or “Policy Filter”, for reviewing new and existing programs and policies against Goal 2 of the Environmental Policy Framework (EPF)

Goal 2. Develop and implement complimentary and coordinated policies, strategies, regulations, and incentives grounded in and consistent with the Environmental Policy Framework guiding principles.

This overarching goal is essential to promote the culture of environmental stewardship and resilience within Saanich staff and the public. The principles will assist in evaluating existing policy and provide guidance for the development of future policy.

Some of the actions that could result from this goal are:

- Assess existing regulatory, management and administrative tools to identify gaps and inconsistencies.
- Develop a strategic approach that encourages effective use of limited resources.

Increase community understanding of policies, plans, programs, bylaws and partnerships encompassed by the Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework.

The following table uses the latest version of the principles in the EPF. These are accompanied by proposed scoring criteria in a matrix for each principle, to evaluate how close a policy is to complying to the principle. If a proposed policy or program scores high, it complies with the principles in the EPF, and will contribute to a more Resilient Saanich.

For example, policies and program initiatives that score 27 are in full compliance with these principles, and can be adopted as consistent with the Environmental Policy Framework. Policies and program initiatives that score 18 to 27 could be re-examined to see where they should be enhanced before adoption. Policies and program initiatives that score between 9 and 18 really need to go back to the generating department for a re-think on how it can conform more closely to these principles. Policies and program initiatives that score between 0 and 9 are probably not adoptable because they will not advance, and may work against, achievement of a Resilient Saanich.

No.	Principle from EPF	Scoring Matrix				
		High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	Neutral (0)	Opposes (negative 1 to 3)
1	Recognize the intrinsic value of nature	Actively promotes biodiversity conservation with incentives	Indirectly supports biodiversity conservation with strong mitigation measures	Implements some mitigation or offset measures	Neither promotes or negates biodiversity	Actively leads to loss of habitat and biodiversity
2	Learn from and appropriately apply Indigenous knowledge, perspectives, and practices to better protect lands, water, plants and animals ¹	Relevant nations involved in policy development from start to finish	Relevant nations engaged and support in principle	Relevant nations contacted but active support unclear/not clearly articulated	No engagement	One or more nations actively against this policy
3	Use best available management and decision-making tools in support of the future environment. ²	Not all the criteria below will apply to all policies. To score at this level policy should meet all <u>relevant</u> criteria below	To score at this level, policy meets at least 60% of all relevant criteria articulated in the “high” cell	To score at this level, policy meets at least 30% of all relevant criteria articulated in the “high” cell	To score at this level, policy meets none of the relevant criteria articulated in the “high” cell	The policy does not review past policies, published literature, nor does it apply the precautionary principle or available evidence.

¹ Indigenous knowledge can offer in-depth understanding of the environment. Indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices are recognized for their contribution to environmental and social sustainability.

² Evidence-based decision-making and being precautionary in the absence of evidence can both support good decisions. Adaptive management is the continuous evolution of practices based on careful observation. Learn from the past and plan for the future.

No.	Principle from EPF	Scoring Matrix				
		High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	Neutral (0)	Opposes (negative 1 to 3)
		<p>1.Previous policy has been assessed prior to new policy.</p> <p>2.Capacity for monitoring and modifying policy built into the policy.</p> <p>3.Literature/research on management/decision support tools cited within policy.</p> <p>4.Precautionary principle articulated in the policy.</p> <p>5.Evidence for need and efficacy of policy cited within the policy or supporting documentation.</p>				
4	Lead by example through innovation and improving on best practices to create a Resilient Saanich;	<p>Council leads or sets the example for Saanich. The outcomes that are to be achieved are clear. Timelines are clear. Specific best practices are listed and committed to. Not done before.</p>	<p>Council indicates it wants to lead, but does not. Outcomes clear but timelines vague, Or vice versa; best practices vague Has been don a few times.</p>	<p>Council has an opportunity to lead, but does not. Outcomes and timelines vague. Best practices not specified. Done frequently.</p>	<p>Council fails to lead. No outcomes or timelines. Best practices not specified. Done routinely.</p>	<p>Not learning from and repeating past mistakes.</p>

No.	Principle from EPF	Scoring Matrix				
		High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	Neutral (0)	Opposes (negative 1 to 3)
5	Look beyond our borders to achieve results at a bioregional scale. ³	Policy has positive effect and impact on neighbouring jurisdictions ⁴ , or policy is adapted from other jurisdictions. Policy has positive impact on resilience at bioregional scale.	Policy may have an impact on other local jurisdiction and at a bioregional scale.	Policy may have impact on local jurisdictions but not at bioregional scale.	Policy has no relation to what adjacent jurisdiction are doing	Policy works against the direction other jurisdictions are going, or negates improvement on a bioregional scale
6	Address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do;	Meets or exceeds full implementation of provisions of Saanich Climate Plan	Partly addresses adaptation and mitigation in Saanich Climate Plan	Addresses mitigation but not adaptation or vice versa.	Does not address the provisions of the Saanich Climate Plan	Will result in a net increase in GHG emissions
7	Collaborate with diverse interests to achieve outcomes that realize multiple values and benefits;	Policy developed in collaboration with relevant community organizations, ENGOs, developers, service clubs, advisory committees, school districts, health authorities and special interest groups, etc.	Consultation and collaboration has taken place with most of the appropriate and relevant groups affected by the policy.	Consultation and collaboration has taken place with only a few groups or special interests.	Policy was developed without external consultation or collaboration	Policy was developed with values and benefits in conflict with, or ignoring all, input provided at the consultation stages OR Policy was developed solely with special interest groups directly affected by said policy

³ Essentially, southern Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands.

⁴ Neighbouring jurisdictions means local governments that share a border with Saanich, or the CRD

No.	Principle from EPF	Scoring Matrix				
		High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	Neutral (0)	Opposes (negative 1 to 3)
8	<p>Safeguard diversity, equity and inclusivity: Create safe and welcoming public services and spaces for everyone including open environmental data for public oversight and research.</p>	<p>Policy outcome is proactively welcoming to people of any 1) age, 2) gender, 3) ethnicity, 4) physical ability or 5) socio-economic class</p>	<p>Policy outcome does not exclude, people of any 1) age, 2) gender, 3) ethnicity, 4) physical ability or 5) socio-economic class</p>	??	<p>Policy was developed without consideration for diversity, equity and inclusivity</p>	<p>Policy excludes at least 1 of the groups of people.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Policy outcome is only in support of special interest groups directly affected by said policy</p>
9	<p>Enhance community capacity and knowledge – Create a passionate, informed and skilled community that can help to create a more resilient Saanich</p>	<p>Policy includes ongoing outreach, education and dedicated staff support to provide rationale, assist with or guide implementation, promote and encourage desired outcomes, and provide clear timelines, AND</p>	<p>Policy includes sporadic outreach, education and staff support, but is targeted to areas of most benefit</p>	<p>Policy only includes outreach, education, and staff support upon initial policy implementation</p> <p>OR</p> <p>education and outreach are NOT targeted to areas of the community from which the most environmental</p>	<p>Policy is solely implemented by Saanich staff without public participation, but rationale, outcomes are available, and the policy was developed with public consultation and buy-in</p>	<p>Policy rationale or outcomes are not shared with the public</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Policy was developed without public consultation and buy-in</p>

No.	Principle from EPF	Scoring Matrix				
		High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	Neutral (0)	Opposes (negative 1 to 3)
		<p>includes incentives to participate</p> <p>AND</p> <p>education and outreach is proactively targeted to areas of the community from which the most environmental benefit is to be gained</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Education and outreach is provided at general public events</p>		<p>benefit is to be gained</p> <p>OR</p> <p>no dedicated staff</p>		