



**AGENDA**  
**RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
**January 19, 2023, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**  
**Held virtually via MS Teams**

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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.

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- 1. Territorial Acknowledgement**
- 2. Call to order & Election of Chair**
  - Lead: Megan MacDonald, Clerk
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Adoption of Minutes (attachment)**
  - December 15, 2022 meeting
- 5. Introduction of Council Representative – Councillor Zac DeVries (15 min.)**
  - Lead: Councillor de Vries
- 6. Environmental Policy Filter (attachment)(30 min.)**
  - Lead: Tory Stevens, Filter Working Group;
  - Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability invited to participate
- 7. Update and discussion on Workshop with W'SANEC Communities (15 min.)**
  - Lead: Eva Riccius
- 8. Environmental Policy Framework Update (20 min)**
  - Lead: EPF Working Group or Judith Cullington
- 9. Resilient Saanich status report to Council – Council Feedback (10 min.)**
  - Lead: Eva Riccius and Tory Stevens
- 10. State of Biodiversity Report update (10 min).**
  - Lead: Eva Riccius

\* \* Next Meeting: February 16, 2023 \* \*

To ensure quorum, please email [megan.macdonald@saanich.ca](mailto:megan.macdonald@saanich.ca) if you are not able to attend.

**MINUTES**  
**RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Via Microsoft Teams  
December 15, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Guests: Judith Cullington and Carly Bilney (Secretariats)

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager of Parks; Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability; Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner; and Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

**TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by B. Wilkes: "That the Agenda for the December 15, 2022, Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be approved."**

During discussion the following was noted:

- Items 5 & 9 were removed from the agenda, to be rescheduled for a later date.

**The Motion was then Put and CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by S. Guy: "That the minutes of the November 17, 2022 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be adopted, as amended."**

**CARRIED**

**RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE**

**MOVED by S. Guy and Seconded by B. Wilkes: "That the memo of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee dated December 1, 2022 and the response memo from Diamond Head Consulting dated December 15, 2022 be received for information."**

**CARRIED**

## **UPDATE BY SECRETARIAT TO RSTC**

J. Cullington and C. Bilney of JCA Judith Cullington & Associates advised that they met with the working group to discuss the Environmental Policy Framework.

## **FACILITATED SESSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK (EPF) QUESTIONS**

The Secretariat led the discussion and the following was noted:

- A short piece on what is meant by Resilient Saanich should be included in the document.
- The document should also include the purpose, scope and guiding principles, a list of the policies and programs within Saanich that was considered within the filter of the EPF and the results of the gap analysis.

### Questions for committee:

#### Who is the audience?

- Residents of Saanich, Council and staff.
- The development community and consultants.

#### What does success look like?

- The Official Community Plan must articulate what the EPF is about.
- The EPF outlines the expectations of Saanich in terms of development and stewardship.
- Success is when staff at all levels have embraced the policy, when decision making considers the EPF and when other policies and programs are not contradictory.
- Success is also when environmental policies are clear, and the public understands how and why they were developed.
- When environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation permeates all actions and decision making in Saanich that will show that the EPF was successful.

#### How important is telling the story of the Environmental Development Permit Area (EDPA) and why it crashed? Is it important to have the details in the main document? What is the prominence of the history?

- The EDPA only applied to development applications; there is a need to look through an environmental lens on all programs within Saanich.
- There is also a need to incentivize stewardship.
- This is a fresh step forward; it may not be helpful to look back at past practices.
- Minimal reference to the EDPA may help to put the work on the EPF into context.

#### Is there anything missing from the Table of Contents?

- The document should articulate how the policy will cross over into the different departments within the organization.
- It could include a list of the cross departmental work currently being undertaken.
- There needs to be a description on how the EPF is intended to be used.
- The thematic plans and SMART goals/objectives should be included.

- The EPF is the overarching policy; the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, the Climate Action Plan and the Urban Forest Strategy fall under it.
- A graphic could show the EPF and how the other policies connect to it.
- A statement advising that the EPF applies to both private and public lands should be included.
- Guiding principle 2 could read “Respect and include Indigenous values, knowledge and perspectives in decisions”.
- The precautionary principle could be a standalone principle.
- Footnotes could be added to link to documents to substantiate any statements.
- The EFP will become Saanich’s goals.
- The goal of the framework is to foster complementary and coordinated policies.

An updated draft EPF will be prepared and provided for discussion at a future meeting.

### **UPDATE ON DIAMOND HEAD CONSULTING STATE OF BIODIVERSITY REPORT**

The Senior Manager, Parks provided an update on the progress on the State of Biodiversity Report and the following was noted:

- A first draft of the report will tentatively be ready in January 2023.
- It will be provided to the committee for comment once it has been reviewed by the Senior Manager as there may be a need for revisions prior to review.
- The report will outline the existing state of biodiversity in Saanich.
- It will be the starting point for public engagement.

### **STAFF REVIEW OF STEWARDSHIP WORKING GROUP SUMMARY**

The Senior Manager, Parks answered questions from the committee and the following was noted:

- Clarification is needed on what enhanced stewardship means and what opportunities there are for enhanced stewardship.
- The committee could provide ideas on what types of stewardship work they have seen in other municipalities that could be considered by Saanich.
- Stewardship opportunities should be available for both private and public lands.
- There may be a need for additional funding or to reallocate resources for enhanced stewardship.

The committee was asked to provide any updates or revisions to C. Lowe within the next three weeks and a revised version will be provided at the February meeting.

### **UPDATE ON WORKSHOP WITH WSÁNEĆ COMMUNITIES**

The Senior Manager, Parks provided an update on the workshop with the WSÁNEĆ communities, and the following was noted:

- The workshop was re-scheduled to January 12, 2023.
- It is hoped that the conversation will be around strategic actions.

The committee was asked to advise T. Stevens of their availability to attend the meeting.

## **REVIEW OF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (ENVIRONMENT SECTION)**

Discussion took place and the following was noted:

- Reviewing the Environment Section of the Climate Action Plan is the last item for the committee to look at as per the Terms of Reference.
- The policy filter could be applied to the Environment Section as part of the beta testing of the filter.

## **COMMITTEE CHAIR**

T. Stevens advised that this was her last meeting as Chair. Appointment of a new Chair will be discussed at the January meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion from P. Govindarajulu, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

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Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary

The eleven guiding principles are as follows.

1. **Recognizing the intrinsic value** of nature.
2. **Respecting and including** Indigenous knowledge, worldviews and perspectives in environmental decisions and actions.
3. **Using evidence-based decision-making** to support adaptive environmental management.
4. **Adopting the precautionary approach**<sup>1</sup> in environmental decision making.
5. **Leading by example** through innovation and improving on best practices.
6. **Looking beyond Saanich's borders** to achieve results at a bioregional scale.
7. **Addressing climate** adaptation and mitigation in all that we do.
8. **Collaborating** with diverse interests to achieve multiple environmental benefits.
9. **Providing transparency** with open environmental data for public oversight and research.
10. **Enhancing community capacity** and knowledge to create a passionate, informed and skilled community that participates in building a more resilient Saanich.
11. **Safeguarding diversity, equity and inclusivity** by creating safe and welcoming public services and spaces for all.

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<sup>1</sup> The International Institute for Sustainable Development notes that, "In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation." <https://www.iisd.org/articles/deep-dive/precautionary-principle>