

**MINUTES**  
**RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
Conference Call  
**November 24, 2020 at 7:00 pm**

Present: Kevin Brown, Tim Ennis, Purnima Govindarajulu, Stewart Guy, Jeremy Gye, Councillor Rebecca Mersereau (Council Liaison), Tory Stevens, Brian Wilkes (Chair), Bev Windjack

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; Sydney Murphy (Committee Clerk), Planning Clerk

Regrets: Brian Emmett, Thomas Munson

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### **1. CALL TO ORDER & AGENDA**

B. Wilkes (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

The Chair invited Clr Mersereau to read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Equality and Inclusion Statement.

**Motion: MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by B. Windjack, "That the Agenda be approved and no changes be made."**

**CARRIED**

### **2. MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 27, 2020 RSTC MEETING**

It was noted that the minutes did not mention that T. Ennis and J. Gye were added to the working group and B. Wilkes and S. Guy were taken off the group.

**Motion: MOVED by T. Stevens and Seconded by J. Gye "That the minutes from the October 27th be adopted with the noted changes".**

**CARRIED**

Clr Mersereau requested that the minutes reflect the discussion that future meetings start at 6:30 to no later than 8:30.

Committee supports this.

### **3. COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS: UPDATE FOR RSTC**

A summary of past email communications to the RSTC was provided by Clr. Mersereau. The Chair reviewed and noted:

- A letter from Peninsula Streams Society offering a presentation to the RSTC on stormwater management. Noted not there yet, but possibly in the future.
- Communication from J. Sector recommended a webinar.

- E. Riccius, Saanich Parks, provided information about Parks stewardship programs and offered tours of work in parks to the RSTC

B. Wilkes turned attention to November 24th memo to the RSTC from Environmental Services. Request from C. Richman (staff) regarding interest of committee members to participate in video on the draft goals and objectives for the public engagement process. Three members spoke in support of participating

- C. Richman to send out more information to committee members on what she is looking for regarding the video

Clr. Mersereau reviewed a staff report from Parks resulting from the November 23 Council meeting.

It was noted:

- Two reports included a series of recommendations for tracking and mapping urban forests.
- Parks staff will seek approval for additional budget for next year.
- Council raised importance of pollinator habitat in RSTC work.

#### **4. REVIEW RECOMMENDED GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

T. Stevens provided a working group update.

It was noted:

- Draft 9 was sent to the RSTC for comment.
- Comments from Engineering considered in the front context paragraph.
- Comments from T. Munson resulted in changes being made.
- Comments from E. Riccius (Parks) were items for future consideration.
- Below the objectives would be strategies.
- A. Pollard noted official vision is from the OCP and in the Terms of Reference.
- Engineering has been open to looking at things that are manmade that can be more environmentally friendly.
- Comments on introducing other domains of environment - waste management, reducing ecological footprint.

Working group concluded they will have another discussion on the additional comments and provide a new draft by December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A. Pollard requested further discussion, though the Chair.

It was noted:

- As per the Terms of Reference, this is the opportunity for the RSTC to communicate towards strategies and actions, and to shape the framework by drafting the goals and objectives. Made reference to summaries from other cities in our binders

- Already have climate plan so whatever committee comes up with it has to meet and accommodate climate plan.

Members noted:

- Committee found it easiest to land on present level of detail.
- Observation made that the draft Environmental Policy Framework gap analysis listed goals and objectives from other municipalities that could be appropriate.

At the request of the Chair, A. Pollard presented item 2 from November 24th staff memo regarding the process for finalizing the goals and objectives.

It was noted:

- Working on plan for public engagement, including targeted stakeholders and government partners.
- Staff will analyze the feedback and present back to the committee.
- It will be up to the committee if they want to change goals or make recommendations
- Staff will collect feedback from the public during public engagement. This will be attached to the progress report that will go to Council.
- Concern was expressed that if the draft goals and objectives are not capturing what is wanted, more than the subcommittee of three people is needed to work on this.
- Question raised to the value of going to public if the framework draft is not ready, a lot of time and effort at this point in time, why don't we delay public engagement?
- A. Pollard noted that delaying public engagement a few weeks could be considered, but process is already a month behind the targeted timeline.
- Cllr Mersereau noted possibility of seeking approval from Council to extend the process, realizing that time line has been put out to public.
- B. Windjack to join T. Stevens working group to help out with communications work load.
- J. Gye noted concern about the ability to get the work done

It was noted that the working groups will continue work and present progress on January 19, 2021.

## **5. RSTC WORKPLAN, MILESTONES & SCHEDULE**

At the request of the chair, A. Pollard discussed highlights from item 3 in the November 24 memo regarding staff progress:

A. Pollard noted:

- On page two of the memo: Milestone One there is table of action items, covering everything from June to November. This format will be used to present future updates.

- Project web pages were published in June with FAQs, e-bulletin, and will include the dedicated email address.
- An e-bulletin will come out soon on the next two factsheets re: estimate of natural area protected in Saanich and where, as well as one on stewardship.
- In future, another factsheet will be produced summarizing other types of targets for biological conservation.
- Regarding 4th edition of atlas - new layers be live this week on GIS system.
- Staff are supporting the RSTC and gaining feedback.
- Drafting plan for engagement process.
- Hired GIS technician - greater progress and accuracy on GIS.
- Staff creating 5 different guidebooks in similar size and shape as Our Backyard.
- Progress report on completion of framework and all action listed at the end of Milestone 1.

Discussion from members:

- T. Ennis noted difficulty in accessing the atlas, password didn't work
- S. Guy asked for clarification of concern with polygons
- Committee requests presentation on mapping as soon as possible.
- Discussion about the format for a mapping presentation from staff
- J. Gye commented on the value of urban forest mapping

**Motion: MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by S. Guy "That there be a mapping presentation by staff before December 18th."**

**CARRIED**

K. Brown introduced working group updates and notes:

- Working on quarter 4 task to define scope (tables 1 and 2 from the draft Environmental Policy Framework gap analysis is a great foundation).
- Discussed if they are targeted ways to better flesh out gaps; take another look at B. Emmett's work.
- Decide on appropriate framework and get as far as we can, tables 1 and 2 filled in by January 2021.
- Possible third task begin drafting 3 year work plan.
- There is a proposal to begin to draft preliminary work plan, milestones, clarify where committee is going and how to get there.

B. Wilkes stated the intent is for working groups to share info with each other, goal to have something to discuss on January 19<sup>th</sup> towards a 3 year work plan.

B. Windjack introduced stewardship work group update and noted:

- The group has not yet spoken together. Have looked at program listed in initial binders and have come up with a list of questions.
- Plan to get together and move it forward for January 19th.
- Encouraged any help and feedback.

Comments and discussed noted:

- A. Pollard shared that volunteers have to register with Saanich and are covered by the municipal insurance
- B. Windjack asked if anyone monitors how successful the groups are. Can stewardship move into looking at development, bylaws, and policies?

B. Wilkes provided biodiversity working group update and noted:

- General agreement to protect and restore, build on greenbelt study, foster biodiversity, connect larger pieces, can't restore things to pristine condition, needs to be active management, native species are disappearing, try and develop draft for biodiversity strategy for contract for consultant,
- Ensure committee members have link to the 1972 greenbelt study.

Committee discussion noted:

- J. Gye regarding goals and objectives: these are pillar pieces. Will the stewardship working group provide objectives?
- J. Gye noted short form vision or long form vision, there are benefits to having well-articulated visions. This is what we want Saanich to look like in 50 years, what steps do we need to get there?

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:            MOVED by J. Gye and Seconded by T. Stevens.**

**CARRIED**

B Wilkes noted: the working group will develop ideas on 3 year work plan to circulate for comment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

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Brian Wilkes, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary