

**MINUTES**  
**RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
Via Teleconference  
**January 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

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

Staff: Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner, Lesley Hatch, Senior Manager of Water Resources Engineering; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Councillor Mersereau read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Chair asked to make two minor changes to the January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 agenda:

- 1) Change the order of agenda items 5 and 6.
- 2) Move the mapping discussion to the next meeting to allow more time to prepare for this topic.

**MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by P. Govindarajulu: "That the Agenda for the January 19, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved, as amended."**

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by T. Stevens: "That the minutes of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting of November 24, 2020, meeting be adopted, as amended, with the GIS Technician staff person's name removed."**

**CARRIED**

**4. UPDATE FROM THE RSTC COUNCIL LIAISON**

Councillor Mersereau provided an update, noting:

- MS Team should be in place by March 2021.
- Council will be considering a First Nations representative for the RSTC.
- Once a candidate has been approved by Council, they will be given a briefing by staff.

## 5. PRESENTATION: Integrated Stormwater Management Plan

Mr. Ian Bruce, Biologist – marine and terrestrial environments presented on Integrated Stormwater Management Planning.

Discussion took place as follows:

- Water management overall is one of the committee's key themes.
- Central Saanich undertook an Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) and won a national planning award for it.
- The plan components are hydrological, biophysical, water quality and is centred around rainwater from planning through to engineering and look towards the future.
- Other factors included in the plan were downspout disconnection, impervious surfaces, rain gardens and wetlands.

In response to questions, the Senior Manager, Water Resources stated:

- There are many different watersheds in Saanich; it is recognized that watersheds do not end at municipal boundaries.

Councillor Mersereau stated:

- The Engineering Department is currently in the process of planning a multi-year stormwater management project that is starting with drainage studies with a focus on hydrology.
- It may be appropriate to have staff from Engineering attend to provide an update.

## 6. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

### Biodiversity Conservation Group

- The group started out trying to focus on a biodiversity conservation strategy and writing out a table of contents but realized that it needed to be a step by step process.
- Step one of this process is to get some base line data, state of biodiversity as it is now that will set baseline metrics, and also prioritize the need for basic information.
- The foundational document could also be called the State of Biodiversity in Saanich report and could include species and ecosystems, spatial analysis of the current and future biodiversity interests, mapping in spatial context, and an assessment of stewardship.
- Hub and corridor concept would be considered as a foundation for a Biodiversity Strategy.
- The three working groups are working towards a common goal and some interests overlap.
- There is a need for baseline data; the next step is to understand what has already been done and what parts staff can do versus a contractor.
- The Biodiversity Group will meet with staff in order to discuss the update to Council.
- The extirpated species data is important to document.

The Manager of Environment stated:

- The Environmental GIS Analyst has been hired and is working on gathering data.
- Staff will be providing an update to Council in March/April with the result of the public feedback, goals and objectives, conservation tool evaluation matrix and refining the scope for the policy framework and data collection.

Stewardship Working Group

- There may be a gap in educating residents to plant on their properties to increase biodiversity.
- Policies and regulations based on stewardship and biodiversity principles are needed.
- Development Permit Area requirements for natural areas needs strengthening and improvement.
- Follow up on natural state covenants should be done regularly in order to ensure protection is as intended.
- There may be opportunities to make some changes to tree planting policies such as having the right trees planted in the right places; there may also be opportunities to provide remuneration for tree salvaging and to provide incentives to property owners to encourage them to protect natural state covenant areas.
- There is a need to consider marine shorelines.

## 7. STAFF UPDATES

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- The public will be asked to provide feedback via the Virtual Open House; handouts will be available outlining goals and objectives and will be available in multiple languages.
- The Virtual Open House will be advertised via social media, Our Backyard, e-bulletin, community posters, promotional cards and a bulk mail out.
- Using existing contacts, stakeholders will be targeted.
- Working with Sustainability and Recreation, youth will be targeted to sign up to learn and give feedback on environment and sustainability issues.
- The committee was asked to submit video segments if they wished to have them included in the video.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

**MOVED by T. Stevens and Seconded by J. Gye: "That the meeting of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adjourned."**

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

## NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

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Stewart Guy, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary