

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue
Council Chambers
March 18, 2021 at 6:33 p.m.

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

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks; Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk, Sheryl Masters, Deputy Legislative Manager and MaryAnn Greco, Information and Privacy Analyst

Regrets: T. Joseph

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

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

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

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by B. Wilkes: "That the Agenda for the March 18, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved, as amended."

CARRIED

Item 9 – Resilient Saanich Work Plan was moved for discussion before the Working Group Updates.

It was requested that discussion take place during Working Group Updates on why the entire draft principles, goals and objectives for Resilient Saanich document was not posted. It is suggested that the entire document be posted, and if so, the deadline for public input would have to be adjusted.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

MOVED by T. Stevens and Seconded by B. Emmett: "That the minutes of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meetings of December 8, 2020 be adopted, as amended."

CARRIED

Amendment - Under Work Plan, Milestones & Schedule – add "of the Environmental Policy Framework".

MOVED by B. Emmett and Seconded by B. Wilkes: “That the minutes of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meetings of January 19, 2021 be adopted.”

CARRIED

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by P. Govindarajulu: “That the minutes of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meetings of February 16, 2021 be adopted, as amended.”

CARRIED

Amendment – Second last point on page 4 in the first paragraph – The TEM mapping is at a scale of 1/20,000 and the resolution is not adequate for decision making at a property level scale.

5. RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE

In response to questions from Council, the Senior Manager, Parks stated:

- At a recent meeting, Council made a series of motions with respect to Panama Flats including ceasing the application to add additional lands at Panama Flats to the Agricultural Land Reserve, implement other elements of the Panama Flats Concept Plan as opportunities and funding permits, to recommend other Saanich-owned parcels that may be suitable for the proposed Regional Food and Farmland Trust and to check in with stakeholders to ensure the Panama Flats Concept Plan is still relevant.

MOVED by T. Stevens and Seconded by B. Windjack: “That the correspondence attached as part of the agenda for the March 18, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be received for information.”

CARRIED

6. INFORMATION AND PRIVACY

S. Masters, Privacy Officer and M. Greco, Information and Privacy Analyst presented *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA) and Records Management principles.

The committee requested that staff research on whether or not committee members could get Saanich email addresses rather than having to use their personal email addresses.

7. RESILIENT SAANICH WORK PLAN

Discussion took place as follows:

- Including timelines and deliverables in the Work Plan is useful.
- There is a desire for integrating tasks of staff and the committee and to emphasize the committee’s roles.
- Realistic timelines are needed even if it means ignoring the timelines in the Terms of Reference.
- The Milestone Approach should be used and the entire process should be mapped out into future years.
- There may be other tasks outside the deliverables outlined in the Terms of Reference that need to be identified; it will be important to have a common understanding of the tasks the committee is interested in taking on and articulating the desired work plan to Council

- The Work Plan is a living document.
- The committee will have the opportunity to update Council and the public at the end of each Milestone.
- Because there was a delay in getting the committee struck, it is reasonable to suggest timing changes.
- Feedback from the Open House should be reviewed prior to refining the scope of the Environmental Policy Framework
- Staff and the committee can advise on what their perceived data gaps are.
- It may be efficient to have the consultant assess the baseline conditions for both the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and the State of Biodiversity Report although there is no down side to assessing separately.
- It may be appropriate to sequence work differently in order to allow the committee to focus on fewer tasks or to have brainstorming sessions prior to committee meetings so that members can come to meetings ready to make recommendations.
- The committee has a governance role; members should receive information, review it and provide expert advice to staff.
- More time is needed at meetings for the Working Groups to present.
- Resilient Saanich is more than biodiversity; it also includes stewardship and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- The committee determined the draft environmental atlas should not be released to the public; a Mapping Working Group is proposed.

Action Items:

- The Chair will solicit members to work on refining the scope of the Environmental Policy Framework.
- Committee members are requested to review the work plans and make recommendations on how to integrate them into one document.

8. STAFF UPDATE

The Senior Environmental Planner and the Manager of Environmental Services presented the March 11, 2021 Staff Update and discussion took place as follows:

- The proposed Mapping Working Group should review the 4th edition of the Environmental Sensitive Area Atlas prior to it being released.
- The deadline for public feedback on the proposed goals and objectives was March 15th.
- Stakeholder groups including Advisory Committees, youth groups and secondary schools, senior centres and First Nations groups were targeted.
- 145 online feedback forms and comments were received as of March 9.
- Feedback was solicited via e-bulletins, social media, postcard delivery to every household and business in Saanich, Camosun College and University of Victoria student societies and newspaper advertising.
- The feedback will be analyzed and a report to Council drafted; the committee will have a chance to review the report prior to it going to Council.
- A committee concern was that the feedback may not be relevant as it only pertains to the portion of the document that was posted online; it may be appropriate to post the entire document and request further feedback.
- The committee requested that their original document be included in the progress report to Council.
- When the report goes to Council, the public will be given the opportunity to provide feedback; there will be further engagement and comments can be incorporated throughout the process.

Action Item: All committee members will be advised of any scheduled discussions with staff so that they can participate if they wish.

9. **WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

Stewardship Working Group

- There will be a presentation on March 25th on the development of local conservation funds.
- Resourcing stewardship will always be a challenge.
- A discussion with staff is scheduled for March 22nd regarding stewardship.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by T. Stevens and Seconded by B. Windjack: "That the meeting of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adjourned."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

April 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Stewart Guy, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary