

**MINUTES**  
**RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
Via MS Teams  
**Tuesday, June 29, 2021**

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

Staff: Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; and Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

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**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. Stevens and Seconded by B. Windjack: "That the Agenda for the June 29, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved."**

**CARRIED**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the minutes of the May 25, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adopted."**

**CARRIED**

**5. RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE**

**MOVED by B. Windjack and Seconded by T. Stevens: "That the correspondence be accepted for information."**

**CARRIED**

**6. APPOINTMENT OF NEW TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

It was the consensus of the committee that T. Stevens be the Chair from July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021. The committee expressed their appreciation to S. Guy for the work he has done as the past Chair.

**7. UPDATE ON APPOINTMENT OF NEW TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The committee appointment will be discussed at a future In Camera Saanich Council meeting.

**8. DISCUSSION OF RSTC WORKPLAN AND TERMS OF REFERENCE DOCUMENT**

The draft Terms of Reference were reviewed and the committee made the following comments:

- The authorship of the Terms of Reference has been changed to the committee.
- Because this is a Technical Committee, it may not be appropriate to solicit non-qualified community representatives for Milestone 3; a community representative may bring a perspective of someone who has been impacted by the previous bylaw or has stewardship experience.
- The committee is able to call resource people when tackling an issue that requires specific expertise.
- Council has the responsibility to appoint members to the committee.

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- Members of the public are permitted to attend meetings and speakers may be invited.
- Public participation opportunities were added to new items.
- There are some amendments to relative expenses.
- Staff will draft the Terms of Reference for the RSTC to review.
- Staff will facilitate the call for new appointees for Milestone Three and Council would appoint members.
- A statistically viable survey would be expensive relative to other items.

**MOVED by J. Gye and Seconded by T. Stevens: "That the draft Terms of Reference be amended that "community representative" be deleted from the renewed and expanded Technical Committee."**

**The Motion was DEFEATED**  
**with K. Brown, T. Ennis, P. Govindarajulu, S. Guy, T. Stevens, and B. Windjack**  
**OPPOSED**

**MOVED by T. Stevens and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the draft Terms of Reference be amended to add "community representative with a stewardship background" be solicited for the renewed and expanded Technical Committee."**

**CARRIED**

The committee made the following comments:

- The Biodiversity Strategy is one of the thematic plans; the Environmental Policy Framework is the overarching piece of work that encompasses more than biodiversity conservation.
- The Mapping Working Group has recommended that an Environmental Reference Atlas not be pursued.
- It would be appropriate to ensure GIS layers are up-to-date and accurate.
- It would be premature to embed an Environmental Development Permit Area in the Terms of Reference; Development Permit Areas are one of a number of tools that will be considered by the committee in the course of developing the Biodiversity Strategy and the Enhanced Stewardship Plan.
- The list of stakeholders has been removed as it is expected that this is work by staff and the consultant.
- The Terms of Reference have been revised to indicate the committee's tasks.
- The State of Biodiversity Report could be added as a deliverable.
- The final report will be prepared by staff.

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- The paragraph on the Secretariat needs to be expanded to better describe the role in order to budget accordingly.
- It may be difficult for Council to determine the changes between the original Terms of Reference and the proposed.
- Staff will revise the draft Terms of Reference based on committee discussion to include public engagement as an appendix, add a community representative with experience or expertise in stewardship, expand on the role of the Secretariat with information provided by the committee, return public engagement to the workplan regarding conservation tools, add to footnote 7 with the deliverables that had been removed, and a State of Biodiversity Report to the list of deliverables.

**MOVED by T. Stevens and Seconded by P. Govindarajulu: "That the Terms of Reference be amended to reflect the changes as discussed and then provided to staff for inclusion in the package for Council."**

The committee made the following comments:

- Some of the items that staff were to do are now not included in the Terms of Reference.
- The Terms of Reference should reflect the collectiveness of the RSTC, staff and the consultant.
- The column "Staff Role" is still included and outlines the work of staff.

**The Motion was then Put and CARRIED**

## **9. DISCUSSION ON SAANICH MAPPING**

The Mapping Working Group Progress Briefing Note was reviewed and the committee made the following comments:

- More accurate and simplified mapping is needed.
- A Natural Assets Registry could be considered with a focus on ecosystem services and the types of assets that provide those services.
- Natural assets cross jurisdictional boundaries so it is important to work with neighbouring municipalities.
- Indigenous points of view should be included in concepts.

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- Bowker Creek could be considered a natural asset.
- An Asset Management System is being considered for Saanich and natural assets will be included.
- The Capital Regional District (CRD) is looking at mapping tree canopy.
- Improvements have been made in the accuracy in mapping and staff have been working with CRD staff in developing a method to update and improve the marine layer.

**MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by B. Windjack: “That the RSTC receive the report from the Mapping Working Group and direct the group to arrange a meeting with staff to discuss how to move forward.”**

**CARRIED**

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by T. Stevens: “That the meeting of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adjourned.”**

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

July 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Teams.

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Stewart Guy, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary