

**MINUTES**  
**RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
Via MS Teams  
**Tuesday, July 6, 2021**

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

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

Regrets: Stewart Guy

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Councillor Mersereau read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement. She suggested that committee members take turns reading the Acknowledgement at future meetings.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by B. Wilkes: "That the Agenda for the July 6, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved, as amended."**

A member of the committee advised that they were uncomfortable discussing the Resilient Saanich Draft Milestone One Progress Report due to the lateness of receipt.

**CARRIED**

4. **REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair stated:

- Field trips to various restoration and ecologically important projects will be offered in coming weeks.
- RSTC meetings will not resume in person until at least September 2021 due to Saanich remaining under the Provincial Health Order.
- RSTC documents will be stored on Google Docs.

5. **CONSERVATION MEASURES PARTNERSHIP & SAANICH BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY**

T. Ennis gave a demonstration on the Miradi software and the committee made the following comments:

- There will be a series of ecosystem targets (i.e. Garry Oak ecosystem GOE) and nested targets under them (i.e. specific species in GOE).
- The licensing of Miradi is moving towards being Cloud based; Saanich would have to purchase a software licence if it were to be considered to develop the State of Biodiversity Report.
- Members of the RSTC could have access to the system with potentially different levels of access, if required.
- Further discussion could take place on the consultant having the licence rather than Saanich.
- It would be valuable to have outside experts involved in setting up the system in Saanich to provide scientific credibility.
- Workshops could be held to determine targets, threats, etc.
- There are some larger threats that a municipality may not have any control over (i.e. climate change).
- There is the opportunity to run template reports.
- The software is complex; there are consultants in southwest BC that have experience using the system.

**MOVED by B. Windjack and Seconded by J. Gye: “That the RSTC adopt the conservation standards as supported by the Miradi Software to develop the State of Biodiversity Report and the subsequent Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.”**

The Senior Manager, Parks and the Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- A formal system would help for consistency; it would also be helpful to have all data in one place.
- Parks has very limited capacity for gathering data or keeping the data up-to-date; there may be partners that could help to do regular assessments and gather trend data.

The committee made the following comments:

- The system could be designed to be logistically feasible.
- Broader engagement is needed to get the targets and nested targets in place.

**The Motion was then Put and CARRIED**

**MOVED by J. Gye and Seconded by B. Wilkes: “That the RSTC direct staff to draft the Terms of Reference for a consultant with experience in the Conservation Measures Partnership methodologies for the State of Biodiversity Report.”**

The committee made the following comments:

- There may be examples of Terms of Reference that could be used as a template.

**The Motion was then Put and CARRIED**

**6. RESILIENT SAANICH PROGRESS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

The Manager of Environmental Services presented the draft report on the Resilient Saanich Policy Framework and the committee made the following comments:

- The action items include items from both the committee and staff.
- The committee recommends not moving forward with the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the ESA Atlas.
- The draft Evaluation Matrix (Table 2) is confusing; the committee will provide rationale in place of the table and the last paragraph on page 3 will refer to the Appendix.

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- The goal is to have the report on the July 19, 2021 Special Council meeting.
- The committee's revisions will be incorporated into the report including removing table 2, adding a description about the role of Secretariat and adding "up to" to the projected costs of the Secretariat.
- The original estimate for a Secretariat was \$30,000; after review of similar projects in Saanich, the estimate was increased up to \$100,000.
- The consultant would be retained for approximately ten months in Milestone Two.

**MOVED by PG and Seconded by J. Gye: "That the RSTC support the Resilient Saanich Progress Report, with revisions as discussed, and the report be forwarded to the July 19, 2021 Saanich Council meeting."**

**CARRIED  
with B. Wilkes OPPOSED**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by B. Windjack and Seconded by P. Govindarajulu: "That the meeting of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adjourned."**

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

July 20, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Teams.

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Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary