

**MINUTES**  
**RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
Via MS Teams  
**Tuesday, July 20, 2021**

Present: Councillor Rebecca Mersereau (Council Liaison), Kevin Brown, Tim Ennis, Purnima Govindarajulu, Chris Lowe, Stewart Guy, 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

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 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 B. Windjack and Seconded by S. Guy: "That the Agenda for the July 20, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved."**

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the minutes of the June 17, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adopted."**

**CARRIED**

**MOVED by B. Windjack and Seconded by J. Gye: "That the minutes of the June 29, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adopted."**

**CARRIED**

**MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by P. Govindarajulu: "That the minutes of the July 6, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adopted."**

**CARRIED**

5. **RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE**

**MOVED by B. Windjack and Seconded by S. Guy: “That the correspondence for the July 20, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be received for information.”**

**CARRIED**

6. **UPDATE ON APPOINTMENT OF NEW RSTC MEMBER**

Councillor Mersereau and RSTC members welcomed new member, Chris Lowe, to the committee.

7. **RESILIENT SAANICH TERMS OF REFERENCE AMENDMENTS**

The committee reviewed the draft Terms of Reference (TORs) and made the following comments:

- The proposed changes are to provide clarity to Council and the committee.
- The roles of staff have been included in the TORs in order to specify how the process will be supported.
- Staff are recommending that committee members actively participate in public engagement activities and associated planning in order to provide context and present the work.
- Environmental equity and risk reduction should be included in the focus of environmental planning.
- It will be important for the RSTC to have input into the Milestone 3 workplan.
- It is anticipated that only a portion of funding for a consultant may be used due to the efficiencies of a Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP) protocol; co-op students may also be considered to undertake specific projects and may assist in keeping costs down.
- The Urban Forest Strategy will be used by the committee to beta test the policy evaluation tool.
- There may be the need to have a consultant prepare the public State of Biodiversity Report.
- The policy evaluation tool needs to be done in Milestone 2 so that it can be tested and refined as necessary.
- The Secretariat role should be two days per week.

**MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by K, Brown: “That the draft Resilient Saanich Terms of Reference be approved, in principle, and that it be referred to the August 9, 2021 Council meeting.”**

**CARRIED**

8. **MAPPING WORKING GROUP REPORT ON ESA ATLAS & SAANICH MAPPING**

The committee reviewed the RSTC Briefing Note from the Mapping Working Group and made the following comments:

- The Mapping Working Group recommends that the RSTC not endorse release of edition 4 of the Environmental Reference Atlas; it also recommends that Saanich consider ending the use of paper atlases in the future in favour of updated and accurate GIS map layers.
- The committee recognizes that Saanich may publish the Atlas if desired.
- The current mapping is inaccurate and outdated.

- It is important to have the most accurate environmental information available for residents and the development community.
- Saanich should commit to a process to maintain and keep the information up-to-date.
- It would also be helpful if the process could be modernized.
- Caveats need to be on each page advising that the information may not be accurate.
- A consultant could be retained to update the SEI layers.
- TEM is too complicated a layer for the lay person to understand; it is important to keep the information easy for non-technical people to understand.
- Saanich is lagging in this area; there is a need for a commitment from Council to get the data up-to-date.
- When a development comes to Council, there may be an opportunity to get access to lands to update the data.

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- There is a caveat on each page of the Atlas indicating that the information may not be accurate.
- The Atlas increases access to information that is otherwise difficult to obtain.
- Staff are working with the Capital Regional District on marine layers.
- The Atlas is a reflection of the GIS captured at a moment in time.
- There is a legend that helps with interpretation.
- Not everyone has the computer skills to navigate the GIS.
- Edition 4 has twice as much data in it than the current one.

**MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by J. Gye: "That the Mapping Working Group recommends that the RSTC not endorse release of edition 4 of the Environmental Reference Atlas."**

**CARRIED**  
**with K. Brown, P. Govindarajulu and C. Lowe OPPOSED**

**9. DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR URBAN FOREST STRATEGY**

The Senior Manager, Parks presented a draft scope of work for the Urban Forest Strategy Review and Update and requested the committee review and provide feedback by August 9, 2021.

**10. BIODIVERSITY FACT SHEET**

Comments on the Biodiversity Fact Sheet should be sent to K. Brown and will be discussed at a future meeting.

**11. TERMS OF REFERENCE DISCUSSION FOR STATE OF BIODIVERSITY REPORT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY**

The committee made the following comments:

- A consultant should be someone familiar with the ecology of Saanich and should be familiar with CMP; it will be important that the consultant has the time to dedicate to the project.
- The consultant should also have experience consulting with First Nations and traditional ecological knowledge.

- The consultant should have expertise on how the terrestrial environment interacts with the marine environment.
- As part of the Request for Proposal, applicants could be asked to provide samples of previous work.
- A sample Terms of Reference has been provided to staff for information.
- Any other feedback can be sent to staff for consideration.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

August 17, 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