

**MINUTES**  
**RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
Via MS Teams  
**Tuesday, August 17, 2021**

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

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

Regrets: Kevin Brown, Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner

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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 T. Ennis and Seconded by C. Lowe: "That the Agenda for the August 17, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved, as amended."**

- Discussion on the Urban Forest Strategy will be added to the agenda.

**CARRIED**

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by B. Windjack and Seconded by S. Guy: "That the minutes of the July 20, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adopted."**

**CARRIED**

5. **RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil

## 6. **DEBRIEF ON AUGUST 9, 2021 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

The Chair and Councillor Mersereau provided a debrief on the August 9, 2021 Special Council meeting and noted:

- Council voiced the need for First Nations input.
- There is a need for connectivity between Saanich and adjacent jurisdictions.
- There may be grants available to assist with connectivity.
- Council would like regular updates from the RSTC.
- Accurate mapping is a priority of residents.
- Biodiversity needs to be considered in both private and public areas in Saanich.

The committee discussed and made the following comments:

- A high level scan of thematic areas will take place.
- The Mapping Working Group could meet with Council to provide further information.
- A glossary, with key words such as restoration, may be needed.
- Saanich lies within the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone.
- The messaging should be that there are discrepancies in the mapping but that will be corrected.
- It is important to identify emerging trends that are driving change so that they can be responded to.
- The Secretariat could be a co-op student.
- It will be important to clearly outline the Secretariat role.

The Manager of Environmental Services made the following comments based on current inventories:

- 66% of land in Saanich is privately owned and contains 56% of Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) of which 17% is protected.
- 31% of land in Saanich is publically owned and contains 37% of ESAs plus lakes and streams of which 86% is protected.
- 80% of the Coastal Douglas-fir zone is privately owned.

## 7. **DECOLONIZATION OF RSTC DISCUSSION**

The committee made the following comments:

- It may be appropriate to reach out to the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council (WLC) to review the Environmental Framework and provide feedback.
- Saanich is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the WLC for collaboration on a variety of initiatives.

The Manager of Environmental Services made the following comments:

- Attempts to gain a First Nations representative for the committee have not been successful.
- There may be different ways to get feedback from First Nations.

The Senior Manager, Parks made the following comments:

- Saanich is continuing to build relationships with First Nations.
- Staff can arrange a workshop for the committee about cultural safety.

**8. URBAN FOREST WORKING GROUP**

The committee made the following comments:

- A working group could be formed to consider the urban and built environments.
- Urban Forestry is identified in the Environmental Policy Framework as a thematic area.
- An informal interested group of committee members could discuss and bring forward recommendations to the committee.
- Working groups that meet should provide a monthly report to the committee which will be forwarded to Council.

The Senior Manager, Parks made the following comments;

- There is concern with staff capacity to support the working group and that it may be outside the scope of the Terms of Reference.

**9. REPORT OF THE BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP**

The committee made the following comments:

- The Working Group reviewed a list of species that had been categorized “red”, “blue” or Species at Risk (SARA) by the CDC.
- The next step is to group each species into ecosystems to develop targets.
- The Working Group is documenting the steps that are being taken.
- Some pre-work will be done prior to the consultant being hired.

**10. DISCUSSION OF REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR STATE OF BIODIVERSITY AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY**

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

- The overall recommendation is that the Secretariat, the Conservation Measures Study, the State of Biodiversity Report and the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy should be considered as one contract for a consulting team rather than four individual contracts.
- The rationale is that there would be more expertise and consistency, less probability of cross purposes or miscommunication.
- Public engagement would take place during the process.
- It is unclear if the public consultation budget would be spent by the consultant or by staff.
- A caveat could be included in the contract that a contractor would be retained through Milestone 3 should their work in Milestone 2 be satisfactory.

The committee made the following comments:

- The intent would be that the Secretariat person would attend working group and committee meetings and report to the Chair.
- It will be important for the Secretariat to know who they are reporting to.
- The Secretariat should have experience in the following: technical writing, environmental policy, facilitation skills, knowledge of Saanich, working within a similar structure of a Technical Committee and staff.
- The engagement piece will support Milestone 3.
- The contractor should be given flexibility with the budget as long as it is within approved budget.

Action Items:

- The committee could provide further qualifications to staff by Monday, August 23, 2021.
- T. Ennis will wordsmith the TOR for Conservation Measures Study and the TOR for the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and provide to staff.

**MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by B. Wilkes: “That the RSTC approve that staff move forward with the Request for Proposal process to have one contract with a team approach for the Secretariat, the Conservation Measures Study, the State of Biodiversity Report and the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy; that Tim Ennis assist staff with improving the Terms of Reference; and that staff subsequently carry on with the Request for Proposal process.”**

**CARRIED**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by S. Guy: “That the meeting of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adjourned.”**

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

September 16, 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