

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Via MS Teams
Thursday, September 16, 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: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks; Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner, Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; and Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

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

P. Govindarajulu read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by S. Guy: "That the Agenda for the September 16, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved, as amended."

CARRIED

The agenda was amended to add "Updated Vision, Principles, Goals and Objectives.

Councillor Mersereau advised that she would provide an update to the committee on honorariums via email.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

MOVED by J. Gye and Seconded by B. Windjack: "That the minutes of the August 17, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adopted, as amended."

CARRIED

*Note: Some of the items identified in the motion on page 4 in the minutes of August 17, 2021 have been renamed consistent with the Terms of Reference for the consultant.

5. **RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE**

MOVED by B. Windjack and Seconded by K. Brown: “That the correspondence for the September 16, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be received for information.”

CARRIED

6. **DISCUSSION OF GLOSSARY TERMS/DEFINITIONS**

Committee discussion ensued with the following comments:

- If appropriate, definitions that are already in use in Saanich and from other sources could be used.
- For restoration, staff use the definitions from the Society for Ecological Restoration; their definitions tend to be fairly all-encompassing yet definitive.
- Definitions from other pieces of legislation or professional bodies are also used.
- Staff will provide definitions and include the sources of each definitions; the committee will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback.

MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by S. Guy: “That it be recommended that the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee request staff prepare definitions and receive the committee’s comments.”

CARRIED

7. **BIODIVERSITY BRIEF**

K. Brown presented the Biodiversity Brief and the committee made the following comments:

- Comments received from the committee have been incorporated into the Biodiversity Brief.
- It would be appropriate to have First Nations provide advice and historical context.
- It will be important to ensure the Brief is easily understood.

MOVED by B. Windjack and Seconded by C. Lowe: “That it be recommended that the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee request staff review the Biodiversity Brief with attention to where and how the information could most effectively be used and presented in addition to review of the technical information and to report back to the RSTC by the November 2021 meeting.”

CARRIED

8. **BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP REPORT**

T. Ennis provided an update on the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Targets and the committee made the following comments:

- The Working Group has begun identifying conservation targets.
- Targets identified include Coastal Douglas fir forests, Coastal Sand Ecosystems, Garry oak ecosystems, wetlands, lakes and hydriparian systems, marine shorelines, and backyard biodiversity and urban green space.
- There are approximately 200 entities nested within the targets.
- A large piece of land could have multiple polygons on it.
- The State of Biodiversity Report will be an inventory of existing conditions and will be reflective of what is on the ground.

- The next steps would be to look at the key ecological attributes of the targets and the indicators that would be measured.
- The target list does not need to be attached to the Terms of Reference for the consultant although the consultant could be asked to provide input into the target list.
- There may be actions in the backyard diversity target that are directed towards land owners.
- Committee members are encouraged to provide feedback to the Working Group.

9. **MAPPING – STEWARDSHIP WORKING GROUP REPORT**

B. Wilkes provided an update on the Mapping-Stewardship Working Group and the committee made the following comments:

- The link between the two working groups is mapping areas where local stewardship is a priority, i.e. parks volunteers.
- More discussion is needed on stewardship.
- It may be appropriate to map ecosystem services and First Nations significant areas.
- The list of recommendations from the Working Group will be compiled and sent to the committee for consideration.

10. **DISCUSSION ON TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MILESTONE 2 AND 3 CONSULTANTS**

The Manager of Environmental Services presented the Terms of Reference for the consultant for Milestones 2 and 3 and committee members made the following comments:

- The term “Secretariat” will be changed to “Project Coordinator”.
- The Project Coordinator would work 15 hours per week.
- It may not be necessary for the Project Coordinator to attend all meetings.
- The intent is that the Project Coordinator would support the RSTC Chair.
- The consultant should be made aware that meetings take place outside regular business hours.
- The Project Coordinator should have experience in doing research and facilitation and have experience with First Nations consultation or collaboration.
- The Project Coordinator should have access to the entire RSTC, not just the Chair.
- The consultant would be required to do site visits to familiarize themselves with the quality and types of landscaping in Saanich.
- The timeline for Milestone 3 is extremely tight.
- The consultant may have suggestions on how to move forward within timelines.
- Council would have to approve any changes to the timelines.

11. **UPDATED VISION, PRINCIPLES, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- Kim Walker has been contracted to re-write the vision, principles, goals and objectives.
- A workshop has been proposed to take the work undertaken, feedback from the public and re-write the vision, principles, goals and objectives.
- A half day workshop will be scheduled on a Saturday in October or November.
- The committee is requested to provide feedback to Tory by Tuesday, September 21, 2021.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by J. Gye and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the meeting of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adjourned."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

October 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Teams.

Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary