

**MINUTES**  
**RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
To be Held in Council Chambers  
Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue  
**Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

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. Windjack and Seconded by S. Guy: "That the Agenda for the October 26, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved, as amended."**

**CARRIED**

It was requested that items 6 and 10 be discussed together.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by C. Lowe: "That the minutes of the September 16, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adopted."**

**CARRIED**

5. **RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE**

**MOVED by S. Guy and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the correspondence for the October 26, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be received for information."**

**CARRIED**

**6. UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL LIAISON ON COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE CHANGES**

Councillor Mersereau advised that:

- Saanich is looking at opportunities to work with the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council (WLC).
- The extension of the timelines in the Terms of Reference have been approved by Council.

**7. UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR – WORK PLAN UPDATE**

The Chair prepared a list of tasks for Milestone 2. The list will be updated as the committee makes progress.

**8. UPDATES FROM STAFF**

The Senior Manager, Parks provided an update as follows:

- Saanich won the Digital Communications Award for the Natural Intelligence campaign.
- The next field trip will be on October 29<sup>th</sup> at Cuthbert Holmes Park.
- With respect to cultural safety training, First Nations Elders would like to attend the next meeting to meet the committee and to talk about the process.

The Manager of Environmental Services provided an update as follows:

- K. Walker, consultant, has had meetings with staff, the committee Chair and Council Liaison, has been reading through correspondence and reviewing the Official Community Plan, Strategic Plan and other relevant documents which will give context to the vision and goals for Resilient Saanich.
- She has also looked at how other municipalities have communicated their goals and objectives.
- K. Walker proposes that the objectives be nested under the goals.
- Clustering principles together may make the document easier to read.
- The contractor has requested time at the November meeting to present.
- A letter has been sent to the WLC asking if they would like to hear a presentation with respect to Resilient Saanich; letters have also been sent to the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations to ask if they are interested in being involved.
- The Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services is looking at potential First Nations' involvement in reviewing the goals and objectives.
- There are funds available for honorariums for First Nations membership and involvement.

Committee discussion ensued with the following comments:

- It would be helpful to be able to review the document from the consultant prior to discussion.
- The principles should serve as policy filters.
- A small committee could work with the consultant to come up with an infographic.
- It is appropriate to partner with First Nations and continue to reach out with respect to membership on the committee.

Councillor Mersereau stated:

- The consultant that is to be hired will have expertise in working with First Nations.

## 9. MARINE SHORELINE INVENTORY

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- Marine shoreline mapping is twenty years old.
- The Capital Regional District (CRD) has proceeded with mapping from Albert Head to the Ogden Point Breakwater which includes the Gorge and Portage Inlet in Saanich.
- A verification audit of the classification of the data will take place.
- First Nations engagement is included.
- There will be a workshop to develop criteria and ecological ratings.
- The consultant will deliver an atlas-ready final product.
- The cost incurred for this work equates to \$2,573 per km of shoreline; Saanich has 26.5 km of shoreline not included in this study.
- Funding could be requested to pay for the additional shoreline mapping.
- The committee offered to help staff with a presentation to Council on what the information could and would be used for.
- The Urban Forest Land Cover Mapping update has been completed and includes better riparian information.

Committee discussion ensued with the following comments:

- The recommendations from the Manager of Environmental Services coalesce well with those of the Mapping Work Group.
- There may be partnerships and funding available from outside organizations.
- The Province and CRD are already coordinating shoreline inundation and flooding mappings that forecasted sea level rise and coastal flooding.

## 10. UPDATE FROM MAPPING WORKING GROUP

B. Wilkes and C. Lowe stated:

- Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM) looks at the terrain and classifies land, soil and plants; Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) uses air photo interpretation to delineate ecological communities.
- There is a need to have a consistent approach to mapping across larger boundaries.
- Accurate maps will be the core of the Biodiversity Strategy, stewardship programs and monitoring.
- The Working Group recommends updating SEI maps using established methods and that maps be detailed enough to guide land use decisions and rehabilitation efforts.
- The updated mapping could be done in stages.
- SEI mapping was originally initiated by the Federal and Provincial governments as a tool for local governments to be able to put in place regulations to keep polygons from being lost to development.
- A Stewardship Certification Program may be considered to ensure developers are aware of conservation principles and approaches.

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- The GIS Analyst has been inputting SEI inventory data into GIS.

**MOVED by C. Lowe and Seconded by J. Gye: “That it be recommended that the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee direct staff to present Council with a request for funding in 2022 to complete mapping of Saanich’s marine shoreline, using the same methodology as the recent marine shoreline mapping commissioned by the Capital Regional District for the Gorge Waterway and other selected coastal areas.”**

**CARRIED**

#### 11. MILESTONE 2/3 – CONTRACT UPDATE

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- Council approved the extended timeline in the Terms of Reference to the end of March 2023.
- Meetings with First Nations and additional engagement have been added to the timelines.
- It is necessary to ensure First Nations input is included in the deliverables.
- The WLC will determine their level of engagement.

Committee discussion ensued with the following comments:

- The thematic areas are important and are not included in the Terms of Reference for the procurement document for the consultant.
- K. Walker should address the thematic areas in her work.
- There are opportunities to bring enhanced stewardship to Saanich.
- Indigenous led tours may be appropriate.
- The conservation standards include a module to incorporate Indigenous values.

**MOVED by S. Guy and Seconded by P. Govindarajulu: “That the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee endorse the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for Milestones 2 and 3 Consultant Team with an edit to page 2 as follows: “Resilient Saanich will include the Climate Plan (2020), a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, an enhanced stewardship program and other coordinated policies and programs.”**

**CARRIED**

#### 12. UPDATE FROM BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

T. Ennis stated:

- The working group has come up with a working list of targets.
- The next step is to determine the key ecological attributes of targets.
- Once that is done, the group will look at indicators.

#### 13. ADJOURNMENT

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

November 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

---

Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

---

Committee Secretary