

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
Held in Council Chambers
Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue
Saturday, December 11, 2021

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

Staff: Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

Guests: Kim Walker, consultant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. WELCOME AND WORKSHOP ORIENTATION

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

The committee made the following comments:

- The initial goal of the committee was to develop the goals and objectives.
- Time was spent developing the vision and principles as well.
- The Environmental Policy Framework is an umbrella framework intended to unify policies and programs.
- Policies and programs are at the implementation level (thematic).

The consultant made the following comments;

- Stakeholder feedback was reviewed to identify gaps and whether or not the information can be understood.
- There may be ideas from the committee that were missed in the draft revisions.

The consultant commented that the objectives of this workshop are to:

- Bring the committee up to speed on the review and revisions process.
- Establish a common understanding of the vision, principles, goals and objectives.
- Discuss the revisions in depth.
- Provide feedback to the consultant.

3. OVERVIEW OF REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

Vision

The committee made the following comments:

- The summary of stakeholder feedback was useful.
- The stakeholder feedback should be reviewed by the committee for comments related to thematic plans.

- The vision could be replaced with an introduction, policy context, statement of purpose and a brief description of what Resilient Saanich means.
- The date 2030 is not far off; it may be more appropriate to consider short, medium and long term visions and goals.
- The document should be written in a clear, concise manner that gets the point across.
- It will be important to consider who the audience is.
- The committee concurred that the consultant not do any further work on the Vision.

T. Stevens will re-send the letter that went to Council at the August meeting.

Committee members filled out a poll in preparation for the workshop with the following results: "Is the Vision essential to the Environmental Policy Framework?"

The results were: Yes (3), No (3), Not sure (2)

The consultant made the following comments:

- Dates should be moved to the "goals" or "objectives" as they are measurable.
- The dates may not meld with the Climate Action goals.
- There may be First Nations groups that are not included.
- All Saanich policies tend to have "visions"; the message may be diluted when there are so many.
- The intent of the Vision is to inspire and direct.
- It is important to have a purpose and context statement.

The committee made the following comments:

- Staff could provide historical context for the document.

Principles

The committee made the following comments:

- There may be a need to explain items further to make them understandable and clearer.
- P10 and P6 are not clear.
- Policy filters are useful but do not cover the intangibles
- First Nations input will be reviewed when it becomes available.
- The principles were refined based on the feedback from stakeholders and common themes.
- The principles are a guiding policy to filter or to assess how well a particular strategy, bylaw or programs fits under the Environmental Policy Framework.

The consultant made the following comments:

- The principles were refined based on feedback from stakeholders.
- Stakeholder feedback was positive.

The committee reviewed each principle and the feedback received for each principle. It was the consensus of the committee that each member would take on one principle and provide additional descriptions and suggestions. The following comments were made:

Revision A List

P1 (P. Govindarajulu)

- Drop the word "intrinsic". Consider replacing it with "essential".
- Change to "recognize that nature has value"
- Clarify what "value" means

- A value statement may help.
- The right of nature to exist outside of human values.

P8 (T. Ennis)

- There were two different takes on what it meant from the focus groups on what it meant.
- Revisions KEA could be the descriptor
- Ecological “functions, structure and composition”. The list of structure.

P9 (T. Stevens)

- The phrase “all that we do” is vague and all encompassing.
- Could be part of the descriptor
- Adaptation left out.
- No matter what Saanich does – use the principles as a baseline for decisions.

P2 (K. Porttris)

- Strong support for including Indigenous voices
- The focus seems to be on traditional land uses – how to manage the land.
- Relationship with the land – sense of place.
- Need to go beyond respect – collaboratively – have Indigenous re-write in a way that is appropriate.
- It is important that we keep learning and listening. Need to be clear what respect means to indigenous communities.
- How is Saanich going to implement this from a practitioner’s point of view?
- Do not want it to become restrictive or political.
- Indigenous people want to be heard.

NEXT MEETING

An additional meeting will be held on December 16, 2021 to finalize the workshop.

Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary