

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

Held in Council Chambers
Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue
Thursday, December 16, 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: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks and Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

Guests: Kim Walker, consultant/facilitator

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Continuation of the December 11, 2021 Workshop

Councillor Mersereau read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by C. Lowe: "That the agenda of the December 16, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved, as amended."

CARRIED

The agenda was amended to allow continuation of the agenda from the December 11, 2021 RSTC meeting. The items listed on the proposed agenda for December 16, 2021 will be considered at the January 25, 2022 meeting.

CONTINUATION OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2021 WORKSHOP

3. PRINCIPLES

P3 & P6

- Vague statement but is important to consider that what we do now does not hinder what we do in the future.
- Unless we have a good understanding of where we are now, it will be hard to move forward and learn from our mistakes.
- Future generations includes all life; where habitat and landscapes change over time.
- It is important to consider a "do no harm" approach or taking positive effects to reduce impacts on future generations; it will also be important to consider foundational knowledge of the ecological state.
- New residents to Saanich, including those not yet born, may mean shifting baselines, new norms, lost memories as conditions change.
- Change "community resilience" to "resilience".

- In terms of climate change, what lies ahead will be unprecedented.
- P6 is vague; revise it to read “historical ecological conditions”.
- It may be appropriate to include small descriptors of the goals.
- Err on the side of simplicity in the writing.
- Some prefer keeping the principles separate and are not comfortable stating a time line.

The consultant made the following comments:

- The final draft will include the revised principles based on feedback from the committee.
- The committee will have the opportunity to endorse the final draft revisions.

P4 & 5

- Science can be slow and may not always be the answer.
- It is important to have evidence-based decision-making from legitimate sources.
- There is a difference between science-based and evidence-based.
- Evidence-based is critical; it is about placemaking and how you feel about a space.
- Multi-knowledge streams should inform this principle.
- Footnotes could be included to explain what is evidence-based.
- Change “decision-making” to “environmental management”.
- Language is needed that explains the principles in a more fulsome manner.
- When you have a knowledge gap, you should attempt to fill it; precautionary principle is often misunderstood.
- Need to use the knowledge we have; doing nothing is not the answer.
- Evidence-based includes science/data, policy and practice.

The consultant made the following comments:

- Decision-making should be defensible, rigorous and based on sound knowledge.

P7

- There may be other factors in determining strong leadership.
- Saanich should take an active approach.
- It will be important to do something well before something new is initiated.
- Leadership means taking initiative and bold action.
- Use “demonstrate strong leadership with courage, initiative and commitment”.
- “Strong leadership” is preferable over “active leadership”.
- It may be appropriate to combine P7 and P10.

P10

- It is important to ensure that cultural and diverse voices were heard; everyone benefits from diversity and inclusion.
- Change to “work to encourage partnerships”.
- Change “collaborate” to “partnerships”; it will be important to nurture partnerships that support a full range of private, public and not-for-profit stakeholders as environmental stewards.
- Some like collaborate, some recommend cooperate; some like both partnership and collaboration.
- Collaborating means rolling up your sleeves; partner is more like a funder.
- Partnerships should be sought to build capacity.
- Environmental degradation is impacting marginalized residents; it will be important to ensure they are adequately consulted.
- Change “support” to “promote”.
- Diverse interests goes beyond culture and gender, climate justice, environmental justice.

P11

- Add “socio economic status”.
- A glossary of terms or footnotes may be needed.
- Change to “Design and manage municipal governance tools, services and land uses that are safe, equitable and inclusive”, or, “welcoming of everyone”.
- This new principle addresses our original intention in P10 regarding “diverse interests”.
- It is appropriate to look at how the municipality is currently operating and what values tend to be predominant; what would need to be done to change in order to see values representative of the way the municipality does business.

P12

- Citizen-led initiatives are encouraged.
- The term to use is “citizen science” instead of research.
- There may be a way to do this in a way to build community capacity.
- P12 reads more like an objective.

4, **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The consultant made the following comments:

- There is not much time left; committee members can submit written feedback.
- A question has been raised regarding what the whole EPF document would look like; the goals and objectives are closely linked to this question as well as additional work required on the themes.
- The draft revisions of goals and objectives incorporated goal-related statements from the revised RSTC Terms of Reference.
- Other municipalities’ frameworks are much more in depth.
- The preliminary poll for the workshop showed a general preference to nest objectives under goals.
- Stakeholders feedback includes:
 - o Didn’t see private land incorporated into the goals and objectives.
 - o How will other priorities be addressed?
 - o Get landowners excited about positive action.
 - o Objectives read like a goal.
 - o Separate goals for private versus public land as they will be managed differently.

The committee made the following comments:

- Don’t lose “protect and restore” under G1.
- The goals and objectives should speak to the Environmental Policy Framework (EPF).
- Themes pick up the specific environmental goals and objectives.
- The Biodiversity Strategy is a theme; the Climate Plan is also a theme.
- The “3 pillars” are: biodiversity, climate action and stewardship.
- The goal of the EPF is to answer the question - what is the problem for which the EPF is a solution and needs to be strategic.
- Do we need objectives?

5. **NEXT STEPS**

The consultant made the following comments:

- The deadline is Jan 7th for the draft and summary document.
- The package will include explanatory notes.

- The RSTC will receive the final report and will have the opportunity either endorse the report or not.
- The preliminary list of thematic plans needs more work.

NEXT MEETING

The next week will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary