

MINUTES
Resilient Saanich Technical Committee
Via Microsoft Teams
January 25, 2022

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

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager of Parks; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner; Nicole Barrett, Environmental GIS Analyst; Nancy Chaggar, Senior Committee Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

3. **SELECTION OF NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Tory Stevens was appointed as Chair for the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee for a term of six months.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by S. Guy: “That the minutes of the November 23, 2021, Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be adopted as amended.”

CARRIED

The word “document”, page 3 item 9, was replaced with “Biodiversity Brief”.

MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by B. Wilkes: “That the minutes of the December 11, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee workshop be adopted as amended.”

CARRIED

“kiA” was replaced with “KEA”, page 3 P8.

MOVED by C. Lowe and Seconded by K. Brown: “That the minutes of the December 16, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee workshop be adopted as amended.”

CARRIED

The words “the principles” were struck from item 4, in the fifth bullet point under the committee comments.

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by J. Guy: "That the Agenda for the January 25, 2022 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved as amended."

CARRIED

- Selection of the Committee Chair was moved to the top of the Agenda.
- The Report of Mapping/Stewardship Working Group was moved to come after the discussion of Saanich GIS Mapping.
- Formation of a Stewardship Working Group was added as a new item to be discussed along with the Formation of Environmental Policy Framework Working Group.

6. **RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE**

MOVED by S. Guy and Seconded by J. Gye: "That the correspondence be received for information."

CARRIED

7. **UPDATE ON FIRST NATIONS INITIATIVES (Cultural Safety Training, WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council)**

The Chair provided the following update:

- A "listen and learn" will be held in February.
- The Cultural Safety Training will be conducted by Roundtable Consulting on February 28 and March 1, 2022.

8. **UPDATE ON CONTRACTS: GOALS & OBJECTIVES (Milestones 2 & 3 RFP)**

The Manager of Environmental Services provided an update and the following was noted:

- Kim Walker is working on the final report and it will be sent to the Committee once available. The report will be added on a future RSTC Agenda for discussion.
- The RFP process for the Milestone 2 & 3 contract closed last week. Staff are in discussions with Purchasing and will update the committee as soon as they are able to.

9. **DISCUSSION OF SAANICH GIS MAPPING**

The Environmental GIS Analyst presented "Saanich Environmental Mapping" (PowerPoint on file) and the following was noted:

- Green roofs were not considered part of the Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI).
- SEI Data set was released in 1997 but was based on orthophoto imagery from 1993.
- The 43.2 hectares of sensitive ecosystems lost to disturbance refers to the entire data set within Saanich.
- Woodland (WD) is broad and includes Garry Oak and associated ecosystems in the Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM).
- Criteria for tree planting potential in the Land Cover Classification mapping include proximity to buildings, types of surfaces (soil vs. rocky), soil moisture, and underground utilities.
- The Manager of Environmental Services will report back on the potential to include ecosystem services in the Land Cover Classification mapping.
- In an urban context, the size of the polygon patch should not be one of the top criteria

for assessment of ecological integrity; it would be reflected in landscape context and condition of polygons.

- It is difficult to get accurate precision when working strictly off orthophotos. Access to LiDAR data may enable capabilities for polygon delineation and attribution.

10. **REPORT OF MAPPING/STEWARDSHIP WORKING GROUP**

B. Wilkes reported on Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) sites (PowerPoint on file) and the following was noted:

- Biologists have reported that some of the sites shown in the presentation are SEI.
- There is a request in with the IT department to change the attributes and include more information/interpretation.
- Planning can look at breaking down Woodland (WD) categories in Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM) to clarify them further.
- It is believed that the TEM layer is more reliable than the SEI layer.
- The conversation around empirical veracity of SEI is not meant to diminish the value of parcels that do not rise to the standard of a genuine sensitive ecosystem.
- Restoration potential is important.
- The biodiversity conservation strategy will help inform what type of mapping is going to be most helpful.
- It was suggested that TEM mapping be updated outside of the Urban Containment Boundary area, and that ground-truthing be maximized where possible.
- SEI is just one database and the Saanich Ecosystem Mapping (SEM) combines attributes from different databases and maps areas of significance.
- The Committee was reluctant to move forward without a written report supporting the recommendations.

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by B. Wilkes: “That the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee recommends that the Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping be updated outside the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB), and parks and other lands that have natural or near natural areas within the UCB, using at least 50-75% level of ground-truthing recommended to achieve municipal planning and environmental protection objectives.”

The Motion was then Put and TABLED

11. **DISCUSSION OF SAANICH NATURESCAPING PROGRAM**

The Manager of Environmental Services presented to the Committee on the Saanich Naturescape Program (PowerPoint on file). The Chair recommended that the Stewardship working group respond.

12. **REPORT OF BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP**

K. Brown reported to the Committee on feedback provided regarding the Biodiversity Brief and the following was noted:

- Environmental Services and Parks provided written revisions.
- The definitions of biodiversity were for discussion purposes and should not be put in the glossary.
- The audience (Council, Staff, RSTC and the public) should be considered and the Brief should be simplified accordingly.
- K. Brown will file the Brief with staff comments in the shared drive for the Committee’s review.

13. FORMATION OF WORKING GROUPS

- The existing Mapping working group will carry on.
- The following two new working groups will be created:
 1. Stewardship working group:
 - B. Windjack
 - C. Lowe (to take on group leadership)
 - T. Ennis
 2. Environmental Policy Framework working group:
 - J. Gye
 - T. Stevens
 - P. Govindarajulu
 - S. Guy

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary