

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Via Microsoft Teams
November 17, 2022

Present: Tory Stevens (Chair); Kevin Brown; Purnima Govindarajulu; Chris Lowe; Stewart Guy; Jeremy Gye; Tim Ennis; Bev Windjack; and Brian Wilkes

Guests: Judith Cullington and Carly Bilney (Secretariats)

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager of Parks; Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability; Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner; and Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

T. Stevens read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by J. Gye and Seconded by S. Guy: "That the Agenda for the November 17, 2022, Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be approved as amended."

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by S. Guy: "That the minutes of the October 20, 2022 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

INTRODUCTION OF SECRETARIAT TO RSTC

The Senior Manager of Parks introduced the Secretariat, Judith Cullington and Carly Bilney of JCA Judith Cullington & Associates, who will be focusing on the Environmental Policy Framework and other initiatives. Judith provided information on previous initiatives, and roundtable introductions of committee members took place.

UPDATE ON DIAMOND HEAD CONSULTING MAPPING

The Senior Manager of Parks led a discussion on the Diamond Head Consulting Mapping. The following was noted:

- The draft maps have been distributed. The Capital Regional District (CRD) has requested that the Condition Assessment Map is not displayed publicly. They have requested that the document is kept as background/technical information.
- Publishing this information may be more problematic than beneficial.
- Francis King/Bear Hill is not shown clearly on the map.
- There are still issues around the condition mapping and accuracy of mapping.
- The Biodiversity Ranking Map would be a better map for public display.
- The committee will take time to review the maps and advise the Chair and Staff if there are comments on what should be displayed.
- It is important that the maps are accurate, concerns about inaccuracies need to be addressed with DHC as soon as possible. An example of Mt. Tolmie being considered “fair” despite being worn to bare rock from foot traffic was given.
- Knockan Hill was also discussed as being inaccurate due to invasives.
- There are 4 combined factors to determine the biodiversity ranking. The combination of these factors determines the condition. More time is needed to review the weighting factors as they relate to each area.
- The mapping working group will gather to discuss the maps in more detail, a couple field visits will be made to compare random point samples of actual sites to the maps.

DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FILTER

The Manager of Sustainability attended to obtain clarification on the intended use of the Draft Environmental Policy Filter. During discussion with the committee, the following was noted:

- A request was made to have the Environmental Policy Filter tested against existing policies and procedures.
- There are a multitude of programs and policies in Saanich, a better definition of what the Environmental Policy Filter will be used for would be useful as there are many policies (such as Human Resources) or programs where this would not be applicable. Is the intention for senior policy makers to implement this while preparing report recommendations to Council, or will this be used at a more operational level?
- The Environmental Policy Filter was designed as an evaluation framework to guide decision making.
- Some policies may have no relevance to certain aspects of the Environmental Policy Filter, some may have more. The intention of creating this was primarily for environmental policies.
- Council requested this filter; it will be useful for Council to have the information to help them make policy related decisions.
- There are benefits to focus on policies outside explicit environmental policies and operational level details. A top-down approach starting with the Official Community Plan would make sense as lower-level framework will then need to be consistent.
- Removing the numerical scoring values would remove the performative value.
- When difficult decisions are brought forward for Council to consider, this common set of principles and parameters will help evaluate the decision.
- The filter will bring consistency and transparency while standardizing the criteria for all policies and framework it is applied to.
- Embedding this design into guiding documents will be beneficial in many aspects.

- Cross-departmental evaluation is complex as the level of detail is challenging with a scoring matrix. Embedding these tools in the creation of policies could add more value than a scoring piece once the policy is already created.
- This matrix could be useful to evaluate a major project such as the Shelbourne Corridor as a case study to see how effective it is.
- Concerns were noted that project managers using an evaluation matrix may feel uncomfortable doing so, as different scores would be inevitable between users.
- If a proposed policy or program does not score well, then there is a potential to change it before it is approved by Council.
- Examining how different departments fit into the ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FILTER to gain understanding on how the tool can be used would be beneficial for the committee.
- Staff will examine the Active Transportation Plan to see how it scores with the filter.
- Implementing specific questions and objectives at the onset of the creation of plans will help to improve the outcome. Having the specific intentions clear is valuable.

UPDATE ON WORKSHOP WITH W̱SÁNEĆ COMMUNITIES

The Manager of Parks gave an update on a workshop with W̱SÁNEĆ communities

- The workshop was moved from November 15 to November 29th.
- Committee members were asked to confirm if they can attend.
- Staff will provide the address via email to the committee.
- Dr. Thom will provide assistance facilitating. He has helped build communication between the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council and Saanich Council, as well as input on the Cordova Bay Local Area Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- This will be a deeper dive into the principals of the MOU, clarification on what fulfilling the principals looks like will be an important aspect of the discussion.
- A discussion on food security and availability of traditional foods will likely take place.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from Purnima, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

