

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Via Microsoft Teams
December 15, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

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

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 T. Ennis and Seconded by B. Wilkes: "That the Agenda for the December 15, 2022, Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be approved."

During discussion the following was noted:

- Items 5 & 9 were removed from the agenda, to be rescheduled for a later date.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by S. Guy: "That the minutes of the November 17, 2022 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be adopted, as amended."

CARRIED

RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED by S. Guy and Seconded by B. Wilkes: "That the memo of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee dated December 1, 2022 and the response memo from Diamond Head Consulting dated December 15, 2022 be received for information."

CARRIED

UPDATE BY SECRETARIAT TO RSTC

J. Cullington and C. Bilney of JCA Judith Cullington & Associates advised that they met with the working group to discuss the Environmental Policy Framework.

FACILITATED SESSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK (EPF) QUESTIONS

The Secretariat led the discussion and the following was noted:

- A short piece on what is meant by Resilient Saanich should be included in the document.
- The document should also include the purpose, scope and guiding principles, a list of the policies and programs within Saanich that was considered within the filter of the EPF and the results of the gap analysis.

Questions for committee:

Who is the audience?

- Residents of Saanich, Council and staff.
- The development community and consultants.

What does success look like?

- The Official Community Plan must articulate what the EPF is about.
- The EPF outlines the expectations of Saanich in terms of development and stewardship.
- Success is when staff at all levels have embraced the policy, when decision making considers the EPF and when other policies and programs are not contradictory.
- Success is also when environmental policies are clear, and the public understands how and why they were developed.
- When environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation permeates all actions and decision making in Saanich that will show that the EPF was successful.

How important is telling the story of the Environmental Development Permit Area (EDPA) and why it crashed? Is it important to have the details in the main document? What is the prominence of the history?

- The EDPA only applied to development applications; there is a need to look through an environmental lens on all programs within Saanich.
- There is also a need to incentivize stewardship.
- This is a fresh step forward; it may not be helpful to look back at past practices.
- Minimal reference to the EDPA may help to put the work on the EPF into context.

Is there anything missing from the Table of Contents?

- The document should articulate how the policy will cross over into the different departments within the organization.
- It could include a list of the cross departmental work currently being undertaken.
- There needs to be a description on how the EPF is intended to be used.
- The thematic plans and SMART goals/objectives should be included.

- The EPF is the overarching policy; the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, the Climate Action Plan and the Urban Forest Strategy fall under it.
- A graphic could show the EPF and how the other policies connect to it.
- A statement advising that the EPF applies to both private and public lands should be included.
- Guiding principle 2 could read “Respect and include Indigenous values, knowledge and perspectives in decisions”.
- The precautionary principle could be a standalone principle.
- Footnotes could be added to link to documents to substantiate any statements.
- The EFP will become Saanich’s goals.
- The goal of the framework is to foster complementary and coordinated policies.

An updated draft EPF will be prepared and provided for discussion at a future meeting.

UPDATE ON DIAMOND HEAD CONSULTING STATE OF BIODIVERSITY REPORT

The Senior Manager, Parks provided an update on the progress on the State of Biodiversity Report and the following was noted:

- A first draft of the report will tentatively be ready in January 2023.
- It will be provided to the committee for comment once it has been reviewed by staff to ensure it meets contract obligations.
- The report will outline the existing state of biodiversity in Saanich.
- It will be the starting point for public engagement.

STAFF REVIEW OF STEWARDSHIP WORKING GROUP SUMMARY

The Senior Manager, Parks answered questions from the committee and the following was noted:

- Clarification is needed on what enhanced stewardship means and what opportunities there are for enhanced stewardship.
- The committee could provide ideas on what types of stewardship work they have seen in other municipalities that could be considered by Saanich.
- Stewardship opportunities should be available for both private and public lands.
- There may be a need for additional funding or to reallocate resources for enhanced stewardship.

The committee was asked to provide any updates or revisions to C. Lowe within the next three weeks and a revised version will be provided at the February meeting.

UPDATE ON WORKSHOP WITH WSÁNEĆ COMMUNITIES

The Senior Manager, Parks provided an update on the workshop with the WSÁNEĆ communities, and the following was noted:

- The workshop was re-scheduled to January 12, 2023.
- It is hoped that the conversation will be around strategic actions.

The committee was asked to advise T. Stevens of their availability to attend the meeting.

REVIEW OF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (ENVIRONMENT SECTION)

Discussion took place and the following was noted:

- Reviewing the Environment Section of the Climate Action Plan is the last item for the committee to look at as per the Terms of Reference.
- The policy filter could be applied to the Environment Section as part of the beta testing of the filter.

COMMITTEE CHAIR

T. Stevens advised that this was her last meeting as Chair. Appointment of a new Chair will be discussed at the January meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from P. Govindarajulu, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary