

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Via Microsoft Teams
February 22, 2022

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

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager of Parks; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner; Carolyn Richman, Environmental Education Officer; and Nancy Chaggar, Senior Committee Clerk.

Guest(s): Elder Eric Pelkey.

Regrets: Jeremy Gye; Kear Porttris.

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. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by B. Windjack and Seconded by C. Lowe: "That the Agenda for the February 22, 2022 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be approved."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by B. Windjack and Seconded by T. Ennis: "That the minutes of the January 25, 2022, Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

- Add the following bullet point to page 3, item 10: "The Committee was reluctant to move forward without a written report supporting the recommendations."

5. RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by C. Lowe: "That the correspondence be received for information."

CARRIED

6. **W̱SÁNEĆ LEADERSHIP COUNCIL PRESENTATION**

Elder Eric Pelkey presented to the Committee on the history of the W̱SÁNEĆ people and the following was noted:

- W̱SÁNEĆ had a far reaching territory prior to colonization.
- 10,000 years ago, the land flooded significantly to the point that ŁÁU (Mount Newton) was covered with water. The water eventually diminished and the Creator told the people that the emerging land would be called W̱SÁNEĆ. This is how the Nation and territory got their name. When the colonial settlers arrived and asked what the name of the territory was, they were not able to pronounce W̱SÁNEĆ and called it “Saanich”.
- The W̱SÁNEĆ people are still here and continue to occupy the land.
- In 1852 the peace treaty was initiated as a result of conflict between colonial settlers (Sir James Douglas) and the W̱SÁNEĆ people. The parties met atop PKOLS mountain ready for war. A priest missionary helped to calm the conflict and there was an understanding that there would be an agreement for peace: the village and way of life of the W̱SÁNEĆ people would be honoured. However, there were misunderstandings and the treaty was not honoured.
- This is still a matter of negotiations with the Crown.
- The District recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council which outlines a number of intended future co-operations related to environmental values.

7. **UPDATE ON CONTRACTS: MILESTONES 2 & 3 RFQ**

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

- There was high interest in the RFQ but no bids were received.
- The plan moving forward is to approach consultants who were interested in the contract and ask them to provide a scope of work for the first phase which is the State of Biodiversity report.
- A second RFQ will be issued for the balance of the work which is the project coordinator and the biodiversity conservation strategy.
- This means there will be a delay in having the project coordinator available to support the work plan.
- Obligations have been met because the RFQ process was followed. This leaves room for flexibility moving forward.
- The Committee should consider recommendations for alternate methodology.
- It was determined that interested companies had capacity issues and that the project coordinator position had too many hours.
- Breaking up the project as described may solve some of the problems.
- There should be consistency in methodologies used for the state of biodiversity and conservation strategy.
- It is important to remain open and see what other methodologies there might be.
- The Committee may state their preference for the Conservation Standards methodology being used.
- Discussions around options for the project coordinator contract ensued.
- Skillset for project coordination is vastly different than biology skillset.

MOVED by T. Stevens and seconded by S. Guy: “That the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee recommends that the contract be split into two: The first piece being the state of biodiversity report with a recommendation that Conservation Standards be used as the first choice (but open to other methodologies), and the second contract, which can be led simultaneously, includes the project coordination and development of the biodiversity conservation strategy which will build on the state of biodiversity report and the methodology used.”

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

8. REPORT OF STEWARDSHIP WORKING GROUP

C. Lowe provided an update and the following was noted:

- The scheduled meeting for last week did not occur.
- A meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 24 and an update will be provided at the March 22 RSTC meeting.

9. REPORT OF MAPPING WORKING GROUP

B. Wilkes provided an update and the following was noted:

- The focus has been on SEI and ESA polygons including Saanich ecosystem mapping polygons.
- The maps should reflect the areas of the most important biodiversity in Saanich.
- It was agreed that the mapping needs to be updated to correct errors and to include areas that are not currently mapped.
- TEM mapping would be the best option for rural Saanich.
- A combination of mapping tools is needed to address the landscapes of value inside the Urban Containment Boundary.
- The Saanich ecosystem mapping method has some definition and science problems. The working group is still working on finding conclusions for this.
- It was suggested that the District add a natural assets layer to capture the role of various ecosystem types.
- The environmental services provided by healthy and intact ecosystems have measurable financial benefits.
- The working group will prepare a report with recommendations for the Committee's consideration.

10. REPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK WORKING GROUP

The Chair, K. Brown, and S. Guy provided an update and the following was noted:

- The goals and objectives put into the framework need to apply to the whole body of environmental policy in Saanich. An agreement with Staff should be established.
- A draft incorporating previous work as well as discussions from the working group is in the works and will be brought to the committee when review by the working group is complete.
- The framework should demonstrate how environment, impacts, and policy are linked together.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by S. Guy: "That the meeting of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adjourned."

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

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

Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary