

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Via Microsoft Teams
January 19, 2023 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:

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 & ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Committee Clerk called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m and asked for nominations for the Chair. T. Stevens was nominated as Chair for the term from January 2023 – June 2023 and accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made.

T. Stevens assumed the role of Chair.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

Councillor Z. de Vries read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by T. Ennis: “That the Agenda for the January 19, 2023, Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by S. Guy: “That the minutes of the December 15, 2022 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be adopted.”

CARRIED

INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE – COUNCILLOR ZAC DE VRIES

The Chair introduced the new Council Liaison to the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee, Councillor Zac de Vries. The committee welcomed the new Council Liaison and roundtable introductions of members took place.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FILTER

The Chair gave an overview of the recent work done by the Environmental Policy Filter working group and the Manager of Sustainability to analyse the filter. The following was noted:

- The working group and Staff worked to apply the Environmental Policy Filter to the Climate Plan to identify what filter areas work well and what needs improvement.
- Applying the filter to the already existing plan is a slow process.
- There is benefit to having the principles of the filter used to build plans and policies.
- Some areas of the filter do not apply to this plan, overall the filter can be difficult to use but the context and information gathered while doing the exercise was valuable.
- The exercise was helpful as it allowed the working group to identify filter areas which will require further refinement, for example the scoring system could be improved.
- Once Staff become familiar with the document and use it repeatedly, they will become more aware of the desired outcomes. This will mean that the plans and policies created will become more aligned with the desired outcomes of the filter.
- There are benefits to having a third party apply the filter, it should not be judged by the person/people creating the document.
- The objective is to have ideas that support the principles engrained in every document, policy and plan to move forward with common goals to support a resilient Saanich.
- Using the filter as a tool to help develop policies will be the most helpful process.
- The filter can be used widely across the District. The hope is that it can be used from the top to help members of Council when they consider decisions and impacts on the environment, all the way down to individual employees in the field.
- Having a standardized document may also help developers to plan their proposals in a way that ensures Council and the community will be supportive as it minimizes impacts.
- Big projects planned by the District, such as the Shelbourne Valley Action Plan could be analyzed and have the filter applied during the design phase to allow for more consideration to be made for the environment along the way.
- Each department can apply the filter to their work in a different way with the common goal of increasing awareness and consideration of potential environmental impacts.
- A column was added to the filter to keep track of the score and rationale.
- Each person involved completed the analysis with a row below to indicate reasoning, then gathered as a group to discuss findings.
- It may be beneficial to check how the Goals and Principles of the Environmental Policy Framework would work through the policy filter; these documents should be complimentary and consistent. Ensuring they are aligned is important.
- Consideration needs to be made to ensure goals are scored based on concrete objectives. The scoring should be the same no matter who is doing the analysis.
- Currently staff do a cross department consultation where appropriate, however the inter-departmental referral lacks some metrics such as biodiversity considerations.
- Staff will work to contact Engineering and see how the Active Transportation Plan would score when put through the filter.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON WORKSHOP WITH W̱SÁNEĆ COMMUNITIES

The Senior Manager, Parks gave a verbal update on the workshop which was held with the W̱SÁNEĆ Communities. The following was noted:

- The workshop was held at the Tsawout Longhouse, staff encouraged many members of the community to attend to share thoughts and knowledge.
- Members of the community, leaders and elders were in attendance, along with Saanich staff and some Resilient Saanich Technical Committee members.

- The theme of the discussion was centered around the principles of respect, cooperation and partnership which are outlined in the ÁTOL,NEUEL Memorandum of Understanding recently signed between the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council and Saanich Council.
- The community shared many ideas, thoughts and concerns which will contribute to improving the process for gathering feedback, as well as working together in the future.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK UPDATE

J. Cullington, Secretariat, gave an update on the Environmental Policy Framework (EPF), the following was noted:

- Some minor changes were made to the policy framework by Judith, a revised draft was sent to the working group.
- The goals of the framework were discussed, it was noted that the goals should follow the SMART model: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely
- Metrics for measuring success are important.
- The purpose and use of the EPF was discussed. The hope is that the framework will become embedded in the metrics of other policies and strategies.
- The example of the Official Community Plan (OCP) was given, there are many other plans that and policies on all levels that work together to support the overarching goal.

RESILIENT SAANICH STATUS REPORT TO COUNCIL – COUNCIL FEEDBACK

The Senior Manager, Parks gave a verbal update on the recent progress report to Council.

STATE OF BIODIVERSITY REPORT UPDATE

The consultant was not available to provide an update on this initiative prior to the meeting. Information will be made available to the committee as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from K. Brown, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary