

**MINUTES**  
**RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Via Microsoft Teams  
June 15, 2023 at 6:34 p.m.

Present: Tory Stevens (Chair); Councillor Zac de Vries; Kevin Brown; Jeremy Gye, Chris Lowe, Stewart Guy and Brian Wilkes

Regrets: Tim Ennis and Purnima Govindarajulu;

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager of Parks; Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner; and Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk

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

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by S. Guy: “That the Agenda for the June 15, 2023, Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be approved.”**

**CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by C. Lowe and Seconded by B. Wilkes: “That the Minutes for the May 18, 2023, Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be approved as amended.”**

**CARRIED**

Note: A change on page 3 was noted as the committee will be continuing work, not beginning work on the Environmental Policy Framework.

**RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received and included as part of the agenda. It was noted that the amendments to the lists of species at risk need to be corrected as noted in the email.

**STRATEGIC OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE**

The Senior Manager of Parks advised that the planning department is seeking feedback on the strategic Official Community Plan update. A memo was included with the agenda for committee members to review, which provides information on the opportunities for engagement. Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) members were encouraged to provide their feedback via the methods outlined, as well as to encourage other community members to do the same. The survey will be closed on June 30<sup>th</sup>, direct feedback can be accepted until early July. Committee members noted the effectiveness of the Urban Containment Boundary to focus major roadways within the boundary and maintain the rural feel outside the boundary.

## **PRESENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK PRINCIPLES**

The Principles of the Environmental Policy Framework (EPF) were discussed, the following was noted:

- The working group met to discuss the draft principles, minor edits were made from the April version, which focused on refining and clarifying the intent.
- The EPF working group needs the principles to be finalized to move forward.
- A suggestion was made to update #3 by replacing the word “incomplete” with insufficient. Committee consensus was that this change was supportable.
- Inserting a reference to #3 would be an option, as well as the mention of adaptive management which was discussed previously.
- The wording of #7 could be clarified that the collaboration is with people.
- #8 could be split into two clearer sentences, however the working group wanted to keep the number of principles low. This was a compromise that maintains the intent.

**MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by J. Gye: “That the environmental policy framework principles be accepted with the amendment to #3 as discussed.”**

**CARRIED**

## **REVIEW OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY AND RSTC WORKPLANS**

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services and the Senior Manager of Parks reviewed the Milestone 3 Workplan. Discussion took place and the following was noted:

- The scope of work from Diamond Head Consulting (DHC) was shared, along with the timelines for the Milestone 3 workplan and opportunities for committee input.
- The role of the committee, the consultant, and intersectionality should be understood.
- Committee members noted their desire of having the ability to work more closely with the consultant.
- DHC is putting together information and will be joining the August RSTC meeting to discuss proposed policies, actions and stewardship. They will then write the draft strategy, which the committee will have the opportunity to discuss prior to public engagement. Revisions will be made following public engagement, and the committee will be able to give comment one more time before the strategy is considered by Council.
- The scope of work is clearly defined, the budget and timelines cannot be altered now.
- If committee members have comments or ideas the best process is to discuss them at a meeting, following which the Senior Manager of Parks can update DHC as needed.
- The intention of doing the State of Biodiversity Report first was to have it inform the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
- Some committee members desire to have a partnership between the consultant and the committee; and would like more discussion and input in the creation of strategy.
- Council has made it clear that a strategic approach to finish the process on time is necessary. The best outcome would be for full support from RSTC, however the delivery deadline is not negotiable. This requires effective management of time and processes.
- The strategy will be a living document that will change overtime with ongoing monitoring and evaluation. There will be opportunities for improvement along the way.
- Once a consultant is hired, they take over from staff, there is little input from staff until the draft document is ready for review. DHC is experienced and trusted by staff.
- Additional members of the committee echoed their preference to provide more information to DHC and be more involved with the creation of the strategy.
- While common ground is important, and although members want to give input, the consultant may or may not include it with the final report and strategy.

- Council has made clear the expectation of the strategy being on time and on budget.
- There will be a few touchpoints for the RSTC to give input on the strategy.
- The environmental policy gap analysis being finalized by September 4<sup>th</sup> would be ideal.
- The Urban Forest Strategy is being updated; a draft is expected in the fall. RSTC will have engagement opportunity prior to Council consideration.
- Recommended improvements to the Climate Plan have been reviewed and supported by the Manager of Sustainability. These will be included when the plan is updated.
- The Stewardship Working Group has updated their briefing note, which will be sent to DHC. The earlier they have this document the better they can incorporate it.
- Staff will check with DHC if there are additional opportunities for committee feedback, what information they would find useful and where RSTC could add value.
- Some committee members noted that workshops to provide input to specific questions or topics before the draft strategy is written to be able to influence the draft would be beneficial. The previous input on the draft State of Biodiversity Report was not incorporated in a meaningful way.
- Members of the committee can provide individual input when engagement is open.

### **DISCUSSION OF JULY MEETING**

Discussion took place and the following was noted:

- Several committee members will be away during the summer and there are not many agenda items for a meeting in July. It was decided that the committee will not meet in July.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion from C. Lowe the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

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Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary