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## Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission Held July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by Zoom

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**Present:** David Howe, CRD Director; Michael Hoebel, Vice Chair (Galiano), Deb Goldman (Mayne), Paul Brent, Treasurer (Saturna)  
**Staff:** Justine Starke, Manager, SGI Service Delivery; Melody Pender – Recorder; SGI Liaison: Katie Dentry, Kat Ferneyhough;  
**Participants:** Ed Andrusiak, Allister Hain

The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm

### 1. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED** by Director Howe, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel that the agenda of July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

### 2. Adoption of Minutes of June 15th, 2021 and adoption of Minutes of CESC Special Meeting April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021; Deborah Goldman was not listed in the minutes of the April 13<sup>th</sup> Special meeting, Melody Pender has confirmed she will correct this error. **MOVED** by Commissioner Goldman, **SECONDED** by Director Howe that the agendas of June 15th, 2021 and April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved as with the noted correction. **CARRIED**

### 3. Financial Report: Commissioner Brent was not available to present a financial report, but it was included in the agenda package for all commissioners to look over. Director Howe asked how much of the \$80K remaining in unspent in the budget has been committed – Commissioner Hoebel understands the financial report, the entirety of the remaining funds are committed, and no other staff had further information. **MOVED** by Commissioner Hoebel to receive the report as presented **SECONDED** by Commissioner Goldman **CARRIED**

### 4. Food and Agriculture update

Their committee recently held a Food Resiliency Alliance (FRA) meeting and several projects are underway, including;

- Market Tables are up and running at SGI Farmers Markets
- Collection of feedback via various forms of engagement at the markets
- Preparations to hold the first community round table event (This will provide a communal space for various groups involved in agriculture and food to talk to each other about technical problems and solutions)
- Development of an Agriculture asset inventory and food map

### 5. Proposed CESC Bylaw 3803 Amendment – Update

- Justine Starke spoke to the progress, indicating that the amendment is moving along through the internal processes of the CRD. Justine has drafted an amendment to Bylaw 3803 to the commission's request to be able to expand membership to up to 4 additional (to a total of 8) commissioners, who would be considered members at large and not representative of any one particular island, who would be appointed for one-year terms. This amendment will go under review by the electoral area's committee for consideration when it is ready.



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- The CESC has the opportunity call a special meeting to discuss the amendment for any recommendations before it is fully brought before the Electoral Area Committee. Depending on when the amendment has been reviewed within the CESC meeting schedule, Justine will circulate it to the CESC commissioners for feedback
- Justine Starke expects the amendment to be reviewed and returned for circulation within the next 1-2 months. Director Howe clarified that there are no meetings occurring with Electoral Area Committees in the month of August, and asked whether the Amendment would go before the meeting in September – Justine Starke could not commit to a timeline on behalf of other CRD employees, but suggested it was very likely to be reviewed in September.

Commissioner Brent joined the meeting at 1:15pm

Commissioner Brent confirmed that as Commissioner Hoebel read, the \$80k held by the CESC is fully committed to existing projects.

## 6. SGI Liaisons Update – Justine/Liaisons

- **Connectivity:** Justine Starke will bring information on progress of the Connection Coast Project to the CESC as soon as it becomes available. Current information is not yet public.
- **Transportation:** Continuing to develop the SGI Transportation Integration Plan. Currently in the second round of advisory panel meetings and preparing for the preliminary community engagement in which each of the Community Liaisons will be manning tables on each respective island's farmers market in order to capture some feedback from seasonal residents before full engagement is prepared
- **Housing:** The Liaison team is supporting affordable housing via the SGI Housing Strategy; due to the retirement of John Reilly, Justine Starke has taken on his work, and announced she is also working on an internal memo for the Executive Leadership team to review the strategy before she can bring it before the commission. She expects to be able to present to the CESC in September.
- **Katie on Saturna:** Very busy, lots of visitors, not enough accommodations for local workers (some businesses are having to minimize hours and lose profits during the busiest time of the year) – also for tourists there are not enough accommodations (partially impacted by the loss of a 7-bedroom lodge).

Commissioner Brent has provided input that the Lodge will be reopening next year as reported to him directly a couple days prior to this meeting.

Director Howe questions to clarify about the housing requirements that is causing the struggles for local businesses. This launched a conversation going over the history of affordable housing needs and attempted solutions on the Southern Gulf Islands.

- **Kat on Mayne:** Indicates the same issues as Saturna, but also that the influx of tourists has caused barriers for BC Ferries travel to local residents due to overbooked and overwhelmed ferry routes. Also, an indication that Mayne businesses are competing for local workers and a building animosity between local businesses. Announcement that the Oceanwood Resort will be reopening next year.

Director Howe asks whether it is possible that a passenger-only ferry for residents to Swartz Bay may be helpful with the current travel congestion. The general consensus that yes, it would be helpful, but it wouldn't solve the issues altogether.



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**7. Old Business**

Commissioners were reminded to produce a Quarterly Economic Report for next meeting and the SGI CESC article for Sept Islands Papers– Deadline August 15<sup>th</sup> – Commissioner Hoebel will take the lead on this article.

**8. New Business**

SGICRC Report on Community Sustainability project presented by Allister Hain – he provided a very detailed report included in the Agenda Package.

Developing an engagement platform for local businesses and individuals who are interested in expanding and strengthening the local island economies to work together on solutions. They are looking at face-to-face town hall meetings and online engagement forums. Allister has history implementing communications and engagement like this in rural and aboriginal communities.

**9. Adjournment**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Hoebel that the meeting adjourn at 2:40pm.

**Next regular meeting – proposed Tuesday, September 21st, 2021 at 10am.**