



Making a difference...together

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission Held September 21st, 2021 by Zoom

Present: **SGI CESC Commissioners:** David Howe (Director), Ian Elliott, Chair (Pender), Mike Hoebel, Vice Chair (Galiano), Paul Brent, Treasurer (Saturna), Deb Goldman (Mayne),
Staff: Justine Starke, Manager, SGI Service Delivery; Melody Pender – Recorder
SGI Liaison: Emma Davis, Katie Dentry, Kat Ferneyhough;
Guests: Ed Andrusiak, Allister Hain, SGI Community Sustainability Director

1. Approval of the Agenda – approved by consensus
2. Approval of Minutes July 20th, 2021 and August 6th, 2021 Special Meeting adopted by consensus
3. Financial Report was previously circulated.
Commissioner Brent reported the budget is in good shape to the end of the year.

MOVED by Commissioner Hoebel, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Brent that the SGI CESC provisionally earmark \$2,500 for Rural Island Economic Partnership for the 2022 Economic Forum from the Program Development Fund from the 2022 budget. **CARRIED**

The SGI CESC re-affirmed its approval to support a 2019 pledge to Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership of \$2,000 for the Aqualink project.

The SGI CESC re-affirmed its approval to support a 2020 pledge to Rural Island Partnership of \$2,500 for the 2021 Virtual Economic forum.

4. Food and Ag update – Ed Andrusiak
 - Ed shared an update on the Food Resilience Alliance
 - Projects are getting completed and good information is being gathered for the report.
 - Round tables have been well received and continue monthly. It consists of food and ag groups and they get together monthly and discuss specific topics. Next one is on hay. They will go to the end of the year
 - Equipment funding grant was submitted to Local Food Infrastructure Fund for \$30,600 and we need to wait for 100 days for an answer
 - Closing the supply gap, a CRD initiative demonstration project, broken into 3 subregions. Objective is to shorten the supply chain.

Commissioner Elliott relayed his thanks and appreciation for all the hard work of the Food Resilience Alliance and to Ed for taking the lead.



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5. SGI Liaisons Update – Justine Starke/Liaisons

- Justine will be bringing information to the commission on Connectivity, Transportation and Housing at the next meeting.

6. Old Business

- Justine gave a brief review of Bylaw 4444 which has been previously distributed and the Bylaw is ready if the commission wishes to move forward with the recommendation.

MOVED by Commissioner Brent **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel that Bylaw 4444, “Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2012, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2021” be introduced and read a first, second, and third time and that Bylaw 4444, “Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2012, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2021” be adopted. **CARRIED**

7. New Business

- SGICRC Report on Community Sustainability project – Allister Hain
 - First three months have been a learning curve.
 - He has been engaging with businesses and Chambers on various islands
 - Feedback received:
 - some businesses did well during COVID and increased their business and some were very challenged.
 - Regulations came up as a barrier for setting up a business.
 - Housing and labour are the biggest issues businesses face at the moment.
 - The ability to find competently trained businesses is also a challenge.
 - There was discussion on affordable housing and workforce housing in particular. As previously mentioned Justine will present a staff report at the next meeting.
- Commission Terms for Renewal
 - Two commissioners are up for renewal. Commissioner Elliott (Pender Island) will be stepping down by the end of this year. Commissioner Goldman will let Melody know shortly if she is staying on for another term.

8. Next regular meeting – proposed Tuesday, October 19th, 2021 at 1pm. A special briefing was requested for the Commissioners. It was decided to have the in camera session after the regular meeting with a different zoom link.