



SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS EMERGENCY PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Place: Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney and via Zoom

Present: Wayne Quinn (Saturna), Roger Pettit (Galiano), Brenda Clairo (Pender), Kerry Keats (Piers), Chief Scott Sugden (Galiano), Chief Kyle Stobart (Mayne), Steven Cropper (Mayne), Wynn Lewis (Piers)

Regrets: Asst Chief Adrian Hanson (Pender), Rob Fenton (CRD Alt Director)

Guests: Ian Hayward (Saturna), Triana Newton (Sidney)

CRD Staff: Corey Anderson, Brigitte Prochaska

- Call to order by Scott Sugden (Acting Chair)
- Welcome and introductions
- Approval of agenda
 - MOVED: R. Pettit SECONDED: K. Stobart
 - CARRIED
- Approval of previous meeting minutes (November 28, 2024)
 - MOVED: K. Keats SECONDED: R. Pettit
 - CARRIED
- Election of New Chair: Leaving open until next meeting when a final decision can be made.
- Business arising from past minutes:
 - Update: 3rd Party (Facilities) Agreements- Corey has reached out to generator maintenance person and given them the list with the information on the community hall locations. Having challenges identifying types and models of generators and will work with Brigitte on filling in gaps of information. Photographs may be required to

- confirm accuracy of information. Corey would like to connect with facility operators, to gain access to their property and complete these inspections. Fuel invoices are coming in for some of the generators, need to be cognizant of these costs. Obligated to pay a percentage of the fuel throughout the year, based on the expired agreements. Need to review auto start on generators as well, as may be going through fuel unnecessarily. Re Internet and phone lines - still working out details but don't anticipate any issues with these at this time.
- Jollette Schenk, Electoral Area Emergency Services Coordinator has left for another position and a competition is being run to find a replacement this role.
 - Galiano Island evacuation routes and rezoning - working with Island Trustees regarding emergency routes through properties without re-zoning. Can work directly with property owners. 90% of the map is workable but some routes are not shown and could be good alternatives. Working on a new map with new routes on S. Galiano. Will be sent shortly.
 - Telus and 911 repairs on Saturna - need assistance from the CRD regarding coverage in Eastern area, to assure the residents there is 911 coverage. 911 landlines are critical due to spotty cell phone coverage. Repairs to line required. Corey to connect with P. Brent to see if he can assist with this. South Island Net may be an option that does provide better service. Starlink is another option.
 - Crest radio system on Saturna - void areas on the Island are hidden behind elevation and cannot receive a signal. Solution is required for better service. Crest is aware of the issue but holding back on further towers due to costs. Need to reach out to Crest to get more information and have a stakeholder meeting. Will reach out to Chris Vrabel, Manager, Fire Services to begin this conversation.
 - CRD Director's report- n/a
 - Chair's report- n/a
 - CRD Protective Services report – C. Anderson
 - Better Impact, a volunteer management software, is being worked on currently and will help with tracking emergency program volunteers, including training, years served, insurance, etc.
 - Area Emergency Management Lead report- B. Prochaska
 - Hel a Christmas Holiday luncheon for senior volunteers at Canoe Cove. It was well attended and enjoyed.
 - Continuing mini training for ESS, focusing on 1-to-1.5-hour blocks to cover main aspects of a Reception Centre, such as *Meet and Greet*, *Registration & Referrals*, *Pet Care*, etc. Working on similar training for Island Emergency Operations Centres (EOC's).
 - EOC Essentials and Logistics training offering by CRD which several SGI volunteers will be attending.
 - ESS Lead is busy working on updating inventory at Reception Centres, working with local teams to replace expired or missing items.

- Recruiting for new ESS Coordinator on Pender Island.
- Drafting training and events schedule for 2025 with focus on evacuation.
- Article going in AQUA Magazine with cover and story focusing on Emergency Programs in SGI and Salt Spring and how they are powered by volunteers
- Cooking demos being offered with a focus as well on Emergency Preparedness.
- The entire Emergency Program will miss Jolette.
- SGIEP finance report- B. Prochaska
 - Draft year end summary not available yet but will be shared at next meeting.
 - Question asked by Commissioner Quinn regarding authority on who can make decisions regarding budget spending on the individual islands and if an island LEMR can have any discretion around this and what can be spent. Brigitte and the CRD are responsible for these budgets but smaller expenses around meeting and supplies expenses are acceptable for a LEMR to decide on. Everything on the Saturna LEMR recommendation list for purchase was approved and purchased by Brigitte. As these are volunteer positions, it does not work to put this responsibility on the island LEMRs, but they should reach out to Brigitte with requests or recommendations.
- Other Business
 - Review of Commissioner terms of service- Brigitte working on getting handle on status of commissioner terms. Commissioner whose terms expired in December 2024 and need to confirm who is signing on for another two-year term are: Scott Sugden (renewed), Steve Cropper (renewed), Adrian Hansen (renewed), Brenda Clairo, Kerry Keats (renewed)
 - Juan de Fuca volunteer suggested a newsletter- would SGI Emergency Program be interested in contributing to this letter.
- Correspondence- n/a
- Next meeting – Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 0900hrs. Location: Mary Winspear Centre (weather permitting)

Adjourned