



Making a difference...together

**SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS ELECTORAL AREA
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

Tuesday, May 20th, 2025 at 1pm

Held by Zoom Video Conference

MINUTES

SGI CESC Commissioners: Paul Brent, Director, Chair (Saturna), Marcus Farmer (Mayne), Rob Fenton (Pender), Barbara Johnstone (Pender), Simon Fallick (Galiano)

Staff: Justine Starke – Manager, SGI Service Delivery, Melody Pender – Recorder/Pender Liaison, SGI Liaisons: Emma Davis (Galiano), Katie Dentry (Saturna), Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne)

Guest: Michael Hoebel, Michael Cowan and Janey Rowland Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre

1. Territorial Acknowledgement/Call Meeting to Order

Chair Brent provided the territorial acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 1pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Commissioner Fallick, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Fenton to accept the Agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Fenton, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Fallick to accept the minutes from March 18, 2025 as presented.

CARRIED

4. Financial Report

The financial report was received for information by the Commission.

5. Director's Report

Projects will be discussed during the meeting.

6. Southern Gulf Islands Liaisons Update

Emma Davis (Galiano) – First Saturday market of the season, new tenants for café at Sturdies Bay, Daycare is still hiring, Galiano transportation business will be for sale after the Summer, School Board student boarding funding program may be ending, not a busy long weekend for local businesses, attributed to poor weather and school still in session.

Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne) – Elizabeth May was on island for May Day celebrations, food truck zone is running, rural housing and park projects are ongoing.

Katie Dentry (Saturna) – Community BBQ was well attended, new businesses include a new gift shop, art gallery, coffee shop, bike repair shop and ebike rentals.

Melody Pender (Pender) – Pender had a busy long weekend, The Dip is almost complete, Aqualink did not get funding but will still be working to provide some transportation between islands, Tour des Iles is June 21-22.



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Justine Starke – The Rural Housing Coordinator position is posted and applications are being received. Application forms for the accessory dwelling unit incentive program and expressions of interest for pre-development funding are also available now. CRD is going through a reorganization called CRD Evolves, creating a new department for the electoral areas so Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring and SGIs will be in their own separate department at the CRD with Stephen Henderson as General Manager, which will benefit these electoral areas.

7. Connected Coast/Bylaw update – Justine Starke

A grant application to support funding the remaining high-speed broadband internet connectivity to the SGIs was successful and the Commission will receive a 10% revenue over a 30 year period through this partnership with Connected Coast. The timeline for completion of the network is uncertain.

8. Housing NOW presentation – Janey Rowland

Janey Rowland gave a short presentation to accompany the two Housing reports previously submitted. Highlights of 2024 were developing a conflict resolution guidebook, starting a podcast, doubling newsletter subscribers, and making ten total homeshare matches. Goals for 2025 are the digital platform pilot, increasing homeshare awareness and developing a social enterprise model to improve longevity of the program.

MOTION: To approve the Housing NOW 2025 Statement of Work for \$24,638.70.

MOVED by Commissioner Farmer, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Fenton.

CARRIED

9. Southern Gulf Islands Sustainable Funding Initiative Statement of Works – Michael Cowan

MOTION: To approve the Southern Gulf Islands Sustainable Funding Initiative Statement of Works for \$30,000.

MOVED by Marcus Farmer, **SECONDED** by Simon Fallick.

CARRIED

10. Old/New Business – none discussed.

11. Next regular meeting – July 15, 2025

12. Meeting Adjourned

MOVED by Chair Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Farmer to adjourn the meeting at 2:06pm.

CARRIED