



Making a difference...together

**SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS ELECTORAL AREA
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, July 15th, 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), Rob Fawcett (Pender)

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

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

Regrets: Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne)

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

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes from May 20, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Farmer, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Fallick to accept the minutes from May 20, 2025 as presented.

CARRIED

4. Financial Report

• **2026 Budget preparation**

The financial report was received for information by the Commission.

ACTION ITEM: Think about how funds should be allocated for next year – to be discussed at September meeting.

5. Director's Report

The islands are busy for the summer season.

6. Southern Gulf Islands Liaisons Update

Justine Starke – The rural housing program coordinator at the CRD started today and Justine is onboarding her.

Emma Davis (Galiano) – Daystar Market is selling the business (not the land or building) and will close in September if they do not find a buyer. Woodstone Manor will not be opening this season. Folia, a new vegan café in Sturdies Bay is doing very well.

Katie Dentry (Saturna) – A new ice cream bar called Dee's at the ferry terminal is popular. There is new gallery spaces open as well. The island is busy with increased ferry traffic.

Melody Pender (Pender) – A new coffee roasting company is open at Hope Bay, the new

distillery is also doing well, and there are some new trades and caterers on the island. Tour des Iles had low attendance but was enjoyed by those who participated. The visitors centre has been very busy.

Marcus Farmer (Mayne) – ParticipACTION in June was a success on the island with one of the highest rates of participation per capita. Canada Day was a big celebration as well. Food trucks and a new gallery are open and the Ag Society is redoing the market and fair grounds and increasing the focus on fresh food.

7. Discussion on an Indigenous Partnership Initiative within the Housing NOW Framework for the Southern Gulf Islands – Janey Rowland

Walking Together – a roadmap to tiny home communities in the Southern Gulf Islands is a new Housing NOW initiative, to be developed as a pilot project. There is interest in tiny homes on wheels in the SGIs and these types of dwellings will soon be permitted with upcoming changes to Islands Trust regulations. This project also seeks to encourage reconciliation by involving Penelakut First Nation and a return to their ancestral land on Galiano. This project hopes to support indigenous and non-indigenous people access housing solutions.

Justine recommended that if the Commission wishes to support this project, it should be through a Grant In Aid to support the SGI Community Resource Centre in this new project under Housing NOW. Justine also recommended that Janey ask what Penelakut's expectations are with the project.

The Commission received additional information about the proposed project to read and will table a funding decision until they understand the context of the project.

8. Old/New Business – Michael Hoebel and Emma Davis

The Galiano Community Transportation Society has acquired electric mini buses for local transportation on Galiano from a federal transportation grant, that was supported by the CRD. The service will initially be running on Saturdays. Operational funding is limited. The society plans to apply to the CRD for a New Service Request, to request the CRD go through processes to add this into property taxes to fund the bus service long-term. First, the bus service needs to be proven viable, so the society is seeking short-term funding for immediate operational costs.

MOTION: To approve in principle, in the amount of \$20,000, to support the Galiano Community Transportation Society bus service, upon receipt of a work plan approved by the CRD staff report. **MOVED** by Simon Fallick, **SECONDED** by Markus Farmer.

CARRIED

9. Next regular meeting – Sept 16, 2025

10. Meeting Adjourned

MOVED by Chair Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Farmer to adjourn the meeting at 2:14pm.

CARRIED