



SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS EMERGENCY PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, October 1st, 2025

Place: Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney and via Zoom

Present: Wayne Quinn (Saturna), Roger Pettit (Galiano), Chief Scott Sugden (Galiano), Chief Kyle Stobart (Mayne), Asst Chief Adrian Hanson (Pender), Stephen Cropper (Mayne), Wynn Lewis (Piers), Rob Fenton (CRD Alt Director), Triana Newton (Sidney)

Regrets: Ian Hayward (Saturna), Kerry Keats (Piers), Rob Fawcett (CRD Director Alternate)

CRD Staff: Corey Anderson, Jennifer Carvill, Brigitte Prochaska

- Call to order by Stephen Cropper (Chair)
- Welcome and introductions
- Approval of agenda
 - MOVED: Rob Fenton SECONDED: Roger Pettit
 - CARRIED
- Approval of previous meeting minutes (June 4, 2025)
 - Minutes tabled to next meeting
- Business arising from past minutes:
 - 3rd party Facilities Agreements. Approved (by legal) template now drafted for SGI; sea can agreements are drafted as well. Generators, and phone/internet contributions are being worked on now and are waiting for Legal to approve. The main Facilities Agreements may have generator and sea can agreements included as a schedule.
 - The suggested annual fee for internet and phone is \$600 a year per facility so that everyone receives an equal amount.
 - Assessment of RC generators: Mid Isle Marine is ready to go out this week and is making a schedule with Brigitte. They will determine where the generator is in its life cycle, and what maintenance is needed.
 - Frustration was expressed at the long wait for the Facilities Agreements to be completed. Jennifer will send out the draft of the FA and sea can schedule without the generator component (not finalized).

- Galiano Evacuation Routes and Rezoning - Real Estate is starting to think about costs at their end, once they decide on priorities for routes on the island. Will start at the north end. A list of priorities will be given to Jennifer at end of week.
- CRD Director's report - no report. Rob Fenton will take over as 2nd Commissioner for Pender, filling the seat vacated several months ago by Brenda Clairo.
- Chair's report - n/a
- CRD Protective Services report – Corey Anderson
 - The 2026 draft budget has been circulated to the Commissioners and there is nothing to add at this time.
 - In mid-October, the Integrated Water Team will be doing an in-house dam emergency exercise. Scenario will be a compromise to the Buck Lake dam on Pender. There is no need to interact with Pender Island Emergency Program at this time although there may be a joint exercise in the future.
 - A discussion on the communications side of Emergency Management: who we would communicate with and when; do we have the mechanisms to effectively do that; do we need new technologies, like Starlink; when do we need the Emergency Comms team to come in and support? There are regular tests of each radio room weekly, and of the system's equipment and protocols.
 - It was noted that portions of Galiano and Saturna don't have cell service, so Alertable is of limited use. They are looking at a Tesla phone, which comes with internet. Saturna has problems with Telus – Corey reached out to Suzanne Weber at EMCR to escalate, but has heard nothing back. Telus is not fixing problems, even in neighbourhoods without cell service.
 - It was noted that the Dashboard is useful but it's hard to navigate the CRD site to find. Jennifer will explore putting it on the home page.
- SGIEP finance report- B. Prochaska
 - Looking at 1.8% increase. Getting elimination of many cost centres restored for 2025 has made it easier to track what is being spent in which area. Money was taken out of the reserve account for purchase of sea cans and \$25K to start populating them with emergency supplies. The supplies have not been purchased yet; waiting for location of sea cans to be finalized.
- Area Emergency Management Lead report- B. Prochaska
 - The Emergency Program reduced activities over summer months to give volunteers a bit of a break – but maintained response readiness. It is now ramping up again.
 - Dashboard – CRD has created postcards with bar codes and link info for both Dashboard and Alertable. They will be distributed to residents via mail drop after the postal strike. Dashboard has been promoted on social media and via full page ads in all island print publications.
 - Better Impact – CRD has purchased this software to manage volunteers. There are over 400 volunteers in the SGI program, with about 1000 in all three Electoral Areas. Jennifer will do a presentation about Better Impact at the next meeting.
 - ShakeOut is coming up on Oct. 16. There will be a big social media push to get community engagement. ShakeOut is doing a free public webinar, called “Ask-the-

- Experts: Earthquake Webinar for Everyone” on Oct. 15 at 7pm. It will be promoted by CRD Comms and the emergency programs. Corey will try to put it on Dashboard.
- Earthquake tabletop exercises on each island will run between ShakeOut and mid-November. The scenario will be a 7.2 earthquake, and first responders and health clinics will be invited to join. Building on that, another exercise next year will include community leaders, schools, the Chamber of Commerce, grocery stores/gas stations and other community leaders who would play a role in an earthquake response.
 - The CRD is offering great training opportunities which have been opened up to our volunteers, targeting senior EOC staff and LEMRs. There will be a Scribe training course in November.
 - There is a new RCMP detachment commander, Kim Graham. She met with Pender LEMRs and Area EML/DEML for an orientation to the Emergency Programs on the islands.
 - ESS – The Canadian Red Cross has offered free N95 masks to communities. A few thousand were ordered last year and put in storage. The same amount, hopefully enough for every resident in the SGI, will be ordered this year to add to the sea cans.
 - There is a Group Lodging training course on Oct. 7 which is available to all Electoral Areas thanks to grant funding. Two thirds of attendees are from SGI. Working on improving Group Lodging capabilities – we have cots, blankets, and supplemental supplies which will go into sea cans.
 - 2 ERA training sessions were conducted by an EMCR expert.
 - There is new ESS grant funding for the three Electoral Areas. Ours was \$15K, and the Group Lodging training costs came out of that grant.
 - We are buying one water filtration system for each island, and it will go in the sea can. This is a sizeable unit that can purify a water supply to drinking standards. We want to build on that, so may buy a new unit every year. Hoping for another ESS grant next year.
 - There were two house fires over the summer, one on Pender, one on Saturna, both requiring Level 1 support. More lessons learned around ERA.
- SGIEP finance report - B. Prochaska – As circulated.
 - Correspondence- n/a
 - Next meeting – **Wednesday, Nov.19, 2025, at 0900hrs.** Location: Mary Winspear Centre (weather permitting)

Adjourned