

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

Tuesday, March 17th, 2026 at 1:00pm

Zoom Video Conference

MINUTES

SGI CESC Commissioners: Paul Brent, Director, Chair (Saturna), Marcus Farmer (Mayne), Rob Fawcett, SGI Alternate Director (Pender), Sandra Tretick (Pender), Brenna Mongeon (Pender)

Staff: Melody Pender – Recorder/Pender Liaison; SGI Liaisons: Emma Davis (Galiano), Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne)

Guests: Michael Hoebel, Michael Cowan Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre; Roz Kempe, Susheela Kundargi, Gulf Islands Food Co-op

Regrets: Simon Fallick (Galiano), Justine Starke – Senior Manager, Southern Gulf Islands Administration; Katie Dentry (Saturna)

1. Territorial Acknowledgement/Call Meeting to Order

Director Brent provided the territorial acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

2. Election of Chair

MARCUS FARMER was elected **CHAIR** by acclamation.

SANDRA TRETICK was elected **VICE CHAIR** by acclamation.

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Commissioner Tretick, **SECONDED** by Director Brent to accept the Agenda as presented.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2026

MOVED by Director Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mongeon to accept the minutes from January 20, 2026 as presented.

CARRIED

5. Financial Report – Paul Brent

The financial report was shared with the Commission, the 2026 budget will be available in April. Melody Pender presented for information the funds available for the Commission to allocate to programs and services.

MOVED by Director Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Tretick to accept the financial report as presented.

CARRIED

6. Statement of Work for the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre Sustainable Funding Initiative; presented by Michael Cowan

MOVED by Director Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mongeon that the CESC approves the Statement of Work for the SGI Community Resource Centre for \$30,000 for



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the Sustainable Funding Initiative for the promotion of the Volunteer Economy of the Southern Gulf Islands.

CARRIED

7. Funding Request – Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre – Housing NOW; presented by Michael Cowan

MOVED by Director Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mongeon that the CESC approves the funding request for the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre for \$24,492 for the Housing NOW program.

CARRIED

8. Funding Request – Gulf Islands Food Co-op; presented by Roz Kempe, Susheela

Kundargi. MOVED by Director Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Tretick that the CESC approves the funding request for the Gulf Islands Food Coop for \$10,000 for the Community Support Agriculture (CSA) pilot project on Mayne Island.

CARRIED

9. Staff and Liaison Updates

Emma Davis (Galiano) – Sustainable Economic Resilience Strategy: Liaisons identified sectors to include in community engagement – housing, connectivity, transportation and infrastructure, food production, non-profit support, climate resilience and green economy, professional and remote workers, health and medical, tech sector, trades construction, and tourism. The liaison team met to review the province's strategic planning toolkit for local economic development and developed a project timeline. Next steps are to review literature, hire a consultant and draft a survey that will be published in the Summer, with results to be reviewed with a consultant in the Fall.

Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne) – The pizza truck is shutting down due to lack of staff so there are even fewer food options on Mayne. The Arbutus grill is piloting menu items.

Melody Pender & Rob Fawcett (Pender) – Pender Island Community Legacy Foundation has just launched. An annual fundraising run/walk/wheel for wellness event will be held to support a local non-profit. This year will be for the Health Centre. The event is the same weekend as Tour des Iles in June which may increase participation from other islands with improved transport options between the islands. The local trail network also continues to be developed. A short film documentary about the trail project will be screened on March 28th at the Pender Community Hall.

10. Old/New Business – none discussed.

11. Next regular meeting – May 19th, 2026 at 1:00pm

12. Meeting Closed

MOVED by Commissioner Tretick, **SECONDED** by Director Brent to adjourn the meeting at 1:52pm.