

SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS ELECTORAL AREA
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
Minutes Friday, May 17th, 2019 at 2:00pm
SGI Community Resource Centre – Zoom Video Conference
#31-4605 Bedwell Harbour Road
Pender Island, BC

SGI CESC Commissioners: Ben McConchie (Chair, Pender) Mike Hoebel (Galiano), Deb Goldman (Mayne), Priscilla Zimmerman (Saturna), Dave Howe (Director)

Guests: Justine Starke (CRD Staff), Mamie Hutt-Temoana, Melody Pender - Recorder, Andrea Mills, Ed Andrusiak, Jean-Daniel Cusin (MICL), Emma Davis (GICL), Katie Dentry (SICL).

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1. Motion to approve Agenda as amended to defer item 9, by Mike Hoebel, seconded by Priscilla Zimmerman. **CARRIED**

 2. Motion to approve previous minutes of April 8th, 2019 by Deb Goldman, seconded by Priscilla Zimmerman. **CARRIED**

 3. Director's Report – no report

 4. Chair's Report – no report

 5. Island reports – Commissioners
 - a. Saturna Island – gearing up for Tour des Iles, winery has released new wines using grapes from Saturna. Logging is complete and logs are being barged off. SIMRES is getting ready for summer with their Sea Talks and presentations. Dock is moving ahead on schedule. Unsure at the moment of the status of housing.
 - b. Mayne Island – Designing our Future conference is moving ahead which is a networking of groups and gathering information of where residents want to see Mayne Island in the future. Looking forward to the creation of the CRC office and it's coming along. CRD came to look at the docks and it appears things are moving forward with getting new ones. Housing project is moving forward, working with BC Housing.
 - c. Galiano Island – tourist season has begun early. Chamber has been approved to hire a summer student to help with visitor information. We are also preparing for Tour des Iles. Parks and Rec has updated its trail brochure. Some building projects are in the works, the Healthcare expanding, a new South Galiano fire hall and Galiano Conservancy with their Millard Learning Centre with their renewable energy demonstration project with new offices etc. There was a Conservancy hosted workshop with the Salish Sea Institute a short time ago that brought many people to the island. Master plan for the Parks and Rec is being worked on. There are a few housing projects still in the planning stages working with BC Housing. The Community Liaison is sharing space and working out of the Islands Trust office. The CRC is advertising for a summer student and Island Coordinator and it too will be sharing office space with Island Trust.
 - d. Pender Island – DFO has a closed area for Orca protection off from Thieves Bay to Trincomali to allow for a feeding area. However, if you go over the mountain to Plumper Sound where there is an industrial anchorage shipping parking lot. Magic Lake sewer system is in need of upgrading and repair. The Trustees have put a hold on STVR's until the sewer system is fixed. Ben mentioned a family that is the type of people we want on our islands who have a small restaurant, hire local people and are hoping to keep the business open after the Labour Day long weekend.

6. Justine spoke briefly about the CESC Work Program as previously distributed.
Resolution: The SGI CESC request staff report back to the Commission with a scope of work and proposed budget to define and consider feasibility of a Transportation Service and advance Connectivity Planning. Ben McConchie moved resolution as stated, Mike Hoebel seconded.

CARRIED

7. Arms-length or Independent Society – Mamie gave a brief update on her work to date.

The name has been registered. The website has been drafted but not published. Mamie is currently looking into two grants the first for WED Women’s Entrepreneurship Fund for \$25,000 and the RDF has announced a 6th intake. Mamie suggests the Society go ahead and apply for the RDF as they would have a good chance of getting it.

The next step would be a work plan, transitioning the Pender Island Chamber, preparing funding resource for businesses and partnering with the SSI CEDC and the Cowichan Valley Community Futures. CV Community Futures has already developed a lot of programs and it would be advantageous for us to partner with them.

Further steps would be to work with Island Chambers to see how they would like to be involved and consider a membership in Community Economic Development Network and set up start up information.

Ben discussed two scenarios that the CESC could evolve into to or be, one would be the Arms length society which would entail the dissolving of the CESC or keep the CESC and partner with and develop the Economic Centre Society which is able to apply for grants and funding. Mike would prefer to keep the CESC and partner with the Society, Priscilla likes both ideas but feels having the two could have more conflicts and complicated and it may be simpler to have the either or. Deb sees value in keeping both. Ben sees the CESC as an advisory group for each of the islands and able to keep Dave apprised of what is happening on our islands.

Dave discussed his mandate to keep young families working and on the island and what it has to do with economics. Dave is not interested in raising taxes for the small communities and he wants to figure out how to utilize the money on our islands (ie residents who would like to invest in their island) and other funding resources. Could the Economic Centre Society be the answer? Dave feels that while the CRD/CESC have a lot to offer we still need another or additional option to apply for non government/CRD funds.

Justine suggested it would be beneficial for the CESC to analyse and have supporting data of their islands economic needs and indicators.

Ben reviewed the budget with the commissioners and what funds are still available. Justine noted in the minutes previously adopted there was a resolution that the CESC commissioners would be the founding members. This would be a conflict if the CESC was to give funding to the new society. That resolution needs to be rescinded.

Mike moved that the previous April 8th, 2019 minutes’ resolution “the SGI CCI register the Society and the founding directors will be the 4 CESC directors, the bylaws/constitution have been approved for submission” be rescinded. Ben seconded

CARRIED

Ben motioned that the CESC provide \$20,000 to be confirmed by a treasurer's report to be put to the work conducted under the Southern Gulf Islands Community Centre for Innovation Society into action to the end of the fiscal year for the creation of an independent society. Priscilla seconded.

Kristen Morley joined the meeting and suggested that they require time to determine if the CESC has the legal ability to give money to a body that is not yet formed. There may be other ways to do it but she needs time to research what would be legal. She recommends that the motion be subject to review to ensure what we want to do is a legal use of funds.

Ben withdraws the previous motion, Priscilla agrees.

Ben motioned that the CESC provide \$20,000 to be confirmed by a treasurer's report to be put to the work conducted under the Southern Gulf Islands Community Centre for Innovation Society into action to the end of the fiscal year for the creation of an independent society subject to legal review. Priscilla seconded.

CARRIED

Kristen will look into whether it is all correct in the way that the funds are being directed and also what other options or alternatives are available. She will do a full analysis and report back.

June 18th – SSI CEDC would like to hold a joint meeting. Melody will coordinate and get back to everyone. It was decided to hold the CESC meeting after the joint meeting.

8. BC Rural Islands Economic Summit update. The venue has been moved from Salt Spring to Poets Cove on Pender Island. They had the first steering committee of 17 attendees. They are now breaking into smaller committees. The WED grant of \$12,000 has been approved and an application has been submitted to Labour Market Partnership for funding the Event Coordinator. The project cost is approximately \$70,000. Many islands are working together including the San Juan's.
9. Educational/Edu-Tourism Report from the Chair - a full presentation regarding the results and plans for promoting education in the Southern Gulf Islands – deferred
10. New Business – no new business
11. Next Meeting - June 18th, 2019 zoom conference after the joint meeting at 10am.

Mike motioned adjournment at 3:54pm