



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission
Held Monday May 17, 2021, in the Public Library 129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC
[Electronic Meeting](#)**

Present: **CRD Director:** Gary Holman
Commission Members: Francine Carlin, Holly MacDonald, Jason Griffin, Daniel Wood, Kya Dalton, Inga Michaelsen, Dr. Daniel Muzyka, Bryan Young
Staff: Karla Campbell, Senior Manager; Shayla Burnham, Recording Secretary
Participants: Anne Macey, Chair SS Agricultural Alliance, Yael Wand, Director SS Arts Council, Elizabeth FitzZaland, SSI Solutions, Jesse Brown, SSI Chamber, Darryl Martin, SSI Chamber, Laura Patrick, Islands Trust, Elizabeth White, Transitions Enterprise Coop, Gayle Baker, Transitions Salt Spring, Sherese Johnson, Island Comeback, Randy Cunningham, Chair Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement/Call Meeting to Order

Francine Carlin provided the territorial acknowledgement and staff called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. ELECTRONIC MEETING RESOLUTION

MOVED by Commissioner Dalton, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Michaelsen, That this resolution applies to the Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission (SSICEDC) for the meeting being held on May 17, 2021, and that in-person attendance of the public is prohibited by Order of the B.C. Public Health Officer.

That the SSICEDC is ensuring openness, transparency, accessibility and accountability in respect of the open meeting by the following means:

- a. By making the meeting agenda, as well as the other relevant documents, available on the CRD website, and directing interested persons to the website by means of the notices provided in respect of the meeting,
- b. By making the minutes of the meeting available on the CRD website following the meeting,
- c. By offering the ability to attend the electronic meeting by invitation.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by MacDonald, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Dalton, that the Salt Spring Island Economic Development Commission agenda of May 17, 2021 be approved.

CARRIED

4. Adoption of Minutes of January 18, 2021

MOVED by Commissioner MacDonald, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Dalton, that the Salt Spring Island Economic Development Commission Minutes of January 18, 2021 be approved as amended by updating 8.1 bullet 1 to read "BC Housing has committed to keeping local shelter open year round 24/7."

CARRIED

5. Delegation/Presentations

5.1 Community Partner Updates

- Platform for collaborations across all sectors for leveraging shared goals.

SSI Arts Council – Yael Wand:

- Preparing for Art Craft opening on June 11, 2021 dependant on the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) under the Public Health Act.
- Spring Art Show showed a decrease in visitors due to Covid-19.
- Concerns expressed around lack of tourism.
- Launching an online store in fall 2021.
- Indigenous outreach through Art Craft expanded beyond Southern Gulf Islands.
- Part of the Digital Innovations Group (DIG) which is a collaboration of six arts councils and groups across the Southern Vancouver Island and Southern Gulf Island region.
- Launching an island wide Arts Impact Assessment Survey.
- Launching an Arts Facility Frame Work.
- Exploring art use options at Salt Spring Island Middle School (SIMS).
- It was noted that young artists are leaving due to lack of affordable housing.

Agricultural Alliance – Anne Macey:

- Established in 2008 and made up of nine members:
 - Islands Natural Growers
 - SSI Farmers Institute
 - Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce
 - SS Community Market Society
 - SSI Farmland Trust
 - SSI Poultry Club
 - Salt Spring Abattoir
 - CEDC
 - Transition Salt Spring
- To oversee implementation of SSI Area Farm Plan.
- To represent local agricultural interest to governments and government agencies.
- To locate and secure funding and resources to support agriculture and local food production on SSI.
- Concerned was expressed regarding hiring of staff.
- Composting project at Burgoyne Bay Community Farm.
- Meeting three times a year with the Islands Trust and the Agricultural Advisory Planning Commission (AAPC) to discuss agriculture issues and priorities on SSI.

Transitions Salt Spring – Gayle Baker:

- Network of world-wide towns working for environmental leadership since 1997.
- Eco-Home Tour, Earth Festival and Green Drinks events postponed due to Covid-19.
- Electric Vehicle Group #1 per capita in North America.
- Native Plants Stewardship broom drop off.
- Rainbow Road allotment gardens with 50 gardeners.
- Ecological Research Network carbon sequestration and regeneration of First Nation's shellfish aquaculture.
- Climate Action Network (CAN) governmental and non-profit organizations working together to develop partnerships.
- Coach program funded by Van City and partnership with CRD Victoria.

Salt Spring Solutions – Elizabeth FitzZaland:

- Non-profit organization completing research, education and advocacy around climate action and equity.
- Positive change in a timely matter for housing issues on SSI.
- Currently campaigning to protect land on Mount Maxwell for multi-use trails.
- Part of the Salish Sea Trail Working Group working towards a multi-use trail from Vesuvius to Fulford with Island Pathways and CRD Transportation Commission.

Transitions Enterprise Co-op – Elizabeth White:

- Volunteer run Community Investment Co-op.
- For profit registered B.C. Co-op association owned by its membership.
- Provides financing to businesses, individuals and non-profit organizations that reduce fossil fuels and support the goals of Transitions Salt Spring.
- Member of Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce, B.C. Cooperative association, and B.C. Community Impact Investment Coalition.
- Tool to address interlinked environmental economic and social challenges at the local level.
- Urgent need to shift SSI economy and activities towards carbon neutrality and adapt to climate change.
- Role in assisting with financing through Green Business Loans and Climate Action Loans.

Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce – Jesse Brown and Darryl Martin:

- 75 years serving SSI businesses.
- Collaborating with more organizations.
- Provided information from the Economic Development and B.C. Economic Development agencies regarding Recovery Programs through the global pandemic and provided the information to business on SSI.
- CHEER Challenge to encourage SSI to buy local to assist with recovery.
- Housing advocacy due to major constraint on SSI.

Southern Gulf Island (SGI) Tourism Partnership – Randy Cunningham:

- 3 years of operation.
- Board of 9 stakeholder members from across the islands in tourism related businesses.
- Main source of funding through Municipal Regional District Tax (MRDT).
- Received special funding through Destination B.C.
- 2021 branding, built infrastructure such as video, photos and website.
- Building and expanding non-profit stakeholder membership.
- Currently promoting to stay local while also promoting shoulder seasons with spring and fall as the primary focus.
- Ongoing effort to identify who visitors are and where they come from.

Islands Trust – Trustee Laura Patrick:

- Expressed appreciation for the CEDC on working collaboratively together.
- Business licenses as a potential tool for Short Term Vacation Rentals (STVRs) following a meeting between Trustees from all of the Local Trust Area which showed strong support for the idea.
- Commercial operators expressing complaints for loss of business.
- Each Trust Area passed a resolution requesting the CRD to explore the implementation of business licenses.
- Ganges Village Planning Task Force and Ganges Housing Task Force have both been appointed.
- Policy statement going through review process.
- Discussion regarding the Speculation and Vacancy Tax Act and if pursued, for money to stay in region.
- Engagement scheduled for the fall 2021 for the Policy Statement.

6. Director and Commissioner Reports

Director Holman briefly reported:

- Confirmed with CRD legal staff as well as Directors for the Southern Gulf Islands that the CRD does not have authority to implement business licenses. Would need Order in Council or Change of Legislation.
- Initiative at CRD establishing a new regional arts facility service, voter approval process.
- SIMS another potential for art services building.

7. Chair and Vice Chair Reports

Chair Carlin – No update.

Vice Chair MacDonald briefly reported:

- Increased website traffic and social media impacts.
- Announcement of Inclusion into Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) had over 7,000 viewers.

- The information hub is continuously refreshed with updated grants, funding, supplements and government sources.

8. Outstanding Business

8.1 Economic Development Coordinator

MOVED by Commissioner Carlin, **SECONDED** by Commissioner MacDonald that the Community Economic Development Commission:

1. Supports submitting an application for \$10,000 COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant and to enter into an agreement with Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce in receiving \$25,000 contribution towards the contract for EDC;
2. Approves the redirection of \$20,000 funding from Operating Reserve Fund planned for Regulatory Roadmap Phase 2 towards the contract for EDC;
3. Recommends to the Capital Regional District Board to amend the five-year financial plan to include the additional cost for the new initiative of EDC in total of \$55,000, funded by \$10,000 COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant, \$25,000 contribution from SSI Chamber of Commerce and \$20,000 Operating Reserve Fund from redirection of Regulatory Road Map Phase 2 project.

CARRIED

8.2 Community Economic Development Commission and Chamber of Commerce Collaboration re: Salt Spring Island Economic Leaders Group

- Initial meetings determined potential areas for collaboration.
- To develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the CEDC and the SS Chamber of Commerce.
- SS Chamber of Commerce Ganges Village Coordinator 1 year contact position funded.

8.3 2021 Economic Development Commission Budget

- Break down of budget approved by the CRD Board in March 2021.

8.4 Regulatory Roadmap Roll-Out Update

- Video shared will CEDC will be completed and available on the website June 2021 as a productive public education piece.

8.5 Rising Tide Business Services Launch and Island Comeback Update

- CEDC introduced Sherese Johnson, Business Development & Marketing Manager who provided a presentation on digital marketing solutions for rural island businesses.

8.6 Community Reports

- 2020 EB86 Home Owner Grant Program in Electoral Areas
- February, March, April 2021 Community Economic Development Commission Opportunity Salt Spring Analytics Report

9. New Business

9.1 ICET Engagement Opportunities

9.2 Join Rural Island Economic Partnership - \$50.00

9.3 Rural Designation

- Discussion to pursue permanent Rural Designation for Salt Spring Island due to CRD-Urban Designation.
- CRD Board has written to the Province.
- CRD staff to report back to CEDC with an update.

MOVED by Commissioner Muzkya, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Dalton, that the Community Economic Development Commission write a letter to the CRD Board requesting the Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Islands CRD Directors to support the commission's request for an order-in-council for a permanent rural designation.

CARRIED

9.4 CRD Building Permit Fees

Where do the funds go?

- All revenues from CRD building permit fees go to fund the service.

10. Next Meetings - Monday – September 20, 2021

*location and participation format TBD under the Order of the B.C. Public Health Officer.

11. Adjournment

MOVED By Commissioner Griffin, **SECONDED** by Commissioner MacDonald,
That the meeting adjourn at 5:12 pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SENIOR MANAGER