

SGI Economic Development Commission  
October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Attendees: Michael Hoebel – Chair, Galiano; Brian Crumblehume, Mayne; Larry Peck, Commissioner, Saturna; Director David Howe; Brian Dearden, Commissioner, Mayne; Ed Andrusiak, Galiano, Wendy Gardner, Commissioner, Pender; Gary Steeves, Islands Trust, Pender, Melody Pender.

Introductions and welcome: Mike Hoebel quickly mentioned how the group experienced connectivity between islands. How they arrived on the Island by boat, stopping and picking up on the different Islands. Proof that it is necessary and it can work!

Approval of Agenda: motion by Mike, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wendy Gardner. Passed

Approval of July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 minutes motioned by Mike Hoebel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wendy Gardner. Passed.

Ed Andrusiak gave an update on ETGI with several handouts.

- Larry Peck questioned Parks Canada interest on Saturna in particular the budgeting of the Spine Trail for ETGI, discussion with Parks could be challenging. Ed assures that Parks Canada is actively involved and interested.
- CRD changes always take longer, Ed's experience is to start with the ideas, sell it and the money will come. A memorandum of understanding needs to be drafted. (see handouts). The key to making it work is to put it under one umbrella.
- Presentation and discussion on FAB experiences – choose your experience – create your experience with all the information.
- Need to keep things moving, good discussions but need to take some action
- Similarities to Experience the Fraser but we have more opportunities
- Need to create a document to start visualizing the idea
- Concept Plan and community engagement.
- Discussion of handout – Direction from the SGI Economic Development Commission
- Discussion of Geotourism per handout

Garry commented in regards to getting community buy in, we need to define the EDC, how it's initiatives are financed, non-profits and all the boards should meet to inform them, they really need the answer as to where the money is coming from

Discussion on Seabus concept Feedback:

- Brian Dearden: need to have infrastructure in place - docks don't have designated commercial landing spots, etc, more conducive to commercial operators. Need to look at specific islands and operators on these islands.

- Larry Peck: looking at community based operation for short trips between islands. Once contracts are involved they are out for the money. Communities buy into service that is there!
- Brian Dearden: when you start working with schedules you get a lot empty trips
- Gary Steeves: what do you do when you get there? Responses: community buses
- Director Howe: this concept fits into the “clean air” getting cars off the island.
- Wendy Gardner: still coordination of why people will go to the islands, needs an organizer to get it working – coordinating packages
- Larry Peck: Saturna talks: was organized very well with trips from Poets and Saturna
- Gary Steeves/Brian Crumblehume: time is wrong to present SeaBus to BC Ferries, wait till after the service cuts are announced.

#### Assets/Inventory:

Update per Gary Steeves on behalf of Ken Hancock: Ken has met with Brent Peterson, completed outlines for interviews, waiting for ethical approval for his interview questions; completed baseline data, moving ahead on supplemental data.

#### Broadband Launch:

Brian Crumblehume: moving along painfully slowly.

- Network BC is positive – still no money
- Beacon wireless improving their base with another box transmitter box on roof at Hope Bay.
- Showcase on southern gulf islands with digital economy
- Puts us on the map.

#### AG Plan:

Director Howe discussed how Derek Masselink came to work for AG Plan at CRD.

- Gary Steeves gave background on AG Plan, it is necessary to get an application to ALR to be reviewed. It’s a must have for farm business in the ALR.
- Adopted the AG Plan as an initiative, can the EDC support and offer to assist to oversee the initiative?
- What does this mean? They would like 2 people from each island as a working group on each island to feed into the development of the ETGI, design the engagement process and act as AG advisory group for the community.

#### Aging in Place:

##### Galiano:

- 10 independent living units;
- 750 sq feet each;
- Property purchased

- Soliciting community input
- Yellow page list of reliable house and care givers for maintenance, etc
- Aging in Place – also adopted as an initiative

Mayne:

- Community bus still running
- Handi bus first, then community bus on demand for those with out transportation,
- Assisted living program working with bus system
- 37 senior housing complex;
- needs assessment

Saturna:

- Community bus – focus to work with seniors
- Working on getting an advisory

Discussion on Website and basecamp, need more information and contact for both website and facebook. Will try basecamp a little while longer, should receive some training guides on how to use it properly. If it isn't going to be used we should cancel it. Please like our Facebook page!

Harbours Commission:

- Biggest complaint is that it doesn't have in its infrastructure to allow for collaboration outside of itself
- Having problems dealing with change.

Meeting adjourned.