

Southern Gulf Islands Economic Development Commission  
May 15, 2014  
Panorama Recreation Centre, North Saanich, BC

Meeting Commenced 9:10am

**Present:** Mike Hoebel, Wendy Gardner, Larry Peck, David Howe, Derek Masselink, Brian Crumblehulme, Ed Andrusiak, Arnie Bell, Ken Hancock, Pender, Eric Pelkey.  
**Regrets:** Brian Dearden, Michael Dunn **Late Arrival:** Justin Stephenson

**Agenda:** Adopted by consensus

**January 30, 2014 Minutes**

Amendment to January 30<sup>th</sup> Minutes: Michael Dunn from Mayne, not Saturna.

**Motion** to Adopt January 30<sup>th</sup> Minutes: Wendy Gardner 2<sup>nd</sup> Larry Peck **Carried.**

**CRD Director Update** (David Howe) CRD Executive team tour of Southern Gulf Islands successful and productive. Good two way discussions helped improved awareness and build relationships. It was an important tour from an educational point of view. Galiano in particular hosted a well received breakfast meeting.

Dave is aware of improved awareness of Southern Gulf Islands as a Region and willingness of island residents to see 'collective we'. He sees that EDC Commissioners and Advisory Council members have helped to 'pull people in'.

Reports that Mayor of Sidney, Larry Cross, is interested in collaboration with SGIEDC especially around inter-island transportation initiatives. Economic Development Commissioner from San Juan Islands has expressed interest in our initiative.

Focusing on the Triple Bottom Line and the social piece Dave has been working on communications with 1<sup>st</sup> Nations in our region, Tsawout, Tseycum, Tsartlip and Penelakut. It is important to keep a relevant and current dialogue going.

EDC Chair, Mike Hoebel was thanked for his ongoing efforts on Galiano and in the region on behalf of the EDC.

**SGIEDC Budget Report** (Mike Hoebel): Annual budget is approximately \$40,000. At the end of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter balance is approximately \$30,000.

**Sustainable Economic Strategies for the Southern Gulf Islands** (Brent Peterson)

Introduction of Brent Peterson and thank you was given by Ken Hancock. Brent gave a quick over view of his recommendations as a result of his research and survey results. Please see attached report for specific details.

Recommendations from report:

- Use social finance to build independent and assisted living senior residences.

- Promote awareness of geo-tourism value proposition.
- Partner with local University for integrated online and short term residency programs.
- Diversify economic activity into agriculture investment.
- engage artist's talents in creating brand image and building brand equity.
- Establish integrated web portal with cross links to web sites and effective social media channels.
- Implement inexpensive video and audio conferencing sites to facilitate collaboration, experiment with emerging tele-medicine technologies.
- Establish mentorship program and business fundamentals workshops.
- Adopt simple Plan-Act-Check-Adjust process to inspire vision, define performance objectives, solicit feedback, and measure results.

Dave Howe requested ongoing discussion and development of outlined strategies be forthcoming rather than having information sit in a file in a box.

Arrival at 10am: Sylvia Olsen, Adam Olsen, Nick Claxton

### **SGIEDC Initiative Progress Reports**

**Experience the Gulf Islands** (EdAndrusiak): Please see attached 2 page Update and Proposed ETGI Work Program.

Tsawout Reef Net Proposal

Nick Claxton, from Saanich Territory, Tsawout First Nation a PhD. Candidate at University of Victoria, (Environmental Studies) gave a presentation on 1<sup>st</sup> Nations Tsawout Reef Net Proposal. As a result of historical circumstances beyond their control 1<sup>st</sup> Nations people have been systematically disconnected from their knowledge systems. Where once Net Reef fishing of salmon was the economic driver for a wealthy nation and the harvest and conservation of salmon was central to their social and spiritual wellbeing, the knowledge is dying with the elders.

Nick Claxton's Net Reef Proposal seeks to revitalize this ancient sustainable and efficient means of fishing. A proposal budget using custom made wooden canoes would run \$84,850. A budget using fabricated canoes would run \$34,850. A bare minimum budget using borrowed canoes would be \$2,500 to cover the cost of net making materials.

Adam Olsen sees the proposal as an opportunity to re-establish some economic prosperity as well as educate governing agencies such as Department of Fisheries and Oceans about proven sustainable fishing technology. Adam asked that we consider providing \$2,500 so that the proposal can move ahead this season.

Heredity Chief Eric Pelkey, explained that the 1<sup>st</sup> Nations site next to Poet's Cove was a historical fishing site and place where reef net fishing should resume. 'Aboriginal Tourism' is an important future development for local First Nations and this project could demonstrate the potential benefits, however the main reason for re-establishing the reef net fishery is to maintain cultural identity and reassert rights to harvest seafood along the coast, a right established by the Douglas Treaty. An invitation was extended to attend the Sea Food Festival June 14<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.Tsawout.ca](http://www.Tsawout.ca).

Motion to endorse Reef Net Project: Larry Peck. Second Wendy Gardner

**Carried**

Dave Howe proposed grant-in-aid for \$2,500 be applied for through Telanet Centre for Peace and Innovation. The Commission agreed to this proposal.

Experience the Gulf Islands Proposal Document

Motion that EDC accept Proposal Document for Experience the Gulf Islands and move forward with soft launch by posting onto [www.sustainableislands.ca](http://www.sustainableislands.ca) and then proceed with hard launch to all media after May 21: Mike Hoebel Second Dave Howe

**Carried**

Each Commissioner has a hard copy of Proposal Document. ETGI team leaders will also receive a copy. For clarification, the purpose of the Proposal document is to describe the project, build partnerships and obtain funding to develop an ETGI Concept Plan with the input and ideas of the ETGI Teams established on each island. Community involvement and consultation on each island to iron out wrinkles make refinements and work on details is fundamental to development of a final Concept Plan.

ETGI demonstration trail proposals

Mayne Island has already had community engagement regarding their draft plan and it has been deemed technically feasible by the CRD. It would now be prudent to ask the CRD to commence with the next step in the process.

Motion to ask Dave Howe to advise CRD Parks, on behalf of EDC, that the EDC recommends moving forward with Mayne Islands draft plan. Mike Hoebel Second Larry Peck

**Carried**

**Transportation** (Mike Hoebel)

Mike advised that the revised BC Transit document was submitted to John Hicks of CRD Planning Department. Dave explained that John Hicks wants the document to go to the Board meeting in July for information purposes only. However Dave would like to see some action result from the report. In particular he recommends that the CRD host an inter-island dispatch service which would enable easy access to centralized information regarding transportation options between islands. Finding a tool like checkpoint.com or similar would be of benefit for this concept.

Peter Pare of MAP submitted a written report on the Water Taxi service survey. Please see attached.

It is interesting to note that private operators have shown interest in offering some water-taxi service. Having an integrated central Gulf Islands Dispatch service would certainly be beneficial here.

**Broadband** (Brian Crumblehulme)

Brian Crumblehulme acknowledged that a letter has been received from the Executive Director of Network BC, Chris Hauff April 30<sup>th</sup>) advising that we on the Gulf Islands would qualify for funding through the Industry Canada program for rural and northern broadband service. There

will be a meeting May 30<sup>th</sup> with Gary Holman, Dave Howe, Mike Hoebel and Brian Crumblehulme to work on a proposal for potential funding.

Dialogue for improved service through Beacon and Eric Kuhnke continues.

### **Social Finance** (Dave Howe)

Dave helped ethical investment broker Stephan Whipp transfer his brokerage business to Wolverton Securities. Vancity is looking for a specific project for our region but are concerned about transfer of liability issues. Lawyer Larry Alexander has been brought in to review concerns and potential issues.

Possible Social Finance projects with Stephen Whipp and VIHA (Senior Housing) should be considered.

Justin Stephenson is a founding director of Greater Victoria and Southern Gulf Islands Community Investment Fund. He is happy to provide updates on future developments.

### **Agriculture**

See attached written report from Michael Dunn.

### **SGIEDC Communications** (Wendy Gardner)

Wendy talked about the continuing challenge of drawing interest to EDC website and the use of social network Facebook page. To date Facebook 'Likes' are broken down as follows:

Pender Island	58	Galiano	3	Mayne	3	Saturna	0
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The remaining 'Likes' are from across BC, Canada and International.

Wendy mentioned that she had been considering purchasing Islands Tides newspaper however, family commitments make that impractical. Suggested that the EDC in collaboration with other possible inter-island stakeholders consider a social enterprise co-operative. Discussion ensued.

### **New Business**

Larry Peck reports that Saturna Marine Research and Education Centre is in discussion with a group of international scientists looking to host a 'Private Reflections' Retreat for near 100 scientists in Sept/Oct of 2015 or 2016. This would be a great boon to Saturna and region if it transpires. Hopefully Southern Gulf Island hospitality would be at its best for such an event.

Mayne is hosting Active Pass Bird Festival April 17, 18 and 19 2015. Michael Dunn is spearheading this project which is hoped will become an annual festival being held alternate years between Mayne and Galiano. Again this would be a terrific opportunity to showcase Southern Gulf Island hospitality.

Next Meeting Date:

Meeting Adjourned 12:20pm