

**Southern Gulf Islands Economic Development Commission**  
**Room 112, Peninsula Health Unit**  
**2170 Mount Newton X Road**  
**Saanichton, BC**  
**January 15, 2015, 1:00pm-3:45pm**

1. attendance. David Howe, SGI Director; Ian Dow, Leigh Pullen, Priscilla Zimmerman; briefly by phone George Harris  
guest: Bob Lapham, CAO of the CRD  
note taker: Paul LeBlond, SGI Director alternate.

2. Presentation by James van Leeuwen, assisted by Roel Coert, on community broadband networks. Examples provided, including O-Net in Olds, Alberta; Q-Net in Coquitlam; SWIFT in southwest Ontario. Community broadband networks provide local benefits, are inclusive, are just infrastructure. Most (90%) of the effort in developing such a network is social; only 10% technical. Obstacles for Gulf Islands: low population density, terrain... Aim for optical fiber network capable of delivering 1.0 Gigabite/sec. Cooperative community ownership favours public funding.

3. Bob Lapham presented an overview of the CRD's method of providing services through a "service establishment by-law", in connection with the Experience the Gulf Islands program, and brought a copy of a sample bylaw (#3438) introduced to define a "Community transit and transportation service on SaltSpring Island" as a model. The CRD is looking at hiring a consultant to put together to develop a service definition bylaw for ETGI.

Other topics included

- Ian Dow obtained confirmation that a plan to borrow money, to be repaid from operational surpluses, to effect a dock upgrade was permissible. He also floated the idea of having BC Ferries include a small surcharge (\$0.25) for passage through Active Pass towards creation of a heritage fund. CRD to lobby BC Government to that effect.

- the status of the recycling depots on the islands, inadequately compensated by MMBC. Long-term options include funding by taxes, fees.... current policy is for the CRD to temporarily continue supporting the depots as it has in the past.

- water taxi services between the islands and Sidney (where the mayor is keen to welcome the traffic) will require a dispatching service. The consultant mentioned above will also be asked to develop a business plan for inter-island water connections.

4. Community offices now exist on Galiano and Pender, rented on a month-to-month basis.

MOTION: That the offices continue to be rented. M: L.Pullen, S: I Dow. Carried  
Rental costs for EDC meeting on Mayne to be charged to COMmission.

5. Members agreed to defer election of a chair until all members are present.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45.