

**SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS ELECTORAL AREA
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**
Minutes of a Meeting held **Monday, Oct 31st, 2016 at 9:00am**
At Mary Winspear Centre, 2243 Beacon Ave, Sidney, BC

Present: **Director:** David Howe

Alternate Director: Paul LeBlond

Commission Members: Brian Crumblehulme (Mayne Island), Priscilla Zimmerman (Saturna Island), George Harris (Galiano Island), Andrea Mills (Pender Island) June Klassen, SGI CESC Support, Melody Pender, Recorder

Guests: Ina Timmer, Aaron Smith, Derek Masselink, Larry Alexander, Lisa Stevens, Peter Elkins, Dave Hargreaves, Matthew Hall, Mike Hoebel, Ed Andrusiak, Jim Standen, Sue Hallatt, Mavis Underwood, Zorah Staar, Fiona XETATTEN MacRaidl, Mamie Hutt-Temoana, Rob Fenton

1. **Approval of the Agenda: MOVED** by Brian Crumblehume, **SECONDED** by Priscilla Zimmerman that agenda be approved

CARRIED

2. **Adoption of the Minutes of July 25th, 2016: MOVED** by Paul LeBlond, **SECONDED** by Brian Crumblehume that the minutes of July 25th, 2016 be approved

CARRIED

3. **Reports:**

- a. Director Howe: no report
- b. CESC Commissioners: no reports

4. Director Howe welcomed Mavis Underwood who spoke to the Commission regarding partnering together with the Coast Salish People, to explore relationships and build an economically stronger community.

Motion: MOVED by Brian Brian Crumblehume **SECONDED** by George Harris, Whereas, the Community Economic Sustainability Commission acknowledge and respect the Coast Salish Peoples on whose Traditional Territory the lands and seas known today as the Southern Gulf Islands, reside, and

Given that the CESC, in its mandate to support a thriving and resilient economy on the islands, wishes to bring to its work Indigenous perspectives and local knowledge and to integrate the aspirations of local First Nations who have called these islands their home since time immemorial,

I move that the CESC direct staff to return with recommendations to the Commission:

- a. To allow for First Nations participation and decision-making within the Commission
- b. To accommodate Indigenous ways of knowing and governance
- c. To respect the cultural protocols of the Coast Salish Peoples

CARRIED

Sue Hallatt, Manager, Aboriginal Initiatives with CRD discussed building relationships with First Nations. Her two points were 1.) relationship building is everyone's responsibility

(Commission) and their department is here to help and 2.) the Knowledge keepers are not the only ones responsible to impart knowledge to us, it is our responsibility to research on our own, Sue shared a few books as resources and gave the commission two titles to read, Saltwater People as told by Dave Elliott Sr. and Working with Aboriginal Peoples, and Indigenous Corporate training guide currently being used by their group.

5. Knowledge Based Economics – Virtual Delivery

a. Aaron Smith – Salish Sea Registry update

Background: Dave and Aaron spoke about an economic development opportunity using place based learning as a solution to open infrastructure and available accommodations left vacant in the winter months. Would we be able to use people, resources and assets already in place in this region, using technology as a vehicle, to show what they can offer to place based learning.

Salish Sea Registry update: the registry addresses two initiatives for the CESC, Education and Resource Inventory. The registry is a way to inventory our assets – to register our skills, projects and venues. Aaron shared the new tourism philosophy of SHAVE which is Scientific, Health and Wellness, Accredited, Volunteerism and Education non accredited. This is the future of destination management. Could we create learning centres/environments on each island that supports the local values of the SGI's and people of the Salish Sea, creating emotional experiences that will make visitors remember and want to come back.

The registry has been created, some tweaking here and there. How do we get people to sign up There are several avenues to go through to get the word out, social media, conventional ways like mail out or posters in high traffic areas and through existing organizations and associations, inviting them to register their group.

Aaron believes this database hasn't been done anywhere else, it opens many opportunities including a database for Film Commissions or Film institutes who would benefit from such a database to see what is on our islands, this is just one submarket it would be useful for.

It was discussed that we would need some practical examples to give it some traction, product delivery and marketability. Need to get the residents involved.

This database would pair nicely with the ETGI initiative as it would be able to identify useful products to go with their concept plan.

b. Derek Masselink – Regional Agrologist – Derek gave a brief introduction to his position with the Ministry. He'll be working with groups like ours who are inclined to support Food and Agriculture rather than the individual farmer. The Ministries mandate is to increase food and agriculture production from 13 billion to 15 billion within the next couple of years. They are also interested in putting more land into production and working with First Nations.

c. Brian Crumblehume discussed how all the Islands seem to have so many programs and workshops going on and he feels it's time to provide a central coordinating role. He introduced Gumboot University on Gabriola, saying they have said there are really interested in a multi Island initiative including the SGI's and SSI and further up the coast. They are imagining a range of educational opportunities that would match their vision of the Gumboot University, courses in permaculture, history and other local things (document attached).

Brian would like to see some decision made to actually provide a central communication system.

Zorah Staar spoke about her work with Heartwood Folk School for island sustainability and resilience. She would like to see an Events and Attractions directory for all islands on one website, possibly the CESC makes most sense (document attached).

- d. Fiona XETATTEN MacRaid, shared a few comments and considerations for the commission. She felt the commission needed to think about four points before carrying on with our initiatives. 1.) Is drawing people in a good thing, 2.) Is tourism good, 3.) Using indigenous knowledge and culture to attract other people, is it appropriate? And 4.) Is getting bigger better. You need to have this conversation first. She felt the database should start with people from aboriginal communities, to start with the stories of where the islands came from, the ancestors they belong too...to start from there.

MOTION: Brian Crumblehume **MOVED**, George Harris **SECONDED** that the CESC request staff to draft a letter of support on behalf of Director Howe to support the Mayne Island Agriculture Society in their application for funding for a teaching program.

CARRIED

Mamie Hutt Temoana talked about the newly formed society on Pender Island, Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre Society who's purpose is to help build resources, referrals, information as a joint project with other organizations and associations on Pender. Mamie is also the President of the Pender Chamber and therefore also looking for ways to improve tourism and business on the island. The CRC has submitted an application to the Rural Dividend Fund to get the CRC up and running and have chosen Edu-tourism as our project, to try and build the skills on Pender with the skills of the residents, set up courses and workshops focusing on seniors and youth ages 15 – 35 – this takes in a lot of the young families. If the application is successful we will have money to do the coordination and we'll need help from everyone around the table to help us implement this plan.

Micheal Hoebel briefly discussed an online event calendar activeislands.com based on Galiano that had tried to develop an SGI event calendar but only Galiano seems to be using it and find it effective. The biggest problem is getting the traction.

June Klassen mentioned that there is an awful lot of overlap and interweaving of similar ideas and hopes Larry is able to pull it all together before it becomes too fractured.

- e. Update suggestions were sent to the commissioners for the SGI CESC Website. June asked if they could be reviewed and any comments and feedback as well as changes to each islands pages be sent to Melody for updating.

6. Fossil Fuel Free Transportation Update

- a. June reported that Richard Drdul has been contracted to write a community bus report. He's met with Galiano, Pender and Mayne Islands and discussed their pilot bus projects. He should come back by the end of the month with a report that will outline rules and regulations for a community bus and also provide some recommendations for the groups to consider for their pilot bus projects. This type of information can be shared with other communities.

June has organized an inter-island passenger only ferry workshop with KPFF Consulting out of Seattle, they contributed to Kitsap Transit Passenger Only ferry study. The workshop will be in Sidney on Nov 17th. They will be talking about rules and regulations, risk and liabilities, and legislation around a passenger only ferry system and then after lunch have a visioning session to find out what do we want or think we want to have.

- b. Dave Hargreaves and Matthew Hall – Transportation App presentation. Moving around the Gulf Islands with technology.

Background: While traveling back and forth from Pender on the ferry to work in Victoria he thought about how to set up a communication of sorts with other ferry travelers so if someone needed a lift into town they could put it out “there” and connect with someone going that way. “who or what is going where and how can I use it?” Matthew has developed a very simple app called the Ferry App which simplifies the ferry schedule and this could be expanded with better funding. It could order a taxi or a car etc.

Developed the Ferry App as using BC Ferries schedule is not a happy experience. They manually have to enter the schedules as BC Ferries does not have any type of digital management it is all done in PDF’s. Their future plan for this app is to have more ads for funding and push notifications for last minute cancellations, changes or additions.

They are developing a test app/website incorporating all the different modes of transportation on the islands. It would be split into the different methods of transport such as car stops, taxi’s, water taxi’s, community buses, BC Transit (SSI), float planes. Currently there is no one place to get this information and it makes it difficult to make plans. Future features would include google maps giving directions for getting to a place on Mayne Island from a place on Pender, the directions would give you the different options to get there, through this app a feature would allow you to request a car stop pick up, a notification gets sent out that someone is waiting at a car stop and if you are going that way you would know you could stop and pick them up. The app/website would give people options to get around the islands.

- c. Ed Andrusiak – ETGI update. (See attached document) the ETGI Concept plan has been completed by Ecoplan and is ready for review and endorsement by SGI CESC and the SSI CEDC and then by the CRD EASC.

They will have in-depth discussion with First Nations before moving forward with their plans. This is a community tourism plan not mass tourism but rather the value is in the experience that is geared to the residents and visitors and expanding the off season. Very much the Edu tourism plan as discussed earlier.

MOTION: Brian Crumblehume **MOVED** and Andrea Mills **SECONDED** that the CESC receive the ETGI Concept Plan for information.

CARRIED

Discussed the Trail systems, community trails vs the CRD regional trails. Aaron shared a website called Working Abroad that has a trail building component for travelers and if ETGI follows the “SHAVE” acronym, there are funding opportunities available to them. http://www.workingabroad.com/projects/caribbean-conservation-volunteer#tab_204

Ed is participating in the process led by Destination BC to produce a 10 year destination development Strategic plan. They are aware of the ETGI Concept Plan and Ed will ensure it is incorporated into the 10 year plan in some way.

Each island has their own trail society working on plans for their community trails. SGI Electric Charging Stations presented by Jim Standen (as per attached document) they currently have 9 free public charging stations and working towards 21. He discussed some of their marketing strategies and funding opportunities. He is here to share this information and strategy with all the other gulf islands and would like to have island participation in getting more chargers on the islands which is good for our image, for tourists and for residents. Can we please go back to you islands

and ask if anyone is interested in working with Jim on this project, he is happy to share their knowledge and contacts.

Aaron shared a link for getting the charging stations installed by students through solar panels. They raise the money and install the charging stations. From Aaron "Using students/organizations to fundraise for solar infrastructure development. May be an opportunity to have a solar shelter, with 4-6 charging stations, underneath it."

<http://www.gridalternatives.org/programs/solar-break>

7. Social Capital Financial System

- a. Larry Alexander introduced a couple of members of his team Lisa Stevens and Peter Elkins. Larry is confident he and his team will be able to put together a practical framework.

Lisa discussed three themes that resonate through all of the islands. The first being community, the islands used to be much more connected in years past and the sense is we'd like to see that again. The momentum is building in doing more things together, communication is happening in recent years. We are getting better at working together. We are all working on a volunteer economy but there you are coming to a volunteer burn out. The same people doing all the work.

The second theme is the need to preserve and protect the environment but you want to expand that definition. The recurring saying that keeps coming up is "we have more ideas than money"!! There is a strong environmental foundation and we want to achieve economic sustainability on that.

The third theme was young families. Each island stressed the average age was too old to be the average age. Need to attract younger people.

In the short term we need to see what we can do with what we have. Need to get an understanding of who you are and play on those strengths (of which there are many) and to better understand and articulate what you are and what you have to offer.

Peter talked about focusing on what the economic leakage on our islands is. What money is leaving the island, finding a way to start controlling our own finance system, his example was Switzerland. To wrap it up, his vision for these islands would be to look at the biggest leakage, grab hold of it, work on it and be an example – create something on the gulf islands that could be scaled across Canada, that doesn't affect environment, creates incredible jobs and creates a wealth base to reinvest on the islands through that profit.

Larry believes that what the gulf island's want to do is leading edge, no one else is doing it. It's a great and doable opportunity!

8. New Business:

- a. New Initiative: SGI Housing Needs Assessment. Islands Trust and CRD Housing are going to work together and do housing needs assessment on all the islands and work with the groups on every island under the direction of John Riley of CRD Housing. Should be starting shortly, they are putting out an RFP for a consultant and setting up teams and coming out to all the islands.

9. Adjournment: Priscilla Zimmerman motioned to adjourn the meeting.

10. Next Meeting will be in mid-January. Larry will let us know when they are ready to present.