

**SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS ELECTORAL AREA
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

Notice of a Meeting to be held
Tuesday, March 31st , 2020 at 2:00pm
Zoom Video Conference
#30-4605 Bedwell Harbour Road, Pender Island

Present: **SGI CESC Commissioners:** Deb Goldman, Chair (Mayne) Ian Elliott, (Pender)
Mike Hoebel (Galiano), Priscilla Zimmerman (Saturna), David Howe (SGI
Director), Justine Starke (CRD Staff) Melody Pender – Recorder

Guests: Ed Andrusiak, Katie Dentry, Emma Davis, Jean Daniel Cusin

1. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Mike Hoebel that the Agenda be approved as presented, **SECONDED** by Ian Elliott
CARRIED

2. Adoption of the Minutes February 18, 2020

MOVED by Dave Howe that the minutes be approved as presented, **SECONDED** by Ian Elliott
Discussion: Deb Goldman went through action items on the minutes, there's been very little
movement due to the Covid 19 pandemic. **CARRIED**

3. Island Economic reports – previously distributed, no discussion

4. Electoral Area Economic Recovery Plan - Ian Elliott

- Would like to propose creating a recovery office with information to link the individuals, families and businesses with various programs available to them.
- Mike Hoebel mentioned the interisland information hub through RIEP
- EOC (Emergency Operation Centre) is willing to work with the Liaisons to provide support to the community resiliency
- Ed suggested we could look at assisting the community on the different governmental programs and helping people to apply, possibly the CRC and Liaisons can help.
- Francine has hired a researcher for setting up an information page on all the programs that the CRC and others could use for accessing information.
- Need to first see what other groups are doing and then the CRC can look for ways to fill the gaps on the islands and support the community groups.
- If we can align our resources with the CRC and other agencies we should be able to provide the resources required for our communities
- The working group will have a proposal for consideration for the end of the month, Justine is working on an umbrella agreement and a scope of work with CRD legal so the CESC can resource the CRC to carry out the commissions COVID response and economic resiliency plan where it is outside the scope of the CRD. The statement of work will be administered and approved by Justine.

MOVED by Dave Howe that the CESC recommend to allocate up to \$20,000 to support the delivery of the COVID 19 pandemic response and \$5,000 for the researcher. **SECONDED** by Ian

Elliott

After discussion it was recommended to separate the motions. Dave withdraws his motion and Ian Elliot withdraws his second.

MOVED by Ian Elliott that the CESC recommends to allocate up to \$20,000 of unallocated budgeted funds to support the delivery of COVID 19 pandemic social and economic response.

SECONDED by Mike Hoebel.

CARRIED

MOVED by David Howe that the CESC contributes \$5,000 towards the research of economic clarification of the federal and provincial programs on behalf of the southern gulf islands.

SECONDED by Priscilla Zimmerman

After discussion it was clarified that the funding for \$5,000 is for the start up of the gift card directory. Dave withdraws his motion and Priscilla withdraws her second.

MOVED by Ian Elliott that the CESC contributes \$5,000 from program development to support the gift card registry project to the Rural Islands Economic Partnership Society.

SECONDED by Dave Howe.

CARRIED

5. **Rural Islands Economic Partnership (RIEP) update** –Mike Hoebel

- Discussed the round table zoom meetings with all the islands to share information by island and by sector, possibility of creating a webinar format and have specific islands presenting. Mike shared the dates of the next two upcoming meetings.
- RIEP is now a non-profit society, Mike is on the interim board representing the southern gulf islands and it is now soliciting memberships. They would like to ask the SGI CESC to become a member for \$150. Ian asked if by becoming a member would it be a conflict to give funds to support something like the rural island's economic forum. It was requested for Justine to check with CRD Legal if there is a conflict if the commission becomes a member of a non-profit to support if financially with tax payer's money.

6. **Items for discussion as requested by Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission (SSI CEDC)** - Deb Goldman

- To identify key contacts from the food and agricultural and artisan and craft communities
- To provide a full list of all the locally made and produced products on Southern Gulf Islands (SGI)
- The request to share the cost of transcripts for recording was deferred

7. **Notice of motion in regards to Affordable housing** - Mike Hoebel

MOVED by Mike Hoebel that the CESC request the CRD Finance Dept. to report on options to create a social finance fund to help finance workforce housing on the SGIs through the CRD Housing Corporation. **SECONDED** by Priscilla Zimmerman

CARRIED

8. **New Business** – Dave Howe put forward a proposal to Elizabeth May to have the CWF allocate additional funding or to move up the next intake or modify and relax the qualifications for which the funds can be used for. She brought it up at the next meeting and they liked the idea but wasn't sure what the final decision would be. Dave also mentioned he talked to New Market Funds to raise \$40million in a private/public partnership with provincial government to be focused on housing and connectivity.

9. **Meeting Adjourned at 4:10pm; Next meeting** - TBD