

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

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 17th, 2020 at 1:00pm

Held by Zoom Video Conference

SGI CESC Commissioners: Ian Elliott, Chair (Pender) Mike Hoebel, Vice Chair (Galiano), Paul Brent (Saturna), Deb Goldman (Mayne),

Staff: Justine Starke, Manager, SGI Service Delivery; Melody Pender – Recorder

SGI Liaison: Emma Davis, Katie Dentry, Kat Ferneyhough; **Guests:** Ed Andrusiak, Andrea Mills

Regrets: David Howe, Director

1. Approval of the Agenda as amended

MOVED BY Commissioner Goldman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel, that the SGI Community Economic Sustainability Commission agenda as amended for November 17th, 2020 be approved. **CARRIED**

2. Adoption of Minutes October 20, 2020

MOVED BY Commissioner Hoebel, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Goldman, that the SGI Community Economic Sustainability Commission Minutes for October 20, 2020 be approved. **CARRIED**

3. Request for Cheryl McLay, the Regional Manager (Van. Island/South Coast) of Economic Operations for the Rural Development Unit of FLNRD to attend December meeting. She would like to share information and resources on COVID resiliency and economic relief programs for the regions. Katie will extend the invitation. It was determined there was representation from each island chamber of commerce or tourism association that would bring the information back to their islands.

It was agreed by all Commissioners to hold a brief meeting on December 15 as scheduled and ask Cheryl to attend.

4. Financial Report

- Review of October and YTD 2020 Revenue and Expense report. Commissioner Elliott presented a brief update on the current finances to the end of the year. A brief discussion ensued.

MOVED by Commissioner Goldman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Brent, that the SGI Community Economic Sustainability Commission (CESC) financial report for October 2020 be approved as submitted **CARRIED**

5. Director's Report – No report

6. Island Economic Reports – previously circulated (attached)

7. Old Business

- Further discussion on Food and Ag initiative – Ed Andrusiak

Ed gave an update on discussions with the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre (SGICRC) and Gulf Island Food Co-op (GIFC). GIFC sent in a proposal to CESC last meeting. It was determined that the CESC will need to review funds remaining for the year 2020.

Andrea Mills joined the meeting and discussed other external funding opportunities that could bring a larger scope of work and include other food security groups on the islands. It was recommended Commissioner Elliott submit a pre-screen form to UBCM for Community Works Funds and get an idea of eligibility for the project. In the meantime, Commissioner

Elliott and Melody will review the remaining 2020 budget for SGI CESC. To be further discussed at the December meeting.

8. New Business

- Rural Island Economic Partnership (RIEP)

Commissioner Hoebel gave a brief background of these two services.

- Shared Business Services

Rural Dividend Funds was awarded Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC) for a pilot project to provide shared business services across the Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring, some of which would include marketing and sales, technical and administration Support, human resources, training opportunities and supplies purchasing. The CEDC recommended that the CEDC contract with RIEP to deliver the pilot program.

- Island Comeback

This is a website set up to provide gift card purchases or donations to rural island businesses and non-profits. It will eventually set up an ecommerce is more funding is secured. They are currently gearing up for Christmas.

- SGI Tourism Partnership (SGITP)

Ed discussed the status of SGITPS. They have hired Chris Hall as Project Manager for the Canadian Experience funds they received and he is working on a strategy for interisland connections both water and land. They are interested in working together with CESC to coordinate with the transportation service initiative. Meetings are being planned to ensure work is not being duplicated.

- Island Coastal Economic Trust (I.C.E.T.) – Ian Elliott

There was discussion regarding I.C.E.T. and Community Futures inclusion. It was mentioned by Staff that the I.C.E.T. funding was limited and no clear decision from Government if a top up in funding was coming. Commissioner Goldman mentioned that Adam Olsen would be advocating for the Salt Spring Island and the Southern Gulf Islands once he has been sworn in. Commissioner Elliott also mentioned that by including Juan de Fuca it may set a precedent that opens the door for further discussion to include the other 2 electoral areas.

9. Next regular meeting – proposed Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 1pm.

10. Commissioner Hoebel motioned for adjournment at 2:29pm