

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

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 15, 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, Cheryl McLay, Regional Manager Vancouver Island/Coast, Regional Economic Operations- Rural Development Unit; Karla Campbell, Francine Carlin, Ann Macy, Gayle Baker

Regrets: Director Howe

1. Approval of the Agenda
MOVED by Commissioner Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Goldman, that the CESC agenda be approved as presented **CARRIED**

2. Approval of Minutes November 17th, 2020
MOVED by Commissioner Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel, that the CESC minutes of November 17, 2020 be approved as presented **CARRIED**

3. Guest speaker Cheryl McLay from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development provided an update on the following programs:
 - BC Small and Medium-Sized Business Recovery Grant
 - BC COVID -19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream
 - BC Community Workforce Response Grant- Skills Training for Economic Recovery Stream
 - Digital Economy: Rapid Response & Resiliency (DER3)
 - Tourism Resiliency ProgramAn information sheet was circulated and is attached.
 - It was discussed how best to inform business and non-profits around the SGI's about these programs.
 - o It was suggested to identify businesses who are in trouble and connect with them to introduce the grants, the Community Resource Centre Island Coordinators and CRD Liaisons could walk them through as required
 - o Use the CESC Facebook page and Island social media pages to advertise the grants as they come out and add the Just In Time sessions
 - o Inform the Chambers on each island to distribute to their members
 - Further discussion on how the Community Resource Centre and CRD Liaisons can offer community support and what would be required.

MOVED by Commissioner Hoebel **SECONDED** by Commissioner Goldman to request the Community Resource Centre and the CRD Staff return next meeting with a Statement of Work Regarding COVID Resiliency and Response. **CARRIED**

4. Financial Report

- Commissioner Elliott reviewed the remaining budget allocations for 2020 previously circulated.

MOVED by Commissioner Goldman **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel that the CESC commits to allocating the funding of \$10,402 as indicated in the 2020 CESC Remaining Budget Allocation report. **CARRIED**

5. Old Business

- Justine gave an overview of the projects the Liaisons have worked on over the year.
- Connectivity
 - Island community engagement meetings and gathered a lot of information from various sector groups as well as online surveys and one on one sector interviews for the phase one connectivity plan. Results published in January 2020
 - Received \$50,000 from Rural Dividend Fund for Phase 2 of Connectivity plan and were able to have more targeted community engagement meetings with ISP's and other technical groups which formed the technical advisory group. This information was used to construct the terms of reference for the request for proposal and were able to engage Tanex who are creating the connectivity infrastructure design plan.
 - Justine and the CRD Liaisons were able to fund this initiative from outside funding sources. Many thanks to the hard work of the CRD Liaisons
- Transportation Service
 - Met with island transportation advocates in the summer. Received endorsement of the project charter which is being used for guiding the project
 - In the new year a request for proposal will go out to hire a consultant to create the scope of work for the transportation service.
 - Justine will share the document shortly with the CESC commissioners.
 - Many thanks to Ed Andrusiak for his guidance on this proposal
 - This project has been funded through a community work funds grant
- Justine thanks the CRD Liaisons for all the support they give her and their community support. They keep the CRD in touch with what is happening on the islands.

6. New Business

- brief discussion on Adam Olsen's support for the rural designation for the Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Island.
- Commissioner Elliott gave a brief update on the Food and Ag project, he has asked Andrea Mills to reconvene a Food and Ag working group meeting before the end of the year.
 - Justine informed the group the Community Works Funds pre-screen has been approved as an eligible project by UBCM and therefore the CESC can move ahead with the 3rd party application
- There was further discussion on how to make the island communities aware of all the different initiatives and work being done on their behalf. It was mentioned that information is put out on social media pages and updates to the Sustainable Islands website.

7. Next regular meeting – proposed Tuesday, January 19th, 2020 at 1pm.