

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

Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1:00pm**

**Held by Zoom Video Conference**

**SGI CESC Commissioners:** David Howe (CRD Director), Ian Elliott, Chair (Pender) Mike Hoebel, Vice Chair (Galiano), Paul Brent, Treasure (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

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Chair Elliott called the meeting to order at 1:00pm

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED** by Director Howe, **SECONDED** BY Commissioner Brent that the agenda be approved as amended. **CARRIED**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Brent, **SECONDED** by Director Howe that the minutes of January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved as amended. **CARRIED**

**3. Financial Report**

- Review of December and Year End 2020 Revenue and Expense report – Commissioner Brent reported \$1,695 was moved to 2021 as surplus and the remaining \$1,500 is moved into our operating reserve fund.

**MOVED** by Commissioner Brent, **SECONDED** by Director Howe to receive report as presented. Chair Elliott thanked all who helped in creating the operating reserve fund for the commission **CARRIED**

**MOVED** by Director Howe, **Seconded** by Commissioner Hoebel to pay for Phase 2 of the Gulf Island Food Coop project as per 2020 proposal submitted. **CARRIED**

4. Quarterly Community Communication – discussion regarding the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter article for island papers. Chair Elliott volunteered to pull together the first submission and have it ready for review by the 10<sup>th</sup> of March. Commissioner Brent will give more thought to a zoom meeting to plan for community info session and questions, a possible date would be April 21<sup>st</sup>.

5. Activate Advisory Group – Background was provided by Director Howe on how the advisory has worked in the past. The commission discussed if they would like to activate an advisory group as per Section 3, Subsection B of the bylaws to work with their respective Commission member to help deliver the Commission’s mandate.

**MOVED** by Commissioner Brent, **SECONDED** by Director Howe to activate an Advisory Group for each island. **CARRIED**

6. Food and Ag Working group update. Ed Andrusiak reported there is a meeting coming up later this week. They hope to better define its scope for regional and island issues and come up with a list of proposals from the various Food and Ag groups across the islands. Chair Elliott thanked everyone for their work in getting the community works fund application moved forward.

7. Housing - Justine reported she has met with Senior CRD staff regarding Southern Gulf Islands housing strategy and the approach to moving the housing strategy forward in 2021. In regards to the previous motion to form a Housing subcommittee, after discussion with Justine and the CESC Chair it was decided it was premature to move this forward until there is more work for the subcommittee to do.
8. Connectivity – There was a Broadband 101 session where TANEx explained the different terms and technologies and different ways that the internet is provided on the islands that was very informative. Coming up there will be a vision workshop to develop a vision for the broadband strategy that’s grounded in the reality of the Islanders. There will also be a meeting with the technical community advisory group to discuss common goals. The TANEx draft report should be ready for feedback in the next 4 – 6 weeks. There was further discussion regarding Starlink which is currently being beta tested, but indicates there are more choices and options coming to the southern gulf islands.
9. COVID Restart
  - Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership (SGITPS) – CESC contributes \$20,000 annually. There was a question if a motion was required to release the funding for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter - it was clarified that it was already approved within the budget for 2021 and a resolution was not required. It was also reported that there are now local representatives of SGITPS on each island who are called community managers who are focused on social media of the uniqueness of each island. It was further mentioned CRD staff are initiating a letter of agreement or contract to guide the contributions to SGITPS by the SSI EDC and the SGI CESC.
  - Transportation commission/service, each commissioner gave a brief update and for now unless there is an influx of funding the bus societies will most likely not function in 2021 or beyond. Justine reported the RFP went out looking to have a consultant design an integrated multimodal transportation service. They received several excellent proposals and the successful submission has a very versatile team to support the work of their proposal.
10. Old Business
  - SGI Community Resource Centre Contract – no further support required at this time
  - Commissioner Hoebel reported that ICET after many years is finally going to recognize the Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring. There was also a meeting with Western Economic Diversification and Community Futures Cowichan about officially including the southern gulf islands and salt spring within their boundaries and some progress is being made.

Commissioner Brent brought forward a resolution of thanks to Director Howe, Director Holman, Director Hicks, CRD Chair Colin Plant, MLA Adam Olsen, Commissioner Carlin and all those that worked so hard over the last decade to bring about the inclusion of the CRD Electoral Areas into the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) and upcoming changes to the Western Economic Diversification (WED) and Community Futures (Cowichan).

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Brent called adjournment at 2:32pm

Next regular meeting – proposed Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1pm.

