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

**Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 1:00pm**

**Held by Zoom Video Conference**

**MINUTES**

**SGI CESC Commissioners:** Paul Brent, Director, Chair (Saturna), Mike Hoebel, Vice Chair (Galiano), Richard Piskor, Treasurer (Pender), Deb Goldman (Mayne), Priscilla Zimmerman (Saturna), Rob Fenton (Pender)

**Staff:** Justine Starke, Manager, SGI Service Delivery; Melody Pender – Recorder/Pender Liaison; SGI Liaisons: Emma Davis (Galiano), Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne)

**Guest:** Ed Andrusiak, Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre Society (Galiano)

**Regrets:** Katie Dentry (Saturna)

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**1. Territorial Acknowledgement/Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Brent provided the territorial acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

By consensus, the agenda was accepted as presented.

**3. Approval of Minutes from November 15<sup>th</sup> and November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.**

By consensus, the minutes of November 15<sup>th</sup> and November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 were accepted as presented.

**4. Financial Report – Update on 2023 Budget**

A small surplus of funding will be carried forward to cover Sustainable Funding Initiative, Housing Now and other staff costs. There is an approximate two percent increase in the requisition for 2023. The budget will be finalized at year end and will be presented to the Commission.

**5. SGI Liaisons Update – Justine Starke/Liaisons**

**Justine Starke** – Southern Gulf Islands (SGIs) sought approval for Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) eligibility and approval was granted. SGIs will apply to bring Last Mile to Galiano and Saturna and are working under a tight application deadline of January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Seeking Connected Coast funding with the hope to leverage this grant to benefit the entire EA. Shaw is also putting a fiber link between Pender and Salt Spring to increase network capacity. The goal of this REDIP application is to increase broadband connectivity in our EA.



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**6. Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) – Paul Brent**

As previously stated by Justine Starke: This Last Mile REDIP application has the greatest chance of success and greatest chance of maximizing economic benefit to our community over the long term.

**MOVED** by Chair Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel to request staff to pursue an application under Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program to support Last Mile connectivity and economic diversification in the EA. **CARRIED**

Funding for the entire REDIP program is \$100 million over three years. Funding streams will likely be differentiated between regional district projects, indigenous projects and non-profits, so the Commission may offer support to other project applications without jeopardizing its own application.

The Sea Farm application is seeking a \$20,000-\$30,000 grant to produce a business plan to test the viability of a Sea Farm to diversify food production on the SGIs.

**MOTION:**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Hoebel, **SECONDED** by Chair Brent for the Commission to write a letter of support for the Sea Farm Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program application.

There was some concern that there may be competition between different projects for limited resources and that the Commission may have to be selective in which projects it offers support to. Therefore, the **MOTION** was **AMENDED** to state: *that letters of support may be written for applications that reflect the strategic initiatives of the Commission.*

**AMENDED MOTION:**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Hoebel, **SECONDED** by Chair Brent that letters of support may be written for applications that reflect the strategic initiatives of the Commission.

**CARRIED**

**7. Old Business**

None to discuss.

**8. New Business**

Commissioner Fenton shared that he hired a person to do a survey to attempt to determine how many people are living in trailers on Pender. He will share the results with the Commission in terms of housing issues once the study is completed. Chair Brent is also investigating lobbying the government to allow for permanent tiny homes on the Southern Gulf Islands. Discussion to be continued in the new year.



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**9. Next proposed regular meeting January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting date approved by consensus.

**10. Meeting Adjournment**

Chair Brent called for adjournment at 2:01pm. Happy Holidays everyone!