



SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS EMERGENCY PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, January 17th, 2024 @ 1000 hrs

Place: Virtual via Zoom

Present: Gaire MacLean - Chair (Sidney), Asst. Chief Adrian Hanson (Pender), Wayne Quinn (Saturna), Roger Pettit (Galiano), Brenda Clairó (Pender), Kerry Keats (Piers), Scott Sugden (South Galiano), Chief Kyle Stobart (Mayne)

CRD Staff: Corey Anderson, Jollette Schenk, Brigitte Prochaska, Jennifer Carvill

Guest: none

Regrets: Steven Cropper (Mayne), Michel Chiasson (Saturna), Brent Paul (Director)

- Call to order
- Welcome and introductions
- Introductions roundtable
 - New CRD Manager, Emergency Programs Corey Anderson
- Approval of agenda
 - MOVED: R. Fenton SECONDED: W. Quinn
 - CARRIED
- Approval of previous meeting minutes (November 15th, 2023)
 - MOVED: A. Hanson SECONDED: R. Fenton
 - CARRIED
- Business arising from past minutes:
 - Update: 3rd Party (Facilities) Agreements Working Group - Work continues. Quinn brought C. Anderson up to date on status of these agreements and getting a master agreement in place. Direction the subcommittee is heading is to commit to the idea of a standby fee for each facility. This would result in an annual

budget for a standby fee. Looking for figures from the CRD on actual costs over the last few years on standby fees to form a report. Would be the responsibility of the CRD to go out to the communities to pitch the new finance model. C. Anderson and the CRD are working on understanding the base lines and will bring the information back to the group. All members will be included in the decision making around these facility agreements, acknowledging the unique situations of the communities.

- CRD Director's report- n/a
- Chair's report- G. MacLean
 - Encouraged by what is seen in the communities and the support displayed by the EP volunteers.
- Finance report- B. Prochaska
 - CRD working on final reporting for December 2023.
- CRD Protective Services report – C. Anderson
 - Protocol for opening warming centres- In the Assistance to Shelter Act there is a temperature criterion that serves as the trigger point to open warming centres. Temperature criteria depends on the area and for the Southern Gulf Islands, zero degrees is the base to start a conversation on opening a centre. Extended power outages combined with low temperatures are the main cause for opening a warming centre. It is also dependent on if a facility is available or there are staff to run it. ESS is not mandated to include warming centres, so there may be staffing issues with this as well as safety concerns for travel to these facilities by both volunteers and residents. Extended times are usually around the 72-hour mark but considering that the Coast is not normally exposed to low temperatures, may be worth shortening that time. Need to create a plan to discuss who will staff these warming centres and the extended time frames and what that looks like. There are challenges around providing overnight accommodations and navigating possible downed power lines for travel to the centres. Neighbours supporting neighbours could play a big support role in an event. Public education is an important piece in reminding people to be prepared. Signs around the ferry would be helpful for this.
- Area Emergency Program Lead's report- B. Prochaska
 - New ESS lead Rebecca Eagan started January 1st and is touring of all the islands to be introduced to Emergency Program teams and tour the EP facilities.

- Starting to work on parameters for ESS teams training for 2024.
 - ERA team building for 2024.
- Other Business
 - W. Quinn: Suggested that live meetings not be scheduled in the winter months to avoid high risk travel times.
ACTION: November and January meetings are to be on Zoom and not in person.
- Correspondence
 - W. Quinn: Update on sea cans from B. Prochaska that we will be working to acquire all the sea cans during spring/summer.
- Next meeting – March 20th, 2024 at 9:00 am. Location: Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney