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REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

SUBJECT Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission Bylaw Amendment

ISSUE SUMMARY

To consider a request by the Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission (CESC) to amend Bylaw 3803 to add up to four (4) commissioners and increase the number of commissioners from five (5) to a maximum of nine (9).

BACKGROUND

At the April 20, 2021 meeting of the CESC, the following motion was carried:

MOVED by Commissioner Hoebel, Commissioner Brent **SECONDED** that the CESC requests the Electoral Area Director request the CRD board amend the bylaw to allow for the appointment of four additional commissioners, who would be commissioners at large.

The SGI CESC was established in 2011 through Bylaw No. 3803 as an advisory committee of the CRD (Appendix A). The CESC is comprised of the Electoral Area Director or Alternate and a member representing Galiano Island, Mayne Island, Pender Islands and Saturna Island. Administration support is provided by the Assistant to Electoral Area Director, the CRD Manager for Service Delivery in the Southern Gulf Islands and the General Manager, Corporate Services.

According to the commission bylaw (Bylaw No. 3803), the CESC is an advisory commission that should work towards achieving a resilient and sustainable local economy that improves and maintains the SGI's economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental quality. The Commission is to assist in preserving and strengthening existing business, attracting new business, and coordinating local economic development initiatives that contribute to economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental quality.

The Commission has indicated an interest in broadening the diversity of its membership to bring a greater range of perspectives to its work. It was discussed that having more voices around the table would deepen the understanding of the region's economic sustainability and increase the accountability of the Commissions' deliberations.

The Commission has requested the membership be increased from five (5) to a maximum of nine (9) commissioners, with up to four (4) additional members to be considered "commissioners at large." The commissioners at large would represent a regional perspective in addition to the Regional Director and the existing four members that are appointed as representatives of each of Mayne, Galiano, Saturna, and Pender Islands.

The Commission has also indicated it would be beneficial to have flexibility in the term of the appointments, so these additional commissioners could be appointed for one or two year terms. This would enable those with specific expertise to be appointed to support a special project for a shorter term.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1:

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That staff be directed to report back with amendments to Bylaw 3038, the “Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2012” to increase the number of commissioners from five (5) to nine (9), with the additional members considered commissioners at large to represent the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area as a whole, and to enable the commissioners at large to be appointed for one (1) or two (2) year terms.

Alternative 2:

That the Electoral Areas Committee request staff report back with additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

This request supports CRD Board priorities and the corporate plan priorities for Advocacy, Governance & Accountability.

The addition of commissioners at large will broaden the diversity of voices and allow different perspectives to inform the work of the CESC. Flexibility in the term of appointments will allow individuals with specific expertise to be appointment for shorter terms to serve special projects.

Administratively, this request will increase the number of appointments that require advertising and tracking, but does not represent a significant increase in work load.

CONCLUSION

The request by the Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission (CESC) to amend establishing Bylaw 3803 to increase the number of commissioners from five (5) to nine (9), will improve governance in the SGI EA. An increase in the number of commissioners to represent SGI’s economic interests will bring a greater range of perspectives and broaden the diversity of deliberations of the CESC.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That staff be directed to report back with amendments to Bylaw 3038, the “Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2012” to increase the number of commissioners from five (5) to nine (9), with the additional members considered commissioners at large to represent the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area as a whole, and to enable the commissioners at large to be appointed for one (1) or two (2) year terms.

Submitted by:	Justine Starke, MCIP, RPP, Manager, SGI Service Delivery, Corporate Services
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Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services & Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: Bylaw 3038, Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2012.