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

Tuesday, January 20th, 2026, at 1:00pm

Zoom Video Conference

MINUTES

SGI CESC Commissioners: Paul Brent, Director, Chair (Saturna), Marcus Farmer (Mayne), Rob Fawcett, SGI Alternate Director, (Pender), Simon Fallick (Galiano)

Staff: Justine Starke – Senior Manager, Southern Gulf Islands Administration, Melody Pender – Recorder/Pender Liaison, SGI Liaisons: Emma Davis (Galiano), Katie Dentry (Saturna), Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne)

Guest: Michael Hoebel, Sandra Tretick, Brenna Mongeon

1. Territorial Acknowledgement/Call Meeting to Order

Chair Brent provided the territorial acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

2. Introduction of Pender Island Commissioner Applicants

Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Commissioner Farmer, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Fallick to accept the Agenda as presented.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes from October 18, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Farmer, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Fallick to accept the minutes from October 18, 2025 as presented.

CARRIED

5. Financial Report

• **Review and approval of 2026 Budget**

MOVED by Commissioner Farmer, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Fallick to approve the Community Economic Sustainability Commission 2026 Budget.

CARRIED

• **CESC Budget to Actuals YTD to Nov 2025**

6. Statement of Work for review and discussion – Justine Starke

Justine Starke presented a proposed scope of work for developing a strategic plan. The strategic plan would guide the future directions of the Commission and promote access to grant funding for organizations that align with the strategic plan. A consultant could be hired to lead the workshop delivery and advise on the project to support CRD liaisons in completing the scope of work.

The Commissioners discussed timeline and budget approaches to engage effectively with stakeholders, including First Nations. It was agreed to commence work on developing a



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living document strategic plan for economic development on the Southern Gulf Islands as a one-year project that can be revised at any time and uses a targeted approach to engage with key stakeholders.

7. Southern Gulf Islands Liaisons Update

Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne) – Village Bay terminal is being upgraded, impacting ferry schedules and deterring visitors. Mayne Inn is developing a new restaurant called Arbutus Grill. A lot of businesses are in seasonal closures or reduced winter hours.

Emma Davis (Galiano) – Daystar Grocery is running again and social work service funding has been secured through November 2026.

Katie Dentry (Saturna) – Ferry traffic is down, most businesses are closed for the winter.

Melody Pender (Pender) – There are events scheduled on island for the weekend when the ferry terminal is fully closed. There is a staycation promotion organized by the Pender Chamber of Commerce during the ferry closure.

8. Old/New Business – none discussed.

At **1:54pm** Commissioner Fallick left the meeting. Quorum was lost

9. In Camera – not held due to loss of quorum.

ACTION ITEM: Chair Brent and current Commissioners to discuss appointing prospective Commissioners and share decision soon.

10. Next regular meeting – March 17th, 2026

11. Meeting Adjourned

Chair Brent Adjourned the meeting at 2:05pm.