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

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 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); Katie Dentry (Saturna)

Guests: Ed Andrusiak, Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre Society; Randy Cunningham, Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership Society

1. Territorial Acknowledgement/Call Meeting to Order

Chair Brent provided the territorial acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda under **8. New Business:**

- **Transportation Update – Justine Starke**
- **BCAFM Economic Impact Study – Richard Piskor**

MOVED by Commissioner Goldman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Piskor to accept the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes from April 18th, 2023.

MOVED by Commissioner Zimmerman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel to accept the minutes of April 18th, 2023 as presented.

CARRIED

4. Financial Report

The Financial Report was received for information by the Commission. Program allocations have been well defined. The budget has about \$35,000 remaining after the commitments that have been made to date.

A request was made from Rural Islands Economic Partnership to sponsor the recent economic forum on Gabriola.

MOVED by Commissioner Hoebel, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Zimmerman for \$2,500 from the Program Development be allocated as sponsorship support for the Rural Islands Economic Partnership for the 2023 Economic Forum.

CARRIED



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5. Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership Society annual update – Randy Cunningham

This year is the first year since COVID that the Tourism Partnership has been able to be more active in tourism management initiatives. Overall, the Tourism Partnership is pleased with the growth and momentum they have had over the past year to focus on destination management, not just marketing. They have tried to bring a common brand to the Southern Gulf Islands while also highlighting the uniqueness of each island. They try to collaborate with the local chambers and tourism resources. The partnership is focussed on off-season tourism to improve the distribution of tourism throughout the year. Aqualink will be starting up again soon and is seeking more funding sources. Enhanced foot passenger traffic and improved connections between the islands will hopefully encourage better dispersal of tourists across all the islands and support attendance of community events on each island.

**6. SGI Liaisons Update – Justine Starke, Liaisons
CRD Rural Housing Program Pilot – Request for Written Quotation**

Justine Starke – The request for written quotation was shared, the purpose of the Request for Written Quotation is to determine a cost estimate for a consultant to do the work to determine the financial implications of a rural housing program pilot on the SGIs. The Commission may be asked to partially contribute to funding this consulting work if the feasibility study is approved.

Island Updates:

Katie Dentry (Saturna) – First Saturday Market this weekend, Pig BBQ as well, Sage Hayward vineyards opened last weekend for the season. Water and fire are concerns on the island already for the summer.

Emma Davis (Galiano) – Working on emergency management and parks and recreation projects. ICET will be supporting a consultation on inter-community passenger transportation, including on the rural islands. More information will be available soon.

Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne) – The Trading Post has new owners. First big market of the summer is this coming weekend. Several businesses have moved over to Village Bay.

7. Old Business - none discussed.

8. New Business

• **Rural Island Economic Forum Updates**

The forum was well attended, and a few commissioners were able to attend. There were eight resolutions generated around housing policy from a very productive panel discussion. There were a variety of topics discussed but they all tended to



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gravitate towards housing, which showed that housing is a priority for all rural islands.

- **CESC Website maintenance discussion – Richard Piskor**

The CESC website and social media account seem to be under-utilized and the commission would like to see it be kept updated more regularly. The liaison recently updated the content and will take direction from the commission to make further changes.

- **Transportation Update – Justine Starke**

No new update to report.

- **BCAFM Economic Impact Study – Richard Piskor**

BC Association of Farmers Markets are planning an economic impact study for this season. Commissioner Piskor will share the results of the study when it is available, likely in November.

9. Next proposed regular meeting June 27th, 2023

June 27th, 2023, meeting date was change and approved by consensus.

10. Meeting Adjournment

MOVED by Commissioner Hoebel, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Piskor that the meeting by adjourned at 2:11pm.

CARRIED