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

Tuesday, April 18, 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 (Galiano), Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre Society

1. Territorial Acknowledgement/Call Meeting to Order

Chair Brent provided the territorial acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Commissioner Zimmerman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Goldman to accept the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes from March 21st, 2023.

The following amendment was made to the minutes of March 21st, 2023 under:

6. Housing Now: The ACTION ITEM was a meeting between Commissioners Piskor and Fenton to discuss housing issues, not an ongoing collaboration at this time.

MOVED by Commissioner Piskor, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel to accept the minutes of March 21st, 2023 as amended.

CARRIED

4. Financial Report

The Financial Report was received for information by the Commission. The budget is on track for this year.

5. SGI Liaisons Update – Liaisons

Justine Starke – The CRD board has adopted a strategic plan for the upcoming term which includes a focus on community housing, with a sub focus on a rural housing program. Justine is working on a request for quotation that will be shared with consultants for a financial feasibility analysis for the different components of the rural housing program. This will support us in advancing funding applications as well as with advancing the program through the CRD Board's own process. Funding support from the CESC is recommended for the feasibility report

Chair Brent – There are three subcomponents of the CRD housing strategy, one of five principle strategies in the upcoming 4-year term. Rural housing is high on the priority list



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for the CRD.

Justine Starke:

CMHC innovation fund – The CRD rural housing program may not fit within this framework or be competitive for the funding. A broader approach to funding strategies may be more suitable so that a variety of funding options can be sought out by the CRD.

Transportation update – Justine is representing the SGIs at the CRD regional transportation roundtable with other municipal staff.

REDIP funding update – application was unsuccessful, a debrief meeting has been requested.

Broadband connectivity – A discussion was held about broadband connectivity options and concerns specific to each individual island.

Katie Dentry (Saturna) – Aqualink water taxi schedule is live on their website for the summer season. The school district has released a draft policy for courtesy water taxi ridership if space allows based on priority, with government workers at lowest priority and would be charged a fare but could be a helpful transportation option to know about.

Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne) – Miners Bay reinvigoration project is going ahead and will make a big difference to the community. Thanks to the Commission for supporting this project.

6. Growing Communities Update – Paul Brent

The Growing Communities fund is a billion-dollar fund that is being distributed to municipalities and districts across BC. The formula that the province has come out with turned out to not favour rural communities. The CRD received 100 million – 88 million for municipalities and 11.5 million for the region. The regional allotment is to be spent on regional priorities, not directed to the electoral areas. This is disappointing news, however upon explaining the unfairness to the CRD board, there may be some flexibility in the distribution of regional funds after all. Chair Brent recommended that the electoral area allotment be directed towards rural housing since that is a key priority for the region. The actual funding allocation for the SGI electoral area is to be determined.

7. Community Works Funds Update – Paul Brent

Expecting approximately \$750,000 but not received yet. The allocation will depend on success of project funding requests. The funds will be paused until the distribution is decided.

8. Old Business

None to report.



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9. New Business

**a) Sustainable Funding Initiative Statement of Work – SGI Community Resource Centre
Ed Andrusiak**

The Sustainable Funding Initiative Statement of Work was presented to the Commission. Clarification was provided about expanding the program to include services on Salt Spring and a discussion was held about the allocation of funds to support non-profits with grant writing. The goal of expanding the service is to develop grant writing hubs on each of the islands that can collaborate with each other.

MOVED by Chair Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Zimmerman to accept the Statement of Work from the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre for the Sustainable Funding Initiative program.

CARRIED

MOVED by Commissioner Piskor, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel that the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre be permitted to adjust the Sustainable Funding Initiative’s Statement of Work to allocate funds towards the direct provision of grant writing resources for non-profits on the Southern Gulf Islands.

CARRIED

10. Next proposed regular meeting May 16th, 2023

May 16th, 2023 meeting date approved by consensus.

11. Meeting Adjournment

MOVED by Commissioner Zimmerman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Piskor that the meeting be adjourned at 2:22pm.

CARRIED