



AGENDA
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
Thursday, March 18, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Due to COVID-19 measures, Saanich is unable to accommodate the public for any Council, Committee of the Whole, Advisory, Board or Foundation meetings while maintaining the limits on large gatherings due to the Public Health Order.

As per the Order of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, *Emergency Program Act*, Ministerial Order No. M192, public attendance at the meeting is not required if it cannot be accommodated in accordance with the applicable requirements or recommendations under the Public Health Act.

To listen to this meeting by telephone call **1-877-385-4099** and use code **6563094#** during the time noted above.

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|------------|--|-------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Call to Order | Chair S. Guy | |
| 2. | Territorial Acknowledgement & Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement | Councillor R. Mersereau | |
| 3. | Approval of Agenda | Chair S. Guy | 5 mins |
| 4. | Adoption of Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 8, 2020 • January 19, 2021 • February 16, 2021 | Chair S. Guy | 5 mins |
| 5. | Receipt of Correspondence | Chair S. Guy | 5 mins |
| 6. | Information and Privacy | S. Masters | 10 mins |
| 7. | Staff Update | T. Munson | 5 mins |
| 8. | Working Group Updates (optional) | All | 15 mins |
| 9. | Resilient Saanich Work Plan | All | 45 mins |
| 10. | Adjournment | | |

* * Next Meeting: April 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers * *
 Please RVSP your attendance to lynn.merry@saanich.ca

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Via Teleconference
December 8, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Rebecca Mersereau (Council Liaison), Kevin Brown, Brian Emmett, Tim Ennis, Stewart Guy, Jeremy Gye, Purnima Govindarajulu, Brian Wilkes (Chair), Bev Windjack

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THE DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

Councillor Mersereau read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by B. Emmett: “That the Agenda for the December 8, 2020 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved, as circulated.”

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATION: DRAFT SAANICH ENVIRONMENTAL MAPPING

The Manager of Environmental Services presented the “Saanich Environmental Mapping” (PowerPoint on file) and noted the following:

- The purpose of the GIS and the Atlas is to provide accessible information to members of the public and it used by staff as a flagging tool.
- A comparison between the 1999 and 2020 data was made; the inventory is being updated as new technology arrives.
- Council has approved a new Environmental GIS Analyst position who will be responsible for keeping the Atlas updated.
- To verify a polygon, it is best to validate on the ground but there could be limitations on private property.
- Accuracy is best achieved when a surveyor plots the boundaries.
- Refining boundaries can be done in many ways but are most often done by aerial photo.
- Boundaries for Natural State Covenants are very accurate as they have been surveyed.
- 64% of Saanich wetlands are located on private land.
- When complaints are received or if there is an infraction at the Building Permit stage or development stage, staff follow up with an inspection of Natural State Covenants.
- A brochure is sent to property owners every three years with respect to the Natural State Covenant and how to maintain the area including invasive species removal.
- The marine inventory includes the Gorge area and outer coast.
- The public are able to receive hard copies of the Atlas at a cost.

- The Atlas has more environmental information than shown in GIS.
- Staff use the Atlas when they are on-site, in an emergency situation when they need to know sensitive areas needing protection, when they are planning capital projects, to show if a property is in a Streamside Development Permit Area, making recommendations with respect to erosion control and for real estate agents to present to buyers.
- The main goal of the Atlas is to provide information to the public.
- The Atlas has no legal bearing.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting Schedule

Due to COVID-19, meeting space is limited. Staff will work to secure dates and locations of future meetings.

Work Plan, Milestones & Schedule

The committee is working on Draft 10 and will circulate as soon as practicable.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by B. Emmett: "That the meeting of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adjourned."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Brian Wilkes, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Via Teleconference
January 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Rebecca Mersereau (Council Liaison), Kevin Brown, Brian Emmett, Tim Ennis, Purnima Govindarajulu, Stewart Guy (Chair), Jeremy Gye, Tory Stevens, Brian Wilkes, Bev Windjack

Staff: Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner, Lesley Hatch, Senior Manager of Water Resources Engineering; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services

1. CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Councillor Mersereau read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair asked to make two minor changes to the January 19th, 2021 agenda:

- 1) Change the order of agenda items 5 and 6.
- 2) Move the mapping discussion to the next meeting to allow more time to prepare for this topic.

MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by P. Govindarajulu: "That the Agenda for the January 19, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved, as amended."

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by T. Stevens: "That the minutes of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting of November 24, 2020, meeting be adopted, as amended, with the GIS Technician staff person's name removed."

CARRIED

4. UPDATE FROM THE RSTC COUNCIL LIAISON

Councillor Mersereau provided an update, noting:

- MS Team should be in place by March 2021.
- Council will be considering a First Nations representative for the RSTC.
- Once a candidate has been approved by Council, they will be given a briefing by staff.

5. PRESENTATION: Integrated Stormwater Management Plan

Mr. Ian Bruce, Biologist – marine and terrestrial environments presented on Integrated Stormwater Management Planning.

Discussion took place as follows:

- Water management overall is one of the committee's key themes.
- Central Saanich undertook an Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) and won a national planning award for it.
- The plan components are hydrological, biophysical, water quality and is centred around rainwater from planning through to engineering and look towards the future.
- Other factors included in the plan were downspout disconnection, impervious surfaces, rain gardens and wetlands.

In response to questions, the Senior Manager, Water Resources stated:

- There are many different watersheds in Saanich; it is recognized that watersheds do not end at municipal boundaries.

Councillor Mersereau stated:

- The Engineering Department is currently in the process of planning a multi-year stormwater management project that is starting with drainage studies with a focus on hydrology.
- It may be appropriate to have staff from Engineering attend to provide an update.

6. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Biodiversity Conservation Group

- The group started out trying to focus on a biodiversity conservation strategy and writing out a table of contents but realized that it needed to be a step by step process.
- Step one of this process is to get some base line data, state of biodiversity as it is now that will set baseline metrics, and also prioritize the need for basic information.
- The foundational document could also be called the State of Biodiversity in Saanich report and could include species and ecosystems, spatial analysis of the current and future biodiversity interests, mapping in spatial context, and an assessment of stewardship.
- Hub and corridor concept would be considered as a foundation for a Biodiversity Strategy.
- The three working groups are working towards a common goal and some interests overlap.
- There is a need for baseline data; the next step is to understand what has already been done and what parts staff can do versus a contractor.
- The Biodiversity Group will meet with staff in order to discuss the update to Council.
- The extirpated species data is important to document.

The Manager of Environment stated:

- The Environmental GIS Analyst has been hired and is working on gathering data.
- Staff will be providing an update to Council in March/April with the result of the public feedback, goals and objectives, conservation tool evaluation matrix and refining the scope for the policy framework and data collection.

Stewardship Working Group

- There may be a gap in educating residents to plant on their properties to increase biodiversity.
- Policies and regulations based on stewardship and biodiversity principles are needed.
- Development Permit Area requirements for natural areas needs strengthening and improvement.
- Follow up on natural state covenants should be done regularly in order to ensure protection is as intended.
- There may be opportunities to make some changes to tree planting policies such as having the right trees planted in the right places; there may also be opportunities to provide remuneration for tree salvaging and to provide incentives to property owners to encourage them to protect natural state covenant areas.
- There is a need to consider marine shorelines.

7. STAFF UPDATES

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- The public will be asked to provide feedback via the Virtual Open House; handouts will be available outlining goals and objectives and will be available in multiple languages.
- The Virtual Open House will be advertised via social media, Our Backyard, e-bulletin, community posters, promotional cards and a bulk mail out.
- Using existing contacts, stakeholders will be targeted.
- Working with Sustainability and Recreation, youth will be targeted to sign up to learn and give feedback on environment and sustainability issues.
- The committee was asked to submit video segments if they wished to have them included in the video.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by T. Stevens and Seconded by J. Gye: "That the meeting of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adjourned."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Stewart Guy, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue
Council Chambers
February 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Rebecca Mersereau (Council Liaison), Kevin Brown (via teleconference), Tim Ennis (via teleconference), Purnima Govindarajulu (via teleconference), Stewart Guy (Chair), Tiffany Joseph (via teleconference), Tory Stevens, Brian Wilkes, Bev Windjack

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager of Parks (via teleconference); Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; and Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Councillor Mersereau read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by T. Stevens: "That the Agenda for the February 16, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved, as amended."

CARRIED

Two items were added to the agenda as follows:

- Format of previous minutes
- Chair's workload

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by B. Windjack; "That the minutes of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting of December 8, 2020 be adopted."

Discussion took place as follows:

- The minutes should be concise and focus on decisions and actions.

**The Motion to Approve the Minutes was DEFEATED
with B. Emmett, S. Guy, J. Gye, T. Stevens, B. Wilkes, and B. Windjack OPPOSED**

MOVED by B. Emmett and Seconded by J. Gye: "That staff be requested to amend the minutes of the December 8, 2020 and January 19, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meetings to ensure that they are a concise record of decisions and actions and to delete the reference to Eva Riccius in the December 8, 2020 meeting as she had not been invited to participate."

CARRIED

4. RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED by B. Emmett and Seconded by B. Windjack: “That the correspondence attached as part of the agenda for the February 16, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be received for information.”

The committee was appreciative of the opportunity to review the correspondence.

In response to questions, the Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- Emails received through the biodiversity@saanich.ca email address are acknowledged upon receipt; Environmental Services staff respond to matters of process or forward emails to various departments for response.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

5. UPDATE FROM STAFF

The Manager of Environmental Services presented the February 8, 2021 Staff Update and stated:

- The webpage has been updated to direct visitors to the virtual Open House.
- International and National biodiversity targets have changed and will come to the committee to review before updates are made.
- 62 surveys have been received to date.
- An Environmental GIS Analyst has been hired and is working towards the completion of Action Item 11 (Milestone 2).
- Enhancements to the Stewardship Program are in progress; staff are looking at producing a set of booklets similar to Our Backyard on topics such as native plant choices, naturescaping and information for developers.
- More stewardship enhancements are a part of Milestone 2.
- A facilitator has been retained to work on the video project as staff do not have the equipment or expertise.
- The results of the engagement process will be provided to the committee for review.
- There is a demographic question in the survey requesting if the respondent lives and/or works in Saanich.

6. OPTIONAL UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS

Biodiversity Conservation Group

- Comments from committee members were incorporated into the foundation document; there were some comments that may be more appropriate in the strategy document.
- It may be helpful to know what information staff can provide and what information would be provided by a contractor.
- A meeting with staff needs to happen sooner than later to discuss what needs to go into the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- The GIS Analyst has begun preliminary work on Action Item 11 in Milestone 2; it may be helpful to have the Analyst attend a future meeting to present to the committee on the data collected, data sources and potential databases to store the information.

Stewardship Working Group

- There is an overarching need for a coordinated stewardship program within Saanich.
- Stewardship elements will be evident in other themes.
- Saanich needs to lead by example through stewardship.
- Important aspects of an enhanced stewardship program include a stewardship program leader/manager who will coordinate efforts, continuous funding, and relationships with First Nations.
- Stewardship should be considered by all Saanich Departments; there may be linkages between different program areas.

The Senior Manager, Parks stated:

- There are numerous stewardship activities already being done in Saanich parks and there are more coming; staff could meet with the committee to outline what is already being done.

Climate Plan, EPF Gaps Working Group

- The committee approached the framework as a series of thematic focuses such as the Climate Plan and the Biodiversity Plan.
- Besides looking at gaps in policies and regulations, there is a need to consider gaps in data and science.
- Each working group should identify gaps that are relative to their thematic focus.
- It is not the committee's job to write the plans for each thematic area but to provide expert advice and input towards a Request for Proposal for a contractor to draft the plans.
- In 2021, work on biodiversity, stewardship, marine shorelines and review of the Environment Section in the Climate Action Plan could be undertaken.
- Having a work plan for the committee may be helpful; it may identify if there is duplication in work.
- There is interest in prioritizing urban forestry work.

Councillor Mersereau stated:

- Through documenting a work plan, the committee can prioritize the tasks outlined in the Terms of Reference and can identify other areas of interest such as urban forestry and marine shorelines.
- There may not be funds available for new strategies but providing advice and expertise on those areas would be welcomed.
- The committee should develop a work plan that identifies what the committee plans on focusing its efforts on this year; after that, the work can be reconciled with the work staff have been directed to move forward with and any contradictions with the Terms of Reference.
- Council has approved funding to update the Urban Forestry Strategy.

7. DISCUSSION ABOUT MAPPING

GIS and Atlas Mapping

The submission to the RSTC regarding new mapping was presented and discussion ensued as follows:

- There is a need to know where Environmental Sensitive or Significant Areas (ESAs) are and what condition they are in.
- There is concern that polygons in the Saanich Ecosystem Mapping (SEM) have not been verified on the ground; they were drawn using the tree canopy but without reference to what is on the ground beneath the trees.
- These areas have been flagged for a closer look.

- If an area is special or has ecological value, it needs to be protected; a parcel may not meet the standards of an ESA but may still have value.
- A proactive approach should be taken in identifying and protecting ESAs.
- A property owner can enhance biodiversity on their own property.
- There are bylaws in place to protect trees.
- There is a need for a dispute resolution mechanism
- The mapping needs to be right to support the Biodiversity Strategy.
- Restoration work and the urban forest need to be considered.
- The GIS mapping is at a scale of 1/20,000 and the resolution is not good.
- Saanich parks need to be included in the strategy.

The Senior Manager, Parks stated:

- The Capital Regional District will be doing a tree canopy assessment for the region and will be comparing it to the data from 10 years ago.
- Land, that may not have an ESA, may be valuable for pollinators or birds.
- There will be some drip line restoration work on Garry oak trees in Saanich parks to start in the summer 2021.

Coastal Mapping

Committee discussion ensued with the following comments:

- There is a data gap in that the SEI does not address coastal sensitivity.
- To move ahead with coastal stewardship, background information is needed.
- Shores-Zone mapping could be used for data collection; as well, Trail Mark has worked with First Nations to map out harvesting sites.
- A co-op student could be considered to help with updating mapping.
- Updating the mapping should be a priority.

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- A gap has been identified in near shore and intertidal mapping.
- The Capital Region District has done some Sea Level Rise mapping which may be helpful.

Councillor Mersereau stated:

- Coastal mapping could be added to the committee's work plan.
- Committee members can meet with staff to further discuss the recommendations and comments from the submission on mapping document.

8. WORK PLANNING DISCUSSION

The draft work plan was reviewed and committee discussion ensued with the following comments:

- The work plan could be considered a project management tool.
- It is important to ensure that the themes are within the scope of the committee.
- It may be appropriate to include the work for the entire project period in the work plan.
- The Word document will be circulated to the committee for comment.
- It will be important that each working group communicates to ensure that there is no duplication in work.
- It may be appropriate that the Senior Manager, Parks presents to the committee on what is being done in Saanich parks.
- It may be helpful to have a graphic included that shows the components of Resilient Saanich and where the committee fits in.

The Senior Manager, Parks stated:

- The expertise of the committee will bolster the work already being done by staff.
- It will be important to have strong recommendations to bring to Council.

9. CHAIR'S WORKLOAD

Discussion took place on the need to recognize the additional work of the Chair with a higher level of honorarium.

MOVED by B. Emmett and Seconded by J. Gye: "That it be recommended that, retroactively, the additional work of the Chairs be recognized at double the amount of the honorarium during the time served."

**The Motion was then Put and CARRIED
with K. Brown OPPOSED**

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by B. Emmett: "That S. Guy remain Chair for an additional three months to June 30, 2021 after which time the position of Chair would be re-evaluated."

CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by T. Stevens and Seconded by J. Gye: "That the meeting of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adjourned."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

March 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Stewart Guy, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

Lynn Merry

From: Burl Jantzen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 11:33 AM
To: biodiversity
Subject: (External Email) Biodiversity Conservation Strategy & Panama Flats
Attachments: 2021 Feb 22 to Saanich Council Re Panama Flats.docx; 2021 Feb 22 to Saanich Council Re Panama Flats.pdf

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

To: Resilient Saanich Technical Committee

Re: Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Panama Flats

I have attached a copy of the letter I sent to the Mayor and Council ahead of the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting that addressed the Panama Flats Concept Plan (Feb 22, 2021). I am passing this letter along to your committee because I think this letter is relevant to the work of the RSTC and to the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. It seems the future of Panama Flats will be determined by how the council's three motions are implemented, and I am aware this could go in several different directions. In my view this represents a valuable opportunity to establish a new relationship between the people of Saanich and the natural environment but I am uncertain how the Panama Flats planning intersects with the Resilient Saanich timeline.

I understand that the Resilient Saanich Process is currently focusing on Milestone One and getting feedback on the draft Goals and Objectives and I have completed the online feedback form. At the same time, it seems that the Panama Flats project is on the table now, and I am hopeful that the work of the RSTC can inform the decisions that are being made to protect, restore and manage those lands.

A few additional questions:

- 1) I am trying to understand which committee(s) or department(s) are responsible for moving forward with the plans for Panama Flats. Can you clarify this for me? (It seems like different people are responsible for agriculture, conservation & habitat restoration, stormwater management and recreation so I don't understand how this planning will take place.)
- 2) Can you clarify how the planning for Panama Flats will be affected given the three motions by council on Feb 22, 2021? What happens next?

Thank you for your time and for your work.

Burl Jantzen

[REDACTED] Leslie Drive, Victoria, BC V8X 2Y4
[REDACTED]

February 22, 2021

To: Mayor and Council, District of Saanich

This letter is in regards to the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting on February 22, 2021

Re: Item - PANAMA FLATS CONCEPT PLAN

I am writing to share my view that farming should not take place on Panama Flats. Instead, a full (up to date) ecological assessment should be conducted in accordance with a plan to establish a nature trust that protects this site from development, and offers a strong foundation for wildlife conservation and habitat protection and restoration.

My concern is that Saanich is under significant pressure to allow farming on Panama Flats and I am of the view that the ecological importance of this site far outweighs its agricultural value. I am absolutely convinced of the importance of local food security and I believe Saanich should be progressive and innovative in supporting local farmers, along with community and home gardeners. However, the proposal to farm Panama Flats is archaic rather than progressive, and is not in the long term best interest of the region. Let me explain.

1) I believe the District of Saanich may be basing their decision-making on an incomplete understanding of the ecological and environmental importance of Panama Flats.

The District of Saanich purchased Panama Flats in 2011 and that ended significant agricultural activity and major site disturbance, other than mowing the fields in autumn. Now, in 2021, we have a much better picture of the actual – and the potential – use of Panama Flats by migratory and resident birds then we did when the Panama Flats Draft Concept Plan was created. For example, since Feb 2014 when the plan was released 37 species of birds have been added to the checklist for this location (according to eBird.org). As well, new high counts have been recorded for about 75% of the 207 bird species recorded for Panama Flats. This includes new high counts for songbirds as well as water birds and shorebirds. For example: 450 Western Sandpiper on Apr 25 2015; 1000 Northern Pintail on Nov 25 2017; 1800 Green winged Teal on Nov 11 2019; 200 American Goldfinch on Sept 19 2020, 35 Orange Crowned warblers on Augu 30 2019; 33 Yellow Warblers on Sept 19, 2020; and even 47 Sandhill Cranes on Sept 27, 2020! And so on. **In short, there appears to be a documented, ever-increasing use of the flats by birds and other wildlife.**

I think it can be argued the draft plan for Panama Flats was premature given that it does not accurately capture the ecological importance of the wetland as it recovers from intensive agricultural use. The plan also fails to recognize the positive outcomes, from a wildlife point of view, that would result from ecological restoration efforts (see below).

2) Wetland is rare and precious. Granted, Panama Flats are highly degraded wetlands. The farming practiced in the past has altered (damaged) the natural hydrology and the site is loaded with invasive plants. Nevertheless, it still has tremendous ecological value and there are enormous possibilities on this site for important ecological restoration/rehabilitation.

Here I refer to part of an email I sent to Saanich Council on May 26 2019 (On file – received by T. da Silva May 27, 2019):

Intensive hunting of shorebirds came to an end (for the most part) with the Migratory Bird Treaty between the US and Canada (UK) about 100 years ago! However the destruction of their habitat continues. Draining and plowing wetlands is just as sure a method of extermination as any shotgun...it is just a bit slower. There may have been a time where we did not understand the importance of protecting wildlife habitat, but those days are long past. Draining wetlands for agriculture is an archaic practice that is completely inconsistent with any efforts to conserve the unique birds that depend on this habitat.

The argument that Panama Flats was farmed up till only a few years ago holds no weight. Obviously this wetland was used by birds and other wildlife for millennia, long before the first farmers dug drainage ditches or plowed the land. The fact that such a diversity of migratory birds have returned to this wetland in large numbers in such a short time is evidence that this is very important habitat.

There is no question that farming and food production (for humans) is important. I very much support sustainable local food production. However draining and plowing wetlands is not the solution; there are other options for obtaining agricultural land and these need to be explored. The naturalist Henry Marion Hall observed: "If and when we decide that we want the other creatures to continue sharing the Earth with us, we will have to leave room for them." (Hall, H M, A gathering of shorebirds, Bramhall House, 1960).

3) Saanich commissioned a report called the Colquitz River Watershed Proper Functioning Condition Assessment , released in July 2009. This report makes clear the importance of Panama Flats to Saanich in terms of floodwater management. Anyone walking around Panama Flats this winter understands! From the 2009 report: *Due to the importance of Panama Flats in attenuating water flow for the reaches of Colquitz River downstream, it is absolutely essential to maintain the function of this area to act as a floodplain. If the functionality of this floodplain is jeopardized, areas downstream of Panama Flats, including residential, commercial, highway, roads, and parks are likely to flood in high flow events. (p 46. Colquitz River Watershed Proper Functioning Condition Assessment, July 2009. © Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.)*

It is not clear to me how this consideration affects the agricultural potential of Panama Flats, **but the recommendations of this 2009 report are highly compatible with managing the site for wildlife values.** It is unfortunate that the 2014 draft plan does not seem to fully embrace the site remediation recommended in this 2009 report which states: *Given that there is a large amount of land available, there is great potential for restoration of this section of the reach. Restoration efforts should include reconstructing the channel with a large amount of sinuosity appropriate to a "C" channel type, with a series of constructed ponds/wetlands and floodplain areas. A replanting regime should focus on removing invasive species, establishing a shade canopy with fast-growing deciduous trees and shrubs, and an understory with conifer plantings. This will ensure less competition from shade-intolerant invasive species and improve survival of native plantings. Long-term restoration along Panama Flats (given a land ownership scenario that permits it) would focus on wetland creation and realignment of a*

sinuous "C" or "E" channel bordered by generous floodplains. In the short term, the channel could be realigned to meander in wider areas and to establish floodplain terraces to allow for the dissipation of energy from peak flows. Removal of invasive species and replanting would occur during such work. (p 45/46 Colquitz River Watershed Proper Functioning Condition Assessment, July 2009. © Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.)

Following these recommendations would support efforts to return salmon to the Colquitz River system as well as make Panama Flats even more valuable to migratory and resident birds.

4) I believe we need to have a long view when it comes to protecting ecologically important areas. The human presence on Southern Vancouver Island is growing relentlessly and the pressure on natural ecosystems will only increase. Local governments will need to make hard decisions that weigh competing uses (recreation, dog-walking, floodwater management, food production and wildlife conservation). Many land use decisions are not reversible and the loss of wetlands is one of these.

Future generations need us to make wise decisions and to be strong advocates for natural areas and the wild creatures that depend on them.

5) In general, I support an ecoagriculture approach to farming against a corporate industrial model. However, I think a *multiple use approach* to managing Panama Flats is problematic. A thoughtful and thorough review of literature on ecoagriculture confirms that it is extremely difficult to manage a site for wildlife values while at the same time maximizing food production (Buck *et al*, *Ecoagriculture: A review and assessment of its scientific foundations*, 2004). These authors acknowledge that "Ecoagriculture is confronted by a split between the philosophies, understanding and approach of the scientists and managers involved in wildlife conservation and those active with agriculture production." (p 130) If the primary goal is food production then wildlife values will inevitably be compromised or sacrificed.

Clearly, land dedicated to agriculture is land that can no longer be used by many species of birds. Granted, a few species may actually benefit from farming activity but many migratory birds including shore birds, song birds and water birds, require large spaces. In my experience if the birds have enough space, when disturbed, they have the option of flying a short distance and settling in another part of the same site. However if the usable area is too small, when they are disturbed, they may leave the area entirely. If they are forced out of a feeding or resting site prematurely then the next stage of their migratory flight will not go well.

The argument that during the summer months the fields dry up anyways is not compelling because, as the eBird data shows, it is during the summer months that many species show up on the flats.

Finally...I thought a photograph might give some sense of the abundance and diversity and ecological richness of Panama Flats, *even though it is badly degraded!* Imagine what might be! The photo shows a hunting Bald Eagle that has disturbed hundreds of ducks (including Pintails, American Wigeon, Green-Winged Teal, Mallards, and others.)



In other words, the flats are a busy place... a small remnant of wetland that is critically important to the wild creatures, citizens of Saanich that have no vote and are unable to speak for themselves at Saanich Council meetings.

Thanks for giving this your consideration.

Sincerely,

Burl Jantzen

██████ Leslie Dr. Victoria, BC V8X 2Y4
████████████████████

Lynn Merry

From: Liz Turner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2021 6:48 AM
To: biodiversity
Subject: (External Email) Resilient Saanich

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Hello,
I have two questions for the Resilient Saanich committee:

- 1) Does this initiative include plans for the purchase of more land for protection as it becomes available?
- 2) What about private land? Are there any provisions to deal with environmental issues that take place on private land?

Thank you,
Liz Turner
VNHS

Lynn Merry

To: Adriane Pollard
Subject: RE: FYI

From: Nathalie Chambers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 7:05 PM
To: Adriane Pollard <Adriane.Pollard@saanich.ca>; Thomas Munson [REDACTED] Rebecca Mersereau <Rebecca.Mersereau@saanich.ca>
Subject: FYI

Resilient Saanich,

Maybe this would be good for technical committee? <https://news.griffith.edu.au/2021/02/10/logging-and-thinning-of-forests-can-increase-fire-risk/#.YCQb5j4E39g.facebook>

****Cutting trees increases fire risk.

Perhaps this may be a good time to investigate the prescribed burning to manage the camas meadows by the Lekwungen speaking people of the Songhees and Esquimalt nations as a way to reduce risk. It is being looked at and was mentioned at the water commission meetings as being practiced and studied fire protection. This practice like the traditional Australian Indigenous use of fire is known to reduce the risk.

The only places that did not burn in the tragic Australian bush fires were areas that used traditional burning

Food for thought.

Lynn Merry

From: Sal Cuna [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:12 PM
To: biodiversity
Subject: (External Email) feedback

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Hello Saanich,

I live in the Colquitz area of Saanich and there is much less biodiversity than when I first moved in [REDACTED] years ago. My suggestion is to tighten up some of the loopholes in the Tree Bylaws that allow Strata Councils and homeowners to remove 'nuisance trees' citing potential infrastructure damage. Come the summer time, the chainsaws will run non-stop in my neighborhood and working from home during covid last spring/summer, I was able to see what goes on during the day. I used to see the owls and unique birds in the trees almost every other week and that has all but disappeared now. I would like to see a strong Saanich tree bylaw with some teeth.

Thanks for your time.

Sal

--

"Building the capacity to listen to one another on highly charged themes takes time and skill; once established, it is a rare and precious gift. Some things matter so much that only focused attention will due."

Lynn Merry

From: Trevor Hancock [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:10 PM
To: biodiversity
Subject: (External Email) Completed Resilient Saanich Survey
Attachments: RS-survey-form.pdf; What would it mean to recognize the price and value of nature.docx; Nature's high price and inestimable value.docx; Achieving high human potential is true prosperity.docx; True prosperity is doughnut-shaped.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Hi folks, see attached. It will be important to link this to the just released UNEP report "Making Peace with Nature", which gives some sense of the urgency of the global situation to which we have to respond. See also the Dasgupta Review and the UN Human Development Report for 2020, both of which are discussed in my recent columns in the Times Colonist - attached, and links below; the column I just sent in for next Sunday is on the UNEP report. T

31 January 2021 - True prosperity is doughnut-shaped

- <https://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/columnists/trevor-hancock-true-prosperity-is-doughnut-shaped-1.24275001>

7 February 2021 – Achieving high human potential is true prosperity

- <https://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/columnists/trevor-hancock-achieving-human-potential-is-true-prosperity-1.24278648>

14 February 2021 - Nature's high price and inestimable value (Published as 'Our economic system needs to recognize the price - and value - of nature')

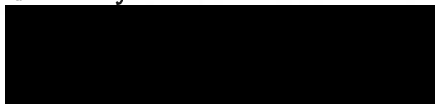
- <https://www.timescolonist.com/trevor-hancock-our-economic-system-needs-to-recognize-the-price-and-value-of-nature-1.24282048>

21 February 2021 – What would it mean to recognize the price and value of nature?

- <https://www.timescolonist.com/islander/trevor-hancock-what-would-it-mean-to-recognize-the-price-and-value-of-nature-1.24284838>

Dr Trevor Hancock, Hon FFPH

Retired Professor and Senior Scholar
School of Public Health and Social Policy
University of Victoria



Resilient Saanich feedback, Feb 2021

Trevor Hancock

■ *Ker Ave*

Improving the Vision

Saanich has endorsed and supported the One Planet Saanich initiative, but you would not know it from this. The Vision should be that Saanich reduces its ecological footprint to be the equivalent of One Planet by implementing the One Planet Framework and principles, which includes protecting air, land, and water quality, the biodiversity of existing natural areas and ecosystems, the network of natural areas and open spaces, and urban forests.”

Improving the Principles

Again, this needs to be positioned within the context of One Planet Saanich and the 10 One Planet Principles. So a reference to Zero Waste, appropriate materials, ecological/regenerative/organic farming etc would help.

Also, a principle relating to avoiding all use of toxic substances and eliminating emissions of toxic wastes would be useful.

There is no reference here to equity, yet in protecting and restoring our ecosystems we need to consider equity locally (ensuring everyone has access to natural places, parks etc, and indeed ensuring increased access for those who are disadvantaged); globally (we take only our fair share of the Earth's biocapacity and resources so that other people and other species can have their fair share) and intergenerationally, so future generations can have their fair share.

Improving the Goals

Needs to be an overall goal, or a preamble to both, that says "As part of a goal of becoming a One Planet community, . .

Improving the Objectives

Objective 1 - add "reduce our overall ecological footprint".

In addition to - and really before - engaging citizens, need an objective to raise awareness of the scale of the global ecological challenges we face and the need for a One Planet Saanich approach that includes but goes beyond this resilience framework.

Objective 4 needs to go further, it should be consistent with the One Planet Saanich framework, not just the Environmental Policy Framework.

Additional info

It is confusing and muddled to have all these separate strategies, plans and frameworks that are not clearly integrated - and are missing some key components such as a Zero Waste strategy. As Saanich has endorsed and supports One Planet Saanich, this needs to be the overarching dframework that then includes Climate Action, Healthy Saanich, Resilient Saanich etc etc

What would it mean to recognize the price and value of nature?

Dr. Trevor Hancock

16 February 2021

699 words

Last week I provided an overview of Professor Partha Dasgupta's report for the UK Treasury on the economics of biodiversity and the value of nature. This week, I want to share his proposals for change and relate them to several important current issues.

In the Headlines' version of his report, Professor Dasgupta's first message is simple: "Our economies, livelihoods and well-being all depend on our most precious asset: Nature". So what would it mean to actually recognize this and incorporate nature into our economies and societies?

Not surprisingly, as an economist, he believes "the solution starts with understanding and accepting a simple truth: our economies are embedded within Nature, not external to it". A number of important implications flow from this, one of which is that we need to change the way we measure what we do.

Today our primary measure of economic success is the GDP. But since it "does not account for the depreciation of assets, including the natural environment", Dasgupta writes, "it therefore encourages us to pursue unsustainable economic growth and development". So we need to replace the GDP with a more meaningful measure such as the Canadian Index of Wellbeing, the Genuine Progress Indicator or some other measure of inclusive or comprehensive wealth.

BC's NDP government was supposed to have been developing a report on replacing the GDP in BC as part of their agreement with the Green Party. The report is long overdue and seems to have stalled. Premier Horgan and Finance Minister Selina Robinson need to read the Dasgupta Review and make this a priority.

A related issue, also a hot topic in BC, concerns subsidies. Because we do not have to pay for many of our biosphere's services, Professor Dasgupta explains, they are in effect free. In fact, he goes on to say, it is even worse than that: "Governments almost everywhere amplify adverse environmental externalities by paying people more to exploit the biosphere than they do to protect it", through subsidies to various resource use and extraction industries, including agriculture and fossil fuels.

So we need to remove these "perverse subsidies", which amount to about US\$500 billion globally. Moreover, he points out, "it has been estimated that to protect 30 percent of the world's land and ocean . . . by 2030 would require an average investment of US\$140 billion annually" – so transferring less than one third of those subsidies to ecosystem protection would not only protect but would restore nature.

In fact, Dasgupta notes, "as part of fiscal stimulus packages in the wake of COVID-19, investment in natural capital has the potential for quick returns". This fits well with the calls from many quarters for a green, healthy and just recovery, a 'Green New

Deal'; all these ideas should be incorporated in federal and provincial 'build back better' budgets currently under consideration.

But if all this is to come to pass, we also need profound changes in our institutions and in the core values that underpin our society and drive our economy. So it is encouraging that Dasgupta has an entire section in his report on education, and another on the sacred in nature.

Throughout his report, Dasgupta repeatedly refers to our attitude, rooted also in our economics, that we are detached from nature, not embedded within it. This he attributes to our separation from nature, especially as a result of urbanization. So he proposes "Every child in every country is owed the teaching of natural history, to be introduced to the awe and wonder of the natural world, to appreciate how it contributes to our lives".

But, he adds, "connecting with Nature needs to be woven throughout our lives". Part of that is to recognize that nature has intrinsic worth; "Many people, perhaps in all societies, locate the sacred in Nature", he notes, suggesting "Nature's transcendence gives it a value that is independent of us".

And he ends on a note of optimism, suggesting that if we have been smart and powerful enough to cause so much harm to nature so quickly, surely we can use that same ingenuity "to bring about transformative change, perhaps even in just as short a time. We and our descendants deserve nothing less".

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Dr. Trevor Hancock is a retired professor and senior scholar at the University of Victoria's School of Public Health and Social Policy.

Nature's high price and inestimable value

Dr. Trevor Hancock

9 February 2021

701 words

A cynic, Oscar Wilde wrote, is someone who “knows the price of everything and the value of nothing”. On that basis, our dominant economic system - corporate capitalism – is beyond cynical. It takes Wilde’s aphorism one giant step further because it doesn’t even know or take into account the price of everything, never mind recognise and account for that which is priceless.

That, if not quite in those words, is the conclusion of a startling review of the economics of biodiversity by the distinguished Cambridge economics professor Sir Partha Dasgupta. Startling not just because of what he says, but because of who commissioned his report: The Chancellor of the Exchequer (read ‘Minister of Finance’) in Boris Johnson’s UK government. So this week I am taking a side trip on the road to Doughnut Economics to consider his important report; next week I will look at how we will have to change.

What Professor Dasgupta has to say is both simple and profoundly important: We have not correctly included either the price or the value of nature in our economic models and practices, or in the price of our goods and services. Instead we treat them as an ‘externality’, by which he means “the unaccounted-for consequences for others, including future people, of actions taken by one or more persons”. In other words, we gain at the expense of people elsewhere, future generations and, he might have added, other species.

The result of ignoring the harm to nature (and, he might also have added, harm to people’s health and the social wellbeing of communities) caused by our economic system and way of life, he writes, is that “while humanity has prospered immensely in recent decades, the ways in which we have achieved such prosperity means that it has come at a devastating cost to Nature.”

In fact, he reports, “between 1992 and 2014, produced capital per person doubled, and human capital [health, education, aptitude and skills] per person increased by about 13 percent globally”. However, he adds, “the stock of natural capital per person declined by nearly 40 percent”. Moreover, we should note this is only over 22 years; the decline since the onset of the ‘great acceleration’ in human impact in the 1950s is far greater.

The result is that “many ecosystems, from tropical forests to coral reefs, have already been degraded beyond repair, or are at imminent risk of ‘tipping points’. These tipping points could have catastrophic consequences for our economies and well-being.” Sadly, as he notes, this “is what economic growth and development has come to mean for many people”.

But even if we could include the cost of ecological harm in the price of our goods and services, that would not be enough; Professor Dasgupta notes “Nature is more than an economic good: many value its very existence and recognise its intrinsic worth too”.

This view is evident in a 2018 report from the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on the measurement of ‘comprehensive wealth’, by which they mean the combination of five forms of capital: Produced (infrastructure, buildings and machinery), natural, human, financial (stocks, bonds and cash) and social capital.

While some forms of natural capital – so-called market natural assets such as the minerals, fossil fuels, timber, water resources and fish we extract) can be expressed in monetary terms, other

forms of natural capital – a stable and warm climate and key ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, grasslands, lakes/rivers and the oceans - “are, effectively, priceless”.

That is because the latter “are critical to well-being. Any degradation in them imposes direct and irreplaceable costs on well-being, and their monetary value is, therefore, not relevant”. So while we may be able to measure and account for some forms of natural capital, those ecosystem ‘goods and services’ that are critical to our wellbeing “cannot (and should not) be included in aggregate measures of comprehensive wealth”.

In other words, it is not enough to understand the price of nature, we need to recognise that it is to a significant degree priceless, of inestimable value. As a society, we need to know not just the price but the value of nature, and we need an economic system that recognises and incorporates this.

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Dr. Trevor Hancock is a retired professor and senior scholar at the University of Victoria’s School of Public Health and Social Policy.

Achieving high human potential is true prosperity

Dr Trevor Hancock

3 February 2021

700 words

Last week I suggested that true prosperity is doughnut-shaped, but I did not define what I mean by 'true prosperity', nor what Doughnut Economics means for this region. I will explore the first of these topics this week and the second next week.

One understanding of true prosperity can be found in many faiths, where it is not primarily about material wealth but about mental, social and spiritual wealth. For example, Paramhansa Yogananda, the first Indian yoga master to live and teach permanently in the West, wrote in 1939 that true prosperity is "being able to supply your mental and spiritual needs, as well as the physical", and that it involves having "at your command the things that are necessary for your existence".

The things that are necessary for your existence are the basic human needs of clean air and water, shelter, sufficient food that is safe and nutritious, education, good basic health care, an adequate income to ensure these and a safe and supportive community. These and other 'social determinants of health' are what Kate Raworth means by the social foundation in her model of Doughnut Economics.

In the mid-20th century the social psychologist Abraham Maslow proposed a hierarchy of human needs: First people must satisfy such basic physiological needs as hunger, thirst and bodily comforts (being warm and dry, for example), then ensure their safety and security. The third and fourth sets of needs are a sense of acceptance, belonging and being loved, followed by a sense of self-esteem – feeling competent, gaining respect and recognition.

But beyond these foundational needs, Maslow suggested that people have a need for what he called self-actualisation. There are several aspects to this, including being knowledgeable and curious, having an appreciation of beauty, finding self-fulfillment and realizing one's potential, and finally what he called transcendence - helping others to achieve their own self-actualisation.

These concepts are very much how I understand health, as indeed does the World Health Organisation: "A state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing" (to which some would add spiritual wellbeing), or the achievement by everyone of the highest human potential of which they are capable. Clearly, while it takes a certain amount of wealth to ensure the social foundation, it is not necessary to accumulate vast amounts of 'stuff', of bling, to achieve this state, as it is largely non-material.

But the other key element of Raworth's Doughnut model is the ecological ceiling. We cannot meet human needs for all in ways that undermine the ecological systems that are the ultimate determinants of our health. As the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity at the University of Surrey in England puts it: "Our guiding vision for sustainable prosperity is one in which people everywhere have the

capability to flourish as human beings – within the ecological and resource constraints of a finite planet”.

Those constraints are very real and increasingly apparent. We see it in the changing climate and the decaying oceans, in the depletion of key resources and the pollution of ecosystems and food chains, and in the loss of natural habitat and the extinction of species. Already we exceed the planet’s limits, and yet we have more people wanting more stuff and an economic system demanding more growth.

Which of course takes us to Gandhi, who said “The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed.” Or as Herman Daly, one of the key thinkers in the area of ecological economics, puts it in his foreword to the 2017 book *Enough Is Enough*: “Enough should be the central concept in economics. *Enough* means ‘sufficient for a good life’” And he added “this raises the perennial philosophical question, ‘What is a good life?’” - a question I have tried to answer above.

So what would it mean to redesign our economy and society to ensure human flourishing for all within the ecological and resource constraints of the Earth? That is the question that the Green New Deal and similar proposals for a sustainable, just and healthy post-Covid recovery seek to answer. It is the central question of our time, including right here in the Greater Victoria Region, and the topic for next week.

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Dr. Trevor Hancock is a retired professor and senior scholar at the University of Victoria's School of Public Health and Social Policy.

True prosperity is doughnut-shaped

Dr Trevor Hancock

26 January 2021

701 words

It will come as no surprise to fans of the British satirical fantasy writer Tom Holt that economics has something to do with doughnuts. In his YouSpace series, a doughnut is the wormhole to an alternate reality, a parallel universe inhabited by elves, goblins, gnomes, dwarves and other fairytale characters who are ripe for exploitation.

In *The Outsourcerer's Apprentice*, for example, entrepreneurs discover they can outsource work to these folks and pay them next to nothing, buy property very cheaply and generally make a pile of money on the backs of the powerless and economically uninformed. Sound familiar?

But back here in the real world (where economics can seem just as mystical, magical and nonsensical as over there), we have our own very different version: Doughnut Economics. What's more, it is being applied locally, in Nanaimo – so why not here?

The concept is the brainchild of Kate Raworth, who describes herself as a 'renegade economist'. With a Masters in Economics for Development from Oxford, she spent a couple of decades working in international development, including 10 years as a Senior Researcher at Oxfam.

However, as she comments in a recent interview with *Time Magazine*, she was frustrated by conventional economics, which "emerged from an era in which humanity saw itself as separated from the web of life" and harm to that web of life is seen as an 'externality', something she calls the "ultimate absurdity". In reality, as she realised from a 2010 report on planetary boundaries, we are exceeding what she calls the environmental ceiling

But she also knew from her work in development that a certain level of economic activity is need to ensure basic human needs – shelter, clean water, sanitation, food, education, good basic health care and so on – are met. She calls this the social foundation.

So she drew two circles and thus the Doughnut was born. Inside the inner circle is the social foundation, and that circle has to be large enough to meet everyone's basic needs. The outer circle defines the environmental ceiling; exceeding that puts us into an unsustainable ecological overshoot.

Between the two – in the body of the doughnut – is what she calls the "sweet spot"; an economy which is neither too big (as it is in high-income countries) nor too small, as it is in low-income countries. This is an economy fit for the 21st century, one that will "meet the needs of all people within the means of the living planet".

While originally published in a 2012 paper, the concept really took off when her book was published in 2017. Now a Senior Research Associate at Oxford

University's Environmental Change Institute, she has created the Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL) to turn "Doughnut Economics from a radical idea into transformative action".

One of the five core themes for DEAL's work is 'Cities and Places', and in 2019 DEAL collaborated with the C40, a network of 97 of the world's largest cities that is focused on climate action, and Circle Economy to launch the Thriving Cities Initiative and apply the Doughnut Economics framework at a city level.

The process begins with a single core question that is essentially the same as the focus of our One Planet Region work: "How can our city be a home to thriving people, in a thriving place, whilst respecting the wellbeing of all people, and the health of the whole planet"? This is explored in more detail in four areas – social and ecological requirements at the local and global scale – and results in the creation of a 'City Portrait' that "invites a city to create and pursue a more holistic vision of what it means to thrive".

The City of Amsterdam has really taken this on, adopting the Doughnut Economy framework as the basis for its post-Covid recovery, Meanwhile closer to home, on 14th December 2020 the City of Nanaimo adopted the framework as "a cohesive vision for all city initiatives and planning processes", the first Canadian city to do so.

So next week, I will explore in more depth what this might mean for this region and what we can learn from Amsterdam, Nanaimo and other cities that are starting to adopt this approach.

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Resilient Saanich Technical Committee - Staff Update – March 11, 2021

| Milestone One Deliverables | Progress Update |
|--|---|
| Create a webpage and subscribe-able bulletins to keep residents updated and engaged in the project, progress, and opportunities for involvement. | Complete. |
| Draft a <i>Resilient Saanich framework skeleton</i> of existing policies, etc. Conduct a gap analysis. Identify options for filling gaps using the Green Bylaws Toolkit and other references. | First and second drafts have been added as late agenda items on the RSTC minutes & agendas webpage. |
| Collate and analyze examples of, and guides for, municipal-scale biodiversity conservation strategies and stewardship programs for applicable models and lessons for Saanich. | Complete. Information provided to the public via factsheets on website. Binders continue to be borrowed by RSTC members. |
| Summarize international, national, provincial, regional, and municipal targets for biological conservation . | Factsheet updates reviewed by RSTC. |
| Publish the 4 th edition of the ESA Atlas . | 2 nd draft completed and with the RSTC for review. |
| Establish the Technical Committee and, with staff: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. further refine the scope for the Environmental Policy Framework (EPF) and data collection 2. develop an evaluation matrix for the selection of policy tools 3. propose the project objectives | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In progress 2. In progress 3. Complete |
| Gain public feedback on the proposed project goals and objectives. | <p>In progress until March 15 with some targeted stakeholder submissions arriving afterwards (UVic, CRD, others)</p> <p>Highlights of progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations made to 5 council advisory committees • Focus group sessions with 3 Stakeholder groups, and 1 more is scheduled • Youth: Virtual presentations and information provided to 3 interested Secondary Schools • 145 (as of March 9) online feedback forms received plus a few print forms. • Several written submissions via biodiversity@saanich.ca |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>Promotion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five e-Bulletins and multiple social media advertisements • Postcard delivered to every household and business • Materials delivered to senior centres • Via Camosun College and UVic Student societies • Posters displayed at community notice boards • Newspaper advertisements • Emails sent through various email lists to Stakeholder groups • Seven First Nations organizations were invited to Zoom consultation session on RS. |
| Hire a temporary GIS staff person. | Complete. Work towards action item 11 (Milestone 2) initiated. Presentation to RSTC biodiversity group. |
| Identify an enhancement to the stewardship program | In progress as previously reported. |
| Submit a progress report to Advisory Committees and Council including gaps in data and information considered important for the completion of the framework. | Due at the end of Q1 |

Resilient Saanich Work Plan

Terms of Reference June 2020

 =For RSTC, as described in the TOR
 =Action Complete

| Milestone One: Initiate June 2020 to March 31, 2021 | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Action | Level of Public Participation | Staff | RSTC | Council |
| ✓ Create a webpage and subscribe-able bulletins to keep residents updated and engaged in the project, progress, and opportunities for involvement. | Inform | Complete and maintain the webpages. | Use as reference material. | Use as reference material. |
| ✓ Draft a <i>Resilient Saanich</i> framework skeleton of existing policies, etc. Conduct a gap analysis. Identify options for filling gaps using the Green Bylaws Toolkit and other references. | Inform | Complete the draft. Continue to flesh out. | Review the draft. Give feedback to staff. | Receive the draft as part of the progress report. |
| ✓ Collate and analyze examples of, and guides for, municipal-scale biodiversity conservation strategies and stewardship programs for applicable models and lessons for Saanich. | Inform | Complete. | Use as reference material. | Use as reference material. |
| ✓ Summarize international, national, provincial, regional, and municipal targets for biological conservation. | Inform | Complete. | Use as reference material. | Use as reference material. |
| 5. Publish the 4 th edition of the ESA Atlas. | Inform | ✓ Complete draft | Give feedback; use as reference material. | Use as reference material. |
| 6. Establish the Technical Committee and, with staff: | | ✓ Complete call for applicants. | Further refine the scope for the Environmental | ✓ Appoint members. ✓ Provide liaison. |

| | | | | |
|---|---------|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further refine the scope for the Environmental Policy Framework and data collection • develop an evaluation matrix for the selection of policy tools • propose the project objectives | Inform | Work with committee to complete deliverables. Provide committee support. | Policy Framework and data collection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft scope statements for the EPF • Identify gaps and limitations in existing data and information to characterize and monitor natural assets Develop an evaluation matrix for the selection of policy tools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft & finalize criteria ✓ Propose the project objectives. | (consider outcomes as part of final progress report). |
| 7. Gain public feedback on the proposed project goals and objectives. | Involve | Complete & implement engagement plan. | Help to promote engagement | Help to promote engagement. |
| ✓ Hire a temporary GIS staff person. | Inform | Complete hiring process | n/a | n/a |
| ✓ Identify an enhancement to the stewardship program | Inform | Identify and implement an enhancement. | Give feedback. | n/a |
| 10. Submit a progress report to Advisory Committees and Council including gaps in data and information considered important for the completion of the framework. | Consult | Complete the report. | Advise Staff. | Receive report and provide direction for Milestone 2. |

Milestone Two: Assess

April 2021 to September 31, 2021

| Action | Level of Public Participation | Staff | RSTC | Council |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 11. Collate and analyze known data regarding biodiversity in Saanich. Identify gaps in data to fill in order to meet objectives, including climate adaptation. | Inform | Collate all available data. | Advise on analysis, sources of data, data gaps. | n/a |
| 12. The Technical Committee to determine whether further data or research is advisable via a staff report to Council. | Consult | Assist the RSTC. Write a staff report. Hire consultants if pursued. | Recommend additional studies that may be needed such as data collection, analysis, natural asset valuation, a corridor study, etc. | Receive report (if pursued) and decide on recommendation. |
| 13. Produce a preliminary document for Saanich on the state of biodiversity and possibly analyze how objectives are being met. | Consult | If no consultant is hired, complete report. Complete and implement engagement plan. | Lead the setting of standards and methodologies to further the objectives Advise staff and or consultant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set terms for the report by providing input and reviewing drafts of the RFP/Charter/ToR) • Review and provide input on the proposed methodologies and the draft report | Receive as information as part of progress report. |
| 14. Produce draft Requests for Proposals for a consulting team for Milestone 3. | Consult | Oversee the RFP process. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set terms for the report and study by providing input and reviewing | As per item 17. |

| | | | | |
|--|-----------|--|---|--|
| | | | drafts of the RFP/Charter/ToR) | |
| 15. Offer enhanced or new stewardship opportunities. | Consult | Complete. Complete & implement engagement plan. | Advise staff. • Make recommendations to staff and Council address gaps and opportunities to improve existing Saanich programs and activities to protect marine backshore areas | Receive as information as part of progress report. |
| 16. Call for Milestone 3 Technical Committee members | Promotion | Complete call for applicants. | Reapply if appropriate. | Appoint members. Provide liaison. |
| 17. Submit a progress report to Advisory Committees and Council. | Consult | Complete report. | Advise staff. | Receive report and give direction for Milestone 3. |

Milestone Three: Plan

October 2021 to June 31, 2022

| Action | Level of Public Participation | Staff | RSTC | Council |
|---|-------------------------------|---|--|---------|
| 18. Hire consultant team to develop the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze biodiversity requirements; Apply future climate change, demographic, and development predictions; Apply outcomes of additional studies that may have occurred. | n/a | Implement Purchasing Policy. Contract management. Liaise with consultant as needed. | Help a consulting team to analyze biodiversity requirements with the community that would be suitable for Saanich. • Monitor the work by reviewing the methodologies and the draft products | n/a |
| 19. Develop a desired strategy option. | Involve | Complete & implement engagement plan. | | n/a |

| | | | | |
|--|---------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 20. Identify and analyze appropriate tools for conservation, including an enhanced Stewardship Program. | Consult | Complete & implement engagement plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make recommendations to staff and Council to address gaps and opportunities to improve existing Saanich stewardship programs and activities | n/a |
| 21. Complete the biodiversity conservation strategy and identify enhancements for the stewardship program with recommendations for implementation such as indicators and monitoring, | Consult | Complete & implement engagement plan. | | n/a |
| 22. Submit a progress report to Advisory Committees and Council. | Consult | Complete report. | <p>Advise staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify program areas to focus on in 2022 | Receive report and give direction for completing the initiative. |

Complete the *Resilient Saanich* Framework

July to December 2022

| Action | Level of Public Participation | Staff | RSTC | Council |
|--|-------------------------------|--|---------------|--|
| 23. Present a complete <i>Resilient Saanich</i> environmental policy framework including a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, enhanced Stewardship Program and potentially a new Development Permit Area, to Council for consideration. | Consult | Complete and implement engagement plan. | Undetermined. | Receive report and give direction for completing the initiative. |
| 24. Produce the 5 th edition of the ESA Atlas. | Inform | Complete | | |
| 25. Implement, monitor, and report to Council on indicators within two years (Milestones 4 and 5). | Collaborate | Complete & implement engagement plan. Report to Council on implementation and monitoring. | | Receive report and give direction. |

Resilient Saanich Technical 2021 Work plan DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES

Commented [TS1]: Replace with "Milestone 2". It may go beyond 2021

* Denotes tasks that are identified in the Terms of Reference for the RSTC; others have been identified as areas of interest by the RSTC

| No. | Task description | Deliverable(s) | Timeline | Roles | | |
|-----|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | Staff | RSTC | Council |
| 1 | Develop an evaluation matrix to guide selection of policy tools* | A. List of criteria /principles | Feb, 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide administrative process support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft & finalize criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve in principle (with or separate from biodiversity strategy, as appropriate) |
| 2 | Set the EPF scope and identify data gaps* | B. Statements of what is in/out of scope for the EPF C. List of data gaps | Sept, 2021 (B & C) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate RSTC review of existing data availability Provide administrative process support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft scope statements for the EPF Identify gaps and limitations in existing data and information to characterize and monitor natural assets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve in principle Consider resource requests for additional studies/data gathering |
| 3 | Create a 'state of biodiversity report' | D. RFP E. State of Biodiversity Report | Sept/July, 2021 (D) July/Sept, 2021 (E) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft an RFP/Charter/ ToR based on input from the RSTC Facilitate staff and council reviews of the RFP/Charter/ToR as appropriate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set terms for the report by providing input and reviewing drafts of the RFP/Charter/ToR) Review and provide input on the proposed methodologies and the draft report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the final report Consider resource requests if project costs exceed the allocated budget of \$250,000 |
| 4 | Create a biodiversity strategy* | RFP | Nov, 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft an RFP/Charter/ ToR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set terms for the report and study by providing input and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the final strategy |

Commented [BE3]: Clearly we won't meet this timeline, April likely more appropriate. A lead person or subcommittee needs to be struck for this. Developing Criteria is only a first step, evaluation would involve some kind of qualitative or quantitative assessment. Also the evaluation matrix needs to be "piloted" on existing policies and refined – so overall this process is likely to encompass most of 2021. The process should start with an outline of steps needed to develop this matrix

Commented [TS2]: It seems to me that our EPF principles could be used to evaluation and guide the selection of policy tools. Anything that passes that threshold and fits within our goals and objectives will be a useful tool. Or at least we can hope that it works that smoothly!

Commented [TS4]: This may be an exercise in imaging all the Thematic Plans and then identifying the ones that we feel Saanich should complete in a timely fashion. The RSTC does not necessarily need to be hands on for each of them.

Commented [BE5]: This will be challenging – as there will likely be a variety of thinking re what's in and what's out...and how specific are we going to be. Again to date there is no dedicated effort on this -

Commented [BE6]: Given the progress made to date on this I think the timeline could be accelerated at least for the drafting of RFP/Charter – but I'd defer to Tory et al on that

Commented [TS7R6]: Agree!

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | Biodiversity Strategy | Dec, 2022 (Biodiversity Strategy) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> based on input from the RSTC Facilitate staff and council reviews of the RFP/Charter/ToR as appropriate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reviewing drafts of the RFP/Charter/ToR Monitor the work by reviewing the methodologies and the draft products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider resource requests if project costs exceed the allocated budget of \$250,000 |
| 5 | Review existing stewardship program structure , funding , activities , sustainability and recommend improvements | Recommendations to improve stewardship on private and public lands | Dec, 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate RSTC review of existing programs/activities Review draft recommendations Consider the feasibility of implementing final recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make recommendations to staff and Council to address gaps and opportunities to improve existing Saanich stewardship programs and activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider all recommendations and provide direction to staff on implementation |
| 6 | Review existing programs/activities approaches to improve protection of marine shoreline backshore areas | Recommendations to improve protection of marine backshoreshoreline areas encompassing shoreline inventory needs, key issues, stewardship initiatives and role of regulation (shoreline EDPA) | Dec, 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate RSTC review of existing programs/activities Review draft recommendations Consider the feasibility of implementing final recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make recommendations to staff and Council address gaps and opportunities to improve existing Saanich programs and activities to protect marine backshoreshoreline areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider all recommendations and provide direction to staff on implementation |
| 7 | Identify program areas to review in 2022 | Draft 2022 work plan | Dec, 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the RSTC in prioritizing program areas to focus on | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify program areas to focus on in 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive the 2022 work plan for information with a Resilient Saanich status update |

Commented [BE9]: Added to be more specific

Commented [BE8]: I'd avoid the backshore term – use marine riparian and foreshore

| | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | |
| | <u>Identify qualifications for Milestone 3 Committee Members</u> | | | | | |
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