PLANNING

Memo

To: **Resilient Saanich Technical Committee**

From: **Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services**

Date: **April 27, 2021**

Subject: **Resilient Saanich: Draft Milestone One/Action 7 - Public Engagement Report**
File: 1030-30 • Resilient Saanich Policy Framework

Attached is the draft Resilient Saanich: Milestone One/Action 7- **Public Engagement Report** for the Committee's review and feedback. The engagement report will form part of the Milestone One Progress Report to Council. It is being presented to the RSTC individually because it is ready first and is a large report in itself.

The Resilient Saanich Milestone One Progress Report will be compiled of the following:

- A report to Council (progress report);
- Appendix: Milestone One/Action 7 - Public Engagement Report (engagement report, attached);
- Appendix: RSTC draft workplan (when completed by the RSTC); and
- Appendix: RSTC correspondence on the evaluation matrix and the scope of Resilient Saanich and data collection.

The attached engagement report is a draft for discussion with the RSTC. In particular, the draft options for recommendations for Council consideration should be discussed. The recommendations should address these issues from the report:

- The need to improve future feedback engagement with underrepresented cultural groups, particularly Chinese and South Asian;
- The feedback received to have more meaningful engagement with First Nations on the draft vision, principles, goals, and objectives;
- The widespread feedback to improve clarity of terminology used in the draft vision, principles, goals, and objectives;
- The consistent feedback to flesh out the draft goals and objectives to be "SMART" (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound); and
- Other suggestions for improvement of the draft vision, principles, goals, and objectives received during the engagement process.

To address these issues, the following draft recommendations are presented as options for discussion with the RSTC:

1. That the draft goals and objectives be edited to clarify terminology and to flesh out the goals and objectives to be “SMART” (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound);

2. That supportive funding be made available to retain a First Nations representative to provide feedback on the draft.

    a) That a consultant take the results of the engagement process and return with a final draft of the vision, principles, goals, and objectives for the consideration of the RSTC;

    or

    b) That the RSTC take the results of the engagement process and return with a final draft of the vision, principles, goals, and objectives for the consideration of Council;

3. That the results of the inclusivity and preferences questions be used to guide future engagement as part of Resilient Saanich (such as adding cultural groups to the lists of targeted stakeholders);

4. That staff continue efforts to engage First Nations for more in-depth stakeholder engagement for the future phases.

Next Steps

1. Once the RSTC has reviewed the subject engagement report and made any suggested changes, a committee motion endorsing the draft report, or endorsing it subject to specified amendments, would be appropriate. The edits will be completed by staff and the finalized report will be recirculated to the committee for information.

2 a) Staff will bring forward the draft Progress Report for review by the RSTC. Once the RSTC has reviewed the Progress Report and made any suggested changes, a committee motion endorsing the draft report, or endorsing it subject to specified amendments, would be appropriate. The edits will be completed by staff and the finalized report will be recirculated to the committee for information.

b) After reviewing the progress report, if the RSTC wishes to provide/make any additional comments/motions in aid of the overall Resilient Saanich process, this would be an opportune time to do so. If the committee has recommendations, such as possible amendments to the Terms of Reference, it would be appropriate for the Committee to formulate specific motions to capture the proposed changes so they can be presented to Council at the same time the progress report. Background information on any motions should include any known impacts to the Council’s Resilient Saanich Terms of Reference in regard to required budget resources, scope of work, and timing.

3. The minutes of the RSTC meetings where the engagement report and the progress report are considered will form part of report package for Council consideration.

Adriane Pollard, MCIP, R.P. Bio, MCESM
Manager of Environmental Services

AP/lb

Resilient Saanich

Milestone One/Action 7—Public Engagement Report

Draft: April 26, 2021

Resilient Saanich

Milestone One/Action 7—Public Engagement Report

Contents

Julia— please add list of appendices here with page numbers.

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the findings of the public engagement process related to Milestone One action item #7 of the Council approved Resilient Saanich Terms of Reference (June 11, 2020):

> **Gain public feedback on the proposed project goals and objectives**.

2.0 Background

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for a new initiative—Resilient Saanich—were adopted by Council on June 11, 2020. The purpose of Resilient Saanich is to fulfil a Council motion to create an Environmental Policy Framework that would combine a new Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, the existing Climate Plan, enhanced stewardship initiatives, and to consider a new Environmental Development Permit Area in light of the Diamond Head review. Figure 1 was presented to Council during its deliberations on the draft Terms of Reference, as a way to generally envisage the Environmental Policy Framework it requested.

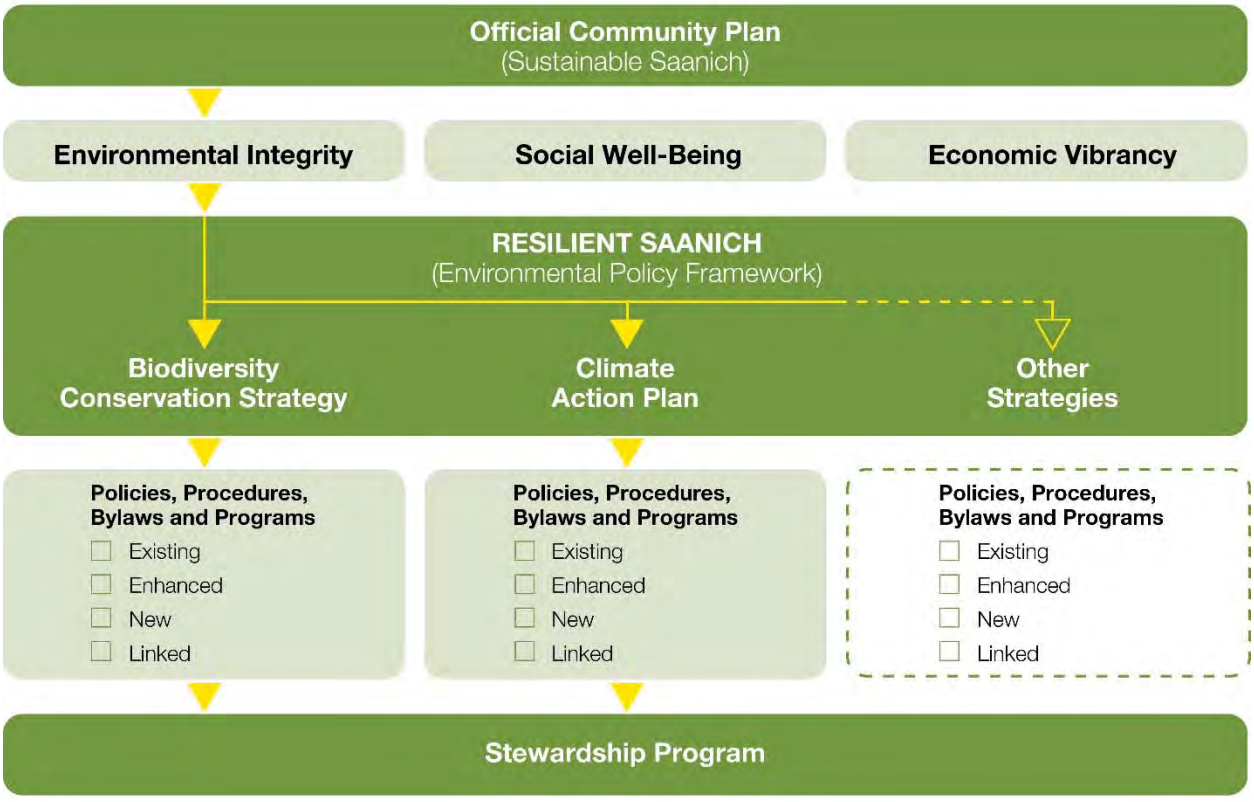


Figure 1: Environmental Policy Framework Concept

Technical Committee

Council appointed expert applicants to form the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) to advise staff and consultants and deliver key outcomes. The first key deliverable from the

RSTC was to draft the goals and objectives for Resilient Saanich (see Appendix A). The draft vision, principles, goals, and objectives were presented for public engagement in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

Regrettably a First Nations RSTC member was not able to be present during the drafting of the vision, principles, goals and objectives, nor is First Nations represented on the committee at the present time. As such, it is essential that meaningful engagement with First Nations on the draft vision, principles, goals and objectives takes place as these elements are the foundation on which future work will be built upon.

The committee undertook additional work to develop 'thematic plans' which are included in Appendix A, posted on the RSTC webpage, and discussed in the Milestone One Progress Report to Council.

The Resilient Saanich program of work is divided into three Milestones based upon the ICLEI model: Initiate, Assess, Plan, with a final phase for completion. Per the adopted Terms of Reference, a progress report is to be considered by Council regarding all Milestone One action items. The RSTC 'thematic plans' concept will be considered by Council as part of the Milestone One progress report.

Pre-Engagement

Before initiating the formal public engagement process, several actions were completed to increase awareness of Resilient Saanich, including:

- Project webpages;
- Subscription based e-Bulletins;
- Our Backyard newsletter articles;
- Factsheets;
- Media releases; and
- Social media.

These actions prepared residents and other stakeholders for engagement by raising awareness about Resilient Saanich and providing information that would give context to the subject matter.

Interdepartmental staff were given the opportunity to review an earlier draft of the vision, principles, goals, and objectives and submit comments to the RSTC.

3.0 Engagement Plan

An engagement plan was created to ensure there were a variety of ways for residents to hear about and participate in giving feedback. The endorsed Terms of Reference set the level of engagement as **'involve'** as per the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation (see Figure 2):

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
To provide balanced and objective information to support understanding by the public.	To obtain feedback on analysis, alternatives, issues and/or decisions.	To work with the public to ensure that concerns and aspirations are understood and considered.	To facilitate discussions and agreements between public parties to identify common ground for action and solutions.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.

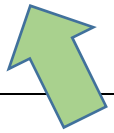


Figure 2: IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

The objectives for the public engagement process were to:

- Gain public feedback on project goals and objectives proposed by the RSTC;
- Follow best practice for inclusiveness, transparency, access, respect, honesty, and equity;
- Identify public expectations and needs for engagement during the remainder of the Resilient Saanich initiative; and
- Build relationships and stakeholder partnerships during public participation.

The engagement plan was guided by (the):

- Resilient Saanich Terms of Reference;
- Privacy Impact Assessment;
- Project Charter: Public Participation for Milestone One of Resilient Saanich;
- Saanich Public Participation Policy and guide;
- Guidance from the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee, Council Committees, and Council; and
- Best practices for public engagement.

The engagement plan strategy for the overall engagement process was threefold:

- Creating a virtual open house and feedback form;
- Widely promoting the open house and encouraging use of the feedback form; and
- Contacting targeted stakeholders, as identified in the Terms of Reference, for more in-depth involvement.

Public engagement occurred during COVID-19, thus restricting the types of public engagement as per the December 2020 public health order: **"**By order and direction of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), all events and social gatherings are suspended to significantly reduce COVID-19 transmission related to social interactions and travel". Staff fully explored options for public engagement and planned around what was safe and possible. Public engagement was also impacted by a shorter timeline than anticipated under the Terms of Reference.

3.1 Virtual Open House

The Virtual Open House was the centrepiece of the public engagement process. The main features of the Virtual Open House included:

- Project boards introducing Resilient Saanich, the Environmental Policy Framework (diagram), the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee, and the draft vision, principles, goals, and objectives;
- A handout of the draft vision, principles, goals, and objectives (in English, Punjabi, and Simplified Chinese);
- A feedback form (in English, Punjabi, and Simplified Chinese). The survey included questions asking how people would like to be engaged/involved in the future, if their needs were met during this engagement period, and other suggestions to increase effective engagement (or meet their needs); and
- An email address for questions and comments.

3.2 Promotion

Promotion of the Virtual Open House was broad to ensure that residents had a variety of possible ways to hear about the Virtual Open House and public survey (feedback form). Appendix B contains further details, including how many people were reached. Outreach included:

- An information postcard to every house and business in Saanich;
- Newspaper advertisements;
- Social media posts and social media advertising;
- Saanich main webpage announcements;
- Emails to community associations;
- Our Backyard magazine, Saanich Parks and Recreation Matters e-newsletter, Saanich Climate Quarterly e-newsletter;
- Resilient Saanich e-Bulletins;
- Posters on various community notice boards;
- Rack cards and project business cards;
- Delivery of materials to senior centres; and
- Emails to targeted stakeholder groups and government partners.

Promotion of the availability of materials in Punjabi and simplified Chinese was included in the above outreach by announcing its availability (in English) and encouraging families, friends, and neighbours to let others know.

3.3 Targeted Partner and Stakeholder Engagement

The Terms of Reference listed government partners and stakeholders targeted for more in-depth engagement. These partners and groups were contacted mainly though emails and invitations to focus groups. The response varied from enthusiastic participation to no direct response (though feedback forms may have been submitted as a result). A summary of the success of the targeted engagement is in Appendix C.

Focus group sessions (via online meetings) were offered to key stakeholder groups where appropriate and resulted in 4 sessions of registered participants. These 1 to 1.5 hour sessions were facilitated by an external consultant and included a presentation by staff and a question and answer discussion period involving participants, staff and the consultant. A report of these sessions was provided by the external consultant, with resulting feedback summarized in this report.

Four senior's facilities in Saanich were identified as good ways to reach Saanich seniors. Posters, postcards and contact cards were provided (3 delivered, 1 mailed) to: Saanich Silver Threads at Les Passmore Activity Centre, Cordova Bay 55+ Association, Goward House Society, and Cedar Hill New Horizons at CHRC.

Youth were identified as an important stakeholder group, especially as our future community leaders and representing the next generation who will be dealing with the issues at hand. Students interested in the topic through their involvement in special programs were the focus on this targeted engagement. Primarily, contact was made through the schools involved with One Planet Saanich. Information and a narrated powerpoint were requested and provided to Claremont Secondary Institute for Global Solutions, Mt. Douglas Secondary Environment Club, and Reynolds Secondary Community Leadership Program.

A presentation and discussion was held with Saanich department representatives and resulted in memos to Environmental Services for this report. Additional presentations were made to the Capital Regional District and One Planet Saanich.

3.4 Participation

Table 1 summarizes the engagement undertaken and uptake as a result of the engagement plan.

Date	Stakeholder	Public Participants
Focus Groups		
Mar 2, 2021	Saanich Parks Volunteers and Parks Stewardship Groups	11
Mar 3, 2021	Reynolds Secondary School Community Leadership Program	37
Mar 3, 2021	Environmental Non-governmental Organizations (ENGOs)/ Stewardship Organizations ▪ Goward Springs Watershed Stewards ▪ Beaver Elk Environmental Stewards (BEES) ▪ Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary ▪ Peninsula Streams Society ▪ World Fisheries Trust ▪ Friends of Tod Creek Watershed ▪ Friends of Maltby Lake Watershed Society ▪ Victoria Golden Rods & Reels ▪ Birds Canada ▪ Naturehood Victoria Harbour Bird Sanctuary ▪ Victoria Natural History Society ▪ Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society	25
Mar 4, 2021	Environmental Non-governmental Organizations (ENGOs)/ Stewardship Organizations • Victoria Natural History Society	22

Mar 15, 2021	Developers and Consulting Biologists	2
Saanich Council Committees		
Jan 20, 2021	Environment and Natural Areas Committee	9
Feb 9, 2021	Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission	9
Feb 11, 2021	Planning, Transportation & Economic Development Advisory Committee	8
Feb 17, 2021	Environment and Natural Areas Committee	10
Feb 24, 2021	Parks, Trails & Recreation Advisory Committee	8
Mar 3, 2021	Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee	8
Mar 22, 2021	Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission	8
Mar 12, 2021	Planning, Transportation & Economic Development Advisory Committee	8
Virtual Open House		
Jan 20 to Mar 15, 2021	General Public	1,199 unique webpage views
Other		
Mar 4, 2021	Presentation and discussion with One Planet Saanich	17
Mar 15, 2021	Presentation and discussion with interdepartmental staff	8
Mar 18, 2021	Presentation and discussion with Capital Regional District interdepartmental staff	10
Apr 7, 2021	Presentation and discussion with the Saanich Community Association Network (SCAN)	13

Table 1: Participation in Engagement Processes

4.0 Feedback

Feedback was received in the following formats and quantities as shown in Table 2. Participation rates by each type of feedback is shown in Figure 1. Although Feedback Forms were the most common feedback format, they only accounted for 41% of participants.

Format	Quantity	Content
Feedback forms (digital and paper)	168	Appendix D (digital form report)
Focus group summary report	4 Groups, 1 report	Appendix E
Youth focus group report	1 group, 1 report	Appendix F
Minutes from committee meetings	8 meetings	Appendix G
Correspondence: Emails or letters to staff or Council	24	Appendix H
Feedback from Government and Institutions	2	Appendix I
Feedback from Saanich Departments	5	Appendix J

Table 2: Format of Feedback Received

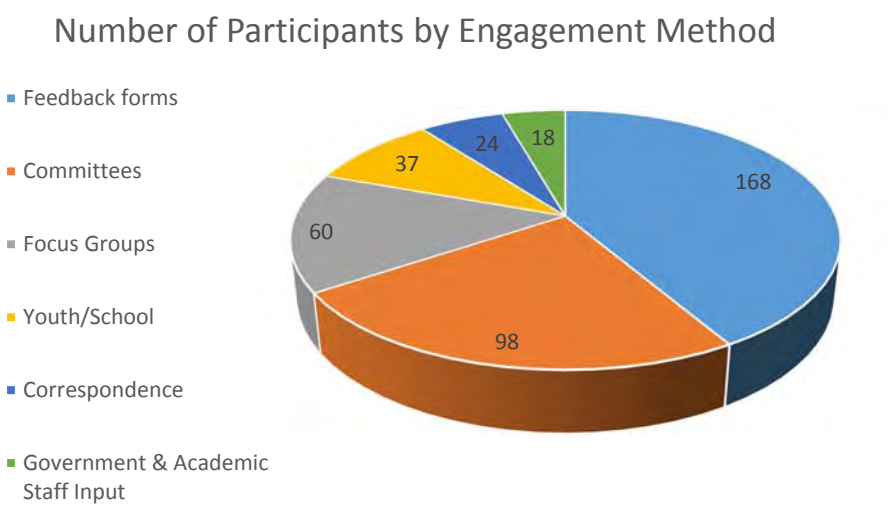


Figure 2: Number of Participants by Engagement Method.

Based on the feedback forms, the response to the vision, principles, goals, and objectives was strongly supportive ranging from 70% to 82% for each. There was appreciation regarding the initiative, the consultation, and the work of the RSTC. All of the raw data is available in Appendices D to J.

An important concept emerged repeatedly and was described as a shifting baseline. Dependent on the experience of the individual, what is considered a desirable future state can be influenced by their baseline understanding of Saanich. The idea that looking back to create a common baseline was important so that vision, goals, and indicators will become shared. This may be a key concept in finding widespread community participation in reaching a vision that is achievable and will serve future generations well.

The following section (4.1) highlights some of the common suggestions for improvement that were taken from all the feedback received.

4.1 Draft Vision

The RSTC developed a draft vision specifically for the Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework:

> "By 2030, coordinated efforts by all in Saanich/W̱SÁNEĆ yield measurable improvements in climate change resilience, habitat conservation, watershed health and ecological footprint, benefiting all those who share and inhabit our community".

70% of feedback form respondents supported the draft vision.

The following list includes some of the more common suggestions from all feedback sources. Complete feedback is included in Appendices D to J.

- Consider the time horizon and the need for immediate and longer term action.

- Consider a 2050 timeline with short and long term goals and objectives.
- Consider the Climate Plan vision for ecosystems.
- Increase emphasis on protecting, restoring, and conserving natural areas while promoting higher density in developed areas.
- Include more wording about restoration and increasing natural areas.
- Include wording so that contamination, plastics, and pesticides are in scope.
- Improve the clarity of terms such as 'measurable improvements", "all", and "collaborative"; simplify wording or add definitions and examples.
- Include First Nations in the vision more clearly.
- Include public land and private land but recognize the differences.
- Include additional terms such as stewardship, ecological footprint, watersheds, marine shoreline, agriculture, and climate mitigation.
- Address public awareness and engagement.
- Include ecosystem services and their enhancement.
- Measurable could be 'best' or 'quickest'—clarification is needed.
- Connect with human health and human connection to the land, arts and culture.
- The vision is vague and weak on seeing the type of change that is needed to address the climate change and biodiversity crisis.

4.2 Draft Principles

The RSTC developed ten draft principles for the Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework:

1. Recognize the intrinsic value of nature;
2. Respect Indigenous knowledge and land uses;
3. Consider future generations;
4. Ensure evidence-based[1] decision making;
5. Adopt the precautionary principle when facing knowledge gaps;
6. Build upon foundational knowledge of historical land use;
7. Lead by example through innovation and best practices;
8. Look beyond our borders to achieve results at a bioregional scale;
9. Address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do; and
10. Work in partnership with diverse interests to achieve outcomes that realize multiple values and benefits.

80% of feedback form respondents supported the draft principles.

The following list includes some of the more common suggestions from all feedback sources. Complete feedback is included in Appendices D to J.

- Define the term "precautionary principle".
- Remove the reference to historical land use practices, as they are not necessarily positive and in conflict with principle 7, unless it is First Nations land use.
- Ensure there is inclusion, equity, balance, and empowerment in the principles.

[1] Supported by as much available and appropriate scientific data, models and research, Indigenous knowledge, historic and cultural documents.

- Address preservation, protection, and recovery of greenspace and biodiversity.
- Include restoration in the principles.
- Consider the cost implications of the principles.
- Change passive wording to stronger, active wording.
- Improve clarity by reducing vague wording (especially 8 and 10) and jargon.
- Encourage sustainable living.
- Include education and awareness.
- Youth participants believe that principles 2 and 3 are the most important.
- Include reducing and preventing impacts, including tree loss.

4.3 Draft Goals

The RSTC developed two draft goals for the Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework:

1. Protect, restore and enhance the ecological function and biological diversity of Saanich; and
2. Develop and implement complimentary and coordinated policies, strategies, regulations, and incentives grounded in the overarching set of guiding principles to achieve the vision.

80% of feedback form respondents supported the draft goals.

The following list includes some of the more common suggestions from all feedback sources. Complete feedback is included in Appendices D to J.

- Specify that the goals are for private land and public land, including municipal operations.
- Focus on public lands either first, or entirely.
- Consider the economic implications.
- Emphasize restoration and recovery.
- Include awareness, engagement, and incentives for the public.
- Improve linkages to other plans such as the Climate Plan, One Planet Saanich, Climate Emergency, as well as regional priorities and other levels of government.
- Increase and improve enforcement of regulations.
- Goals could be improved by making them less vague/more specific, measurable, and more closely aligned with the vision; this would help to determine if they are achievable.
- Include targets for protection and timelines for urgent issues.
- Recognize the development industry as source of innovation and environmental renewal.
- Address impacts of development and servicing on trees and biodiversity.
- Connectivity should be included.
- Consider the ecosystem goals of the Climate Plan.
- Consider breaking the goals into smaller topic areas and then expanding on them individually.
- Include a goal for monitoring and reporting.

4.2 Draft Objectives

The RSTC developed four draft objectives for the Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework:

1. Fairly and effectively manage[2] the natural and built environment to adapt to climate change, and enhance biodiversity and other essential ecosystem services;
2. Foster resistance and regenerative capacity (i.e., resilience) in our landscapes against escalating environmental shock and stressors;
3. Engage and support citizens in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewardship; and
4. Update bylaws and policies across all departments to be transparent and consistent with the Environmental Policy Framework.

81% of feedback form respondents supported the draft objectives.

The following list includes some of the more common suggestions from all feedback sources. Complete feedback is included in Appendices D to J.

- Replace terminology with consistent, easily-understood phrases.
- Define 'fairly', 'effectively', 'ecosystem services', and 'landscapes'.
- Make wording more specific.
- Improve enforcement of bylaws.
- Increase education, awareness, partnerships, and incentives; participation and transparency.
- Define costs associated with these objectives.
- Define indicators, measurements, monitoring; consider asset management.
- Make the objectives SMART (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) and directed towards fulfilling the vision such as in the Climate Plan.
- Increase support for landowners, businesses, applicants.
- Create support for decision-making and collaborative approaches.
- Include restoration and biodiversity.
- Promote sustainable landscaping strategies and use of native plants.
- Include more specific outcomes for Garry oaks and understorey vegetation, streams, forests, daylighting, sustainable agriculture, birds, insects, etc.
- Include marine shoreline protection; the Islands Trust could be helpful.
- Principle 9 should start with ‘continue to’.
- Principle 4 implies that Saanich is not currently transparent, consider rewording.
- Include greater detail about stewardship programming and reaching out to existing stewards.
- Land use should be analyzed and the Zoning Bylaw updated to better integrate biodiversity.
- Objectives should be written to influence and guide both citizen and staff actions.
- Address concerns regarding current development impacts to natural areas.
- Ensure interdepartmental approaches.

[2] “Manage” encompasses protection, rehabilitation, enhancement, as well as planned development and managed use

4.3 Other Feedback

As a result of the open-ended feedback form prompts, correspondence, and focus group discussions, feedback was received that does not fit into the above headings or purpose of the engagement process.

All of the feedback has been/will be made available to the RSTC, Council, and future consultants involved in delivering the actions identified in the Terms of Reference.

The following list includes some of the more common, relevant statements from all feedback sources that did not specifically address the draft vision, principles, goals and objectives. Complete feedback is included in Appendices D to J.

- Concerns that Resilient Saanich will not address the climate crisis.
- Concerns with environmental damage with off-leash pets.
- Concern with timeline of Resilient Saanich and potential for ecological harm to occur.
- Concern for potential future implications for private land based on the EDPA.
- Concerns with removal of native vegetation to accommodate gardens suites, road widening, and development in general.
- Importance of proper tree selection for sites.
- The strategy should be flexible, adaptable, and accountable.
- Language should be more positive, inspirational.
- Consider the economics of biodiversity, such as presented in the Dasgupta Review.
- Promote use of compostable plastic.
- Address artificial turf, pesticides, micro-plastics, and painting over graffiti.
- Encourage urban gardens, habitat, and rewilding.
- Allow outdoor burning.
- Install more EV charge stations in Saanich Parks and use the revenue for park improvements; similar with movie locations.
- Involve the School Districts of Saanich.
- Expand resilience to include emergency preparedness, financial disasters, etc.
- Consider prescribed burning and other indigenous practices.
- Review the Tree Bylaw to decrease removal of trees based on nuisance.
- Recognize differences between urban and rural lands, including the contribution that farms make to biodiversity.
- Clarity is needed on how humans fit into Resilient Saanich and also how it integrates with the Social and Economic pillars of sustainability.
- Include citizens in the learning process.

4.3 Future Engagement Preferences

One of the objectives of the engagement process was to discover preferences and successes from the feedback. In terms of the feedback form respondents, table 3 shows the preferred methods of future engagement:

Method	Preference
Subscription to the Resilient Saanich e-Bulletins	68.49%
Online engagement	61.64%

Video conference presentations and discussions	39.04%
In-person engagement when it is possible	28.08%
Other ways (examples submitted are mini projects, volunteer opportunities, tours, focus groups, presentations to students, newspaper announcements)	20.55%

Table 3: Future Feedback Method Preferences

4.4 Inclusivity

The feedback form included demographic questions to identify the range of respondents. The purpose was to measure how successful the engagement was at reaching a variety of Saanich citizens. This was particularly challenging due to the pandemic restrictions as there was a heavy reliance on online feedback. It is anticipated that a greater range of citizens could be reached in upcoming Milestones if there are fewer Covid19 restrictions.

Table 4 illustrates how the feedback form respondents compare to Saanich (2016 Census) demographic information. It should be noted that demographic information was not collected from participants who did not use the feedback form.

Categories	Saanich (2016)	Feedback Forms	Comments
Inclusivity Indicator: Gender			
Female	51.5%	46%	18% of respondents skipped this question.
Male	48.5%	34%	
Prefer not to say	n/a	11%	
Transgender	n/a	0%	
Non-binary	n/a	0%	
Two Spirit	n/a	0%	
Open-ended response	n/a	0%	
Inclusivity Indicator: Age			
0-19	19.5%	3.3%	27% of respondents skipped this question. The 0-19 age group includes people too young to participate. This table does not include the 37 students that participated in a focus group.
20-29	13.9%	1.3%	
30-64	45.8%	49.7%	
65+	20.7%	37.1%	
Prefer not to say	n/a	18.5%	
Inclusivity Indicator: Cultural Background			
White (European descent)	77.9%	77.5%	19% of respondents skipped this question. Those who responded "other" identified mainly as "Canadian" or were in opposition to being asked for this information.
Chinese	8.64%	1.32%	
South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	5.04%	1.32%	
Indigenous	3.1%	4.63%	
Filipino	2.18%	0.66%	
Black (e.g. African or Caribbean)	1.02%	0.66%	
Korean	0.96%	1.99%	
Southeast Asian (e.g. Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian)	0.89%	1.32%	
Japanese	0.88%	0.66%	
Latin American/Hispanic	0.73%	1.32%	
Arab	0.60%	0.66%	

West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afgan)	0.39%	0.66%	
Prefer Not to Answer	n/a	9.93%	
Other	0.77%	8.61 %	
Inclusivity Indicator: Home			
Own or co-own home	70%	76%	18% of respondents did not respond to this question. Those who checked 'other' mostly reside outside of Saanich.
Rent	30%	6%	
Other	n/a	11%	
Inclusivity Indicator: Primary Language			
English (only)		71%	18% of respondents did not answer this question.
English and at least one other language		17%	
Prefer not to answer		8.6%	

Table 4: Feedback Demographics

From those who responded to the feedback form only, it appears that participation was lower than average from males, those under 30 years of age, Chinese and South Asian cultural backgrounds, and renters. Given that the two languages chosen for translation of the feedback form (Simplified Chinese and Punjabi) were also the least represented cultural groups, better promotion of the materials and other methods of engagement should be researched for future engagement.

Respondents who preferred not to answer demographic questions ranged from 18% to 27% which again makes comparing to Saanich demographic information less meaningful.

It is recognized that comparing participation rates against demographic information may not be the best, or only way, to measure success at inclusivity. For example, despite having a higher engagement participation rate than 2016 demographics from First Nations, the feedback received from participants was for more meaningful engagement or feedback from First Nations.

5.0 Recommendations and Next Steps

Based on the received feedback, there is strong support for the vision, principles, goals, and objectives drafted by the RSTC. During the engagement process, there were many statements of appreciation for the engagement process and the work of the RSTC.

Many issues have been raised in this report, namely:

- The need to improve future feedback engagement with underrepresented cultural groups, particularly Chinese and South Asian;
- The feedback received to have more meaningful engagement with First Nations on the draft vision, principles, goals, and objectives;
- The widespread feedback to improve clarity of terminology used in the draft vision, principles, goals, and objectives;
- Consistent feedback to flesh out the draft goals and objectives to be "SMART" (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound)
- Suggestions for improvement of the draft vision, principles, goals, and objectives received during the engagement process.

Recommendations

(draft options to be discussed with RSTC—see memo)

Next Steps

Per the Terms of Reference, this public engagement report will be considered by Council as part of the overall Milestone One Progress Report. Direction on the above-noted recommendations will be sought from Council at that time.

Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework

In November 2017, Saanich Council directed that an Environmental Policy Framework be developed to serve as a framework for Saanich environmental policies and programs. Subsequently, a technical committee of natural resource practitioners and specialists was selected and asked to develop goals and objectives for the policy framework. The following is the initial result of that work. It starts with consideration of the Vision for Saanich as provided in the Official Community Plan[1], and then specifies the vision, guiding principles, goals and objectives of an overarching Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework. These are to be reflected in all that happens in Saanich; they are intended to promote the level of meaningful structural change necessary for the District and the communities it supports to become more resilient, inclusive and effective in adapting to climate change, biodiversity loss, pandemics and other environmental challenges that might arise.

Framework Vision:

By 2030, coordinated efforts by all in Saanich/W̱SÁNEĆ yield measurable improvements in climate change resilience, habitat conservation, watershed health and ecological footprint, benefiting all those who share and inhabit our community.

Framework Guiding Principles[2]:

1. Recognize the intrinsic value of nature;
2. Respect Indigenous knowledge and land uses;
3. Consider future generations;
4. Ensure evidence-based[3] decision making;
5. Adopt the precautionary principle when facing knowledge gaps;
6. Build upon foundational knowledge of historical land use;
7. Lead by example through innovation and best practices;
8. Look beyond our borders to achieve results at a bioregional scale;
9. Address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do;
10. Work in partnership with diverse interests to achieve outcomes that realize multiple values and benefits;

Framework Goals[4]:

1. Protect, restore and enhance the ecological function and biological diversity of Saanich.

[1] The vision from the OCP: "Saanich is a model steward working diligently to improve and balance the natural and built environments. Saanich restores and protects air, land, and water quality, the biodiversity of existing natural areas and eco-systems, the network of natural areas and open spaces, and urban forests."

[2] Principles are defined as cross-cutting values statements that will guide behaviour and decision-making within the Corporation of the District of Saanich including both elected officials and staff.

[3] Supported by as much available and appropriate scientific data, models and research, Indigenous knowledge, historic and cultural documents.

[4] Goal is defined as the outcome Saanich is looking for.

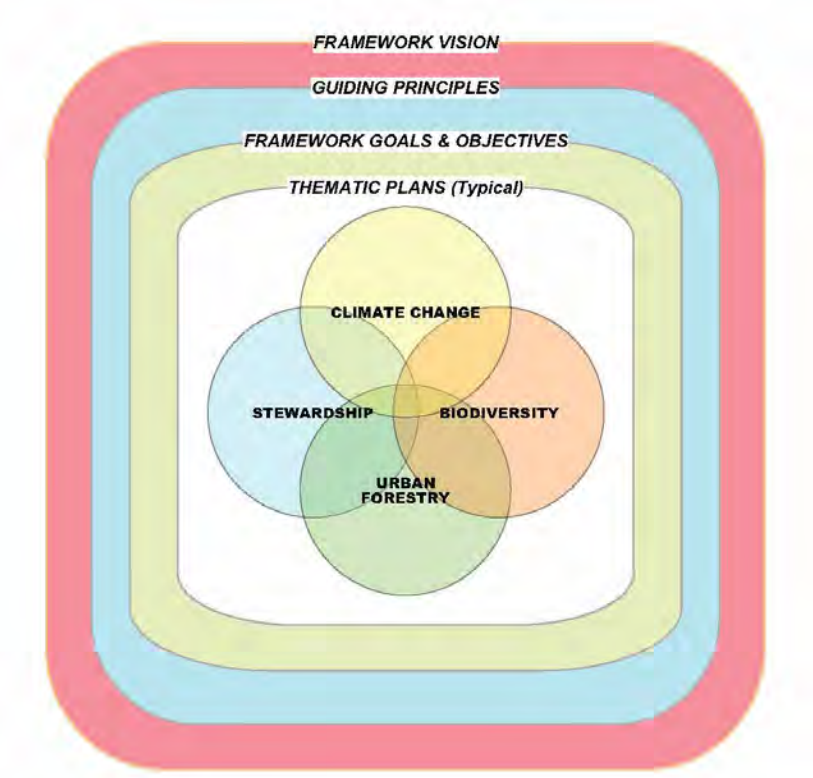
2. Develop and implement complimentary and coordinated policies, strategies, regulations, and incentives grounded in the overarching set of guiding principles to achieve the vision.

Framework Objectives[5]*:*

1. Fairly and effectively manage[6] the natural and built environment to adapt to climate change, and enhance biodiversity and other essential ecosystem services;
2. Foster resistance and regenerative capacity (i.e., resilience) in our landscapes against escalating environmental shock and stressors;
3. Engage and support citizens in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewardship;
4. Update bylaws and policies across all departments to be transparent and consistent with the Environmental Policy Framework.

Thematic Plans

The implementation of Saanich's environmental policy framework will be outlined and developed in a series of thematic plans—one for each area of environmental focus or concern. These are nested within the overall vision, principles, goals and objectives of the policy framework as illustrated in the following graphic.



[5] Objectives are defined as the purpose of actions intended to attain a desired goal

[6] "Manage" encompasses protection, rehabilitation, enhancement, as well as planned development and managed use.

The Venn diagram above shows the various themes intersecting with one another. This intersection is intended to convey the way in which the different thematic areas influence and inform one another. Conservation of tree canopy, for instance, is a policy focus not just for urban forestry, but also for Climate Adaptation (e.g. cooling effect of shade on the urban heat island) and Biodiversity (e.g. species diversity and habitat provision).

Several Thematic Plans already exist, such as Saanich's plans for Climate Action, Urban Forest Management, Active Transportation and Agriculture and Food Security); others remain to be developed. The following is a preliminary list of thematic plans that the Committee is currently considering for the Environmental Policy Framework:

Climate Change
Biodiversity
Urban Forestry (includes soil and green space conservation)
Stewardship
Water Management (includes storm water and watershed health)
Land Use Planning & Development
Marine Shoreline
Saanich's Ecological Footprint
Agriculture (includes sustainable practice & food security)
Green Economy
Transportation (environmental aspects)
Governance and Administration (of environmental policies and service areas)

As indicated in the outline below, nested within each plan are the policies and program objectives that will make up Saanich's response to its diverse environmental challenges and opportunities. For its implementation, each plan also needs to set forth the strategies and tools it will adopt in pursuit of program objectives, along with an action plan.

TYPICAL OUTLINE OF A THEMATIC PLAN
(the outline can vary depending on the thematic plan)

1. Relevant Landscapes and Scales
2. Evaluation of ecosystem health and functional condition
3. Desired future condition
4. Gap analysis and SWOT assessment
5. Policies and program objectives
6. Strategies (approaches)
7. Tools
8. Action Plan (tasks, timelines, lead department, resources)
9. Monitoring and Assessment

Appendix B: Promotion Analytics

Date	Promotion Type	# distributed or posted	locations
Throughout the engagement period	Social Media Ads	Twitter - 20,409 impressions in Saanich Facebook - 59,298 impressions	electronic
Throughout	Social Media posts	not tracked	electronic
Jan 21, 2021	Parks & Rec Matters e-news feature of RS VOH	44,911	electronic
Feb 3, 2021	RS e-Bulletin #6	122	electronic
Feb 5, 2021	Times Colonist Ad		electronic and paper distribution
Feb 4/5, 2021	Mail to all Saanich residents and businesses	36,575	mail
Feb 5, 2021	Our Backyard - 2 page info on engagement	707 email subscription list; 250 paper;	electronic and mail
Feb 10, 2021	Saanich News Ad		electronic and paper distribution
Feb 16, 2021	RS e-Bulletin #7	222	electronic
Feb 24, 2021	RS e-Bulletin #8	250	electronic
Feb 18 2021	Climate Quarterly e-news	745	electronic
Feb 2021	Seniors Promotion (delivery for each - 2 posters, 30 postcards & 10 promo cards)	4 community seniors centre locations (3 delivered in person, Cordova Bay 55+ was closed so package mailed)	Saanich Silver Threads at Les Passmore Activity Centre, Cordova Bay 55+ Association, Goward House Society, Cedar Hill New Horizons at CHRC
Jan. 21 - early Feb	Posters in Community	~ 33	2@Municipal Hall; 3 @ Saanich Parks; 1 @ Matticks Farm; 5 @ Royal Oak Shopping Centre; 2@ Tillicum Mall; 1 @ Gateway Village; 1@ Saanich Centre; 1 @ Cloverdale Thrifty Foods; 1 @ Torquay Village, 1@ Tuscany Village, 4 @ Cadboro Bay Village; 6 @ Uptown; 1 @ University Heights
Mar 2, 2021	RS e-Bulletin #9	261	electronic
Mar 10, 2021	RS e-Bulletin #10	278	electronic
Mar 15, 2021	RS e-Bulletin #11	279	electronic

Appendix C: Overview of Engagement Plan and Outcomes

Partners & Stakeholders	Engagement Method	Outcomes
Governments—First Nations	▪ Build on letter sent from the Mayor ▪ Offer focus group meetings with First Nations via video conference	▪ No response
Governments—Federal	▪ Invite comment from federal partners on the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team.	▪ No response
Governments—Provincial	▪ Invite comment from Species & Ecosystems at Risk Local Government Working Group	▪ No response
Governments—Regional	▪ Meet regularly with CRD staff as both governments progress with their biodiversity strategies to identify potential collaboration	▪ One meeting held and follow up letter received
Saanich Residents—General	▪ Virtual Open House	▪ See section 3.4
Saanich Residents—Youth	▪ Communications & narrated powerpoint provided to special programs at secondary schools	▪ Communications with 3 secondary schools ▪ Narrated powerpoint presented or shared ▪ Feedback from 37 youth plus at least 5 youth survey forms were received
Saanich Residents—Older Adults	• Promotional materials delivered to: Saanich Silver Threads at Les Passmore Activity Centre, Goward House Society, and Cedar Hill New Horizons at CHRC. Mailed to: Cordova Bay 55+ Association,	• No specific responses about the materials, but may have increased participation
Saanich Residents—Business Owners	• Request to Chambers of Commerce (Victoria and Saanich Peninsula) to fan out engagement email • Postcard invitation to participate	• No specific response
Indigenous Peoples (Individuals)	▪ Various communications	▪ No response

Partners & Stakeholders	Engagement Method	Outcomes
Non-governmental environmental organizations	▪ Email invitation to virtual presentation and focus group discussion	▪ Two focus group sessions were held with a total of 47 participants representing 14 organizations. See Appendix E for report. ▪ A virtual presentation and discussion was held with One Planet Saanich.
Community Stewardship Groups	• Email invitation to virtual presentation and focus group discussion	• A focus group session was held with 10 participants representing park-related stewardship groups and volunteers. • Other Community Stewardship organizations were combined with ENGOs (above) for a focus group session. • See Appendix E for report.
Camosun College & UVic	▪ Email to specific departmental staff ▪ Promotion via social media from the two student societies.	▪ Response received from University of Victoria staff ▪ Promotion via Camosun and UVic student societies
Development Industry and Consulting Biologists	▪ Email invitation to virtual presentation and focus group discussion	▪ A virtual presentation and focus group was held with 2 participants representing the development industry. See Appendix E for report.
Community Associations & SCAN	▪ Email invitation to virtual presentation and focus group discussion	▪ A presentation with questions and answers was held. ▪ One association emailed that they posted on their community board and promoted via their newsletter

Partners & Stakeholders	Engagement Method	Outcomes
Saanich Council & Council Committees	▪ Engagement activities announced in Council Bulletin ▪ Presentations to Council Committees ▪ Report to Council (pending)	Presentations and discussions with: ▪ Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee ▪ Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee ▪ Peninsula Agricultural Commission ▪ Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee ▪ Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee

Appendix D: Feedback Form Summary Report

The feedback form summary report was generated automatically by the survey platform. The analysis in the body of this report is based on the summary report after removing the blank an duplicate survey submissions and adding the four feedback forms that were not submitted electronically.

Ann Klein

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

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
Tel: Home [redacted]
e: [redacted]
Website: https://trevorhancock.org

Resilient Saanich
Goals and Objectives Feedback Form

Deadline for response: see website (saanich.ca\biodiversity)
*This survey is also available via **online survey** format on the website.

This survey is an opportunity for you to provide feedback on the development of Resilient Saanich. This initiative aims to address environmental resilience in our community. Your feedback is very important to the success of Resilient Saanich. (Note: this survey is also available in Punjabi and Chinese on our website.)

What is Resilient Saanich?

Resilient Saanich will provide a framework for existing and new environmental policies and programs including a biodiversity conservation strategy and enhanced environmental stewardship opportunities. Resilient Saanich will be integrated with the Climate Plan.

Current Feedback

Your feedback is needed on the **proposed vision, principles, goals and objectives** which have been drafted by the **Resilient Saanich Technical Committee**. The results of public feedback will assist decision-making by Saanich Council in March/April 2021.

Thank you for taking the time on this survey. It should take approximately 10 to 20 minutes to complete, depending on how much time you would like to devote to giving feedback.

To learn more before filling out the survey, please visit the **virtual open house** for more information: www.saanich.ca/biodiversity or contact biodiversity@saanich.ca.

Privacy

This survey is voluntary and responses are encouraged, but not required. Please do not provide any third-party information (e.g. talk about others) in your responses.

We take protection of privacy seriously. Information collected in this form will be stored in a secure electronic location accessible to only essential staff. The forms will be destroyed once the initiative has been completed in 2022.

Your survey responses are being collected for the purpose of engagement and data analysis for the development of Resilient Saanich. This collection of personal information is authorized under the Local Government Act, Community Charter, and sections 26(c),(e) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Questions about privacy can be directed to the District of Saanich Privacy Officer at (250) 475-1775 or foi@saanich.ca.

Resilient Saanich
Goals and Objectives Feedback Form

1. **Only one feedback form can be submitted per person.**

   Name: [redacted]

   (Optional) Address: [redacted]Ker Ave, Victoria BC [redacted]

2. **Saanich Resident:** ☑ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐ Other: ____

3. **How familiar are you with the Resilient Saanich initiative?**

   ☐ Very familiar ☑ Somewhat familiar ☐ Not so familiar ☐ Not at all familiar

   ☐ Other (please specify): ____

4. **Vision**

   The Official Community Plan vision for environmental integrity is:

   "Saanich is a model steward working diligently to improve and balance the natural and built environments. Saanich restores and protects air, land, and water quality, the biodiversity of existing natural areas and eco-systems, the network of natural areas and open spaces, and urban forests."

   The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee has proposed this new vision for the framework:

   "By 2030, coordinated efforts by all in Saanich/W̱SÁNEĆ yield measurable improvements in climate change resilience, habitat conservation, watershed health and ecological footprint, benefiting all those who share and inhabit our community."

   a) Please indicate your level of support for the proposed Resilient Saanich vision:

   ☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

   b) Do you have any recommendations to improve 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."

5. Proposed Principles

The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) has proposed 10 principles for Resilient Saanich. The principles are defined by the RSTC as cross-cutting value statements that will guide behaviour and decision-making within the Corporation of the District of Saanich, including both elected officials and staff.

a) Please indicate your level of support for each proposed principle:

1. Recognize the intrinsic value of nature

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

2. Respect Indigenous knowledge and land uses

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

3. Consider future generations

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

4. Ensure evidence-based decision making (*Evidence-based decision-making is supported by as much available and appropriate scientific data, models and research, Indigenous knowledge, historic and cultural documents)

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

5. Adopt the precautionary principle when facing knowledge gaps

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

6. Build upon foundational knowledge of historical land use

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

7. Lead by example through innovation and best practices

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

8. Look beyond our borders to achieve results at a bioregional scale

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

9. Address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

10. Work in partnerships with diverse interests to achieve outcomes that realize multiple values and benefits

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

b) Do you have any recommendations to improve one or more of these principles?

c) Are there any principles that you would like to add?

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 eveyone 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.

6. **Proposed Goals**

The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) proposes the following goals for Resilient Saanich. The RSTC describes the goals as the outcomes Saanich is looking for.

a) Please indicate your level of support for each proposed goal:

1. Protect, restore and enhance the ecological function and biological diversity of Saanich.

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

2. Develop and implement complimentary and coordinated policies, strategies, regulations, and incentives based on our guiding principles to achieve our vision.

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

b) Do you have any recommendations to improve one or more of these goals?

c) Are there any goals that you would like to add?

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

7. **Proposed Objectives**

The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) proposes the following objectives for Resilient Saanich. The RSTC defines objectives as the purpose of actions intended to attain a desired goal.

a) Please indicate your level of support for each proposed objective:

1. Fairly and effectively manage the natural and built environment to adapt to climate change, and enhance biodiversity and other essential ecosystem services

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

2. Foster resistance and regenerative capacity (i.e., resilience) to our landscapes against escalating environmental shock and stressors

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

3. Engage and support citizens in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewardship

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

4. Update bylaws and policies across all departments to be transparent and consistent with the Environmental Policy Framework

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

b) Do you have any recommendations to improve these objectives?

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

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

c) Are there any objectives you would like to add?

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.

8. **Is there anything else you would like to let us know at this point in the initiative?**

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

Public feedback is very important for the success of this initiative. We want to make sure we are reaching and hearing from as many residents as possible. It is important we hear from people with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences from all areas of Saanich.

*See the privacy statement (page 1) to understand how we will protect your privacy.

Please help us understand more about you to help us address equity and inclusion by answering the following questions.
Note: this information will only be summarized anonymously, it will not be specifically shared or stored. It will be used to understand how effective our engagement was and to better plan future engagement. This is especially important in the next phases of Resilient Saanich.

9. **Do you own or rent your housing in Saanich?**

☑ Own ☐ Co-Own ☐ Rent ☐ Other (please specify): _____

10. **In which languages are you fluent?**

English

11. **What age group do you fall in?**

☐ 19 years and under ☐ 20 to 29 ☐ 30-39 ☐ 40-49 ☐ 50 to 64
☑ 65 or older ☐ Prefer not to answer

12. **Gender Identity (check all that apply) OR answer the question below.**

☐ Female ☑ Male My gender is _____
☐ Prefer not to answer

13. Ethnicity/race – do you consider yourself to be: (check all that apply)

- ☐ First Nation
- ☐ Metis
- ☐ Inuit
- ☑ White (European descent)
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Japanese
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ South Asian (e.g. Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian)
- ☐ West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afgan)
- ☐ Black (e.g. African or Caribbean)
- ☐ Filipino
- ☐ Latin American/Hispanic
- ☐ Arab
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

14. Your participation

There will be future public engagement opportunities regarding Resilient Saanich. If you were to participate again in the future, how would you prefer to be involved? (Check all that apply)

- ☑ Subscription to the Resilient Saanich e-Bulletins
- ☐ I prefer online engagement
- ☑ I prefer in-person engagement when it is possible (due to COVID-19)
- ☑ I would like to attend video conference presentations and discussions

Other ways you would like to be involved or ways you would like us to reach you?

15. We provided this form and information in English, Punjabi and Chinese. Did this meet your needs in order to fully participate?

☑ Yes ☐ No

Thank you for sharing your feedback and your valuable time on this. If you have any further questions or comments, please email: biodiversity@saanich.ca.

Please submit your completed form to the District of Saanich by one of these methods:

- Scan and email your form to: biodiversity@saanich.ca
- Mail your form to: Environmental Services, Planning Department, District of Saanich, 770 Vernon Ave, Victoria, BC, V8X 2W7
- Drop your form off at the Saanich Municipal Hall (address above), 3rd floor, Planning Department OR in the mail slot by the main public doorway (parking lot side of the building) addressed to Environmental Services, Planning Department.

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.

thancock@uvic.ca

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.

thancock@uvic.ca

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 biodoversity 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.

thancock@uvic.ca

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

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".

thancock@uvic.ca

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

Resilient Saanich
Goals and Objectives Feedback Form

Deadline for response: see website (saanich.ca\biodiversity)
*This survey is also available via **online survey** format on the website.

This survey is an opportunity for you to provide feedback on the development of Resilient Saanich. This initiative aims to address environmental resilience in our community. Your feedback is very important to the success of Resilient Saanich. (Note: this survey is also available in Punjabi and Chinese on our website.)

What is Resilient Saanich?

Resilient Saanich will provide a framework for existing and new environmental policies and programs including a biodiversity conservation strategy and enhanced environmental stewardship opportunities. Resilient Saanich will be integrated with the Climate Plan.

Current Feedback

Your feedback is needed on the **proposed vision, principles, goals and objectives** which have been drafted by the **Resilient Saanich Technical Committee**. The results of public feedback will assist decision-making by Saanich Council in March/April 2021.

Thank you for taking the time on this survey. It should take approximately 10 to 20 minutes to complete, depending on how much time you would like to devote to giving feedback.

To learn more before filling out the survey, please visit the **virtual open house** for more information: www.saanich.ca/biodiversity *or contact* biodiversity@saanich.ca.

Privacy

This survey is voluntary and responses are encouraged, but not required. Please do not provide any third-party information (e.g. talk about others) in your responses.

We take protection of privacy seriously. Information collected in this form will be stored in a secure electronic location accessible to only essential staff. The forms will be destroyed once the initiative has been completed in 2022.

Your survey responses are being collected for the purpose of engagement and data analysis for the development of Resilient Saanich. This collection of personal information is authorized under the Local Government Act, Community Charter, and sections 26(c),(e) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Questions about privacy can be directed to the District of Saanich Privacy Officer at (250) 475-1775 or foi@saanich.ca.

Resilient Saanich
Goals and Objectives Feedback Form

1. **Only one feedback form can be submitted per person.**

Name: [redacted]

(Optional) Address: [redacted] OBED AVE

2. **Saanich Resident:** ☑ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐ Other: ____

3. **How familiar are you with the Resilient Saanich initiative?**

☐ Very familiar ☑ Somewhat familiar ☐ Not so familiar ☐ Not at all familiar

☐ Other (please specify): ____

4. **Vision**

The Official Community Plan vision for environmental integrity is:

"Saanich is a model steward working diligently to improve and balance the natural and built environments. Saanich restores and protects air, land, and water quality, the biodiversity of existing natural areas and eco-systems, the network of natural areas and open spaces, and urban forests."

The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee has proposed this new vision for the framework:

"By 2030, coordinated efforts by all in Saanich/W̱SÁNEĆ yield measurable improvements in climate change resilience, habitat conservation, watershed health and ecological footprint, benefiting all those who share and inhabit our community."

a) Please indicate your level of support for the proposed Resilient Saanich vision:

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

b) *Do you have any recommendations to improve the vision?*

2030 is too long. TIMELINE SHOULD BE MOVED UP.

5. Proposed Principles

The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) has proposed 10 principles for Resilient Saanich. The principles are defined by the RSTC as cross-cutting value statements that will guide behaviour and decision-making within the Corporation of the District of Saanich, including both elected officials and staff.

a) Please indicate your level of support for each proposed principle:

1. Recognize the intrinsic value of nature

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

2. Respect Indigenous knowledge and land uses

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

3. Consider future generations

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

4. Ensure evidence-based decision making (*Evidence-based decision-making is supported by as much available and appropriate scientific data, models and research, Indigenous knowledge, historic and cultural documents)

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

5. Adopt the precautionary principle when facing knowledge gaps

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

6. Build upon foundational knowledge of historical land use

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

7. Lead by example through innovation and best practices

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

8. Look beyond our borders to achieve results at a bioregional scale

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

9. Address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

10. Work in partnerships with diverse interests to achieve outcomes that realize multiple values and benefits

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

b) Do you have any recommendations to improve one or more of these principles?

Although the 2nd principle is high up on the list I don't see that there is much evidence of First Nations participation at present.

c) Are there any principles that you would like to add?

I would like to see Saanich maintain all the qualities that make it unique in this region. To maintain it's character.

I am concerned about much of the agricultural zones that are near the city being swallowed up.

6. **Proposed Goals**

The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) proposes the following goals for Resilient Saanich. The RSTC describes the goals as the outcomes Saanich is looking for.

a) Please indicate your level of support for each proposed goal:

1. Protect, restore and enhance the ecological function and biological diversity of Saanich.

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

2. Develop and implement complimentary and coordinated policies, strategies, regulations, and incentives based on our guiding principles to achieve our vision.

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☐ Support ☐ Unsure

b) Do you have any recommendations to improve one or more of these goals?

As mentioned before, shorten the time line, too much environmental destruction is taking place right now, especially due to development.

c) Are there any goals that you would like to add?

Survey the urban forest/canopy, so we have a baseline. We can see how much we have lost/maintained.

7. **Proposed Objectives**

The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) proposes the following objectives for Resilient Saanich. The RSTC defines objectives as the purpose of actions intended to attain a desired goal.

a) Please indicate your level of support for each proposed objective:

1. Fairly and effectively manage the natural and built environment to adapt to climate change, and enhance biodiversity and other essential ecosystem services

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

2. Foster resistance and regenerative capacity (i.e., resilience) to our landscapes against escalating environmental shock and stressors

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

3. Engage and support citizens in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewardship

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

4. Update bylaws and policies across all departments to be transparent and consistent with the Environmental Policy Framework

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☑ Support ☐ Unsure

b) Do you have any recommendations to improve these objectives?

Be more pro-active with bylaws.
Right now it's reactive

c) Are there any objectives you would like to add?

There could be educational components.
Signage, pamphlets etc

8. **Is there anything else you would like to let us know at this point in the initiative?**

You have to realize that mature trees sequester enormous amounts of carbon. If you are serious about a climate plan, stop allowing their removal — it's great to replant, but ① small trees will take many decades to do the same job ② many planted trees simply die.

Public feedback is very important for the success of this initiative. We want to make sure we are reaching and hearing from as many residents as possible. It is important we hear from people with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences from all areas of Saanich.

*See the privacy statement (page 1) to understand how we will protect your privacy.

Please help us understand more about you to help us address equity and inclusion by answering the following questions.
Note: this information will only be summarized anonymously, it will not be specifically shared or stored. It will be used to understand how effective our engagement was and to better plan future engagement. This is especially important in the next phases of Resilient Saanich.

9. **Do you own or rent your housing in Saanich?**

☑ Own ☐ Co-Own ☐ Rent ☐ Other (please specify): _____

10. **In which languages are you fluent?**

ENGLISH

11. **What age group do you fall in?**

☐ 19 years and under ☐ 20 to 29 ☐ 30-39 ☐ 40-49 ☐ 50 to 64
☑ 65 or older ☐ Prefer not to answer

12. **Gender Identity (check all that apply) OR answer the question below.**

☑ Female ☐ Male My gender is _____
☐ Prefer not to answer

13. Ethnicity/race – do you consider yourself to be: (check all that apply)

- [ ] First Nation
- [ ] Metis
- [ ] Inuit
- [x] White (European descent)
- [ ] Chinese
- [ ] Japanese
- [ ] Korean
- [ ] South Asian (e.g. Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian)
- [ ] West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afgan)
- [ ] Black (e.g. African or Caribbean)
- [ ] Filipino
- [ ] Latin American/Hispanic
- [ ] Arab
- [ ] Other (please specify):
- [ ] Prefer not to answer

14. Your participation

There will be future public engagement opportunities regarding Resilient Saanich. If you were to participate again in the future, how would you prefer to be involved? (Check all that apply)

- [ ] Subscription to the Resilient Saanich e-Bulletins
- [ ] I prefer online engagement
- [ ] I prefer in-person engagement when it is possible (due to COVID-19)
- [ ] I would like to attend video conference presentations and discussions

Other ways you would like to be involved or ways you would like us to reach you?

15. We provided this form and information in English, Punjabi and Chinese. Did this meet your needs in order to fully participate?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

Thank you for sharing your feedback and your valuable time on this. If you have any further questions or comments, please email: biodiversity@saanich.ca.

Please submit your completed form to the District of Saanich by one of these methods:

- Scan and email your form to: biodiversity@saanich.ca
- Mail your form to: Environmental Services, Planning Department, District of Saanich, 770 Vernon Ave, Victoria, BC, V8X 2W7
- Drop your form off at the Saanich Municipal Hall (address above), 3rd floor, Planning Department OR in the mail slot by the main public doorway (parking lot side of the building) addressed to Environmental Services, Planning Department.

Resilient Saanich
Goals and Objectives Feedback Form

1. **Only one feedback form can be submitted per person.**

   Name: [redacted]

   (Optional) Address:

2. **Saanich Resident:** ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know ☐ Other:

3. **How familiar are you with the Resilient Saanich initiative?**

   ☐ Very familiar ☒ Somewhat familiar ☐ Not so familiar ☐ Not at all familiar

   ☐ Other (please specify):

4. **Vision**

   The Official Community Plan vision for environmental integrity is:

   "Saanich is a model steward working diligently to improve and balance the natural and built environments. Saanich restores and protects air, land, and water quality, the biodiversity of existing natural areas and eco-systems, the network of natural areas and open spaces, and urban forests."

   The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee has proposed this new vision for the framework:

   "By 2030, coordinated efforts by all in Saanich/W̱SÁNEĆ yield measurable improvements in climate change resilience, habitat conservation, watershed health and ecological footprint, benefiting all those who share and inhabit our community."

   a) Please indicate your level of support for the proposed Resilient Saanich vision:

   ☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Unsure

   b) Do you have any recommendations to improve the vision?

5. Proposed Principles

The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) has proposed 10 principles for Resilient Saanich. The principles are defined by the RSTC as cross-cutting value statements that will guide behaviour and decision-making within the Corporation of the District of Saanich, including both elected officials and staff.

a) Please indicate your level of support for each proposed principle:

1. Recognize the intrinsic value of nature

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Unsure

2. Respect Indigenous knowledge and land uses

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Unsure

3. Consider future generations

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Unsure

4. Ensure evidence-based decision making (*Evidence-based decision-making is supported by as much available and appropriate scientific data, models and research, Indigenous knowledge, historic and cultural documents)

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Unsure

5. Adopt the precautionary principle when facing knowledge gaps

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Unsure — Provided the knowledge gap is extensive.

6. Build upon foundational knowledge of historical land use

☒ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☐ Support ☐ Unsure

7. Lead by example through innovation and best practices — including Saanich City funded Projects?

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☐ Support ☒ Unsure

8. Look beyond our borders to achieve results at a bioregional scale

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Unsure

9. Address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do — based on what info? options? Not always possible

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☐ Support ☐ Unsure

10. Work in partnerships with diverse interests to achieve outcomes that realize multiple values and benefits

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Unsure

1 see notes below

b) Do you have any recommendations to improve one or more of these principles?

I have concerns about adjudication in situations where these are conflicting or competing concerns/ solutions.

How do we create a framework that values balancing values specific to locations - where some benefits can occur but not necessarily all benefits.

c) Are there any principles that you would like to add?

Fairness + Balance

6. **Proposed Goals**

The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) proposes the following goals for Resilient Saanich. The RSTC describes the goals as the outcomes Saanich is looking for.

a) Please indicate your level of support for each proposed goal:

1. Protect, restore and enhance the ecological function and biological diversity of Saanich.

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Unsure

2. Develop and implement complimentary and coordinated policies, strategies, regulations, and incentives based on our guiding principles to achieve our vision.

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Unsure

b) Do you have any recommendations to improve one or more of these goals?

It may not always be possible to achieve these goals for every location - consider alternatives that permit other options/locations to achieve important goals elsewhere or to improve data/knowledge

Consider decision-making - roles & responsibilities of various parties to achieve balance for specific locations

For example - District Energy - identify areas & project costs & fair cost allocation like DCC's

c) Are there any goals that you would like to add?

7. **Proposed Objectives**

The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) proposes the following objectives for Resilient Saanich. The RSTC defines objectives as the purpose of actions intended to attain a desired goal.

a) Please indicate your level of support for each proposed objective:

1. Fairly and effectively manage the natural and built environment to adapt to climate change, and enhance biodiversity and other essential ecosystem services

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Unsure

2. Foster resistance and regenerative capacity (i.e., resilience) to our landscapes against escalating environmental shock and stressors

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Unsure

3. Engage and support citizens in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewardship

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Unsure

4. Update bylaws and policies across all departments to be transparent and consistent with the Environmental Policy Framework - Huge

☐ Do not support ☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Unsure

b) Do you have any recommendations to improve these objectives?

In considering impacts (ie. variety of permit processes & search) change the culture from handing over problems to assisting with + proposing solutions + options.

c) Are there any objectives you would like to add?

Create a framework for process that provides support to those proposing changes - ie land use, construction, home improvements, park improvements, roads / trails. Put the framework in the context of finding options and solutions that can be tailored to the proposal and location

[redacted]
B.S.A.,M.S., [Former R.P.Bio.]
SAANICH, B.C., CANADA
TEL: [redacted]
E-MAIL: [redacted]

Resilient Saanich Feedback
Per Request of RS Bulletin #6
Subject: Resilient Saanich Terms of Reference
&
Policy Framework Content

Date of Feedback
February 8,2021

****

1 Name: [redacted]

2. I am a Saanich Resident

3. I am very familiar with Resilient Saanich

4. The initial paragraph of the **vision** as extracted from the decade old OCP is both outdated and mis-leading! While it in general is an admiral aspiration, its wording in the present tense erroneously suggests that Saanch is and has been smoothly and successfully doing these things for unspecified periods, which anyone witnessing the events of the past several years knows is far from the case.

5. The Proposed Principles – These are all worthy of support.

6. The Proposed Goals

In that Goal' is defined as "the outcome Saanich is looking for", the 2nd of the 2 "Goals" presented is NOT properly viewed as a 'goal' of or for Resilient Saanich.

"Goal" #1 presented is (with modification noted below) the singular overall Goal of Resilient Saanich

[*. Protect, restore and enhance the ecological function and biological diversity of Saanich.]

Goal #2, on the other hand is statement of <u>the underlying means to the desired ends</u> put forward in Goal #1 and is not a "Goal" of the exercise *per se*.

[*Develop and implement complimentary and coordinated policies, strategies, regulations, and incentives grounded in the overarching set of guiding principles to achieve the vision.

As to the overall **Goal ,ie #1,** per Dictionary.com the following is noted:

a) **Protect:** to defend or guard from attack, invasion, loss, annoyance, insult, etc.;
to cover or shield from injury or danger.

While "protect" is extensively explicit, is not "Conserve' a more accurate and appropriate term for this within the subject context? **Conserve=** to prevent injury, decay, waste, or loss; and
to use or manage (natural resources) wisely; preserve; save.

b) **Enhance:** to raise to a higher degree; intensify; magnify.

Clearly an identifiable, measurable and attainable aspiration.

c) **Restore:** to bring back into existence, use, or the like; re-establish;
to bring back to a former, original, or normal condition;
to bring back to a state of health, soundness, or vigor.

Restoration as a set of actions is one of many routes to the joint goal of conservation and enhancement of Saanich's ecological function and biological diversity. Within urbanized and semi-urban settings such as Saanich, the realities and practicalities of ecosystem restoration are fraught with difficulty, thus rendering the successful attainment thereof more than highly questionable.
Questions immediately arising in this regard are:

- Restoration of which ecosystem elements, and to what state(s)?
- Restoration to ecological conditions at what point(s) in time?
  - The time of European contact?
  - The time of incorporation of the District of Saanich?
  - The time of initial development of specific areas and properties?
  - The time of last transfer of specific areas and properties?
  - Other?
- Which stages of ecological succession and/or environmental quality are to be selected as restorative targets and on what basis is that to occur?
- Restoration at what cost relative to the complex and limited prospects of fulfillment ?
- Restoration at whose cost?
  - That of the District of Saanich?
  - That of the current property owner?
  - That of the historical perpetrator?
  - Other?
- Who is going to assure that the actions required to maintain the desired restorative seral states are implemented in the long term?

The tool of Restoration needs to be removed as an element of the overall Goal , and needs a serious re-think with reference to the realities and expectations as a priority tool !!

7. Framework Objectives:

In that 'Objectives' are defined as the "purpose of actions intended to attain a desired goal', these Resilient Saanich strategic objectives are **strategic pathways** to the declared goal, upon each of which an array of tactical programs ,projects, activities and actions must be derived, placed and delivered en route to the collective goal . As such, these translate as the following sets of actions;

1 Fairly and effectively manage the natural and built environment to adapt to climate change, and enhance biodiversity and other essential ecosystem services =

1a **Effective accommodation of climate change adaptation** *;and*

1b. Concerted enhancement of biodiversity and essential ecosystem services.

2. Foster resistance and regenerative capacity (i.e., resilience) in our landscapes against escalating environmental shock and stressors. =

2 Derivation and practical application of focused conservation measures and stewardship programs

3.Engage and support citizens in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewardship =

3. Active citizen involvement in attaining the goal and objectives of Resilient Saanich

4.Update bylaws and policies across all departments to be transparent and consistent with the Environmental Policy Framework =

. **4.Derivation, updating and implementation of regulatory tools and mechanism**

Now needed are the derivation of programs, projects, activities and actions, and the timing of and targets thereof required to enable proceeding logically and effectively along each of the 4 Strategic Pathways toward the intended Resilient Saanich Goal.

8.Other- Not at this time.

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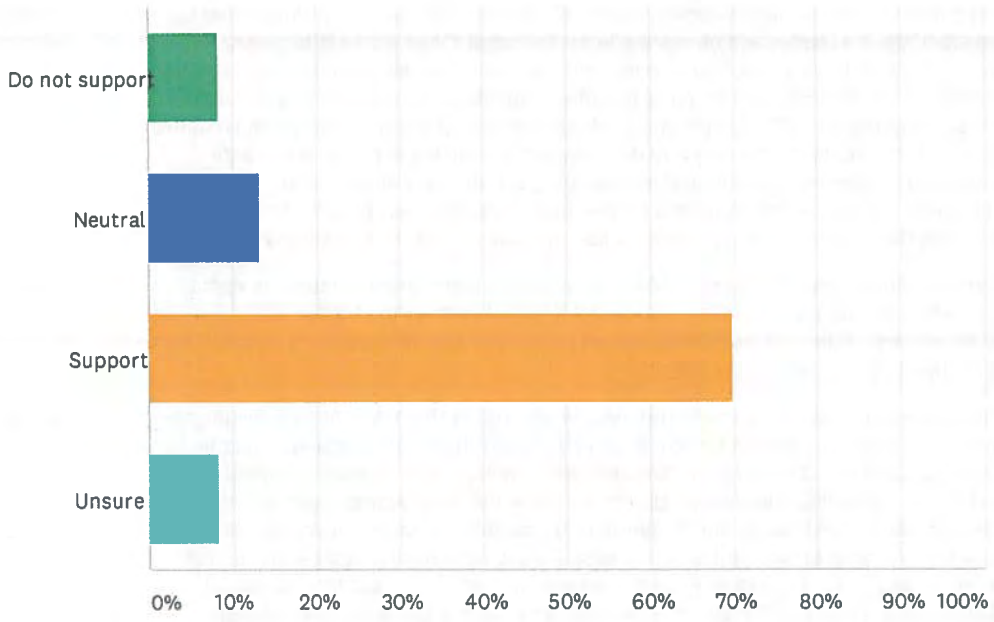
Q4 VisionThe Official Community Plan vision for environmental integrity is:"Saanich is a model steward working diligently to improve and balance the natural and built environments. Saanich restores and protects air, land, and water quality, the biodiversity of existing natural areas and eco-systems, the network of natural areas and open spaces, and urban forests."The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee has proposed this new vision for the framework:"By 2030, coordinated efforts by all in Saanich/W̱SÁNEĆ yield measurable improvements in climate change resilience, habitat conservation, watershed health and ecological footprint, benefiting all those who share and inhabit our community."Please indicate your level of support for the proposed Resilient Saanich vision:

Answered: 166 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Do not support	8.43%	14
Neutral	13.25%	22
Support	69.88%	116
Unsure	8.43%	14
TOTAL		166

#	DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE VISION?	DATE
1	We need some key issues dealt with before 2030. What can be achieved immediately that will support a more resilient Saanich and region?	3/15/2021 11:22 AM
2	I strongly support the intent of the new vision but it seems more like an indicator of achievement of the vision set out above it. Perhaps there could be a melding of the two. The date of 2030 concerns me greatly. It is a long way off and in the meantime we are facing the ongoing severe degradation of our biodiversity due to over browsing by our dense population of deer and their consequent impact on the "architecture" of our forests and parks, not to mention the impact of urban development on our green spaces, to name just two examples. Climate change does not respect our time frames. What interim measure are being contemplated? A very large percentage of strategic plans gather dust because of a lack of follow through. Great energy is put into the development of the plans and then, implementation languishes. The biggest challenge in all of this is the implementation. How will momentum be sustained? What thought has been given to "rapid prototyping" to bring about change on a more timely basis? How will the precautionary principle be applied to serve the public good as we move forward and have to deal with the issues of scientific uncertainty? Scientific measurement is fraught with difficulties and is not immune to assumptions, choices and inference. Political decisions are influenced by value judgements and data. A more meaningful and responsive time frame needs to be incorporated or the work will be too little, too late.	3/15/2021 10:42 AM
3	Minimize tree and green space destruction for purposes of development. Create more high density in already developed areas Instead.	3/15/2021 9:36 AM
4	An increased preservation of natural areas, especially ocean front areas and threatened Garry Oak Ecosystem areas in parks and on private land. To assist these controls in parks, decreasing off leash access to dogs and limiting human trails and biking in threatened areas. No dog access to some areas during spring blooms of meadows and greater educational information and signage for parks users to provide understand of the initiative to retain natural areas and what they are being requested to do. Changes in municipal taxes to promote alternative energy initiatives such as heat pumps and solar power and tax carbon producing home heating and cooling based on oil and natural gas. Subsidize bus passes for youth to encourage using transit and decrease vehicles taking young people to school and work.	3/15/2021 8:29 AM
5	Support the effort to include Saanich/WSANEC to vision. Support improvements in climate change resilience, habitat conservation, watershed health. However the former vision included more specific wording regarding "restore and protect the biodiversity of existing natural areas, ecosystems, open spaces and urban forests.	3/15/2021 8:13 AM
6	I marked myself as unsure here because the new vision states that it will have measurable improvements but no actual values for the % improved are offered. The smallest fraction is measurable and could be considered an "improvement". What I want to read is significant efforts – tangible, worthwhile improvements. For instance the Aichi agreed upon targets: 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas (by 2020) (https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/). Or better: at least 25%. Or the reality: Nature needs half (Dinerstein et al. 2017. "An Ecoregion-Based Approach to Protecting Half the Terrestrial Realm." BioScience, Volume 67, Issue 6: 534–545.) The original vision is quite specific: Saanich restores and protects air, land, and water quality, the biodiversity of existing natural areas and eco-systems, the network of natural areas and open spaces, and urban forests. This new vision does not address these specifics so I feel concern that some aspects will be missed, in particular habitat connectivity, which we have already lost in many areas and are continuing to lose. The new vision does not contain the word "restoration". We are in the UN declared Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and your time frame extends to 2030. Combined with the fact that many of our current natural areas (protected or otherwise) are in desperate need of restorative activities (invasive removal, reduced human activity, etc.), and in order to add to the existing network habitats on private lands would also need restorative efforts, it seems impossible not to include the word restoration in your vision.	3/15/2021 6:58 AM
7	Measurable improvements is good, but we need a clear picture of the baseline first and that picture is obscured at this point, e.g. 1) Saanich's published hectares of parks and protected areas, includes recreational areas such as sports fields and playgrounds as well, and 2) if it doesn't already, shouldn't the overall Saanich baseline include known Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) and Significantly Treed Areas atlas on private land in Saanich as well? "Benefiting all those who share and inhabit our community" - while i appreciate that this sounds inclusive, I think this phrase is naïve at best and at worse could weaken and undermine the	3/15/2021 3:38 AM

	environmental policy framework to put people/politics/business interests over a real need for action and change. Given the scientifically-recognized crises of biodiversity loss and climate change, an Environmental Policy framework should put conservation and climate first. Without a healthy environment, there is no home for people or business. Add "habitat AND SPECIES conservation"? Suggest we focus on collective good without implying we can continue to use resources at the rate we have been (and make the vision statement less anthropocentric) with the vision reordered and ending as follows (or similar): "By 2030, coordinated efforts by all in Saanich/W̱SÁNEĆ yield measurable improvements in our ecological footprint, watershed health, climate change resilience, habitat and species conservation to enable current and future generations to live healthily in our collective home."	
8	focus on establishing collaborative mechanisms is important; "measurable " is nebulous. maybe "collaboration by all ... yield ongoing improvements ..."	3/14/2021 11:07 PM
9	I find the phrase "measurable improvements" inadequate, since a very small improvement can be measured but fail to achieve what is needed. This sentence from the OCP vision statement is more concrete: "Saanich restores and protects air, land, and water quality, the biodiversity of existing natural areas and eco-systems, the network of natural areas and open spaces, and urban forests." The new vision should include this sentence or something similar.	3/14/2021 2:51 PM
10	Great vision if it would be, or could be, true. Nevertheless it is overly broad and vague such that it appears the intention is to interpret it to the advantage of Saanich. The main problem I see is that Saanich has never intended to apply this vision to Saanich from a parks maintenance and planning perspective - the goal is to burden Saanich residents with this vision and task.	3/13/2021 9:37 AM
11	and measurable improvements in public awareness	3/12/2021 11:31 AM
12	The emphasis for this vision must be retained as is and not degraded by council and staff allowing the development industry to undermine the vision through piecemeal development initiatives such as we have seen at the Milner Avenue properties that lead to critical loss of connective habitat.	3/12/2021 10:32 AM
13	Yes, I believe that the mechanism for accountability should be outlined.	3/11/2021 3:30 PM
14	No	3/10/2021 4:23 PM
15	The vision itself is problematic, particularly the statement "balance the natural and built environments". This is old thinking that comes from an old mindset that sees the human and natural world as being in opposition. This what "balance" implies, that if one thrives the other must suffer and that we must seek trade-offs. This is a mindset of the modern Western world, one which is not shared by First Nations. We must learn from them and strive towards a vision that seeks integrative and regenerative solutions. The clam gardens of the First Nations were a prime example: human-constructed infrastructure that increased the abundance of nature, to the benefit of both the natural and human world, which, in the end, is all one.	3/10/2021 3:19 PM
16	Uncertain as to what "climate change resilience" actually means. I like the measurable improvements, but the first statement is much clearer, though imprecise.	3/10/2021 2:39 PM
17	Vote out the pro-development Council and Mayor who allow our sensitive eco-systems to be destroyed.	3/8/2021 10:02 PM
18	I would suggest adding in the following text between the * as follows: "By 2030, coordinated efforts *in ecological protection, restoration, and enhancement* by all in Saanich/W̱SÁNEĆ yield measurable improvements in climate change resilience, habitat conservation, watershed health, ecological footprint, *and a sustainable built environment* benefiting all those who share and inhabit our community."	3/8/2021 2:20 PM
19	I think it would be helpful to set goals on how much improvement you are aiming to achieve by 2030, instead of just aiming for an unspecified amount of measurable improvements.	3/7/2021 2:14 PM
20	Saanich is not a living entity or personhood, so it is not clear to whom the term applies, the Saanich Council, all residents of Saanich, just those of WSANEC, or ???. And the verbs are also misleading - 'restores', 'protects', and 'yield' anthropomorphize the noun 'Saanich'. This verbiage boarders on double speak, and is confusing and unnecessary. A re-wording is needed.	3/6/2021 6:05 PM
21	The time line needs to include short-term vision and goals. This may be a clear statement, but its time line indicates a lack of understanding of the reality of the current trophic cascade due	3/5/2021 11:48 AM

	to excessive herbivory and other ecological imbalances. Dr. [redacted] of UBC and Dr. [redacted] among many other experts, recognize this urgency. There is no regeneration of the Saanich forest, and mature trees are falling rapidly, due to windstorms, disease and development. Saanich must act immediately. Otherwise there will be little or no ecological recovery in Saanich. Biodiversity in Saanich is rapidly deteriorating despite the stewardship efforts of many people including Saanich employees and community volunteers. Ecological baselines are shifting rapidly.	
22	I am assuming that the vision will be used to create specific guidelines in specific areas of concern. As it now reads, there is little in terms of concrete plan.	3/5/2021 9:57 AM
23	The name W̱SÁNEĆ should come first, but otherwise it sounds good. Measurable improvements is key. Perhaps consider adding improved environmental awareness of or stewardship by residents?	3/5/2021 9:54 AM
24	The vision needs to better engage and inform the pubic. 1. The title 'Resilient Saanich' implies that there are threats that require the community to support resiliency (see 'resilience' definition). (Saanich's Climate Plan, was clearer on impacts and the required responses.) The Vision should recognize the threats and opportunities to better communicate purpose. 2. The OCP statement recognizes the need for balance between the natural and 'built' environments implying poor growth and development practices threaten the environment and require we take responsibility to live sustainably. First Nations also recognize the human species as an intrinsic part of life and biodiversity on the planet. In the TOR, 'Biodiversity' is isolated from the human factors that are driving the loss of species and impacting the fabric of nature that sustains us. The vision must include this vital balance. 3. Our Resiliency will be more effective if we integrate our effort and resources with Regional and Local government, and all other stakeholders. The Vision should reflect this reality.	3/5/2021 8:22 AM
25	Specifics of the vision that can be monitored and measured over the time frame	3/3/2021 7:38 PM
26	I suggest that, in order to have measurable improvements, we need current data for all areas targeted for improvement (climate change resilience, habitat conservation, watershed health and ecological footprint). Do these data exist now? If not, they need to be researched and recorded. I think we also need to have regular reporting out on our progress to the numeric or percentage goals so we can adjust our strategy and/or focus if we are failing to make progress. Lastly, I think 'ecological footprint' may be too vague a term . . . does this include loss of species, fragments and corridors, restoration efforts, etc. or . . . It seems connectivity and restoration would be good terms to add to the vision or a section with definitions of what the four phrases mean/include.	3/3/2021 12:25 PM
27	If we are indeed to be challenged by climate change and disasters, then our resilence should be about protection of our people, property and habitat. So what is to be done?	3/2/2021 9:44 PM
28	The plan seems very vague at this point so it's hard to be super positive about action that is unclear. We need climate action now and to protect biodiversity.	3/2/2021 6:32 PM
29	"benefiting all those who share and inhabit our community" This is too vague i.e. what do you mean? Are you referring to 1. humans, 2. humans and wild animals 3. business community humans, what? 4. birds and/or other types of wild life 5. what about improving the biodiversity of the residential gardens and parks by decreasing the deer population etc. etc.	3/2/2021 5:16 PM
30	Not all of Saanich is on Wsanec territory. You must also include Lekwungen territory in your plans.	3/2/2021 1:28 PM
31	Provide definitions of terms. Use commonly accepted terms	3/2/2021 12:48 PM
32	Consider providing one or two examples of what to improve and balance the natural and built...actually means	3/2/2021 12:08 PM
33	I believe part of the vision needs to adequately educate Saanich residents on the components of the vision. I think it is important to build that directly in. Unless there is an active campaign to help everyone understand the value of each piece then it might look good on paper but have a hard time translating into something real.	3/2/2021 11:17 AM
34	I think these are nice words but I worry that not enough is done, detail-wise, to achieve it, particularly regarding waste disposal and care of parks, among other things.	3/2/2021 10:32 AM
35	Let us NOT have ridiculous things like people unable to access their property, lines going through house holds etc. such as I witnessed in the past stupidity. Homes and Families come	3/2/2021 7:59 AM

	first not so called sensitive environmental rubbish as noted.	
36	The proposed new vision has no balance in it. It's completely one-sided and does not address the inherent trade-offs that will always need to be made, as such it does not provide decision making guidance when staff are faced with trade-offs. The current Official Community Plan at least strives to seek a balance between natural and built.	3/1/2021 12:51 PM
37	The vision is not clear what level of improvement will be done through coordinated efforts and who exactly will be involved in these efforts.	2/27/2021 2:22 PM
38	The OCP vision statement uses the language "restores and protects". The RSTC vision refers to "habitat conservation". I would like to see the idea of habitat restoration specifically included in the RS vision statement even though habitat conservation can include both protection and restoration. Obviously we need to protect the small amount of (somewhat) natural habitat that remains in Saanich, but it seems that restoration of habitat such as Panama Flats will be of enormous importance in order to address biodiversity and resilience.	2/26/2021 2:54 PM
39	Continue to keep the community involved with feedback opportunities, as well as encouraging specific alterations or modifications to daily habits (walking/ biking vs driving, recycling and composting, etc.). Communicate frequently about the progress made and make it easily accessible to the public.	2/26/2021 10:55 AM
40	"...Balance the natural and built environments." sets up a false dichotomy. It masks an actual conflict between profit-driven developers and the natural environment—not the natural and built environment. The statement will reflect the need by alternatively stating: "Saanich is a model steward working diligently to prevent and end the disruption caused by carbon-consuming practices to the natural environment."	2/25/2021 4:39 PM
41	Panama flats has major flooding every year. Often multiple times during the winter This causes major trail erosion and closes a very active trail. I propose the building of a boardwalk in the section that floods It is not a large section but it makes the trail impassable . I have suggested the boardwalk in the past but no action has occurred.	2/24/2021 7:13 PM
42	No.	2/24/2021 4:10 PM
43	There are many things we do that affect the environment, such as the use of glass in buildings, the use of pesticides, the use of plastics, and other contaminants. These things can have as much negative effect as the conservation of habitats. I am not sure the vision recognises the need for attention to these things.	2/23/2021 7:30 PM
44	* include Canada's other official language when offering other translations. * need more information about "measurable improvements- how measure * would like a sooner target year	2/23/2021 3:06 PM
45	Although there is the word 'coordinated' in this vision, I wonder how the weighting of environment vs. the economy will be addressed in any resulting new policies or amendments to existing policy.	2/22/2021 2:29 PM
46	I feel quite a lot of negativity and stubbornness in the word resilient or resilience. Why not "Progressive Saanich?"	2/21/2021 3:28 PM
47	It would be good to be kept informed and have residents as part of the effort with encouragement rather than penalties. Worried because of the previous EDPA	2/21/2021 3:07 PM
48	What about implementing the vision?	2/20/2021 5:48 PM
49	Like that you have set a concrete target date but would like to see that date moved to 2025. We are in a climate emergency! Pleased to see the word "measurable" in there but would like to see details on what measurable looks like.	2/20/2021 10:39 AM
50	The vision, as written presents a rather short term finite vision and appears to be reliant on collaborative relationships that have yet to be formed. It is not clear what 'ecological footprint' is referring to here. There are 2 Indigenous peoples (lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ) whose territory is within the municipality of Saanich. As such citizens expect that there is explicit acknowledgement and recognition of both lək̓ʷəŋən and Wsanec interests, values and rights here. I would encourage the technical team to review the vision as laid out in the land use plan articulated by the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group many years ago (Section 5) as an example of how to improve this vision http://www.hulquminum.bc.ca/pubs/HTG_LUP_FINAL.pdf -this vision needs some more tangible action so I would encourage use of the words - actively managing the land, incorporating traditional teachings with the best of modern management	2/20/2021 9:35 AM

	tools to yield measurable improvements in: climate change resilience, biodiversity, management of invasive spaces, restoration of habitats and watershed health	
51	Defined and measurable outcomes are essential, something the proposed vision seems to be contemplating and the reason I support it. No suggestions for improvement.	2/19/2021 6:27 PM
52	We need to restore degraded habitats in Saanich (like gravel pits).	2/19/2021 4:09 PM
53	The vision itself is laudible.	2/18/2021 11:03 PM
54	My only question is about what is the main focus--is it all life equally weighted? Or doing this for the benefit of humans? Or are we trying to preserve and enhance some of the last remnants of diversity and ecosystems for their intrinsic value. What about Indigenous rights--are they weighted more heavily? I bring this to attention only because I feel it is impossible to say that we're going to equally benefit all life when we've mostly been benefiting our selves (settler humans) to the detriment of others for hundreds of years now.	2/18/2021 10:49 AM
55	Proposed wording loose and ambiguous eg "coordinated efforts by all...". "yield measurable improvements...", "benefiting all those who share and inhabit our community." Also unclear why vision is so specific re 2030 given the framework is a long term plan not a time limited project. Suggested: "To adopt best practices that will sustain and/or improve climate change resilience, habit conservation, watershed health and the ecological foot print within the municipality of Saanich and traditional territory of the WSANEC people with balanced outcomes that are achievable and measurable."	2/17/2021 1:40 PM
56	The vision should be applied to public land only. And there you can propose all the environmental and diversity goals you like. None of your rules should apply to private land. I would gladly contribute to a court case to take this all the way to the supreme court of Canada.	2/16/2021 8:18 PM
57	Will there be photos of before and after of an area to be restored? Written objectives in advance? How will Saanich deal with a property owner who does not want Resilient Saanich members making changes? Will Saanich offer mentoring without a financial charge? As the climate is changing will Saanich supply as variety of native plants that will survive? Will Saanich bylaw officers have the immediate authority to remove citizens from Parks who are disturbing, destroying or contaminating land by claiming "sheltering rights"? How will Saanich deal with a future neighbouring municipal councils that may not share the resilient Saanich vision?	2/16/2021 6:38 PM
58	Saanich should lead the way with developing and maintain its parks and public spaces to the standards it would expect of business and private residents before expecting compliance by anyone else. Private residences should not be forced to comply with any restoration programs or punished if they do not. Incentives should be provided to encourage residents to meet whatever standards are eventually agreed to be desirable. I would also not focus too hard on native vs. non-native plants as I feel that ship has sailed. I do agree that invasive plants should be controlled and restricted.	2/16/2021 1:13 PM
59	Make sure that the rights of property owners are respected. Compulsory obligations and restrictions heaped upon property owners as was done in the EDPA will not work and are unfair. If habitat preservation is a common good do not put the cost burden solely on the individual property owner. Try using incentives instead. How about a property tax break for taking care of the species the community wants preserved? That would be fair.	2/16/2021 10:23 AM
60	The goals do not include any reference to the cost of these improvements. Policies need to be priced as to how much will they cost versus the improvements that will be obtained? For instance, climate change rules that dramatically increase the cost of housing will make housing less affordable and result in more homeless people. The goals of this program need to be guided by some reasonable principles of the economic cost and who will bear that cost.	2/15/2021 10:21 PM
61	Adding after footprint" focusing primarily on municipal parks and lands" would gain my support.	2/15/2021 5:53 PM
62	Saanich land area is less than 1% of Vancouver Island. We are part of Vancouver Island and of course BC. We should be trying to coordinate with the BC government on the big picture and not getting caught up in details that are negated by what is happening on the rest of the Island. In my opinion, we seem to have an over abundant number of local laws such as removing and trimming trees on private property that are not necessary. We as citizens of Saanich, are all interested in greenery and we should be left to make our own decisions on our own property.	2/15/2021 2:57 PM
63	"measurable improvements" does not define the level of environmental, biodiversity or climate	2/15/2021 1:37 PM

	change protection needed very focused on human security without stated recognition of the importance of protecting biodiversity for all species	
64	Have to have community updates regularly	2/15/2021 12:43 PM
65	The terms used, such as "--yield measurable improvements in climate change resilience, ---. This is late, the last "tipping point" has already been estimated by those U.N. members most deeply professionally involved, as being within 10 years -- and that was a year or two ago. Beyond that it is calculated to be too late to turn the process around. In part due to the huge effect of the melting of the permafrost of such huge areas as the Hudson's Bay Lowlands. As one who spent time, years ago flying parts of it for days at very low level, it is impressive and active already in relatively small, but growing, portions of melt. As it does, much worse greenhouse gas (methane) is released. Not to get "turned off", but when do you think we can at least try harder than "--yield measurable –". Is it really too "inconvenient" to make a serious effort? Check the facts again.	2/14/2021 2:23 PM
66	What does it mean? That's great, coordinated efforts, but it seems like a lofty statement that isn't all that achievable.	2/12/2021 2:51 PM
67	a mention of a balance between benefits for human and non-human animals would be great. I like the use of "community" as Saanich doesn't exist in a vacuum, but rather, is part of a larger community.	2/11/2021 7:13 PM
68	Yes, don't just talk about climate change resilience; talk about climate change reduction.	2/11/2021 3:52 PM
69	Perhaps some language indicating that the commitments/efforts will extend beyond 2030 as well?	2/11/2021 1:24 PM
70	A tight budget, limited expenses past on to taxpayers.	2/11/2021 9:30 AM
71	I think it is important to engage more people in the plan, so it should be advertised more.	2/10/2021 8:57 PM
72	Watershed health, function and ecological footprint	2/10/2021 1:58 PM
73	Watershed health, function and ecological footprint	2/10/2021 1:48 PM
74	Do not duplicate responsibility of other jurisdictions; concerns about efficiency of council and scope of jurisdiction/powers; dont want to see council waste time and money in areas they do not have ability to control and avoid future approval on developments but then letting developers off once ground is broken (thinking uptown fiasco)	2/10/2021 11:52 AM
75	My support is mixed. I support all the individual parts of the vision. I support the brave vision of all the beautiful, relatively small Saanich-based actions to stand up against the global forces that are degrading global and local environments, generation after generation. To fiercely stand against the tide of global changes as adaptive local agents of resilience and mitigation. Of course, the vision does not say anything about global forces or global anything. But the changing earth system is the actual context, whether stated or not. We know that the atmospheric concentration of CO2 was 356 ppm when the UNFCCC was introduced at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. We know that today's CO2 level is more than 414 ppm and accelerating higher with ever-greater, cascading impacts on climate, ecosystems and beyond. Decades ago we overshot CO2 levels of 325 to 350 ppm, the upper levels which scientists say are safe for a biosphere full of living species that evolved in cooler, lower carbon times eras and epochs. It's the omission of any direct reference to the global, planetary scale of the problems that leaves me with heartburn. This is the fatal shortcoming I see in the proposed vision. It's not that Saanich is out of step with what other governments are doing. Rather, the problem is that my local government is doing the thing that is frustratingly common among the national and subnational that have collectively taken actions that add up to improvements that keep falling far short of the improvements needed if atmospheric CO2 and other GHG levels are EVER going to stop rising for a whole year, let alone generation after generation. The reality is that we currently live in a time where all the human pledges and plans, even if they were made good on, fall far short of what is needed to stabilize the continually degrading climatic, atmospheric, oceanic and biospheric systems that collaborate, one might say, to sustain thriving ecosystems and human communities worldwide. To keep life in Saanich and the world vibrant and secure for the long term. The Saanich vision does not inspire action which covers all the bases that need covering if current and future Saanich residents are to remain essentially protected from the multifaceted, multi-level environmental challenges that are already starting to come down from the horizon. I just don't know how to get excited about it. I can't see myself pointing to the Saanich vision as an exemplary of leadership in climate action. It may be	2/9/2021 11:08 PM

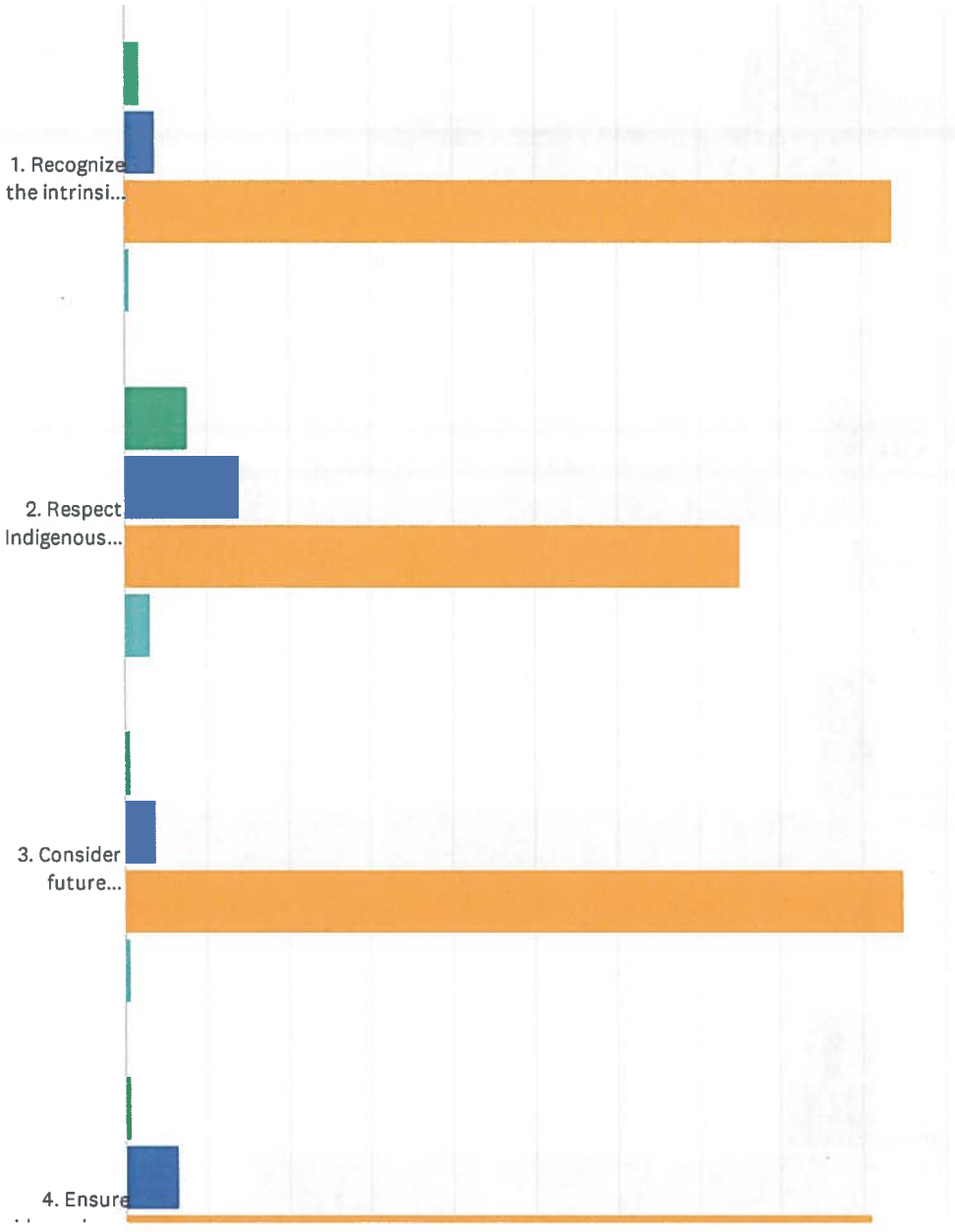
	leadership relative to other local governments, which I must admit I am proud of. But we're in the process of losing the planet at the hands of powerful forces, and the current Saanich vision is slowing the decline and blind to the scale of the problem that goes far beyond local. It looks like Saanich is making a mistake that I view as common among governments of all levels. It is tripping over its constrained geographical jurisdiction and falling short of connecting local issues and resources with solutions that sufficiently advance solutions that meet and overcome the planetary scale of the problem. Of course, the contributions that Saanich can make are constrained by its legal jurisdiction and by the limited resources it has to access. Please do not mistake this as a suggestion to naïvely ignore or contravene these very real constraints. Rather, my recommendation is to adopt a Saanich vision that keeps the envisioned areas of improvement respecting Saanich/W̱SÁNEĆ lands, and then adds to that. I am recommending an expansion of the vision to include deliberate collaborations with governments above and beyond Saanich to advance mutually-beneficial collaborations, innovations and scaled-up impacts. I recommend that Saanich carve out for itself a self-defined mandate and role to work within its jurisdiction and with its limited resources to empower people inside and outside Saanich to make measurable advances toward stabilization of the Earth's atmosphere, oceans, climate and biosphere. By levelling up the vision, as advocated here, we greatly expand the improvements that can be achieved in climate resilience and the short-and-long term well-being of Saanich residents, human residents included. This preamble and recommendation suggests a resilience that includes local actions that are influencing improvements on scales that range from local communities and ecosystems to the global level. It suggests the adoption of a mindset that is broader than the current draft vision for a local climate resilience, and which is also broader than the vision for environmental integrity that is set out in the Saanich Official Community Plan. Even though some Saanich activities intersect with activities of other governments and governmental bodies, this recommendation calls on Saanich to do more in this area than it is doing now. It calls on Saanich to recognize the handicap that is created by a vision that embraces thinking and actions that are expressly local in the face of ever-expanding problems that are driven by global forces. It's a consequential suggestion that probably requires effort that goes beyond the terms of reference of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee. If this committee does not feel that it can endorse my recommendation, I would hope that it would comment and share the recommendation with Saanich policy makers. As for the wording of the Saanich climate resilience vision, an adjustment could be made that is as simple as replacing the words "climate change resilience" with something like "global climate stability and climate change resilience." It seems foolhardy to be silent on the larger matter of climate destabilization in the adopted vision for actions to advance local climate resilience. At the same time, adding a few words such as the three I have suggested is probably not going to work or make sense unless Saanich steps back to recognize the need and find a way to carve out a defensible and effective role to advance local climate resilience by activities that sustain collaborations with governments beyond its municipal boundaries.	
76	In the immortal spoken words in some movie about the mafia: "forget-about-it". As noted to another municipality: The Don Quixote medieval mindset of "tilting at windmills" (believing windmills to be giants) seems to be alive and well in Central Saanich in the district's updates to its Climate Leadership Plan. Goal 1 is "100% less greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, relative to 2007". Except the largest volume greenhouse gas by far is water vapour. The highly profiled carbon dioxide is a trace gas with just four molecules per 10,000 molecules of the other atmospheric gases, and human generation of C02 is less than 4% of that produced by Mother Earth. That works out to something like one human-generated CO2 molecule per 100,000 molecules of all the other atmospheric gases. The primary climate-change factor is the variability of our sun's cycling energy output. Our host star is currently in a Grand Solar Minimum phase; its lowest energy output two centuries. This, while our planet's irregular orbit is taking us many tens of thousands of miles further distant from our (diminished) primary energy source. Hence, we have cycled out of a global warming period into a global cooling trend. To be "resilient" is to adapt to the inevitable.	2/9/2021 1:21 PM
77	Vision is confusing as many terms have overlapping meanings (e.g habitat, watershed, ecological). Referent group that guidance applies to is unclear. Who are "all" (residents of Saanich, visitors)? Support concept of measurable objectives that will demonstrate change over time.	2/9/2021 11:22 AM
78	The water sheds should include all stream channels and not only those shown on current Saanich maps. For example, groundwater discharge areas should be mapped along with major spring fed streams that discharge all year round into the ocean. Also, groundwater recharge areas should be identified so that the potential for enhanced aquifer recharge can be assessed	2/7/2021 9:13 PM

	and negative impacts (i.e. reduced infiltration into the ground) caused by increased impervious areas from new developments can be minimized.	
79	Increase focus on actionable support for private property holders within Saanich. As that is where the majority of land is held. More learning and awareness through credited hands on programs. Incentivize large scale action, e.g. financial incentive, vouchers for local businesses e.g. nurseries, food vendors etc, free childcare program to allow people to volunteer, tax benefits, free transportation or food for programs, etc. Provide incentives to increase biodiversity and resiliency. Because there are plenty of short terms incentives not to. Incentives could include vouchers for native plants at local nurseries, reduction in property taxes or rebate scheme (more likely), Provide support/volunteer programs to older or less abled private land/property holders to restore or protect the biodiversity and increase resiliency. Proactive bylaw enforcement to protect and enhance current biodiversity, prevent pollution, reduce invasive species, and reduce future expenditures. Examples throughout rural Saanich that could easily be identified with GIS. Excessive storage of vehicles, excessive invasive plants, illegal burnings, huge garbage/construction waste piles, excessive tree and vegetation clearance etc.	2/7/2021 9:11 PM
80	biodiversity ? put it in statement directly with footnote on meaning	2/6/2021 11:07 AM
81	This is a rehash of the EDPA which failed miserably. Your attention should be on the issue the majority voted for 6 years ago. Amalgamation is the key to establishing proper representation with councillors who have the competencies to understand and represent the interests of the taxpayers.	2/5/2021 1:42 PM
82	At this point in time Saanich, the BC Provincial Govt. and the Federal Govt. (DFO) are not acting fast enough to protect West Coast river, stream and creek habitat. Salmon, trout, etc. populations are decreasing at an extremely dangerous yearly rate. This is a complex problem that involves much more than local habitat, and will require a broad spectrum Canada program to protect our West coast environment. This problem that I have outlined is "one of many" that will need to be emphasized in the well written Saanich/WSA'NEC' paragraph just above my recommendation.	2/5/2021 9:19 AM
83	A municipality is not an appropriate level of government to deal with these issues. This is nothing but political posturing.	2/4/2021 10:47 PM
84	Saanich should take the opportunity to build into the existing structure those things that will support a more natural community such as gardens on roofs. Saanich must do more to protect what is natural in our neighbourhoods. Rather than allow developers to remove bushes and mature trees because it is cheaper to uproot than replace them, developers should be provided incentive to leave, undisturbed, the ecosystems that are thriving in place. In addressing climate change, management cannot be limited to the grand gesture (protecting what is left of forests, etc). It must be more inclusive in that it recognizes the value of the green and natural in the neighbourhoods in which we live.	2/4/2021 7:05 PM
85	While I support the proposed new vision, I'd like to see more acknowledgement of the interconnected, holistic nature of addressing biodiversity and stewardship. For example, is there an opportunity within this vision to address prioritizing intersectional environmentalism, or to call out the fact that biodiversity, conservation, and stewardship have a rippling effect that improve our work, life, and play within this municipality? The proposed vision hints at this, but I wonder if calling out that interconnectedness more directly will help our municipality (and those within it) acknowledge that climate change resilience, habitat conservation, and environmental stewardship isn't just something that happens at our parks - it's something that should be happening everywhere.	2/4/2021 5:11 PM
86	I don't have any recommendations at this point but I appreciate working to better balance the natural and built environments as that is a large area where habitat loss occurs. Development within Saanich must be approached carefully and always with the Resilient Saanich vision in mind regarding habitat conservation. So maybe better defining the community as being comprised of private and public lands and how we can be stewards in both these areas.	2/4/2021 4:54 PM
87	My concern is Saanich Council and staff will spend the next 10 years working on a vision for stewardship of the environment while actually implementing plans that are detrimental to the environment! Currently Saanich council is actively encouraging much greater human density and failing to take simple steps now to protect our environment (such as protecting native songbirds from predators). All detrimental to the environment. Protecting our environment will take FUNDING and Saanich's answer to that is to increase human density. Instead Saanich	2/4/2021 4:47 PM

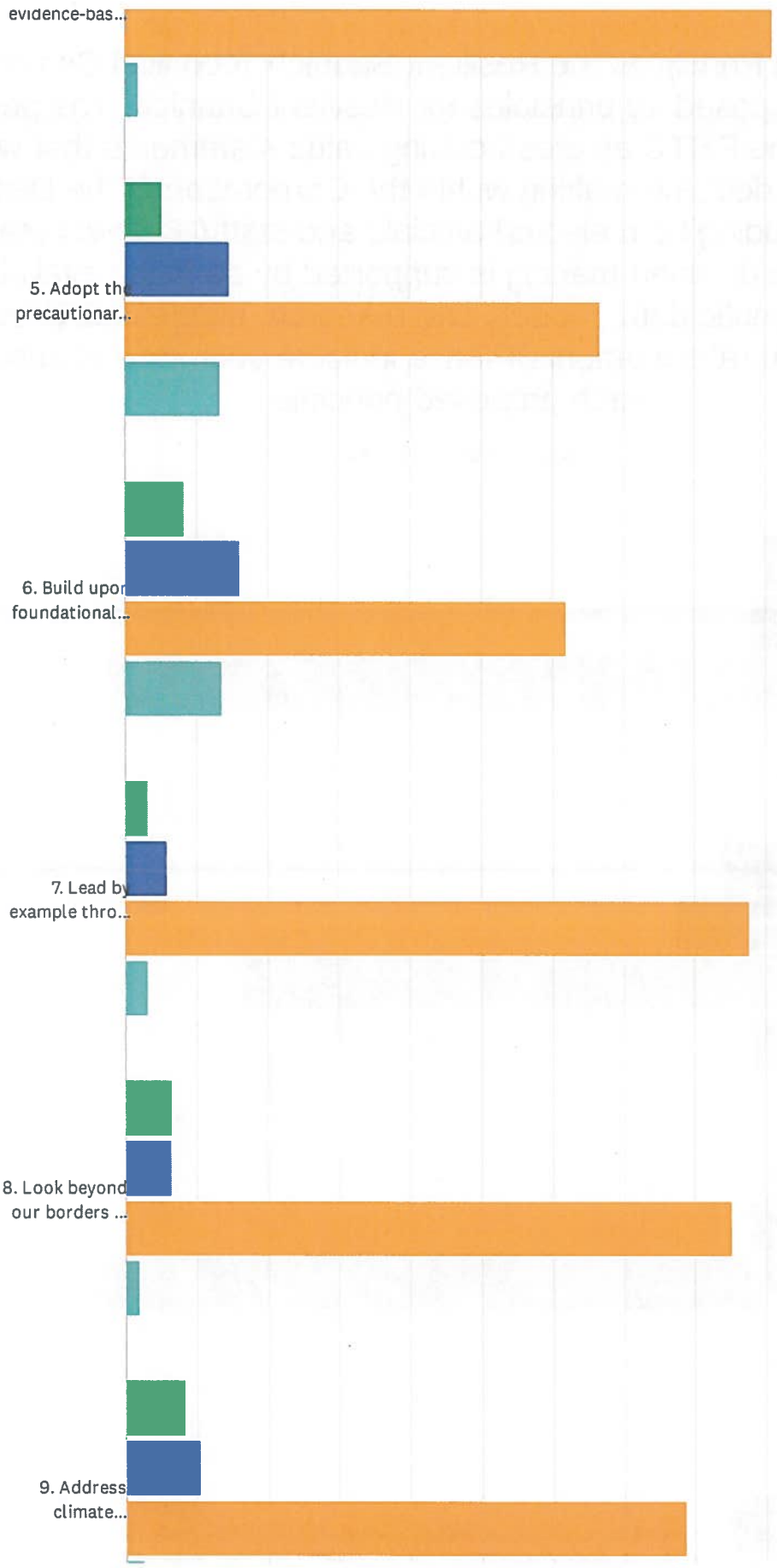
	should be embracing amalgamation with 4/5 other municipalities in order to free up a significant amount of funds to enhance consistent environmental planning over a much larger area! I support taking some real action now and do not support the cost , time and effort it will take to come up with yet another Community plan over the next 10 years.	
88	Instead of doing Saanich/WSANEC, have a separate First Nations translation of the entire sentence. Saanich is already a translation of WSANEC so it is redundant to put these together. Also, the entire sentence needs to be in French to honor our two national languages.	2/3/2021 2:03 PM
89	I would put more emphasis on "living" in this community. We all live and are apart of the ecosystem of Saanich and so we all need to be respectful and understanding of that. Also, I would add in something about food security. There is a growing need for more locally based food production in our communities and a lot of unutilized space we can use (i.e. lawns). Keep in mind though that our food systems should not compromise the security of our biodiversity (maybe look into permaculture methods)	1/26/2021 5:47 PM
90	It is missing too much. It is too broad and therefore can have any or every meaning depending on the reader	1/25/2021 4:35 PM

Q5 Proposed PrinciplesThe Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) has proposed 10 principles for Resilient Saanich. The principles are defined by the RSTC as cross-cutting value statements that will guide behaviour and decision-making within the Corporation of the District of Saanich, including both elected officials and staff.(*Below: note that evidence-based decision-making is supported by as much available and appropriate scientific data, models and research, Indigenous knowledge, historic and cultural documents)Please indicate your level of support for each proposed principle:

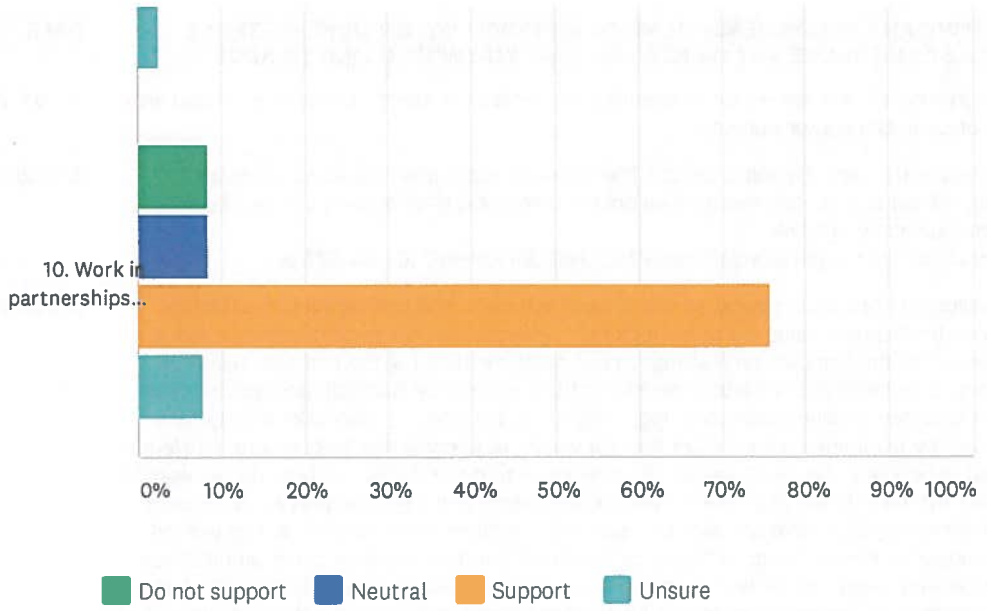
Answered: 158 Skipped: 21



Resilient Saanich Draft Goals & Objectives



Resilient Saanich Draft Goals & Objectives



	DO NOT SUPPORT	NEUTRAL	SUPPORT	UNSURE	TOTAL
1. Recognize the intrinsic value of nature	1.90% 3	3.80% 6	93.67% 148	0.63% 1	158
2. Respect Indigenous knowledge and land uses	7.64% 12	14.01% 22	75.16% 118	3.18% 5	157
3. Consider future generations	0.64% 1	3.82% 6	94.90% 149	0.64% 1	157
4. Ensure evidence-based decision making*	0.64% 1	6.41% 10	91.03% 142	1.92% 3	156
5. Adopt the precautionary principle when facing knowledge gaps	5.13% 8	14.74% 23	66.67% 104	13.46% 21	156
6. Build upon foundational knowledge of historical land use	8.39% 13	16.13% 25	61.94% 96	13.55% 21	155
7. Lead by example through innovation and best practices	3.23% 5	5.81% 9	87.74% 136	3.23% 5	155
8. Look beyond our borders to achieve results at a bioregional scale	6.45% 10	6.45% 10	85.16% 132	1.94% 3	155
9. Address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do	8.44% 13	10.39% 16	78.57% 121	2.60% 4	154
10. Work in partnerships with diverse interests to achieve outcomes that realize multiple values and benefits	8.33% 13	8.33% 13	75.64% 118	7.69% 12	156

#	DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ONE OR MORE OF THESE PRINCIPLES? ARE THERE ANY PRINCIPLES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?	DATE
1	Strongly agree with 6, but am not convinced that significant knowledge exists or is shared with residents of Saanich on your web site.	3/15/2021 11:26 AM
2	Evidence-based decision making is critical The following paper provides some excellent information related to scientific research on environmental decision making and its intersection with the precautionary principle. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1240435/pdf/ehp0109-000871.pdf	3/15/2021 10:45 AM
3	For #1 I indicated I felt unsure because of the word "nature" – this term applies to anything living. I want the intrinsic value of our bio-regionally relevant species to be recognized, not a giant sequoia, not the horticultural plantings in our parks system, not the bunnies. Nature to the uninformed includes the non-native boulevard trees planted by Saanich, and grey squirrels, and house sparrows. Native/indigenous, regionally-occurring species must take priority. The word "nature" by itself does not prioritize the real values of species that belong here. #4 Here my support is neutral because of course I want science to guide decisions, but I do not want to have to wait for the science when the losses are immediate and logic can prevail. Science is slow, and doesn't always have answers because the questions have not been asked yet. #6 Here my support is neutral because "historical land use" can take us back to the brutalization of waterways and forests of the last centuries – Just look at what happened to Bowker Creek. If you are referring to traditional ecological knowledge that could be fine, but that appears to be handled under Principle #2.	3/15/2021 7:15 AM
4	Principles to add: Conserve Saanich's rich biodiversity and redress biodiversity loss in all that we do. Principles to adapt slightly: I am concerned that "Ensure evidence-based decision making" is used to undermine or prevent action to protect a healthy environment. I think we have to be absolutely clear that when in doubt, environment should trump ALL. The precautionary principle (if there is a strong suspicion that a certain activity may have environmentally harmful consequences, it is better to control that activity now rather than to wait for incontrovertible scientific evidence) is extremely important since it may take some time to gather evidence and some species and habitats may not have that time. In those cases, there should be e.g. a moratorium on development or similar. Therefore, I suggest that this be clearly linked with the precautionary principle, such as "Ensure further environmental damage is prevented through the precautionary principle until evidence-based decision making provides clear direction. (*Evidence-based decision-making is supported by as much available and appropriate scientific data, models and research, Indigenous knowledge, historic and cultural documents.)" "Look beyond our borders to achieve or lead environmental results at a bioregional scale" - i support this with the addition of a 'lead' aspect to cover where there is inaction at the regional scale. I support regional planning with Greater Victoria partners to safeguard connectivity of wildlife corridors and protected areas (public and private land) and take actions to improve the health of watersheds and airsheds. But worry that it is used to mean inaction and lack of Saanich leadership if our neighbours aren't doing their part or that it is used to mean a sharing of quotas (buy and sell to manage GHG emissions or protected area quotas) rather than meaningful advances per municipality.	3/15/2021 3:44 AM
5	sustainable use may need treatment	3/14/2021 11:16 PM
6	#10 is so vague its completely meaningless. It's hard to comprehend how one of your guiding principles does not ensure that Saanich will not engage in punitive or prohibitive practices with respect to landowners, especially given the shortcomings of the former EDPA and some of the tactics used by Saanich staff in past. While its great to see #7 (lead by example, something completely lacking under the former EDPA), there is nothing in here which forms a guiding principle around respect for, and working collaboratively with, landowners to create and acheive common goals	3/14/2021 8:40 PM
7	I'm concerned that #10 will create pressure to compromise environmental goals to realize "values and benefits" that are at odds with environmental stewardship. My suggested re-wording would be to add the word "environmental" before "values and benefits".	3/14/2021 2:56 PM
8	3a. Consider future generations in balancing environmental conditions with the needs of a growing population, including affordable housing for our children. 3b. Consider the current generation in balancing environmental conditions with the recognition that residential properties represent the single largest asset most homeowners possess and, therefore, represent a substantial source for planned retirement funding. Property values matter and restrictive regulations that diminish usability of properties usually result in unplanned reduction of land	3/14/2021 2:46 PM

	values with attendant impacts on retirement, leaving less remaining lifetime for retirees to adjust. 4. Evidence-based decision making is imperative but the definition conditioned on "available" data, rather than actual verification, leaves open the possible faulty decisions made under the previous EDPA fiasco. For example, the current Terrestial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM) used for Saanich's new Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) is an even broader level of mapping of provincial categories than the previous system, little of which has been ground truthed. My property is still mapped with three levels of Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) but according to a biologist's report they have not existed since prior to 1925 when the house was built and at least sometime prior to 1907 when the property was known to be apple orchard. 5. Assuming the precautionary principle means instituting restrictions without assuring verification to close the knowledge gaps, Saanich will fall back into the problems of the previous EDPA that did not close those knowledge gaps with fact based verification. 6. Use knowledge of current use in addition to historical use. 7. Leading by example should include Saanich devoting its limited resources to target the least degraded areas with higher probabilities of positive outcomes, such as parks and undeveloped lands. Demonstrating success in these areas could set the stage for extending proteced corriders with incentives that generate cooperation needed from private property owners.	
9	How do you define the precautionary principle? How is the applied? Maybe most people understand this, but I don't. Perhaps you could define it for the ordinary person.	3/14/2021 12:51 PM
10	Preservation of natural habitats whether on private or public land must be a core part of the vision.	3/12/2021 10:34 AM
11	11. Ensure that we are accountable for the work that we have endeavoured to do within this plan by creating clear mechanisms for community oversight and involvement.	3/11/2021 3:33 PM
12	No	3/10/2021 4:24 PM
13	Number 10 is way too wishy-washy. The whole building and development process needs to be re-thought in ways that put the natural world on an equal partnership. We need regenerative development: In the words of naturalist Joel Glanzberg, "Regenerative Development builds the capacity of living systems to regenerate themselves."	3/10/2021 3:47 PM
14	The questions I have marked as "unsure" are not clearly stated and therefore I cannot answer them.	3/10/2021 2:43 PM
15	I'm concerned that over reliance on the precautionary principle often leads to paralysis. It seems in direct conflict with principle 7.	3/10/2021 10:03 AM
16	I would suggest a principle that incorporates functional integration of the built environment into ecosystems. Something like: Work to integrate the built environment into ecosystems by ensuring designs mimic ecological functions within the landscape.	3/8/2021 2:20 PM
17	Endeavour to maintain green corridors between parks and other green spaces to allow movement of wildlife.	3/5/2021 2:32 PM
18	These all look like excellent guidelines, except for the Precautionary Principle (point #5). This can be used as a legal tool and obstacle to progress, to stop scientifically-based action and innovation. The Precautionary Principle can also be used as an excuse for not acting according to stated principles, when controversy or misleading information arise. The Precautionary Principle can lead to actions that are unscientifically-based, vague, self-cancelling, and an obstacle to progress. In other words, the Precautionary Principle, if accepted as a principle, could ultimately negate the leadership potential expressed in the other 9 principles. Many of these principles are already in place, and have historically made Saanich a leader in environmental practice. Taking time to gather more data (point #4), such as historical land use, may be useful but does not preclude the necessity for immediate action, for example to apply bylaw enforcement in the face of an obvious infraction. For example, one Saanich resident defied Saanich Bylaw 8556 35.1 for over 20 years. She was never fined, though Saanich bylaw enforcement officers and other Saanich staff were repeatedly alerted to her actions. She increased her feeding to 20 kilograms (over 88 pounds) per week of 16% protein dairy grain formula over the past decade. Though many young deer died of acidosis and selenium poisoning, the survivors bred heavily, populating much of Greater Victoria and causing a trophic cascade. (habitat destruction/lack of forest regeneration)	3/5/2021 1:25 PM
19	Add to Number 1 - preserve and conserve rather than recognize. Recognition is a weak term. The preservation and conservation of our natural areas needs to be the most important guiding	3/5/2021 10:05 AM

	factor in the plan. Number 6 is not clear. There needs to be reference to the preservation of habitat, referencing loss over time and particularly in recent years.	
20	For principle 1. Recognize the intrinsic value of nature to sustain the future of all species. 10. Work in partnerships with ALL interests to achieve outcomes that realize multiple values and benefits. 11. Recognize the importance of engaging and informing all community members.	3/5/2021 9:10 AM
21	most of these proposed principals are nothing but vague buzz words and jargon that don't really tell anyone anything. You might as well have just said your're going to "think outside the box"	3/5/2021 1:33 AM
22	Beyond respect I propose 'preserve, protect' as wording	3/3/2021 7:40 PM
23	Re #8, it seems to be a bit passively worded. I think we need to be proactive in seeking out, understanding, building upon, connecting with other municipalities' work and plans to achieve the outcomes sought. Re #4, evidence-based decision making implies benchmarks, regular data-gathering, and monitoring of results toward established goals. Should there be mention of data - the need for it, the need for current state info, the requirement for ongoing data collection and monitoring and reporting out of progress. Even though it may be implied, it may be beneficial to add it. Re #6, I'm not sure what I think. Some historical use may have been damaging to the environment, some historical use may not be replicable in today's environment, etc. How far back is 'historical'? An example might be the McRae farm that became Cedar Hill Park but, before it was a farm, it was indigenous land with Garry Oak meadows, camas fields, etc. Maybe this principle needs more refinement? An example to illustrate what's meant? Re #10, I am not sure how widely interpreted the term 'diverse interests' could be construed. I assume it could include developers and that additional housing is one of the potential benefits. My concern is that so much is left open to interpretation as to which benefits for whom outweigh which other benefits. At the same time, "working in partnership" is an important principle and, to the degree that it includes citizens, volunteers, Friends of groups, Pulling Together program, not-for-profit environmental groups like HAT and GOERT etc., it is a worthy one. Tighten or refine the statement?	3/3/2021 12:48 PM
24	It is hard to argue with the principles, but can these statements really inform decision making? Again resilence is about protection and recovery; do these principles help to decide what should be done? They would not help me	3/2/2021 9:54 PM
25	Making areas in Saanich more friendly to pedestrians. Having walkable communities is important to cut green house emissions as well as creating and maintaining vibrant communities. As well as protecting more green space and agricultural land.	3/2/2021 6:39 PM
26	Should consider incorporating the element of human mental and physical health. This and Work to facilitate human mental and physical health through Saanich nature. This vision should lead to improvement of the Saanich hiking and biking trails and their inter-connectivity. It is a very difficult challenge because such activities are incredibly important for human health but if not managed appropriately can result in major destruction of our parks e.g. uncontrolled mountain biking in Haro Woods.	3/2/2021 5:38 PM
27	Prioritize engagement with First Nations.	3/2/2021 3:47 PM
28	I don't consider leadership all that valuable. Better to focus on doing something. I expect others are already leading and we need to follow.	3/2/2021 12:52 PM
29	How will you be able to implement these principles? When your efforts to continue to build high density and crowded people into properties and neighbourhoods that were not designed for such density.	3/2/2021 12:16 PM
30	Add: Education/Engagement Principle.... Take active part in community engagement and education for increased understanding, support, buy-in and active participation. Needs a campaigns like the very old 'give a hoot, don't pollute' campaign to stop littering...	3/2/2021 11:20 AM
31	#6 - there can be some circumstances when historical land use is important. Certainly, it should be taken into consideration, so I guess "build on foundational knowledge" of it makes sense. It is just a bit complicated to think what it means. #10 - very hard to achieve. However, I agree that we should try try. For all the rest, again, they are really nice words and I hope everyone is serious about following them. Particularly, #5 "precautionary principle" is something that is extremely important but I have found that it is very seldom used, and in fact sneered at in our modern society. With Health Canada's approval of pesticides, I have direct	3/2/2021 10:32 AM

	experience that it is not used and huge numbers of people (such as grower organizations) don't think it should be used. I think it should be used, so I support this principle strongly.	
32	Have rules relate to Saanich land and and parks etc. as well as what is proposed for the general public.	3/2/2021 8:07 AM
33	9. Is too broad. Not everything we do can support climate adaptation. For example, if someone wants to put up a fence for their dog, I think it's too much to ask that fence to contribute to climate change mitigation. There will always be cost/benefits to each decision and the way this principle is worded does not currently allow for 'doing what makes sense with the situation at hand', rather it asks ALL projects to address climate impact in some way. 10. I like the idea of this principle, but it's too vague and does not clearly recognize the values and benefits of the partners, so it could be interpreted as only recognizing the Resilient Saanich values. I think it should recognize the values of partners as well. I think there should also be a principle that addresses the reasonableness of what is asked of residents compared to Saanich. For example, in the past a lot has been asked of residents/builders doing new construction, but parkland has been held to a lower standard, and existing residents are not asked to make any changes whatsoever. This puts the burden of change almost entirely on new builds which is not fair. At least one principle should address finding a balance in this regard.	3/1/2021 1:03 PM
34	It is unclear if the second principle will also include learning from and implementing Indigenous knowledge and land uses or if it is only related to respecting this knowledge.	2/27/2021 2:28 PM
35	I really appreciate these 10 principles and commend you on including (5) Precautionary principle. Wondering if the language of # 3 could be strengthened. "Consider" is vague or ambiguous and may or may not include working in the best interest of future generations. I feel we need to make choices that do no harm to future generations, or leave this place in better shape than we found it. Perhaps # 3 Consider the well-being of future generations OR #3 Consider our legacy for future generations #10 may be problematic. Realizing multiple values and accommodating diverse interests is a difficult process and often a no win rather than a multi-win situation. Sometimes, in some situations, hard decisions have to be made and you can't accommodate diverse interests or multiple uses. Ex. Greater Victoria water supply area is set aside for a single purpose in contrast with the Comox Valley watershed that has lots going on including logging, mining, recreation, etc. So I like the idea of partnerships (including with other municipalities) and recognize that there are diverse interests for almost any situation, but I worry that making multiple use a principle may box you in. Other principles worth considering: - Recognize that the health of the natural environment and human health and well-being are inextricably linked. These are not separate things and we should challenge false dichotomies such as the environment vs the economy and so on. - Recognize that piecemeal approaches aren't effective. A systems approach suggests we consider the whole system and all of the factors that make up the system. As an example, we recognize that municipal boundaries don't align with watershed boundaries but really ought to look at the entire watershed when making decisions around wetlands, rivers, and etc. - I also suggest we choose the path of humility rather than hubris in our decision making, and being cautious when it comes to "engineering" our way out of environmental problems.	2/26/2021 2:54 PM
36	7, 9 and 10 are often used to justify new carbon-intensive and socially unnecessary building or infrastructure projects when simple renovation or enhancing already established public systems would do: "New Tricks with Old Bricks" and free public transit rather than obsessively focusing on "green" new buildings and e-cars.	2/25/2021 4:39 PM
37	I would like to see decisions made in a timely fashion rather than numerous studies. I support anything that provides access year round to our wonderful trail system. Being active outdoors is vital to our community	2/24/2021 7:16 PM
38	We need to restore degraded habitats but we cannot remove most invasive plants and animals that we have introduced. So we have to accept that we are actively managing the environment within the bounds of these realities. I think this is recognised by these laudable principles but I am not sure	2/23/2021 7:34 PM
39	* whose historical land use- settler or indigenous or both? Some settler land uses were destructive so would not want to continue	2/23/2021 3:12 PM
40	In considering future generations, could we look at the term - for seven generations - just so we are not looking at just the children and grandchildren of this generation. I know this may be difficult as we are only one municipality in the midst of a large province and country.	2/23/2021 8:01 AM

41	I recommend that these principles should be enacted, and not just remain nice ideas on paper that are not born out in concrete, visible actions that all can see. Results -all of them, meaning the successes AND the omissions and the failures, should be recorded and reported.	2/22/2021 3:17 PM
42	3. Considering 'future generations' should not just be the future generations of humans...need to link this statement to recognizing the value of nature and/or the value of biodiversity, in order to have resilient and functioning ecosystems for ALL the future inhabitants of those systems (i.e., we are part of nature as are all the plants/invertebrates/vertebrates). Considering future generations of people and plants/invertebrates/vertebrates should be one entity. 6. Yes, build on the foundation knowledge of historical land use, particularly by looking at the errors in those uses, and adapt a methodology to perhaps undo some of those land use decisions. As well as to plan far in advance to protect these new values to include nature and biodiversity.	2/22/2021 2:42 PM
43	Ad 2: Beware of the lack of indigenous knowledge in certain fields! Ad 9: How do you plan to adapt climate?	2/21/2021 3:35 PM
44	Don't look beyond your boarders - keep it local. Don't expand the scope.	2/20/2021 5:50 PM
45	There should be added "Respect private property rights"	2/20/2021 11:57 AM
46	#6 Historical land use: Is that from a colonial perspective or Indigenous? Would like to make sure there is ample and "meaningful" public input not just window dressing. Want to make sure residents are truly listened to, heard, and followed up with actions that reflect the majority of the residents wishes and concerns. A possible principle to add: Decisions are made under a robust democratic framework with full transparency. There should be some kind of mechanism to assure that we get transparency.	2/20/2021 10:41 AM
47	The words 'respect Indigenous knowledge and land uses is too general'. Reissue: to include respect and integrate Indigenous environmental knowledge and teachings with 'western scientific modern management tools' Work in partnerships with W̱SÁNEĆ and lək̓ʷəŋən peoples to ensure long term sustainability and resilience.	2/20/2021 9:40 AM
48	None	2/19/2021 6:28 PM
49	Restore degraded landscape components.	2/19/2021 4:11 PM
50	There needs to be some mention of a mechanism for residents of Saanich to allow for consideration / review of decisions made by Saanich for exemptions from the plan, based on the merits of the case. For example, removal of hazardous trees on a resident's property.	2/19/2021 1:16 PM
51	9. should not be at any or all cost. Replace 'Address" with "Consider" 10. "Work in partnerships with..."? Suggest "Work collaboratively to balance... "	2/17/2021 1:48 PM
52	1. Reduce energy demand of the government 2. Provide incentives for others to voluntarily follow energy efficiency 3. Reduce government spending and taxes 4. Look after roads, utilities and parks	2/16/2021 8:21 PM
53	Will all of the above concepts apply to local, regional, CRD and provincial Parks as a connected biodiverse unit?	2/16/2021 6:43 PM
54	We should acknowledge that Saanich is a place where people live and is not a wild space. I support environment sustainability. I don't support a vision of returning Saanich to its "natural state" at some arbitrary past point in time. The focus should be on the future and putting in place things that will help us achieve an environmentally sustainable community. Past land use practices may or may not have future value and need only be supported where they meet future goals and objectives. Forcing residences and business to use only native plants is not relevant or necessarily useful to building a sustainable community.	2/16/2021 1:22 PM
55	All of these principles depend on the objectivity and the fairness of their application. Saanich staff have not demonstrated either.	2/16/2021 10:27 AM
56	That the economic costs of any policy changes are examined, quantified, and provided to the public, together with information on who will bear the cost.	2/15/2021 10:22 PM
57	Each principle if implemented has to consider value to the tax payer. Not at any cost	2/15/2021 8:34 PM
58	2. No idea 'and land uses" what this means nor its consequences. Does this over ride zoning or planning or OCP? On first nations land Saanich has no say, so where does this apply? 6. What does this mean? If was industrial it must remain industrial? If was a field it must remain a field? 7. either you want innovation or want to stay with/keep up with best practice. Wanting	2/15/2021 7:34 PM

	both is a contradiction in spite of how good it sounds. 8. Your jurisdiction is your jurisdiction, not everybody else's. Encourage your neighbours but mind your own garden first. 9. "all" is just too over reaching. There are potholes to fix.	
59	historical land use, especially recent colonization, has been devastating to the environment and biodiversity- learning from historical mistakes would be valuable diverse interests often have the financial power to overcome the best interests of the population as a whole and ultimately of the environment	2/15/2021 1:44 PM
60	Saanich residents participation should be voluntary NOT forced on them	2/15/2021 12:49 PM
61	Point # 8. Unsure what it means, vague. Our society has done a lot of hings we could have learned important lessons from -- but have repeated or continued while giving history only a nod. How accurate/biased is our record of history? Point# 10. To not lose the big battle of the end of the Anthropocene, it is too late to try to ease the effort or cost of fighting it by doing things too slow or gently by such ways as trying to to be as effective as possible while not "costing too much" or "suffering discomfort" too much. Long ago, it was said that slowing climate change would be like fighting a war; sacrifices have to be made. So, what exactly is meant by this wonderful sounding win, win?	2/14/2021 2:45 PM
62	I think I understand what Principle 10 is trying to say, but it can be interpreted in many ways. If it does indeed have to do with the built and natural environment, it could be more clear.	2/11/2021 7:20 PM
63	No. Good work! THank you.	2/11/2021 3:54 PM
64	A principle that addresses evaluation: tracking progress and/or measuring success.	2/11/2021 1:29 PM
65	Reduce all concerned costs and expenses. Try to utilize local volunteers.	2/11/2021 9:33 AM
66	Please use language that is understandable to everyone. Academic jargon and terms that are not common 'household" are exclusionary.	2/10/2021 6:00 PM
67	Environment and biodiversity values are maintained and supported through a land use lens.	2/10/2021 2:17 PM
68	I would fully embrace principles 7 through 10 if some adjustments are made. 8: It is agreed that Saanich should look beyond its borders to achieve results at a bioregional scale. It's an important principle. But saying that while being silent about achieving results at an earth system or global scale says that Saanich is not working on the scale of the main problem (as set out in research by earth systems scientists on planetary boundaries including Rockstom et al (2009) and Steffen et al (2015). 9: I object to the use of the word "mitigation" which means to make less worse, or to slow the manifestation of impacts. As a resident of Saanich and this planet, the goal I embrace is stabilization of atmospheric GHGs, the earth's ocean and climate systems, and the biosphere. I have never, and will never embrace mitigation, the often stated goal used by governments worldwide that have yet to match aspirational goal--an utterly uninspiring, bureaucratic word that is bloated by syllables and ambiguity. At a time when the right words are urgently needed to connect with people and inspire action, please make Saanich a jurisdiction that works and talks in ways that will end global climate instability and not a weak, ambiguous goal like climate mitigation. Is the Saanich climate resilience plan for UNFCC Secretariat in Bonn, or is it for regular folks here in Saanich? If "ending" climate change is not what is meant, please say what is meant in plain language. Mitigation is the opposite of plain language. There are some good reasons to refer to climate adaptation before the m word. Please consider speaking of climate stabilization first given that we live in a time when the NDCs of UNFCCC members are not enough to stop the rising levels of GHGs by any date in the future. The urgent job for the world and for Saanich is to push for GHG stabilization per UNFCCC article 2. "Adaptation forever" would be required if the out of control global GHG emissions continue, but adaptation forever will eventually be overcome by the current trajectory of "atmospheric GHG rise forever." I have long held the view that stabilizing GHGs in the atmosphere is job one. Adaptation should happen at the same time as a way to mitigate impacts of climate change. (Here, I simply mean lessening the impacts of climate change, although principle 9 refers to mitigation, I presume, as changes in GHG emissions or geo-engineering, or some combination. 7 & 10. These are good principles. I marked them as "unsure" because none of the principles make the bold but important reference to innovations, partnerships or collaborations beyond Saanich boundaries to achieve improvements on scales that go beyond Saanich municipal boundaries to achieve faster and more cost-effective benefits within and outside Saanich. On this subject, please see my longer comments in Q4.	2/9/2021 11:08 PM
69	Be aware of, and scrupulously avoid any semblance of the Nine Pillars of Agenda 21, especially #7: 1. Move citizens off private land and into public housing 2. Create vast	2/9/2021 2:09 PM

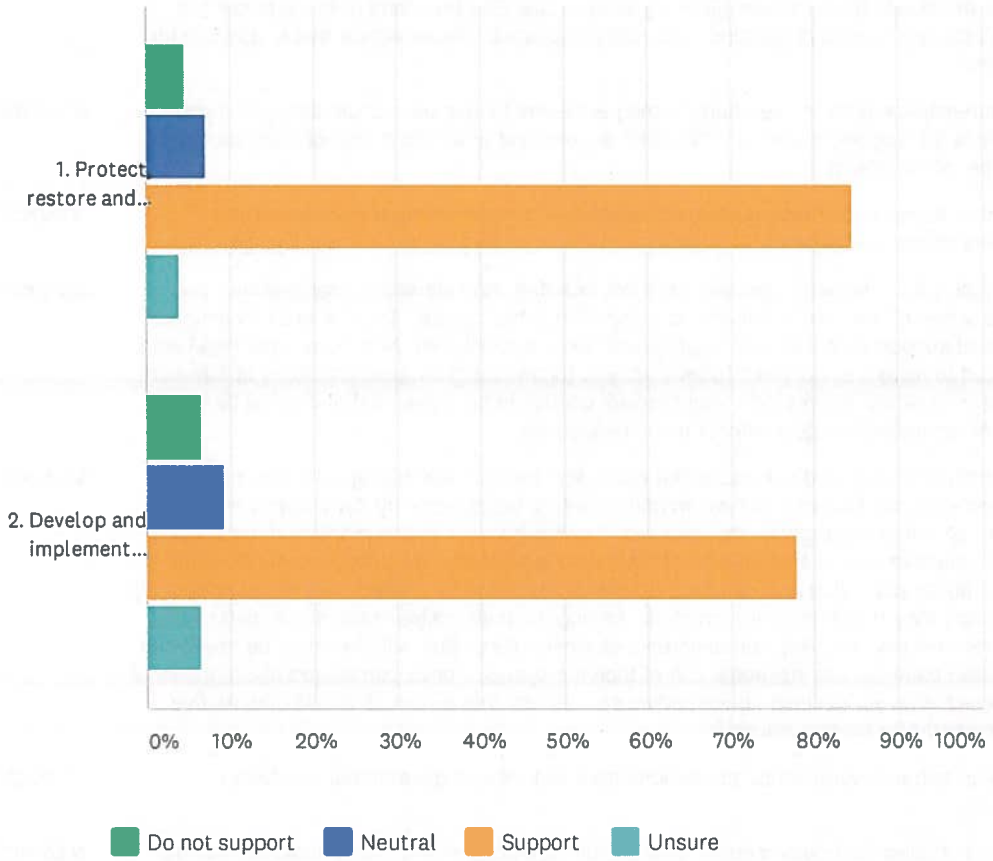
	wilderness spaces. 3. Eliminate cars and create walk-able cities. 4. Support chosen private sector businesses with public funds for "sustainable development". 5. Make policy decisions that favour "the greater good" over the individual. 6. Drastically reduce the use of power, water, and anything else that creates "carbon pollution". 7. Use bureaucracies to make sweeping decisions outside of democratic process. 8. Increase taxes, fees, and regulations. 9. Implement policies to incentivize a reduced population.	
70	Suggest dropping "intrinsic" to describe value of nature. Values are a human construct and are assigned by humans. All values are human including religion. Intrinsic suggests a values framework that is outside humans and does not allow discussion of tradeoffs between values.	2/9/2021 11:28 AM
71	2. I answered that I am unsure about indigenous land uses and knowledge. As sadly the current indigenous land uses and knowledge are not what they once were, and are very detrimental to the objectives of this report. I very much support the knowledge and land use principles of the ancestors of this land pre colonial intervention, and the actions and knowledge of a few incredible individuals today. 5. Someone that only acts when all knowledge is known will never act at all. We've got a reasonable amount of knowledge to know that if we don't act soon, it will be too late. We have no more than 10 years to make significant change, this is very much based on current climate science. 6. Do not build on historical knowledge that has caused so much damage in the first place. And we cannot use indigenous knowledge any more, as we cannot even do a simple thing as prescribed burns to regenerate the Garry Oak meadows. 7. If you are going to lead by example, do so. Stop permitting the removal of so many trees, and important habitat for development. Leave larger areas of grassland to go wild during the summer, employ more people to remove more invasive species, increase biodiversity, protect and restore ecosystems, and plant more trees (that will not get removed for a development just as they mature). Do a better job of leading by example. Have staff that actually know what native plants are indigenous to the island, not what plants are indigenous to the Pacific Northwest. 8. Amalgamate already! This would be the most resilient thing you could do. The paperwork savings alone would save a forest. 10. Think outside the box, and bring public/crowd sourced partnerships to the table to reach these objectives. Start incentivizing the masses to make it more economical to help the planet than not to. Utilize bylaw infraction funds to provide incentive to those who change and make a difference.	2/7/2021 9:41 PM
72	social & economic values for resilience. Links to land use law/decision making. Focus on where you have jurisdiction /staff/potential new staff to implement.	2/6/2021 11:11 AM
73	Saanich Council has decided that densification within existing neighbourhoods is Council's top priority in order to address issues regarding additional housing, as well as more affordable housing. I understand the desire to contain growth as a means of avoiding sprawl issues with new developments beyond the current 'boundary' areas. Up until this point, Council has given zero consideration given to the problems densification creates via garden suites, secondary suites & lot subdivision within existing neighbourhoods. The cutting down of trees, the loss of natural habitat for animals, the impact of lot coverage for rainwater, the need for additional parking spaces, as well as the sheer increase in the number of people using the parks and thereby stressing for example, the trails in Mount Douglas Park. If this planning process and report recommendations are to have any credibility at all , the issue of biodiversity MUST be given EQUAL consideration in all Council deliberations on the topic of densification within neighbourhoods.	2/5/2021 4:54 PM
74	I believe the inclusion of empowerment is important. Saanich is the sum of its parts; its residents, history, and administration. Guiding documents and principles so often focus purely on administration and it is important that Saanich residents are empowered to contribute and participate in biodiversity in real and meaningful ways.	2/5/2021 2:26 PM
75	Like I said previously attention should be on having councillors who represent taxpayers interests. The way the system currently exists councillors are elected for four years without any accountability on any issue that comes before mayor and council. The multiple ethical missteps by this current council (many who were on the previous counci)l and Mayor are significant. The fact that the Privacy commissioner had to intervene at one point was troubling to say the least. This gives rise to to me believing in and adopting indigenous knowledge on the environment and land uses but not believing that council have the ability to understand Justice Sinclair's report's or for that matter UNDRIP. If we had a ward system in place where i knew who my councillor was and that councillor was totally dedicated to ensuring the interests of my community were looked after I would be somewhat confident that many of the issues of concern would be addressed and if not that councillor would be voted out in the. next election.	2/5/2021 1:57 PM

	In any event I feel like many of my neighbours that Saanich council is a waste of time. Even your survey questions indicate inflexibility.	
76	Will need to limit the size of investigative committees, and use experienced, educated members. Example = [redacted] Hatchery manager, [redacted] who runs and outstanding program	2/5/2021 9:28 AM
77	Biased questions that presupposes answers.	2/4/2021 10:48 PM
78	Regarding Number Nine: address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do. This as stated is vague. Specifics need to be provided in order for me to determine the extent to which I am prepared to support this proposed principle. Ideas about how best to mitigate climate change can be at cross purposes. For example, I do not want additional bike lanes along Shelbourne if it means the removal of mature Maple trees, as they reduce carbon, provide cooling, and filter dangerous chemicals and pollutants. Acknowledging "The intrinsic value of nature" is of little benefit unless extended to include those things of nature that are present in our neighbourhoods; mature trees, bushes, fruit trees, grasses, etc. Saanich can do so much more to address climate change on an immediate level by not permitting developers to remove mature deciduous and conifer trees from properties to be developed because it is more profitable to replace them. Mature trees are matriarchs that promote the vitality and health of younger trees. In addition, their cavities provide space in which disparate species live and nest. Trees "catch" precipitation allowing for rain to slowly drip to the ground or evaporate. They reduce the force of storms and the amount of runoff into sewers, streams, etc. In addition to all that trees mean to a healthy, diverse environment, research has demonstrated that the mere presence of trees benefit the mental and emotional well being of people as trees have a relaxing effect and reduce stress. Fruit trees are a nutritious food source that supports food security, something that should be of concern to all. As Saanich repeatedly acknowledges the need for lower income housing, it must also acknowledge that food security is of no less importance to economically compromised families. So, why continue to remove fruit trees? These trees are also a food source for city wildlife. The benefits of urban and continuous forests are broadly recognized. The benefit of NOT levelling properties abundant with trees and bushes to accommodate builds must also be deemed necessary and of important significance to strengthen and improve the health of neighbourhoods. The grand gesture is appreciated and of incalculable value, but the nature Saanich seeks to protect should also include the "natural" that is in our neighbourhoods.	2/4/2021 7:08 PM
79	I agree with principle 6 if it refers to First Nations land use as opposed to colonial historical land use where resource management was not always considered. Principle 8 is very important as nature does not always have political borders and habitats are impacted by surrounding regions. Principle 10 is the most challenging to accomplish. A common vision should try to be obtained.	2/4/2021 5:05 PM
80	Working in partnership with diverse interests is just a recipe for inaction and finger pointing. Keep it simple---	2/4/2021 4:52 PM
81	6. I am not sure what you mean by "historical land use". Do you mean Indigenous? Industry? Farming? Tourism? I respectfully suggest to be mindful of language and terminology, and to be careful about assumptions about meaning. In general, these principles are all very good, and they are very broad - that is, they are open to interpretation and if the group that is making decisions is weighted with those with common experiences, knowledge and training, they will be myopic and too limited. The group listed is all science-based, with one Indigenous "person" (odd choice of word). It would be a more representative group if there were members from other aspects of living here, especially those that address the prominence of colonial, patriarchal and capitalist thinking. Making a plan that is essentially a top-down one from this group is probably not going to resonate in the broad way you appear to hope.	2/4/2021 4:39 PM
82	These principles are vague and open to wide interpretation such that they no longer are principles. The principles need to be focused and clear. Recommend keeping it very tightly focused on 'Ensuring environmental stewardship for future generations'. 'Indigenous' is a loaded term as many of the Bering Straight settlers were conquered and replaced by other Bering Straight migrants for many generations. Recommend the term "Pre-European Peoples" or "Bering Straight migrants" to indicate that we have all migrated here to work and play.	2/3/2021 2:11 PM
83	I know you noted evidence-based decision-making and where that knowledge come from in Principle 4, but maybe also make note of that in Principle 6 as well. It feels unclear about what "foundational knowledge of historic land use" you are referring to.	1/26/2021 6:10 PM

84	Need descriptive paragraph for each statement: Background. Objective... Absolutely no possible respect for landowners rights or addressing important challenges like the housing crisis, need for more density. No consideration for fire risk management	1/25/2021 4:45 PM

Q6 Proposed GoalsThe Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) proposes the following goals for Resilient Saanich. The RSTC describes the goals as the outcomes Saanich is looking for.Please indicate your level of support for each proposed goal:

Answered: 155 Skipped: 24



	DO NOT SUPPORT	NEUTRAL	SUPPORT	UNSURE	TOTAL
1. Protect, restore and enhance the ecological function and biological diversity of Saanich.	4.52% 7	7.10% 11	84.52% 131	3.87% 6	155
2. Develop and implement complimentary and coordinated policies, strategies, regulations, and incentives based on our guiding principles to achieve our vision.	6.54% 10	9.15% 14	77.78% 119	6.54% 10	153

#	DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ONE OR MORE OF THESE GOALS? ARE THERE ANY GOALS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?	DATE
1	All aspects of utility development and maintenance (roads, electricity, water, sewage, housing development etc) must follow similar resilient Saanich guidelines. Old trees removed for safety reasons or for infrastructure expansion need to be significantly replaced in the neighbourhoods where they are removed. This principle needs to apply to all of Saanich's departments at the same high level.	3/15/2021 11:34 AM
2	Work on stream enhancement throughout Saanich including a focus on wetland preservation. Increase protection of natural areas (beach access, Garry Oak meadows, forests in parks and on private land) by limiting trails and access to people, bikes and dogs. Education and signage to support these initiatives including looking at what Oak Bay has done in some areas and reflecting indigenous uses of the land historically to promote reconciliation and a rationale for the changes.	3/15/2021 8:37 AM
3	My recommendation is to "please hurry" - the permanent losses are accumulating and your time frame is so long and drawn out. We need actions and protections now or I am uncertain what will be left to protect.	3/15/2021 7:17 AM
4	Support of 2, depends on those guiding principles being made stronger in favour of the environment and considerate of biodiversity loss crisis as well as the climate change crisis.	3/15/2021 3:47 AM
5	I could support #1 if the word "restore" were not included. Nothing against restoration - but what does it mean? Restore to what point in time? To what degree? To what end? Prioritized how? I could support #2 if the word "regulations" were not included. Nothing against regulation, and its good to have a set of rules for everyone to follow, but given past practices at Saanich this inclusion is scary. I'm not convinced regulation should be a goal, rather it could be an outcome of achieving this goal without using regulations.	3/14/2021 8:46 PM
6	1. Protecting, restoring, and enhancing the ecological function and biological diversity on private properties will require cooperation and voluntary acceptance by the property owners of the means by which those goals are achieved. Providing incentives to property owners will be far more productive than the imposition of restrictive regulations. Restrictions usually result in reduced usability and value that generate defensive reactions by property owners to protect the value, or what they value, in their properties. Among the undesirable outcomes is defensive action to remove new seedlings or volunteers of native plants that will ultimately be needed to replace those plants at the inevitable end of their life cycles. I once considered planting a large bed of camas lilies but decided against doing so with fear that a new 15m(~50ft) restrictive buffer zone could be placed around it.	3/14/2021 2:54 PM
7	advocate for better environmental protections from all levels of government and better enforcement	3/12/2021 11:37 AM
8	Develop and implement complimentary and coordinated policies must now mean sacrificing natural habitat protection to accommodate development--particularly development dressed up in the guise of providing affordability. Affordability and private development are really an oxymoronic concept as the nature of the beast means little in the way of affordability.	3/12/2021 10:36 AM
9	No	3/10/2021 4:24 PM
10	Number 2 needs specific lists of which policies, targets, strategies, tactics, regulations and incentives that need to be addressed, along with timelines for revising them	3/10/2021 3:49 PM
11	How do you enhance biological diversity if it is being restored?	3/10/2021 2:44 PM
12	I'd like to understand how these complimentary and coordinated policies will interact with other Saanich initiatives, e.g. expanding Uptown as a Saanich 'downtown'. The biggest conflicts will come into place with development, do these Resilient Saanich goals filter back to guidance around development?	3/10/2021 10:05 AM
13	Follow and implement existing policies and frameworks which Saanich has to protect the bio-diversity and the environment. These are routinely ignored when allowing developments to proceed.	3/8/2021 10:06 PM
14	Maybe a goal to increase awareness in the public of the importance of this plan and the situation ecologically in Saanich? To help people understand why work has to be done?	3/7/2021 2:18 PM
15	Point #1 seems to be a continuation of a goal that has been in place over the decades, I	3/5/2021 1:41 PM

	believe, and summarizes many of the reasons people state that they love to live here. However, many are concerned that economic development can supersede this goal. A goal could state how many hectares of land will be protected and what actions will be taken to preserve, protect and enhance the existing biologically diverse/protected areas.	
16	3. Be an effective partner in a Regional response to climate change and sustaining and conserving biodiversity. 4. Provide a Saanich framework for environmental policy and biodiversity conservation strategy by 2022.	3/5/2021 9:22 AM
17	I would love to see a ban on gas powered yard maintenance machines (hedge trimmers, leaf blowers etc)--especially for large townhouse complexes where these machines are running 8 hours/day several days/week	3/5/2021 1:50 AM
18	Also "restore" ecology and biodiversity. More specific goals such as preserve a specific proportion of habitat in Saanich or specific areas such as the former Royal Oak Golf Course, adding a specific proportion to park lands, adding a specific number of urban and park land trees/plants, replacing trees that are destroyed with development (this could be a requirement placed on the developers/builders),. How about adding fees to all new development to contribute to habitat restoration?	3/3/2021 7:45 PM
19	Re goal 1, this is a key goal. I think it needs quantifying . . . there needs to be a data element, baseline data, quantified goals, regular monitoring and reporting out, and opportunities to revise strategies based on results, etc.	3/3/2021 12:53 PM
20	Remember that we should be protecting people and property as well as ecological function	3/2/2021 9:56 PM
21	See previous comment under Vision. It may be more appropriate here.	3/2/2021 5:39 PM
22	Vague goals. How will you measure them?	3/2/2021 12:53 PM
23	These all sound good until we find out what you will actually do or how some councillors will interpret them differently than how I understand what will occur. The words in theory maybe okay,what actually occurs will be the truth..so do I trust you..no	3/2/2021 12:21 PM
24	*incentives are important.... having real clear reasons to help change behaviours and appreciate the work being done is important in my opinion. Need to convert the language at this level to common language to be absorbed by the general public.	3/2/2021 11:22 AM
25	#2 - My experience in Saanich is that we have lots of regulations that we don't enforce. It becomes dizzying to see people breaking them, then to go and read all the complicated bylaws and find out that there is no recourse. It is very frustrating. There are not enough incentives for good behaviour, just lots of words that essentially mean nothing in many cases. It would be a huge task to simplify and improve and coordinate everything so it was clear and enforceable and encouraging to do the right thing. But it would be great!	3/2/2021 10:33 AM
26	Don't do the STUPID things of the previous attempt to do similar things. Keep staff at a distance, not running the whole operation.	3/2/2021 8:10 AM
27	Goal #1 does not address any sort of balance, and in fact is in conflict with itself. Is the goal to protect, to restore, or to enhance? It can't be all 3. Also, goals should be measurable and objective. There's nothing quantifiable about this goal. You'll never agree on whether it has been achieved. Goal #2 could use some measurement criteria and objectives as well, but it's currently better than goal #1 because you could at least ask for a list of policies, strategies, regulations, and incentives that were developed and implemented.	3/1/2021 1:09 PM
28	IF a goal is what is needed to achieve the vision. and guides decision making .... Then it seems important goals will be communicating all of this to the municipal staff (ex bylaw enforcement officers, city engineers, etc etc) so that the people who are doing the day to day work of the municipality are up to speed and on board. And given the large number of existing policies and regulations etc already in place, it seems like someone needs to go through these and see what supports and what subverts the vision for Resilient Saanich. (I see this is addressed in Objective 4)	2/26/2021 3:04 PM
29	Strict compliance with Community Trees Matter specifications on public and private property, https://creativelyunited.org/community-trees-matter-network/: Tree cutting moratorium unless a tree is damaging utility lines and pipes or roofs.	2/25/2021 4:39 PM
30	See my previous comment. Easier said then done !	2/23/2021 7:35 PM

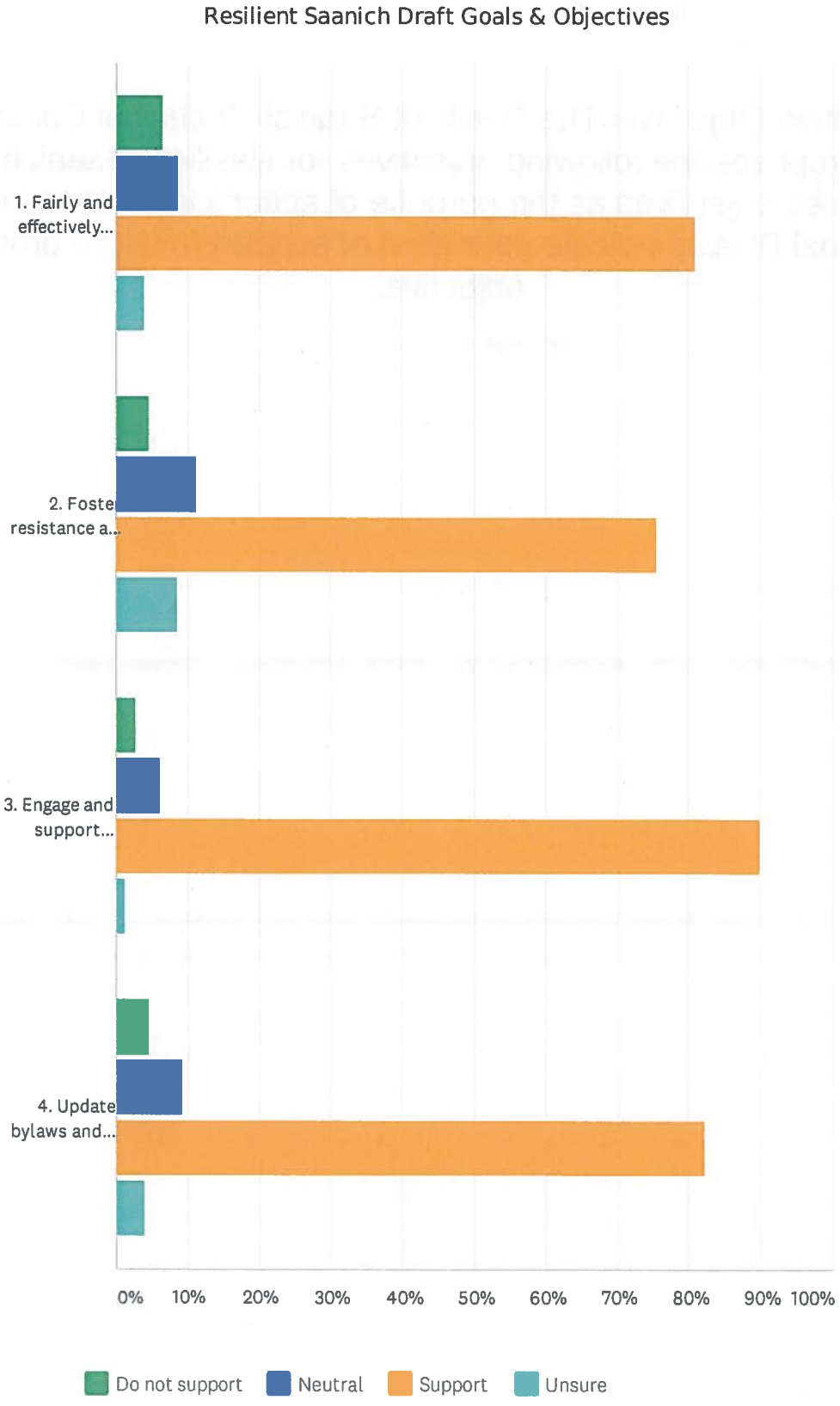
31	* Act now with the urgency of a climate emergency. * Act now to stop the expansion of the Hartland Landfill into the 73 acres of a 'buffer zone' urban forest that is home to 16 species at risk and may affect the other treed areas' health. - Act now to bring in a zero waste strategy which includes a circular economy. Use the city of Victoria and Regional District of Nanaimo's zero waste strategies as a model resource while - Find a solution to stop spreading the biosolids on the land and forested areas as this will negatively impact on the air, land and water necessary for health of man, animals and fauna. * Act now to bring in bylaws to address deconstruction rather than demolition of buildings. * Act now to restore salmon streams * Use Esquimalt's WTE strategy to deal with plastic waste	2/23/2021 3:34 PM
32	The regulations, policies and strategies will need "teeth" There is no point in having such a well thought out document if Saanich is unwilling or unable to hold community members accountable. This may include hiring more staff to be "boots on the ground" and visit sites to offer recommendations and enforce bylaws For example there are already bylaws that try to preserve trees yet I see evidence of many individual trees and old healthy stands of trees that are taken down in our community, usually for housing (sometimes in the guise of farming)	2/23/2021 3:13 PM
33	Add a goal regarding promoting awareness regarding this initiative.	2/23/2021 1:32 PM
34	Encourage and reward more citizen involvement in restoration and enhancement projects. Involvement requires more face-to-face contact between Saanich employees and community members. Rewards need to be tangible... for example, trail work with a Saanich crew leading earns a school geography class a free tree to plant in their school yard.	2/22/2021 3:31 PM
35	Add end dates by when this is to be achieved.	2/20/2021 5:51 PM
36	Act with the urgency of a Climate Emergency. Act NOW to stop the expansion the Hartland Landfill. Protect the 73 acres of urban forest that would be destroyed along with the ecosystem that is home to 16 species at risk. Act NOW to bring in a Zero Waste Strategy to include a Circular Economy to avert the need tor the expansion. Act NOW to bring in bylaws to address deconstruction as opposed to demolition of buildings. Act NOW to restore salmon streams. Use the City of Victoria's and the Regional District of Nanaimo's Zero Waste Strategies as resources to quickly develop Saanich's own Zero Waste Strategy. Use Esquimalt's WTE strategy to deal with plastic waste. Goal: Find a solution to stop the spreading biosolids at Hartland which will negatively impact our air, land, and water and ultimately our health. Goal: People over profits. Measure the strength of our economy by the metric of our residents health and happiness not the GDP. Use the Human Development Index or some similar metric.	2/20/2021 10:55 AM
37	I would recommend that you unpack ecological function more. It's not self-evident to me (a dietitian) that includes the ability of Indigenous peoples and other residents in the area to safely harvest and consume the restored and abundant species that are within Saanich. I would recommend that you move to ensure that the principle of enhancing and supporting food security (improved availability and access to nutritious and SAFE traditional foods that are found throughout Saanich area, from the remaining natural areas in parks and on private land, from the highest mountain points to the beaches and kelp beds, outside of the commercial 'agricultural domain') be woven into the vision and principles, goals and objectives. For example, there remain many beach closures because of sanitary closures and other contaminant concerns. Some of these contaminants are harmful to humans but not necessarily to the marine creatures who accumulate the toxins or are eaten by other non-human living creatures. I would recommend that you set as an aspirational goal restoration of high quality resources that can be harvested and safety consumed by all living things.	2/20/2021 9:52 AM
38	If the District wishes to achieve the outcomes identified, it will be necessary to increase regulations. We cannot rely upon education and incentives. Given the importance of regulations, the adoption and enforcement of effective regulations could be a goal or at least more clearly stated to ensure all parties understand the need. Perhaps this is not a goal, but it should be explicit somewhere in the plan.	2/19/2021 6:38 PM
39	Restoring degraded landscapes.	2/19/2021 4:11 PM
40	Working with the vast network of community groups, schools and members to help achieve these goals?	2/18/2021 10:51 AM
41	1. "Protect, restore and/or enhance..."	2/17/2021 1:52 PM
42	Will owners of private property have a choice or an unbiased tribunal to ask for support or alternatives to Saanich requested rehabilitation, without a financial penalty?	2/16/2021 6:47 PM

43	My concern with 1 is that I don't know what it means and suspect it means different things to different people. I support a Saanich that is environmental sustainable, I don't know what that looks like but I'm very nervous to list that will arm the Saanich Environmental department with any tool they could use to pursue their ideological goal of what someone's backyard should look like and the tools to punish anyone that doesn't comply.	2/16/2021 1:26 PM
44	These principles are expressed in lofty terms. It all depends on how they are applied. Will Saanich be guided by science and pragmatism or by ideology.	2/16/2021 10:29 AM
45	At the risk of being repetitive, that the economic costs be clearly identified prior to making policy changes. Logically, following goal #1 to perfection means returning Saanich to its natural state. Some citizens may object.	2/15/2021 10:22 PM
46	The goal has to include value for effort in reaching the goal, protect the land owners from a financial burden with a narrow band focus and heavy handed approach. Education is key to overall understanding and action to achieve the goal	2/15/2021 8:41 PM
47	1. Add "in its parks and municipal lands." to gain my support. 2. Add "for Saanich parks and municipal lands." to gain my support.	2/15/2021 7:41 PM
48	Saanich parks should be included in restoration and done first. Residents property should be restored on a voluntary basis and NOT for to comply.	2/15/2021 12:52 PM
49	This must refer back to the comments on the "visions". If goals are weak or vague, they can be achievable but still relatively ineffective. We are slow enough in getting started, that we should have tight target dates early on. Make it a goal as well. This needs to put environmental preservation/support/restoration ahead of everything else. This can include some of the comforts we are used to in housing and so on. Mother Nature is employing a very old and tried method of reducing our population to levels within the carrying capacity of the globe. It is one of a group of population reducers, collectively known as "population dependent diseases". However, humans are "too smart" to get much of a reduction. Or so we are hoping.	2/14/2021 3:12 PM
50	There seems to be a lack of committee understanding or connection between these goals and other goals as identified in the OCP, local area plans and Climate plan.	2/12/2021 2:54 PM
51	the word you want in #2 is complementary, not complimentary. 3. Advocate for CRD policies and provincial and federal policies etc that fit with/support Saanich's so that the bioregional objectives can be achieved.	2/11/2021 3:57 PM
52	I'm not convinced these goals are comprehensive enough. They seem too broad. Other examples provided in the virtual open house (eg. Burnaby, Windsor) show much more specific goals that I think would facilitate better planning towards achieving them.	2/11/2021 1:44 PM
53	Protect UCB. Protect agricultural sustainability by protecting ALR lands. Cannot speak to biodiversity without these.	2/10/2021 6:02 PM
54	Protect, restore, regenerate and enhance the ecological function and biological diversity of Saanich	2/10/2021 2:24 PM
55	3. Ensure that the costs to taxpayers of implementing and maintaining the policy framework are not so onerous as to cause the movement of individuals and/or businesses to move out of Saanich.	2/9/2021 2:14 PM
56	Key need is for Saanich to stay within it's jurisdictional authority as established by legislation. We don't need Saanich lobbying international petroleum companies regarding climate change as Victoria has done. Saanich municipality should be the area of application of the policy.	2/9/2021 11:33 AM
57	Goal 2 should also specifically include municipal operating practices.	2/8/2021 9:43 PM
58	We need clear development direction for private properties that either have endangered landscapes or could be used to restore endangered landscapes that have been destroyed	2/8/2021 12:12 PM
59	2. Most open ended, non committal cut and paste management goal I have ever read!	2/7/2021 9:48 PM
60	In you background you mention economic/social-where are they?	2/6/2021 11:13 AM
61	There is a lot Saanich can be doing to promote biodiversity, which it has heretofore not done. Every new structure in Saanich should be built with biodiversity goals in mind. Mandate it. Provide incentives to build green. This means going way beyond having an outlet to charge an electric car in any new-build home garage. I'm talking about buildings -- whether residential,	2/5/2021 5:04 PM

	commercial or municipal -- having green roofs that grow grasses & other vegetation. Bridge structures where the pillars grow vegetation, like Mexico. In Italy there are bridges that contain wind turbines in the infrastructure under the roadway, that generate power. Why can't multi-unit condos or apartment buildings have living walls? These are examples currently happening elsewhere in the world.	
62	The primary Goal should be not to interfere in the private interests of taxpayers or their properties, the goals you have while laudable are not believable in the context of the behaviour of council during the EDPA fiasco. Certainly current councillors who were present during the EDPA public meetings should understand that taxpayers will not tolerate any over reach in any plan that may impose on their properties. Perhaps you should say unequivocally that this plan is for public lands only.	2/5/2021 2:06 PM
63	Work on meaningful consultation and questions.	2/4/2021 10:49 PM
64	Perhaps, later, I may have a comment.	2/4/2021 7:10 PM
65	I think if you are able to engage peoples everyday life activities/acts to supplement and support these goals, I think you would have a better chance of not only engaging people with these goals, but also achieve them. Think "permaculture", "closed-loop systems", and "urban metabolism"!	1/26/2021 6:14 PM
66	How can these be goals? How can the two (2) items above "describe(s) goals as the outcomes Saanich is looking for"? I haven't seen any goals shown above. This makes no sense. Need to have a program where: 1) Saanich leads by example. i.e. saanich practices what they want us to do on public lands FIRST 2) Whatever we do should be compatible with climate change. When a red cedar dies, do we plant another or maybe some non-indigenous sp which has a better chance? 3) This program must meet goals and objectives or all other Saanich departments like Parks. Trees.	1/25/2021 4:53 PM

Q7 Proposed ObjectivesThe Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) proposes the following objectives for Resilient Saanich. The RSTC defines objectives as the purpose of actions intended to attain a desired goal.Please indicate your level of support for each proposed objective:

Answered: 152 Skipped: 27


Resilient Saanich Draft Goals & Objectives
1. Fairly and effectively...
2. Foste resistance a...
3. Engage and support...
4. Update bylaws and...
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
Do not support
Neutral
Support
Unsure

Resilient Saanich Draft Goals & Objectives

	DO NOT SUPPORT	NEUTRAL	SUPPORT	UNSURE	TOTAL
1. Fairly and effectively manage the natural and built environment to adapt to climate change, and enhance biodiversity and other essential ecosystem services	6.58% 10	8.55% 13	80.92% 123	3.95% 6	152
2. Foster resistance and regenerative capacity (i.e., resilience) to our landscapes against escalating environmental shock and stressors	4.64% 7	11.26% 17	75.50% 114	8.61% 13	151
3. Engage and support citizens in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewardship	2.67% 4	6.00% 9	90.00% 135	1.33% 2	150
4. Update bylaws and policies across all departments to be transparent and consistent with the Environmental Policy Framework	4.64% 7	9.27% 14	82.12% 124	3.97% 6	151

#	DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THESE OBJECTIVES? ARE THERE ANY OBJECTIVES YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?	DATE
1	Our urban environment has had significant reductions in urban forest and environmental connectivity for many years. This is continuing at a seemingly unabated rate as lots and areas with significant forest on "develop-able lots" are not envisioned as significant natural areas. Higher density development must be planned and needs to occur around village centers. This is also where affordable housing needs to be created. Developing large numbers of expensive residences on forested lots that sell for approximately $1,000,000 is not affordable housing, and achieves the exact opposite of a resilient Saanich for our future	3/15/2021 11:53 AM
2	Bylaws also need to be enforced. For example, Saanich Bylaw No 8556 35.1 "No person shall feed a deer within the municipality." Not enforcing bylaws makes a mockery of them. Also, failure to enforce a bylaw may potentially lead to legal jeopardy for the municipality.	3/15/2021 10:46 AM
3	Strongly support #4. Needs to be more transparency and adherence to policy by council and staff.	3/15/2021 9:38 AM
4	Any bylaws need to be supported by widely dispersed as well as focused information, fines and enforcement as people do not easily respond to changes. We are loving our natural areas to extinction.	3/15/2021 8:40 AM
5	I thought some of the objectives could be worded more clearly. They do not have the time frame as set out for SMART objectives, but elsewhere I did see a time line for the entire process. 1 Fairly and effectively manage the natural and built (perhaps cultural or man-made is a better word?) to protect biodiversity, prevent natural habitat loss, maintain essential ecosystem services and adapt to climate change. 2. Foster resilience (i.e. regenerative capacity) in our landscape to adapt to environmental stressors (such as invasive species, increased storms, heat waves) 3. Engage and support citizens in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewardship 4. Update policy and bylaws across all departments to be consistent with the Environmental Policy Framework and be clear and transparent	3/15/2021 8:17 AM
6	The phrase "biodiversity enhancements" needs to be specifically directed towards restoration of native species and their habitats. The planting of exotics technically "enhances biodiversity" (richness) but does not offer a real benefit to the species that evolved in this region and are part of a complex ecological network of interrelationships. The use of exotic species under the auspices of "climate resilience" is another annoyance that needs to be eliminated – the species that occur in Garry oak and associated ecosystems survived the Hypsithermal Optimum warming period 7,000 to 5,000 years ago and many will be perfectly suited to handle the current shifts we are experiencing due to climate change .	3/15/2021 7:28 AM
7	I support 3 and 4 strongly in principle, but suggest: 3. "Engage and support landowners and the wider public in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewardship" [owners that aren't citizens? private landowners are key component and wider public all have a role to play] 4. Update bylaws, etc. - only neutral since it depends on strengthening this framework to put the environment first as suggested earlier in vision, principles, etc. I would also hope that "managing" is not limited to municipal-owned assets but considers the full extent of land/natural and built environment in Saanich. Community stewardship actions can make great contributions and partnerships with all areas/actors are important, but as the leadership, Saanich should take some responsibility for incentivizing, regulating and educating Saanich for positive change from public to private sector. Where assets/products are not owned or in Saanich's jurisdiction to control, Saanich should seek innovative partnerships to lead change and look for similar examples from further afield if there are none in BC. Objectives to add: "Gather the baseline for habitat and species conservation action planning in Saanich, including public and private land (considering Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory areas, Significantly Treed Areas, parks and protected areas, wildlife corridors and stepping stones for connectivity, urban forest canopy, known or status unknown priority conservation species).	3/15/2021 4:11 AM
8	I basically support #1, but feel like "fairly" is a wiggle word that could be used to justify being "fair" to developers at the expense of community members. That word should be either defined or removed. The grammar and syntax of #2 make its meaning unclear. I suggest this rewording (changes in CAPS: "Foster resistance and regenerative capacity (i.e., resilience) IN our landscapes TO BUFFER THEM against escalating environmental shock and stressors	3/14/2021 3:06 PM
9	3. Recognize that people, and the growing population, are part of the environment in balancing the needs of people and the natural and built environments.	3/14/2021 2:56 PM

10	Transparency and consistency with the Environmental Policy Framework by all departments is key. We have seen the conditional approval process that led to the fragmentation of the Milner Avenue properties and allowance of a development plan that is inconsistent with all existing neighbourhood plans, natural protection bylaws, etc. This is piecemeal loss of habitat that is critical.	3/12/2021 10:39 AM
11	No	3/10/2021 4:24 PM
12	Number 2: Regenerative capacity is not just resilience, it is more than that. Number 3: Unclear what this means	3/10/2021 3:50 PM
13	What is the Environment Policy framework? I am assuming it is a "good" thing.	3/10/2021 2:45 PM
14	It would be really helpful to have guidance and support on landscape design for homeowners that promote biodiversity. Theres quite a bit of confusing and conflicting information out there, and it's not clear which way to go.	3/10/2021 10:11 AM
15	(point #4) As I stated previously, a bylaw can be a vital tool to help guide residents' actions that affect the environment IF IT IS ENFORCED. Saanich Bylaw No. 8556 35.1 "No person shall feed a deer within the municipality" is an excellent bylaw, common to most of our municipalities. In order to enforce it, Saanich should hire more bylaw enforcement officers. We have only two officers: the same number as existed in 1966! There must also be good leadership and commitment to supporting and enforcing the existing principles. This process should be used to strengthen existing positive ecological policies and bylaws (such as bylaws designed to protect the environment), to make them a reality--to give them teeth!	3/5/2021 2:07 PM
16	2. In the light of rapidly diminishing number of native plants, particularly trees and shrubs such as arbutus, Garry oak, ocean spray, etc. FORMER MEASURES TO CONTROL DEER POPULATIONS OVER GENERATIONS NEED TO BE RESTORED. As a resident of Saanich [redacted] I have seen the rapid decline of native plants which are vital to the ecological balance: our forests are not being replenished.	3/5/2021 11:28 AM
17	Number 1. Not clear what ' essential ecosystem services' are. Perhaps a clearer term could be used. Number 1. is two different things: 1. Managing environment to adapt to climate change. 2. Enhancing biodiversity. It should be two different objectives, with enhancing biodiversity being Number 1, and managing environment Number 2.	3/5/2021 10:10 AM
18	5. Create and sustain the means to identify key indicators of the health of our ecosystems (terrestrial and marine), to monitor and report on these to guide future municipal action.	3/5/2021 9:31 AM
19	Suggest more specifics such as what sort of bylaws and policies that will support the Framework? What specific measures are envisioned to foster regenerative capacity? What about less pavement to enhance drainage? What about more water gardens? What about planting of street boulevards? Allowing backyard poultry rearing?	3/3/2021 7:49 PM
20	Re objective 1, I think "fairly and effectively manage the natural and built environment" is too 'loose' a phrase and needs strengthening or reworking. Fair to whom? How do we measure 'effective'? Are natural and built environments mutually exclusive? If an initiative favours one over the other, how is the outcome decided? Re objective 2, foster resilience and regenerative capacity is good but maybe needs strengthening. How do we "foster"? Who "fosters"? Can citizens foster? How are initiatives under this objective funded? I think objective 3 is good I think objective 4 is good and assume that, as bylaws, policies, etc are updated, the community would be consulted.	3/3/2021 1:01 PM
21	I have no idea how you will measure how well the objectives have been met. How will you know you've met the objectives.	3/2/2021 9:59 PM
22	All these plans and the previous ones (eg vision principles, goals and objectives) are like "mother love and apple pie". How could anyone disagree with them? But the sad reality is that success depends on the practical application of these very general ideas and principles. What were the reasons for the failure of the Environmental Protection Strategy for Garry Oaks? A large portion of the community (or at least those with political influence and/or those who could organize) managed to get it reversed. How are you going to manage the practical application of these grand ideas?	3/2/2021 5:47 PM
23	Meadurement and metrics not provided.	3/2/2021 12:55 PM
24	I think that is project should take place as vote by citizens of Saanich in the next municipal election.	3/2/2021 12:23 PM

25	Would like more details on stewardship... unpack and identify how, when, where, why, who, what....	3/2/2021 11:23 AM
26	#1 - Again nice words. However, why do we put up even brighter street lights that are harmful to birds and insects? It is great to save energy with LEDs but there should be light shields to direct the light down to the ground and avoid light pollution into homes and into the sky. This is a perfect example of application of this objective that I have asked about but I hit a blank wall when I call Saanich. Why should I trust that we will follow this objective in the future, when we are not following it now? #4 is what I was talking about in the last question. It is a huge task and there should be no laws made that will not be enforced.	3/2/2021 10:33 AM
27	TRANSPARENCY and listening to experts and the TAX paying public is paramount.	3/2/2021 8:12 AM
28	For #1, it's not clear what 'fairly' is trying to balance. This is one of the very few places in the proposals that mentions the built environment. I'm concerned with wording that can be taken as one-sided and allow employees to interpret rules to suit their personal preferences, rather than the Official Community Plan.	3/1/2021 1:14 PM
29	#1 I am stuck on "fairly and effectively". It begs the questions "fair to whom" and "effective measured against what criteria?" It seems this is subjective and could be abused as a loophole. For example, I can imagine developers will want to be excused from environmental stewardship because it is only "fair" that they make a good profit and not be burdened by municipal expectations. # 2 doesn't communicate to me. I think I get the general feel for what you are saying but ????????? #2 "to our landscapes" or should it be "in our landscapes" or "of our landscapes"? #3 Fully support this. Seems to be key. Seems like there are many parts to this including communicating the vision, providing environmental education that improves ecoliteracy and helps people become more aware of ecological dynamics, encouraging a shift in values (ex. reflecting on how our consumer culture impacts natural systems) AND providing the mechanics for stewardship in the form of infrastructure, policies, and other tools	2/26/2021 3:25 PM
30	I think it important that resiliency does not come to mean only climate change programming. That idea comes to mind as I read objectives 1 and 2.	2/23/2021 8:56 PM
31	#3- Would like to see Mayor and Council more readily accessible to the public- responding to emails in timely manner or do a weekly public note. Find ways to engage with constituents. Lead by example to active and beneficial stewardship through diverse approaches. #4- like transparent. Is there a way for citizens to address when governments are not being "transparent"?	2/23/2021 3:40 PM
32	As a way to engage and support citizens in efforts towards beneficial stewardship there may need to be a combination of mandatory education prior to proposed development, incentives for reparation (such as provision of inexpensive native plants) or preservation of natural environments and really strong disincentives for going against the bylaws and policies (not just fines as some people are completely unaffected by these). There needs to be more proactive and active follow-up (more staff?) in order to do this and not always rely on neighbours' complaints as the driver. That does nothing to foster good community relationships. In rural settings, it is often pretty obvious who has put in the complaint.	2/23/2021 3:19 PM
33	Worry about residential bylaws following previous EDPA	2/21/2021 3:11 PM
34	#3 Would like to see the Mayor and council more readily accessible to the public. eg responding in a timely manner to emails. Find innovative ways to engage with your constituents. #3 Engage Mayor and Council in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewardship. Lead by example! We like the word "transparent." Do citizens have a mechanism to address when governments are not being transparent.	2/20/2021 11:03 AM
35	Fairly and effectively is far too vague for my liking. Can you be more explicit? Are you taking a SROI approach to this measurement? Recommend that you include perhaps that the 'fairness and effectiveness' will be articulated very transparently and will be measured using a SROI approach that is jointly decided upon by Indigenous peoples within the territory alongside Saanich representatives.	2/20/2021 9:55 AM
36	Effective restoration of degraded landscapes will be essential to achieving these objecties.	2/19/2021 4:13 PM
37	As noted earlier, there needs to be some mention of a mechanism for residents of Saanich to allow for consideration / review of decisions made by Saanich for exemptions from the plan, based on the merits of the case. For example, removal of hazardous trees on a resident's property.	2/19/2021 1:18 PM

38	Do these capture the need to support urban agriculture or growing one's food	2/19/2021 7:58 AM
39	In regard to process, No. 4, I would like to be assured that the biodiversity strategy will involve all other relevant departments at the earliest stages. An interdepartmental working group might be a wayt to achieve that.	2/18/2021 11:40 PM
40	In the first question, what does fairly mean? It is a very wide sweeping term.	2/18/2021 10:52 AM
41	2. "to our landscapes..." unclear what our means. Should broadly apply to air land and water so suggest removing "to our landscapes".	2/17/2021 2:02 PM
42	Public land only in all these initiatives.	2/16/2021 8:22 PM
43	Will the Resilient Saanich members be given priority towards funds needed to restore/rehabilitate an ecosensitive area? Example: Saanich resident donates or bequeaths a piece of land that is a basic lot. Would the proceeds of the property sale be shared with Parks and Resilient Saanich projects? Is there a set Budget allotted to Resilient Saanich? Ie: Increased, decreased per annum?	2/16/2021 6:58 PM
44	Number 4 also makes me nervous as I have a deep mistrust of the Saanich Environmental department management and their ability to manage any authority they may be granted. I would need to see a strong and independent arbitration panel to deal with any conflicts between Saanich departmental managers and residence when it comes to interpreting and enforcing bylaws.	2/16/2021 1:28 PM
45	See my previous comments. Environmental ideology or science and pragmatism?	2/16/2021 10:31 AM
46	Review the costs of bylaw changes and ensure that these costs are both fairly distributed and can be borne by the lower income citizens of Saanich.	2/15/2021 10:22 PM
47	Trust has to be step 1, EDPA and staffers heavy handed approach has lost trust. The question to ask is what's the impact if we stay as is today with current policy framework	2/15/2021 8:45 PM
48	1 and 2. The change we are likely to get will exceed the capacity of many existing parts of the eco system to survive here and they will be replaced by species compatible with the new and evolving reality. You can slow the change perhaps but not stop it before much of the ecosystem has changed. Do not pee into the wind. 4. Add "as appropriate."	2/15/2021 7:49 PM
49	DO NOT force Saanich residents to restore their property to previous natural environment	2/15/2021 12:57 PM
50	Objectives #1. and #2, are such vague and general "planner's speak" statements as to be practically meaningless. Try again please. It is way past time to fit buildings and infrastructure into the existing environment and important species and natural communities. We are still placing the importance of buildings and infrastructure over the cost of the built environment. Degradation of the environment is getting worse, not better, and it is current today and obvious. A very old statement, that is even more important today, is "Plan With Nature".	2/14/2021 3:57 PM
51	Update what bylaws/policies? Has the committee been working with staff from a variety of departments to better understand the policies and bylaws in play?	2/12/2021 2:56 PM
52	I am a little concerned about the word "fairly" as one person's idea of what is fair in a given situation and another person's can be vastly different and because people with power and money (eg. wealthy homeowners are far more likely to get their way in arguing that something is unfair to them and possibly hiring lawyers for the purpose than low income IBPOC folks, for instance). If we are going to talk fairness, then I hope the environment has a voice and fairness to the environment is the paramount consideration, not fairness to people.	2/11/2021 4:17 PM
53	Again, some of these are too broad. Objectives need to be even more specific than goals, and ideally also measurable and time-specific.	2/11/2021 1:50 PM
54	Bylaws and policies should be updated to reduce impact on private citizens and local industry.	2/11/2021 9:36 AM
55	1 is silent on exiting fossil fuels. To achieve climate resilience, people need to be able to make progress to meaningful solutions. If there is no progress on emissions, the climate resilience framework would be severely handicapped--those activities are part and parcel with the development of resilient systems. As a sidebar on the levels of GHG cuts needed to stabilize atmospheric concentrations, please see IPCC AR4 FAQ 10.3: https://archive.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg1/en/faq-10-3.html 2. This objective sounds good but it is so general that is unclear how the objective will be achieved. The	2/9/2021 11:08 PM

	generality may either limit the usefulness of this objective to result in any improvements, or be so unbounded as to open its application to excess. I'm not clear about what 2 is saying. 3. This is good. Please note that the wording is awkward. 4. This review will take a lot of work! Consistency is probably primary over transparency in this context. Instead of transparent, might it be better to aim for bylaws and policies to be clearly connected with the framework (rather than transparent with the framework).	
56	5. Ensure that the costs to taxpayers of the objectives are transparent.	2/9/2021 2:16 PM
57	Terminology is confusing and inconsistent. Fair and effective management is a generic municipal objective when spending taxpayer dollars. Natural and built environment applies to everything within the municipality. Climate change is challenging to measure and define. Biodiversity and ecosystem services are broad encompassing terms. Maintaining resilience implies a desired underlying desired environmental state which is very difficult to measure. Adjusting all bylaws and policies to be consistent with the environmental policy framework implies that environmental policy framework is paramount over other policies. Support public engagement is environmental stewardship.	2/9/2021 11:43 AM
58	Objective 4 should indicate municipal practices as well.	2/8/2021 9:44 PM
59	1. Fairly? No, unless nature is given priority for a change, there will be no chance for adaptation to climate change.	2/7/2021 9:51 PM
60	Figure out ongoing advisory committee & other citizen PARTICIPATION in al of this. Real INVOLVEMENT working with staff.	2/6/2021 11:16 AM
61	Excellent.	2/5/2021 2:27 PM
62	The reason I selected unsure on all of the proposed objectives was because of my fear that when you update the bylaws we will have a similar fiasco as EDPA.	2/5/2021 2:09 PM
63	A municipality is the wrong level of government for this. Important issues, not for city council.	2/4/2021 10:50 PM
64	In my experience and that of a great many others (as evidenced by print and visual - news-media) , Saanich council frequently ignores the concerns of constituents regarding the densification of their neighbourhoods in favour of development/developers. I wonder about the extent to which Saanich will acknowledge and address issues regarding biodiversity on a larger scale when it has ignored the concerns of neighbours trying to protect the meadows, orchards, and Garry oak ecosystems on properties proposed for development. In other words, there seems to be some hypocrisy and a disconnect on Council's part regarding the necessity and importance of biodiversity as it pertains to those areas in which people live and raise their families. Objective: Protect what is green and natural on properties slated for development and redevelopment. Objective: Reinstate those neighbourhoods that were previously in the EDPA back into the EDPA - or a similar plan. Objective: Create a plan (subject to regular updating) that addresses the need for housing that respects and does not compromise the environmental impacts on neighbourhoods. Both aspects must be afforded equal weight in deliberations: development cannot trump the environment and neighbour's concerns regarding same. Furthermore, there must be accountability for decisions made beyond the electoral process.	2/4/2021 7:37 PM
65	I support Goal 3 ("Engage and support citizens in diverse approaches...") and I think it's a great goal. I do wonder if businesses in Saanich are being missed in these goals, or if they're considered "citizens"? I think many of the businesses in Saanich, as well as many of the commercial property owners, need to be engaged in the work of stewardship, and I wonder if that should be called out more specifically?	2/4/2021 5:17 PM
66	I think incentives are an important part of engaging citizens in environmental policies such as habitat conservation and may be seen as more positive than a bylaw.	2/4/2021 5:16 PM
67	2. Again, language and terminology ... what do you mean by "landscapes"?	2/4/2021 4:41 PM
68	Bylaws you could consider: - Allow for multi-purpose uses for front lawns (native plant garden, food garden, pollinator garden, etc..) - Allow for easier access to green roofs to make additional space for native species. - Create a locally based internet space for local (only) organizations, businesses, and governing bodies to communicate and collaborate through. - Ban the selling, purchase, and use of harmful pesticides and replace with safer methods (companion planting, biodiverse gardening, etc...) - Allow for more spaces in urban/suburban environments to exist (i.e. Create transitional zones between human spaces and ecosystem spaces)	1/26/2021 6:33 PM

Q8 Is there anything else you would like to let us know at this point in the initiative?

Answered: 85 Skipped: 94

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	There are many reasons to act much more quickly than starting in 2030.	3/15/2021 11:55 AM
2	Whilst it is credit worthy that Saanich are proposing these environmental objectives and consulting the public at large, the aims and objectives are still too 'abstract' and subjective to fully commit support to. Whatever the outcomes it is imperative that Saanich and First Nation communities lead by example before any thought is given to adjusting bylaws detailing constraints or obligations onto other areas and in particular, property owners within the community. Any costs associated with future bylaws on environmental protection issues for existing property owners should be paid for by the public at large via grants without a retrospective bylaw charging any owner or devaluing any individuals property.	3/15/2021 11:01 AM
3	I believe that facilitating community dialogue around this initiative will be central to its success. Facilitating dialogue between people and organizations also extends their relational space and builds empathy and a stronger, more understanding community.	3/15/2021 10:47 AM
4	I'm a member of the Mount Work Coalition and support its input to the CRD re expansion of the Hartland landfill and preservation of the adjacent forest. Creatively United is another locally based initiative that partners with such orgs and produces weekly climate change/water stewardship webinars that reach a large audience. [redacted] is the contact -- I'm sure she would be open to collaboration "spreading the word"...	3/15/2021 9:46 AM
5	Saanich has very important ecosystems and natural habitats on private land and it is important to come up with a process to ensure landowners and developers can protect those remnant patches.	3/15/2021 8:19 AM
6	I wanted you to know that the mail out method is not effective when an unaddressed ad-mail format is used. Many people have a request in to Canada Post to not deliver unaddressed mail. Ironically this method may have eliminated many of your most conservation-minded citizens because they are the most likely people to request less paper waste in their mailbox. Perhaps water bills, taxes, and other forms of addressed mail could include information about the process in the future. I am hopeful that this committee will have far-reaching and positive impacts on all the residents of Saanich and the region - and by residents I also mean all of the native flora and fauna. We are living in a region that has just recently been declared a Crisis Ecoregion by the Nature Conservancy of Canada- we need to act immediately to reverse the losses (https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9ca69385ffc54cf6b9fdae925449d15d).	3/15/2021 7:45 AM
7	Even though Saanich's recently approved Climate Plan, included a graphic that 1000 x more carbon is stored in a large tree than a small tree, and acknowledged Garry oak ecosystems as disappearing and under threat mostly on private land and as being of highest conservation priority, there is little there to safeguard mature Garry oak trees and sensitive woodland ecosystems on private land if these are in the building envelope or utility areas - now that there is no EDPA bylaw. Consequently, there is a gap from at least 2018-2022 in which there is NO protection for Garry oak woodlands on private land in Saanich. Given the cost of land in the urban area, there is also a gap in protecting and incentivizing protection of existing mature urban forest in Saanich - that is a cost that cannot easily be borne by land trusts for example. This disappearing urban forest was acknowledged as of concern in the Urban Forest strategy. Since interim protection measures were not supported by Council, this Resilient Saanich initiative will come too late for much of the urban forest on private land, such as that between Milner Avenue/Leveret Place/Narain Lane -- despite land trusts and other environmental organizations, including the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society stating that it should be protected. While good initiatives on their own, Saanich Boulevard Partnership Tree Program, tree planting in general and invasive species removal (e.g. Pulling Together Programs) are inadequate to fulfill the goal of "protecting our unique biodiversity and habitat" without any efforts on the part of Saanich to expand the natural areas network to include stepping stones, areas of mature urban forest and recognized SEI and significantly treed areas on private land under threat from the new 'free for all' urban development released by rescinding the EDPA bylaw in 2018. The Urban Forest Reserve Fund mentioned in the Climate Plan emphasizes enhancing the urban forest through planting or acquiring land to plant trees; it should include acquiring mature urban Garry oak woodland as well since that is a valuable part of the urban forest and an existing carbon sink to help mitigate climate change. Wherever possible, the 5% for developments should be used to maintain sensitive ecosystem areas on site or the fee be used to support acquiring more sensitive ecosystem for parks.	3/15/2021 4:37 AM
8	Please try to maintain natural habitats like the Milner /leverate lots. We need the green spaces for future generations	3/14/2021 10:18 PM

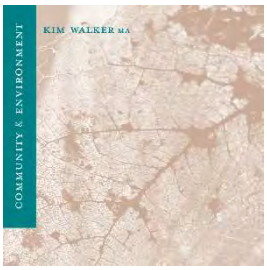
9	I think the draft goals and objectives are headed in the right direction, but they seem very soft and easily manipulated to meet political agendas that aren't about environmental stewardship or providing adequate protection to native species and ecosystems. Despite the "BiodiverCITY" slogan, I don't see biodiversity being place front and centre within these goals and objectives, as I believe it should be.	3/14/2021 3:15 PM
10	The Parks Division, with which I have dealt regarding the Tree Bylaw and other environmental programs, would be better suited to lead Resilient Saanich than the Planning Department. Environmental Services under the Planning Department has taken a rather adversarial approach to implementing regulations and seems incapable of communicating with the Parks Division in enforcing the Tree Bylaw. The tree cutting incident behind the Pearkes Recreation Centre reported in July, 2020 reflects that staff did not adequately inform Council before it gave approval for the construction of a daycare. The Parks Division has experience in dealing with both public and private lands, unlike the Planning Department and its divisions that deal only with private properties. The Parks Division has also demonstrated an ability to generate cooperation and voluntary programs for assisting in the stewardship of public lands, which could be a useful template in dealing with private property owners. I should also think that the Parks Division would be in a better position to map and manage ESAs within the parks and extend that experience to private properties, particularly given the Planning Department's failures with the previous EDPA. By taking the lead with protecting public lands the Parks Division can show leadership for private property owners to voluntarily follow with enhancing biodiversity on their own properties.	3/14/2021 3:13 PM
11	Emphasis again on habitat protection both on private and public lands, particularly with regard to mature trees, Garry oak woodlands, etc. More parkland creation that is maintained in natural state.	3/12/2021 10:40 AM
12	No	3/10/2021 4:24 PM
13	Low hanging fruit: Switch all landscape maintenance equipment to electric including that used at golf courses. Phase out the sale and use of gas powered landscape maintenance equipment. Phase out the sale and use of fossil fueled outdoor patio heaters (post-covid) Reinstate "Air-Care" vehicle emission testing.	3/10/2021 3:05 PM
14	Action speaks louder than words.	3/10/2021 2:45 PM
15	Make sure they're followed.	3/8/2021 10:09 PM
16	I am a consulting biologist providing services to landowners, and in this role, I would ask that as the RSTC moves forward in developing the details for implementation that they define clearly the method of assessment is, so that we are able to clearly articulate the implications of the regulations and the results of an assessment to the landowners. And also, so that the results of an assessment should be replicable between professionals.	3/8/2021 2:27 PM
17	Good work. Positive in outlook, but needs to address issues of overdevelopment, high rises, conversion of natural areas/ag land, etc. to subdivisions, roadways, businesses, etc.	3/6/2021 6:11 PM
18	I am concerned about the continued loss of our natural tree canopy & associated intact or damaged ecosystems. I hope this new initiative will really enable the preservation, conservation and restoration of the natural & native ecosystems along with the vital environmental services they provide! I continue to ask the question: when will a natural functioning living species community be as valued as a housing development?	3/6/2021 12:50 PM
19	Saanich is caught between economic pressures (contractors, realtors and other business) and expressed desires from residents and taxpayers to preserve and enhance our ecology. I am hopeful that this process will be used to bring the community together around preserving our biodiversity.	3/5/2021 2:36 PM
20	I would like to see all businesses & property owners be responsible for removing blackberries & English ivy on their properties.	3/5/2021 11:31 AM
21	Someone at the Zoom open house last night mentioned North Vancouver as an excellent example. It was not mentioned among the cities looked at by Saanich, and should be included, as it sounds to have had a successful outcome.	3/5/2021 10:11 AM
22	Recognize the critical role of an educated and informed community to act responsibly, to contribute to sustaining nature, and to engage with the Municipality.	3/5/2021 9:34 AM

23	Overall I believe the goals and objectives need to be more specific.	3/3/2021 7:49 PM
24	Fully support the stated process	3/3/2021 5:12 PM
25	I really don't understand what is proposed to be done?	3/2/2021 10:00 PM
26	If your planning project is going to last more than 1 more year, what about considering starting a mini-project with volunteers to test an idea (s)? e.g. Phyllis Park volunteers have some native habitat restoration ideas, use of exclosures in parks to get some concrete evidence of what is happening etc.	3/2/2021 5:51 PM
27	Improvements to existing parks, trails and greenspaces is vital...particularly removing invasive plants and restoration of native flora. Addition of interpretive signage and learning opportunities for the public are highly desirable. Partnership with First Nations in providing ethnobotanical knowledge/local Indigenous history should be prioritized.	3/2/2021 3:52 PM
28	Consideration of rural as well as urban Saanich.	3/2/2021 12:56 PM
29	It's coming along nicely!	3/2/2021 12:33 PM
30	Stop the density.it is the single most important issue that is negatively affecting our environment and our mental health.	3/2/2021 12:25 PM
31	I am a teacher and am presenting to my students... I think it should be presented to all students but be made into more of a student friendly presentation... all Saanich Schools....	3/2/2021 11:24 AM
32	Hire non involved experts and keep it above board.	3/2/2021 8:13 AM
33	The number one thing that seems to be missing is a decision-making framework which employees can use to figure out the right balance between: a) environmental issues b) private land uses c) new development d) existing development e) public land uses f) cost/benefit I'm concerned employees will feel empowered to create harsh requirements for new development (both from a cost point of view and from a land use point of view), without holding public lands and existing developments to the same standards. This will result in an unfair amount of the environmental improvement burden being borne by new developments. The goals and objectives should guide them to finding appropriate balances that share the burden much more equitably.	3/1/2021 1:20 PM
34	As this moves forward I feel it will be important to ensure that any new development includes consideration for environmental impact.	2/27/2021 2:31 PM
35	I am encouraged by the direction Saanich is going in all of this and I am hopeful that much good will come from this. I commend Saanich and the RSTC for their work thus far. I think I will share my thoughts around specific topics (food security, urban forest, Panama Flats, etc) in separate communications.	2/26/2021 3:30 PM
36	I have suggestions that are not as high level as this - more details than overarching goals. I think that more stress on encouraging and incentivizing private land owners to convert lawns to forest/woodland/native plant/insect/animal sanctuaries needs to be addressed. Adjusted property taxes based on how much of the land has been converted from lawn to native ecosystem or native plant agriculture minus invasives - could really help return the land to biodiversity.	2/26/2021 9:57 AM
37	New Tricks with Old Bricks https://www.world-habitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/New-Tricks-with-Old-Bricks1.pdf Food for People Not Animals—Farmland used for human-consumable plants not industrial animal or "grass-fed" elite and false food markets	2/25/2021 4:48 PM
38	My main concern is year round access to the Saanich trail network	2/24/2021 7:19 PM
39	No.	2/24/2021 4:12 PM
40	I have always been interested in bird life. The loss of so many birds in North America (3 billion in the last 50 years) is an horrendous condemnation of how we have behaved. We have to change direction and it has to be done at the local level as well as nationally and internationally. I can read "birds" in every level of the approach to resiliency presented here but bird life needs to be explicitly considered please.	2/23/2021 9:00 PM
41	Thank you for your work so far	2/23/2021 3:41 PM
42	I am very concerned that Saanich is losing its wild spaces. These should exist on private	2/23/2021 3:29 PM

	property and not just be preserved in parks. Greenways need to be developed/preserved to allow for wildlife corridors and help prevent human/wildlife conflict. There is only so much farm land so preserving this is imperative...exceptions and variances need to be exceedingly rare. Passing the buck between ALC and municipality does not encourage land owner accountability. If farm land is allowed to be developed or a forest is allowed to be cut down, who then follows up to make sure that only what is truly needed is done and that the developer doesn't have carte blanche? Above all soil needs to be protected. Excessive amounts of rock and fill on agricultural soil is visible around Saanich. It would take an enormous effort to try to bring the land back to farmable state once that happens. In essence it is permanently making the land non-farmable for future generations.	
43	There has been nothing so far here to make me think you are thinking directly about people - our homeless and inadequately housed people, or our very young, or special needs, or very old people. Ditto about harnessing the energy and commitment of all people to put more of themselves into making this a strong community. Ditto about addressing racism here.	2/22/2021 3:37 PM
44	When is the vision, goals no objectives going to be realized?	2/20/2021 5:53 PM
45	On the whole we think Saanich Council has been quite progressive on acting on climate change. Just need them to accelerate their actions to put our house fire out!	2/20/2021 11:05 AM
46	Thanks for moving this ahead.	2/20/2021 9:56 AM
47	Achieving a meaningful level of improved biodiversity and resilience requires more commitment than we have seen to date from both residents and government. The lack of measurable improvement, or perhaps degradation, which has occurred demonstrates the need for a different approach. Hopefully a plan to make the required changes politically feasible can be developed. Change is hard.	2/19/2021 6:44 PM
48	Rebuild natural ecosystems as these are the most effective in addressing future uncertainties. Focus on Garry Oak and related ecosystems.	2/19/2021 4:14 PM
49	Again, as noted earlier, there needs to be some mention of a mechanism for residents of Saanich to allow for consideration / review of decisions made by Saanich for exemptions from the plan, based on the merits of the case. For example, removal of hazardous trees on a resident's property.	2/19/2021 1:18 PM
50	Amazing work so far!!	2/19/2021 7:58 AM
51	Please see further on regarding private land stewardship	2/18/2021 11:40 PM
52	Thank you for taking on this very important work. It is fundamental to our physical, mental and spiritual well being.	2/17/2021 7:38 PM
53	I am so impressed by the breadth of the Goals and Objectives! Well done!	2/17/2021 2:49 PM
54	As a key sensitivity identified in planning to date will be scope and strategies involving privately owned property, transparency and engagement with stakeholders that may be directly impacted on key decision points is critical in achieving balanced outcomes.	2/17/2021 2:07 PM
55	Will wildfire prevention be a priority and Fire department recommendations be followed.? Ie: removal of dead trees, grasses and shrubs near ecosensitive areas?	2/16/2021 7:02 PM
56	The Saanich Environmental Department must not have final decision-making power over how private residence are managed, maintained or developed.	2/16/2021 1:29 PM
57	Treat landowners as potential allies and not enemies.	2/16/2021 10:32 AM
58	This drive for this initiative should come from the public, not from staff.	2/15/2021 10:23 PM
59	Your heart is in the right place, your intent is good, but it is the staff who is going to run with this and they, experience has taught us, need some restraint in Saanich.	2/15/2021 7:52 PM
60	The term "Resilient Saanich" has a much stronger social than environmental context and does not reflect the focus of this initiative. The timeframe to have the "final report" to Council at the end of 2022 is far too late. Interim measures are needed immediately to replace the previous environmental protections as we are loosing our natural areas to development daily	2/15/2021 1:52 PM
61	Finally make decisions rather than keep going back if the decisions are counter to what the staff at council envisaged	2/15/2021 1:08 PM

62	DO NOT force Saanich residents to restore their property to a previous natural state.	2/15/2021 12:58 PM
63	We are very late in taking actions, push hard to speed up the process o protecting the environment. It does not need to be destroyed to provide housing. We are going through yet another wave of destructive building by putting buildings and services ON the disappearing trees and habitat rather than around or near them.	2/14/2021 4:08 PM
64	I noticed that the fact sheet is available in Chinese and Punjabi, as well as English. Wonderful! Canada's second official language is French. Making the fact sheet available in French would allow the French Immersion teachers students in the district to engage in the project in their language of instruction.	2/13/2021 9:56 AM
65	This survey doesn't seem to really engage. It's just confirming what has already been determined/decided. This is not true engagement	2/12/2021 2:57 PM
66	I want to plug my support for domestic cat policies that support and are aligned with biodiversity conservation targets. Outdoor cats are degrading biodiversity in our urban areas.	2/11/2021 7:23 PM
67	Based on the goals and objectives proposed, I think it might be beneficial to have someone with strategic planning expertise involved in designing this initiative.	2/11/2021 1:52 PM
68	Lower municipal taxes and fees for all residents and local businesses.	2/11/2021 9:37 AM
69	The natural environment, it's ecological and biological systems need to have a greater value applied in regards to land use than roads and buildings.	2/10/2021 2:42 PM
70	The single most important thing we can do as inhabitants of this planet is to realize that we are part of nature, not apart from nature. If we fail to do this we will not survive.	2/10/2021 12:11 PM
71	goals for longterm but focus on short term. considering budget constraints and minimizing additional burden on taxpayers. priority for home owners as opposed to residents who dont have the long-term connection with this district	2/10/2021 11:56 AM
72	Thanks for the chance to provide input. Resilience should include participation in meaningful contributions to resolve the climate problem. Those things cannot be kept separate in some other framework.	2/9/2021 11:12 PM
73	How much has been spent thus far on this boondoggle, and is there a budgeted maximum that will be spent.	2/9/2021 2:18 PM
74	Congratulations to the municipality in seeking to clarify a very confusing situation. Strongly emphasize need for Saanich to stay within its jurisdictional authority and recognize the authorities of federal, provincial, regional and First Nations governments. Thanks.	2/9/2021 11:46 AM
75	The rules should apply to all lands, including existing transport corridors and Saanich Parks. In this respect the Municipality should lead by providing examples of work don on public lands. Work on the principal of using the "carrot" approach is much better than using the "stick". This may may eventually lead to property tax breaks being offered to private property owners to encourage tam to do the right thing.	2/7/2021 9:25 PM
76	I realize this feedback is probably too early in the process, but given the strong agricultural and gardening communities in Saanich, it would be wonderful to see some form of district-subsidized community compost initiative. I believe many regions within the U.S. provide free compost to residents. Given that Saanich has a wonderful organics collection program (include the Saanich/Borden drop-off yard), making compost available to residents would encourage enhancement of the natural world on the individual-scale. Additionally, the subsidization of native plants/seeds would promote habitat restoration for pollinators and other important species.	2/5/2021 2:31 PM
77	I laud environmental initiatives however I do not trust Saanich council to pass bylaws that protect taxpayers interests.	2/5/2021 2:11 PM
78	No, I am worn out from my first contact with your program	2/5/2021 9:31 AM
79	Ask real questions and work on the job you have.	2/4/2021 10:50 PM
80	Again, when protecting the environment, it must be remembered that the protection begins, literally, in our backyards. Development needs to be addressed such that those smaller ecosystems already present in our yards and neighbourhoods are properly supported. If	2/4/2021 7:43 PM

	permitted to flourish, the reach of those smaller ecosystems expands to support broader systems. This is not rocket science folks!	
81	I am very encouraged by the efforts of Resilient Saanich and hope that by engaging the public and private stakeholders that the goal of biodiversity can be achieved. It's an important vision and the community needs to be engaged in a positive not punitive way so that there is compliance in the objectives of habitat conservation.	2/4/2021 5:19 PM
82	The visions, principles and objectives are fine, even if they are very broad. See comment about committee membership. Once there are discussions about particular strategies, it will be very important for diverse and non status quo views, deeply creative thinking, and on the ground intervention-ists. We all need to fundamentally rethink how we live and relate. Creative thinkers and people outside the academic, industry, government, business boxes will be important to attract.	2/4/2021 4:44 PM
83	As a lifelong Saanich resident I support policy changes that put more emphasis on protection of nature and biodiversity. I support restrictions on development and, as a homeowner and taxpayer I support restrictions to development of private land that negatively impacts natural areas and tree loss, to the point where I would support higher taxes as a trade-off	2/4/2021 4:05 PM
84	Should keep it simple and focused on environmental stewardship for future generations	2/3/2021 2:12 PM
85	Please try to engage with as many people (and all different kinds of people) living in Saanich as you can!	1/26/2021 6:34 PM



RESILIENT SAANICH FOCUS GROUP SESSIONS

SUMMARY REPORT

APRIL 6, 2021

Prepared by: Kim Walker Community and Environment
2522 Victor Street, Victoria BC, V8R 4C9

Prepared for: District of Saanich, Environmental Services
770 Vernon Avenue, Victoria BC, V8X 2W7

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results from four focus group sessions that were conducted as part of the first Resilient Saanich public engagement in February and March 2021. The goal of the focus groups was to: a) introduce the Resilient Saanich policy framework development process, and b) obtain feedback on the draft vision, principles, goals and objectives developed by the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC).

Saanich Environmental Services Staff invited a variety of stakeholder interests to participate in a focus group. Kim Walker was contracted to host and facilitate the focus groups via online video conferencing. Staff attended the sessions, giving a brief presentation and fielding questions.

The typical setting for a focus group session is face-to-face. However, online video sessions have been used when participants are geographically dispersed or to increase accessibility. In this case, the online approach provided an opportunity for engagement that was not otherwise possible due to COVID-19 restrictions on in-person gatherings.

Focus groups do not necessarily give an accurate sense of broad support or concern across a population. This is particularly true of the Resilient Saanich focus groups since these participants were self-selected, and from a narrow range of stakeholder interests. However, people participate in focus groups with good intentions. Therefore, each message stands on its own merit and counting the number of people who agree or repeat a message would be of limited value. A good idea is a good idea regardless of whether it comes from one person or many.

> A good idea is a good idea, whether it comes from one person or many

The focus group format was very well received by those who participated. Participants also appreciated the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee's work very much.

A total of 60 people attended the four evening sessions. Most were Saanich Parks volunteer stewards and members of environmental and naturalist groups. Two participants were land development and terrestrial ecology consultants. Just over 60% of the participants actively contributed discussions, questions, and written chat messages.

Feedback results are provided in Sections 2.0 to 5.0 with participant quotes (in italics) to illustrate. Section 6.0 provides details on the focus group attendance and response. Section 7.0 summarizes the feedback and includes nine suggestions to successfully implement Resilient Saanich.

2.0 FEEDBACK ON THE VISION

Draft Vision

By 2030, coordinated efforts by all in Saanich / W̱SÁNEĆ yield measurable improvements in climate change resilience, habitat conservation, watershed health and ecological footprint, benefiting all those who share and inhabit our community

The Resilient Saanich environmental policy framework was presented as fitting within the District of Saanich Official Community Plan (OCP), under the environmental integrity component. However, the relationship between Resilient Saanich and the OCP was not clearly understood by everyone.

Will this new vision mean the OCP vision would change?

Could you say a few words about the age of the current plan, the timetables to update it and the process, and how Resilient Saanich can actually integrate with that?

2.1 LANGUAGE & MEANING

Focus group participants who had made substantive comments on the vision thought the language was weak, and the message either not strong enough or not direct enough. Others concurred. One participant wondered about the intended meaning of the word "conservation" and felt it would be less ambiguous to also include the concept of "restoration" in the vision. Another commented that given the scale of environmental degradation both locally and globally, the concept of "rights" should be considered more explicitly in the language.

There was a very specific question on who the intended audience is for this vision statement. The vision needs to resonate for everyone and it needs to be convincing.

The Meaning of Words

The language that we use, I think is really important… I can imagine that conservation could mean just protecting what you've got. Or I can imagine conservation might mean protecting what you got and also restoring or rehabilitating degraded ecosystem …

… in the proposed vision only habitat "conservation" appears – which looks like only extant, perfect chunks of habitat will be valued, without recognition of how much we can add to existing habitat through restoration.

Rights Language

And perhaps one way we could look at that is start thinking about rights language that have intrinsic value, acknowledge environmental rights and you can either talk about the rights of nature or the rights of us to a healthy environment. But some stronger language in those pieces [is needed].

Who is the Audience

… who is this really being written for? Is this meant to inspire? Is this meant to be an inspirational piece for everybody …Is it written for the public, is it written for the people that are going to do the work and for staff? … when people are talking about it, I don't find that it's inspirational necessarily or warmth and inclusive of the community if that's what the goal is. It reads a little bit more like a scientific statement but without, as you say, the hard goals that would be needed to bring comfort, that we have a process that will really achieve something that's meaningful for the larger Saanich community. I just wasn't sure and sorry, I just should understand that, but I wasn't sure.

The Rationale

I don't see where the rationale is given for some people who are maybe not as convinced…. I don't see where the why is addressed. Maybe I'm missing it or maybe I don't understand how these things are laid out, but I can imagine that some folks in the development side of things might want a bit of rationale.

… I just think that you guys are completely on the right track. But this is the easy part as you probably know. The harder part is turning it into something that we're all using every day and feeling good about, and we understand it, and we see the importance of it, and we can see the results, and that's how you build that sort of momentum within the public.

2.2 MEASURABLE IMPROVEMENTS

Some people found the term "measurable improvements" problematic. It is difficult to be precise and concise in a vision statement. However, seeing those words brought some questions forward on what would be measured and how would we determine measurable improvements.

Global Level Objectives

On the vision; I also found it a bit weak. We're in the middle of biodiversity collapse, I think to a great extension, and we're talking about measurable change. I think we want to look at the global level objectives around transformational change and think about how do we achieve transformational change in our own communities. And so, the incremental measurable change, we're talking about transformation….

Measuring Improvements

I also have trouble with the vision, yes, I think it's a bit weak and it's measurable could be anything that's tiny little thing. And why that year [2030]? I think every year we would like to see, improvements, measurable improvements perhaps, but I find that vision not particularly satisfying yet. Though I recognize the Resilient Saanich is doing a great job. I'm very glad that they're there.

2.3 SUBJECT MATTER

When referring to the vision in the context of subject-specific discussions, one person asked if Resilient Saanich would address the coastal shoreline. Perhaps this question wasn't so much about specific wording in the vision as much as it might be about wondering what is being envisioned.

3.0 FEEDBACK ON THE PRINCIPLES

Draft Principles

1. Recognize the intrinsic value of nature
2. Respect Indigenous knowledge and land uses
3. Consider future generations
4. Ensure evidence-based decision making
5. Adopt the precautionary principle when facing knowledge gaps
6. Build upon foundational knowledge of historical land use
7. Lead by example through innovation and best practices
8. Look beyond our borders to achieve results at a bioregional scale
9. Address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do
10. Work in partnership with diverse interests to achieve outcomes that realize multiple values and benefits

Conversations tended to move back and forth between the principles and the goals and objectives; which suggests that the principles provided a context or foundation for discussions. In a sense, the applicability of the principles were being tested.

The draft principles were discussed in varying levels of detail as participants sought clarity, as well as trying to imagine how they would be applied.

3.1 VALUES, RESPECT & LONG HORIZONS

Principles 1, 2, 3, 5 and 9 were not discussed at length, but there were some comments worth noting.

The intrinsic value of nature (Principle 1) was supported with questions or messages emphasizing it as a fundamental principle. Although few participants spoke to it directly, their messages made clear that the meaning of "intrinsic value of nature" needs to be thoroughly understood and made explicit. One participant felt very strongly that Principle 1 should be given a high level priority, due to the potential permanence or significance of biodiversity loss.

Respect for Indigenous peoples (Principle 2) was mentioned throughout the focus group sessions, particularly with regard to ensuring their voices are part of Resilient Saanich discussions. Respect for traditional land uses was briefly referenced as needing a more fine-tuned assessment to fully understand how it would work in practice. One participant illustrated that incorporating traditional land practices might not be as straightforward as simply respecting Indigenous knowledge and land use.

An interesting twist on considering future generations (Principle 3) was raised through the concept of shifting baselines and normative change. Principle 3 brought to mind differences in experience across generations, as urban development and habitat changes over time. The shifting baseline concept was picked up by participants in Focus Group 3, as an important

factor in considering future generations.[1] Discussions on where data benchmarks should be established were also part of shifting baseline discussions, and are elaborated in the context of Principle 6 (in Section 4.2, below).

Both Principles 5 and 9 were fully endorsed with supporting comments. The precautionary principle (Principle 5) was supported because of the potential consequences of losing habitat and biodiversity. Principle 9 on climate action was only referenced twice throughout the four focus group sessions. Perhaps it was viewed as a given, since the District of Saanich has already developed its Climate Action Plan. Or, perhaps it was a reflection of the predominant focus on biodiversity issues.

The Fundamentals

> *I'm just wondering if there's a back story that we maybe wouldn't have seen yet, or work that's been done around addressing some of the root causes like human beings disconnect with the living world or reconciling there. Does that exist anywhere?*
>
> *"Nature" unfortunately includes anything living – I think it is important to be specific – ecosystems and species that belong here. For example, along Wilkinson Road, for the widening, every native Douglas-fir was removed but a giant sequoia was preserved…*
>
> *… when I think of biodiversity, it's a fundamental value. It's a fundamental state of being in nature. It's very fragile and elusive and I think somehow you have to recognize that priority somehow needs to be given to that value because, when you're looking at land use you have relative what's the highest best use and all that sort of thing. But once you lose biodiversity, once you make a decision where it's lost somehow, it's compromised by the values that are competing. You can't recover that, or very difficult to recover it. I just don't know if that 'recognize the intrinsic value of nature' has the strength that I would see that should be the priority of value somehow.*

Challenges Worth Consideration

> *… when it comes to restoration and respecting, and also incorporating, First Nations historical land use practices…. I know that there are competing values when it comes to things like open burning for Garry Oak Meadows and I know that is a challenge … but I just wanted to plug it as a potential way to both incorporate First Nations land use practices and our history of the way that people have interacted with some of these rare ecosystems for thousands of years and to also acknowledge that I know that there's going to be challenges because burning is not without its own environmental impacts…. But I just wanted to say that I think it's important. … we do our territorial land acknowledgments but we don't often incorporate a lot of the historical land use practices into the way that we're interacting with these ecosystems now.*

[1] The concept of shifting baselines has evolved over the years. Here it is referred to in the context of normative perceptions and experiences of the Saanich landscape; and implications for public policy.

Shifting Baseline Concept

… I think from an environmental equity perspective, if we talk about shifting baseline, the equity for future generations to experience the kind of nature that I've had the privilege to enjoy, need to be part of the dialogue and so considering that shifting baseline and also then working into the principles. The equity of generation to enjoy and experience nature could help articulate that need for it, not necessarily from a management perspective, though that is important as well, but also just thinking about me as an individual and how nature enriches my life and making sure that I have that same access or that future generations have that same access.

And I think it's really important, especially in this area where we have these really endangered ecosystems like the Garry Oak Ecosystem, where there are very few of the examples left, I think it's really important to cast backwards and make sure we don't just take what we have now and go forward but try and recover some of those, and regenerate the those ecosystems.

Supporting Precautionary Principle

I'm just concerned that we might be searching for the science while the habitat is destroyed, so I find it really important that precautionary principle be invoked more often than not just because there isn't always the publication you need right at your fingertips ….

Science is slow and destruction happens rapidly.

Climate Action & Tree Loss

Every time we take one of these older trees down and Saanich has a goal for doing some of the climate change. Right now, the only way you get carbon out of the atmosphere is through vegetation. And trees are the biggest single component of that on land. And for us to talk about climate change and go ahead and allow the elimination - almost removal of significant numbers of larger trees - we're fighting a losing battle, and we're really not adhering to the only ally we really have in the fight in climate change, which is our trees.

3.2 INFORMATIVE DECISION-MAKING

Principles 4 and 6 generated a lot of overlapping discussions on the data collection and use. Participants spoke about:

- The need to conduct data inventories and have historical data from which to compare environmental indicators of health;
- The value of lessons from the past, not just for ecological restoration purposes but also for developing community-wide understanding of what has changed and why; and
- Creating policies, bylaws and other municipal tools that are defensible and durable.

There was widespread agreement on the need for applied research and data gathering. Opinions varied though, on questions of how far back into history we need to look. Some of themes included: knowing what we've lost, inter-generational memory loss, lack of knowledge among newcomers to the area, urban development trends and influences, data requirements for modelling, availability and reliability of information, and the challenge of knowing how much information is enough.

Many of the participants specifically identified potential indicators for monitoring change or making environmental management decisions. Trees and tree canopy was mentioned the most, followed by birds. Other indicators included insects and habitats such as riparian areas, bogs and other wetlands, coastal shorelines, and Garry Oak meadows. Participants also recognized the existence of limited local knowledge (e.g. insects, other invertebrates). Indigenous knowledge was valued for its significance in building on foundational knowledge of historical land use.

Irreversibility & Rate of Loss

> *… we can't just look into the future. We have to look at where we've been and we have to start looking with much more focus as to what we're doing, and the irreversibility of what we're doing, as we go along day to day. And within the next couple of years that this [Resilient Saanich] process is going to take on, … I wonder maybe some interesting data would be just how much we've lost since this Council has come in. Or how much we've lost over the last 5 years, because all the trees that come down pretty well have to have a permit. So you should be able to look at a database of permits issued and see how many permits are issued, and how each year - give us some idea of whether or not it's increasing and at what rate is increasing. Not just affirm … some permits will be for one tree. Other permits will be for 10 or 15 trees. That's just a suggestion of things that we should be looking at to make us more informed as we go through the process.*

Memory Loss Across Generations

> *And I think it is important to have an idea of what we've lost because each generation looks around sees the green that's there, and assumes that's the baseline. And then when you lose it, then the kids of that generation look around and see the green stuff that's there; they think that's the baseline. And we just keep doing that and we have less and less … ecological amnesia, I think that's what they call it…. You need to be able to have a deep understanding of what you originally had, grieve a little bit and then get your butt in gear to save as much as you can and to restore, rehabilitate the best you can the stuff that's badly degraded.*

Data Inventory & Modelling

> *[re: National Ecological Observatory]… part of what we did was we took old data, and then we used predictive modeling to inform where we should be at present…. And so the only way to get to that level of resolution for forecasting models is to take a completely resolved data set and so we need to understand what historically has been here in order to be able to get that kind of resolution about our future. So it's absolutely imperative that we understand some of our history, and maybe not all of it to a great fine scale and resolution…. But we do need to know some more of our history, we can't just start from here and move forward.*

Indicators & Benchmarks

Even the older stuff would be really interesting to look and see what we've lost since 1950 or even you can go back 50 years before that …what has been lost, where it has been lost.

… even simpler than that, every time someone wants to cut a tree of any size is supposed to have a permit for it. So have a record of all the permits that have been used, and picking those particular sensitive ecosystems that were identified, sensitive properties, that were identified in the EDPA to see how much is still left or how much is now gone from that…

And I would also like to know, or a measure of saying, we should have a good assessment of how much shoreline in Saanich is in a natural state and how much especially has been hardened with people putting down walls to the ocean….

… trees are probably one of the best indicators and possibly one of the easier ones to actually backtrack … the loss of tree coverage and it's direct link to [building and infrastructure] development …. So, I would say that that would be well worth spending a little bit of time on… and as the plan goes forward to spend a fair amount of time and effort looking at tree protection, not only in parks, but on private land.

.. at Cedar Hill Park, for about 4 years now or maybe even it's more than that, we've been doing a quarterly survey of the birds…. So we can tell year to year if there's any fluctuations in that sort of thing once we have enough data to start going through it, and I'm wondering if we have something of that basis to look at other various species.

Indicators & Limited Knowledge

We really don't have a baseline for what occurs here historically, particularly when it comes to invertebrates because we don't know even what's here now…

We will have some stories of what was here in the past but I know just from anecdotal comments of people saying there's some things they used to see just don't see anymore.

I think at minimum, we need present day stats at minimum and then we can track what's happening going forward.

… we don't know specific numbers around different species. We have some anecdotal information around butterflies and so on when the Europeans first showed up. But, we can get an idea of how much wetland was here.

Indigenous knowledge

… if there's anyone that knows what we've lost it's [Indigenous] people and certainly there's more and more research also that shows us that traditional Indigenous land management practices are some of the best ways to actually encourage biodiversity and protect it.

Indigenous leadership is, I believe, key for nature conservation. It would be wonderful to look at, and hear how Indigenous leaders will fully engage in this discussion. I see a valuable educational component reviewing past historical ecosystem practices when developing strategies that benefit future generations. Might there be a need to apply the precautionary principle to address what I feel is likely a knowledge gap.

Historical data helps environmental managers understand the natural history for conservation and restoration management purposes. It can also help to provide an historical perspective to explain why this comprehensive framework is needed. The decision making feature in Principle 4 triggered comments and questions on the importance of accountability measures and procedures, particularly with respect to assuring political longevity of the Resilient Saanich framework.

Historical Perspective

… we need to look a little further back than where we are right now because we're not in a great place right now and we do need to improve our natural areas and get them into better shape and having an understanding of what they could be and also having that biodiversity for the future in terms of us returning to savannah is really important…

… I think it's worthwhile going back and looking at it - where we were looking at previous baselines - if only to inform where we could go. And it's not saying that we're going to get there, but I think that's aspirational and I think that's very valid in this whole conversation.

… one of the things I've really picked up on in working with the community in my park is how people don't necessarily see the changes that have happened even recently, which concern me and I've run into people in other parks with the same concerns.

… historical perspective is something that a lot of people don't have. We have a lot of newcomers in the area, and for people to support the kind of work that we want to do in terms of protecting the little that we have left, I think having some understanding of what that looked like and how much we changed and how little of its left within the entire area is really important and I certainly see that reflected in the principles of the RSTC….

Most of our baselines are only from when we were a child and a lot of people weren't here so they don't have an understanding of the extent of what's in Saanich. Certainly the aerial stuff is good, but there's also some early documentation that shows the extent of earlier ecosystems that could also be added and I think would be pretty accessible.

Accountability & Adaptive Management

> *It would be wonderful to see accountability procedures, baked into this documentation and so, that would look like very clear, very tractable ways that the community can come back to Saanich and say, 'these clear objectives that you have outlined at 1 year and now a lot of the councillors and folks and technical working group people have moved on, but the very clear plan that was created in some ways has not met its target objectives'. And so here is how the community will be able to engage; and that those lines have been laid down explicitly and clearly so that from the outset, it's very intentional. It would be effectively transformational. And it would mean that in the future at some other date there wouldn't have to be any kind of a negative or challenging or complaining kind of an interaction. It would be very much 'everybody was engaged in the same spirit from the outset; and in X number of years down the road that we're all aligned behind these principles'.*
>
> *… there is a number of feedback loops … such as canopy and birds and wildlife… there is a monitoring loop there that I think is important because it actually goes back to management. That's how you manage. You monitor and then hope you're in a position to apply corrections….*

3.3 LEADERSHIP, PARTNERSHIP, INTEGRATION, INNOVATION

Focus group participants fully endorsed Principles 7, 8 and 10 and advocated for a variety of efforts to increase leadership, innovation, bioregionalism, and creative partnerships. Stronger messages emphasized what some felt will become critical measures for success.

- Innovative leadership will require looking at familiar situations in new ways.
- How will Saanich leadership and partnership work across jurisdictions, and how can we influence what happens beyond our borders when very different decisions are being made (re: urban development).
- Integration of Sustainability values and benefits should be highlighted in the principles. Socio-cultural and economic dimensions are not evident.
- Working with private sector partners will need a shift in some of the conventional rules-based approach to incorporate more solutions-oriented approaches.

Participants thought of several ways that Saanich could lead by example (Principle 7). One easy way to show leadership is by having a presence at public events. For example, one participant invited Saanich to help in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary that will be held October 27, 2023. Another show of leadership is to create infrastructure and physical improvement projects, such as habitat restoration and enhancement of natural park usage (e.g. at Panama Flats). Asset management was also mentioned as an example of leadership happening in other municipalities through best practices.

Leading by example could also mean adopting new ways of working with stakeholders, including members of the development industry. One participant suggested several potential scenarios for applying Development Cost Charges (DCCs) or similar mechanisms to help make our natural environment more resilient. In addition to using DCCs to purchase parklands or park amenities, it was suggested that these charges could be more flexibly applied to support environmental stewardship, research, and habitat protection.

Industry-led initiatives such as the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) point system was mentioned as an example of a leading best-practice that could be encouraged through Resilient Saanich.

These ideas melded well with the concept of regenerative economies which was also suggested by a focus group participant.

A Presence

> *We want to see Panama Flats as exciting as a Swan Lake is at present. We want to see some smart infrastructure at Panama Flats, like observation towers and bird blinds along the side along the trails. A companion site to Swan Lake. And I think that would be just fantastic.*

Asset Management

> *A lot of municipalities, as many people are well aware, are using asset management and they're looking at their physical assets. And they're looking at their natural assets. So I'd ask a question, how is Saanich is using that methodology and how does it fit with this Resilient Saanich process here?*

Innovative Perspectives

> *… how would we meet different criteria, either through contributions, through planting…. even potentially through acquiring funding for doing more detailed studies …*
>
> *… my sense is the acceptability of something like this [the Resilient Saanich initiative] would be to make it look familiar to something that the industry is already familiar with, and it would allow you to achieve goals and it would allow you to create balance depending on the individual parcel of property that you're talking about.*
>
> *… maybe we have a brownfield site and we have opportunities for renewal within that site. Or maybe we give up on that site and we take these funds and we apply them to a different place where we can make the most difference and have a better outcome.*
>
> *… there would be a variety of ways that the development industry could respond to provide benefits, [for example] maybe these trees need to come down, but maybe in the remaining area we could do a renewal of the forest floor to remove invasives and plant new ones…. So where you might not get [e.g. LEED] points in the tree protection side, you might get points for enhancing the environment within the site*

... I'm not saying this is exactly how it should look, but it might be a way that you can turn the vision into activities and actions by the [development] industry at the end of the day, because my sense is a majority of this will fall to the development industry to implement; because if there's no development, there's very little impact.

Regenerative Economy

I don't see any mention of transitioning our economy in the principles. I think this day and age we know our economy needs to be transformed to carbon neutral at the very least, but I've started to see language around Earth-positive economies or regenerative economies. And so working that in at the principle level would acknowledge the importance of the economy to this transition, and allow us to work with that economic sector to change behaviors.

Two themes emerged from discussions on looking beyond our borders with a bioregional lens (Principle 8). The first theme was environmental features do not recognize political boundaries. There is both concern and curiosity around how to work with communities where urban development is happening at a faster rate. Thus, the second theme referred to influences across municipal jurisdictions.

Habitats Without Borders

I think if we talk about biodiversity and Saanich, we have to have a clear reference to the marine environment below the high watermark technically not in Saanich, but there's a lot of biodiversity on the shores of Saanich in the Salish Sea and Saanich is essentially a Salish Sea community in my perspective. So I would like this to be clearly highlighted in whatever strategy comes along that there is a rich marine environment. Saanich has a spectacular marine front yard with a lot of biodiversity and I hope to see this fully highlighted.

…in terms of priorities, I would suggest that habitat connectivity would be very important so ensuring that there are corridors of habitat throughout Saanich, but also contiguous with whatever municipalities we might border on.

Influence Across Jurisdictions

I know there's a lot of fine details to work out within this, but I'm wondering what the goals are, and what the method might be, for looking beyond our borders. Are we talking about making partnerships with or having more communication with other municipalities and trying to get some sort of standardization when it comes to bylaws and policies? Is this about leading that process or is that more about leading within the region and making a good example for citizens of Saanich?

I see things happening in Langford, in Colwood, along the highway towards Sooke … and I know that Saanich policies are changing our influence, perhaps by some of the other policies of other municipalities nearby. And I'm wondering whether you anticipate that this new Resilience Committee may have teeth in the future because I really like a lot of the statements and I like a lot of the policies, and I really admire Saanich staff and the professionals who are on this committee. I'm really impressed by how you've gotten this together so far, and I'm hoping that we'll see changes… and do you consider that as this unfolds, we will be getting some environmental results and support towards good biodiversity policies. I guess there's my big question - are you encouraged by this?

The Focus Group participants explored how Saanich, environmental groups, researchers and the development sector can work more collaboratively as partners (Principle 10). One way to approach the land development process could be to give a land developer some flexibility to contribute in different ways within the municipality, possibly beyond the property in question.

Principle 10 promotes working with diverse interests and realizing multiple benefits. Yet, for some people the human dimension seemed to be missing.

Objectives-Based Land Use Management

So while I get that it's great [to] clearly identify areas that need to be protected, to some extent we did that already and I'm not sure it worked that well. So maybe what we need to do is focus on the activities that could be done within the developments that would result in 'where you're taking, you're also giving'[i.e. give and take], and what does that look like and what does it mean.

I just did inventory … and often we're looking for species that are known to be rare or thought to be rare. Often it's the case that there's just not adequate sampling effort... simply because our collection efforts are concentrated in these very limited protected areas, … I'm really interested in the possibility of what kinds of incentives there could be to expand our knowledge of the distribution of species which could help inform more effective biodiversity, conservation policy and whether who's going to pay for these inventories … if there's any way of creating more incentives or to increase our knowledge, I'd be curious to know whether there's any opportunities there.

… if you're in a highly urbanized area and there's not much to be done with that area, potentially what could happen is that a developer would make a contribution towards funding …

… We call the environment one thing and we spread it across a really highly diverse area that runs from, rural Saanich to Uptown…. And each of those areas has an opportunity or potential to contribute, possibly not on that site, but possibly somewhere - making those opportunities available and having that be acceptable. That's how I think you're potentially going to achieve a better buy in, from the people who are probably going to end up dealing with this the most.

Flexibility

I truly believe that if you make it easy, people will do the right thing. And …we have to find that framework and we have to find that way that we can present this and provide options and opportunities so that we can achieve the goals in a variety of ways.

The Human Dimension

There are a couple of things about land use, but humans are not specifically mentioned in there. There's no talk about sustainable use and there's no humans in the logo for example. And I think that's problematic because, if we build nature silos versus other silos – so you've got an economic silo and you've got a social silo and a nature silo in the community plan… Ideally in education we look at environment as a cross cutting theme for all of those silos. Somehow we need to, rather than build those silos which will create problems in the future in terms of implementation of anything, we need to build into these principles and I think into this framework, ways that we get more overt interaction with those other interests, specifically the human dimension. Not only First Nations but also others residents.

I don't really see arts and culture reflected in this vision and so I think our artists in our culture, like how we expressed values in a non technical format. And so somehow working in that as a principle would be nice.

Continuous Community Engagement

I also happen to sit on a couple of other advisory committees in other municipalities and setting up that structured advisory process for engagement is important. And so I was thinking maybe you could have a principle of active community engagement as informing the rollout of this strategy and then later on we can add the detail of a structured committee that provides continuous engagement.

… [regarding] enhanced communication … something like this [focus session], if they were regularly scheduled and available on Saanich's website, so people could register… you might get diverse voices and it would be interesting to hear that diversity of individuals coming forward. They might feed off each other, it might be very interesting…

4.0 FEEDBACK ON THE GOALS

There was very little explicit feedback relating to the goals. Two comments may explain why - one person felt that the goals and objectives need more work and another person in a different focus group thought the goals were fine as they are.

Draft Goals

Goal 1 – Protect, restore and enhance the ecological function and biological diversity of Saanich

Goal 2 – Develop and implement complimentary and coordinated policies, strategies, regulations, and incentives grounded in the overarching set of guiding principles to achieve the vision

… for me, goals and objectives as stated here aren't SMART [Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time-bound], they need a lot of work … Goals and objectives work needs some more wordsmithing, and in a more detailed way.

So one of the goals, the second one that says, "develop and implement complementary and coordinated policy strategies, regulations…." That is the framework, if you will, … there are a variety of ways potentially to address … and that's reflected even in these documents where they talk about the different approaches. And so I think the goals are fine.

Discussions on the goals focussed more on the substance of how they would be achieved - prompting questions on how to manage, what to manage, and where to focus efforts and balance priorities.

The phrase "complementary and coordinated", in Goal 2, created some curiosity around how the environmental policy framework will be coordinated with economic and social sustainability policies and tools. Another participant wondered who would be coordinating this work.

What to Manage

… I'm really interested in the struggle that's there on the landscape in Saanich, given how highly fragmented the landscape is; and what it means to position the municipality as sort of a model Steward, and what the balance is, given the extent of fragmentation of the landscape between protecting and conserving what remains versus restoring the landscape. And then similarly, to what extent do you work within the context of those protected areas versus really working with community members, private citizens, the developer …

3-Legged Stool

… you really need to have a bit more information about what Sustainable Saanich is all about, and really it's the kind of old 3 legged stool analogy. You've got an environmental leg, a social leg and an economic leg and I think what people are having trouble with [is] getting all the focus on the environment leg. But we don't know what's being done on the social and economic legs in terms of any similar balance to our public process or technical process, and that's why we're feeling a little bit wobbly about some of this.

Who will Manage

It's nice to know that there are some really great goals that we can all work towards that actually have meaning as an outcome, as an action that we're all going to see at the end of the day and then take our next planning cycle into and … My question about [Goal 2], it talks about a coordinated approach, but I'm not sure and I don't understand the Committee 's function in terms of who's actually going to be coordinating or how. Is everybody… What are you looking for… how are you going to reach out to people and coordinate. I wasn't sure if that was a Saanich staff role or a committee role or something else or what was envisioned.

5.0 FEEDBACK ON THE OBJECTIVES

Participants picked up on defining an objective as a measurable step to achieving goals. As such, they found it somewhat challenging to provide feedback on the objectives in the absence of measures or details on how the objectives would be met.

… one of the key things will be to have measurable outcomes that you're seeking and method and a process and a timeline for monitoring progress ... I didn't see anything of that in the objectives.

Draft Objectives

Objective 1 – Fairly and effectively manage the natural and built environment to adapt to climate change, and enhance biodiversity and other essential ecosystem services

Objective 2 – Foster resistance and regenerative capacity (i.e., resilience) in our landscapes against escalating environmental shock and stressors

Objective 3 – Engage and support citizens in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewardship

Objective 4 – Update bylaws and policies across all departments to be transparent and consistent with the environmental Policy Framework

5.1 Fair and Effective Management

The words "fairly" and "effectively" in Objective 1 popped out for several participants. How can fairness and effectiveness be measured? What is included in the equation of deciding fairness? Who has influence over what is considered to be fair?

Fairness

> *… It's easy to say fairly and effectively but what does that mean and who is it fair to and what is effective so measurement is required. It's just extremely vague and could very easily allow all kinds of things to happen that isn't fair and isn't effective….*
>
> *… on objectives, on fairly and affectively managed. Fair to whom, developers? I kind of find that language in this quite weak; and usually the beginning of a process like this, if the language is weak, the output is weaker and that [I'm] a little disappointed in that …*
>
> *With the context to fair, fair to who. The environment doesn't have a voice in this; we're the voice of the environment. Soon as you say fair, is that fair to who - the developers or council or … it's not to the animals, it's not the ecosystem. We're here to protect them so soon as I see fair, I'm thinking we've already negotiated the things that can't speak for themselves away.*

Effecting Change

> *… there is no restoration of any native tree or shrub or wild flower in Victoria without complete deer fencing. Nothing survives...There is no regeneration of the forest right now..... Hundreds and hundreds of trees came down in the last winter storms and there's no replacement unless you build a fence around as we're doing in Phyllis Park, and in backyards that have native plants. … I think it's very exciting that the Resilience Committee is concerned about this. My concern is that politically it may be something that is designed to put off action and we don't want that. We want this to be something that will bring action …*
>
> *I was wondering how these draft goals and objectives line up to what the EDPA was back in the day.*

5.2 Natural Features & Land Use History

The importance of historical data inventories was mentioned across all focus groups. As part of these discussions, Staff asked participants if they had any thoughts on where Saanich should focus limited time and resources. The range of comments varied widely from knowing traditional Indigenous land management, to changes in the landscape since the 1970s, to having a solid understanding of the current state of biodiversity health in Saanich. Members of the Victoria Natural History Society (VNHS), in particular, offered their inventories as potentially valuable data sources. Staff responded to questions on availability of data, including some databases already received from VNHS.

Natural & Development History

I don't think you can go forward without knowing where you've been. And most people in the area haven't got a clue of what was here before. … And I think that it would be really, a mess if we didn't give a pretty strong picture of where we've been to help give an idea and let people have some appreciation of where we may be heading.

5.3 PARKS VOLUNTEERS ARE A VALUABLE ASSET

Just as VNHS members offered their assistance to advance Objective 2, Saanich Parks stewards and volunteers offered their help to fulfill Objective 3. Saanich Staff were encouraged by the volunteers to take advantage of their presence within Saanich parks to extend community outreach and engagement efforts, as Resilient Saanich is developed and implemented. Volunteers meet a diversity of park users. Here is an opportunity to expand citizen stewardship activities in the form of data collection and community outreach.

Utilize Park Stewards

… we need to really know what's here, and what is in danger of being lost and I think that since everybody is out anyway, we need to make sure to log and pin geographic location about where all of these things are found. And I think that lots of people who are out about walking in all the parks and things like that right now, they could all be helping to protect, and to fence off or, just pinpoint where important and sensitive species are found. And we can add that to a log of some sort.

I was excited about your initiative but I would also like to see stronger environmental protection or even documentation of the species which are still here by using citizen scientists who may log species they see.

… there's more people who weren't enjoying nature previously that, because of COVID many of us never saw before. Although at one time it would have been a subset of people and you'd have very skewed data ratio, because of the last year there's a different dynamic going on.

… after being with Saanich for the last year and working with these amazing stewards, they really are on our team and are an incredible resource to disseminate information or to share resources with the community …. I know there's some volunteers are doing outreach with the community all the time on the ground …

It's such a lovely way to engage people when you're in the moment … there's an opportunity … whether it's a one pager or something that we give people. But even just to ask them 3 questions or something like that. … I think a lot of us would love, if we aren't already, having those deeper conversations…. I think it would kind of deepen some of our practices of the usual work.

5.4 Actively Recruit & Organize Citizen Stewards

There are many creative ways to engage and support citizens as stewards (Objective 3). Some of the ideas that were mentioned include: utilizing older residents with time and expertise, reaching out to property owners when there is a land title change, and tapping into the general willingness of people to help. All of these ideas and others will require Saanich to reach out purposefully.

Actively Recruit & Organize

> *… there's a variety of different programs that you could do. It occurs to me that we do have an aging demographic, so potentially there is a volunteer pool with expertise that could do this. Maybe there are ways to trigger the support … extending to private property as well.*
>
> *Maybe this is unrealistic, but maybe when there's a title change and somebody buys a property and they just have just bought the property. Maybe this would be of interest to them, for example, to know more about [Resilient Saanich] or maybe you create [something] like Block Watch. Maybe there's a few people, again, volunteers within these community areas that potentially could be the contact person and they would help disseminate the variety of programs that you've already mentioned that already in existence to help and get people thinking…*
>
> *I like the objective of #3, but it's probably not going to do much in terms of just the general citizenship without a push if you will. Tonight's an example. I had thought there would be 50 people on this [Zoom] call tonight. It's finding that sort of hook that people will want to respond …*
>
> *I'm really interested in the intrinsic motivation of people, trying to leverage that as much as possible as well. And I've had some success in terms of biodiversity inventory … There's a lot of protected area but there's a lot of private area as well.*

5.5 Community Education & Appreciation

Much of the focus group discussions prompted implementation ideas or suggestions rather than specific feedback on the wording and concepts of the draft principles, goals and objectives. Community education and shared learning was identified as vital to expanding stewardship within the community (Objective 3); and equally important in gaining the support of the community to embrace Resilient Saanich initiatives.

Showing appreciation toward, and garnering community pride in, environment-positive actions also emerged as a theme related to Objective 3. Celebrating, acknowledging and simply saying thanks can be a powerful way to engage and support citizens.

Learning Together

… once a year, the Pulling Together groups and individuals would get together and learn together for a day or the better part of a day and there's so much to learn and it's so energizing to be with people who have like minds … and to hear what's new and what's going on… you get so excited about that's going on and it would be lovely to come together once a month or whatever for the wider community, but certainly for the Pulling Together group to learn together….

Community Education

The other piece that I think is also worthy of consideration with respect to a feedback loop is with respect to community … whereby we recognize community being informed, being educated, being motivated…. It's a very important loop because I think in many respects community has a very powerful influence on this type of policy, bylaw and so forth. And so to have an educated and involved community I think is vital and how do we measure whether or not we're being effective in doing so… we have many mechanisms one of which is that Pulling Together activity that is a stellar program….

Stewardship is the anchor of the success of this plan. However, true stewards are a small percentage of the population. Is there an educational component for the general population?

Community Appreciation

I'd be curious about - having some pride in Saanich, celebrating some wins and some things that are really working - [knowing] decisions of the results of certain policy decisions that have made Saanich …. even that we can talk about resilience, that there's anything left to bounce back, is kind of amazing. Some places are in really bad shape, very close to us…. And whether it's percentage of tree cover or something that would show different biodiversity benefits, and water filtration, and all those kinds of ecosystem services might get people actually appreciating a little bit more about what we do have and what's at stake given certain decisions.

They should see the good that can come from it and they should feel at the end of the day… It's nice when you can feel good about [giving] this parkland … and maybe somebody along the way, or several people saying thank you for doing that, that's great. You get what you reward, right? My experience is the vast majority of my clients want to feel like they're contributing something, especially to the communities that they're working in, but my experience is also it's very, very seldom that they're told "thanks", and that's an easy thing to do right?

5.6 INCENTIVES FOR PRIVATE LAND OWNERS

Incentives, such as funding, is often thought of as an encouragement to shift behaviours and adopt new practices. However, other non-monetary incentives might also be possible. These ideas were not explored thoroughly, but they were mentioned.

Incentives

… some of the incentives, or however it's handled, can be done with private land owners where they're creating butterfly ways [for example]; equivalencies like that where they're creating native plant gardens in their landscape …

You talk about stewardship and will there be some incentives for homeowners [for example] with lower taxes if they don't develop their land, or something like that. Is that a possible scenario?

In the Southern Gulf Islands the policy tools that are used generally speaking, are these covenants … NAPTEP [Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program] and that, to sort of provide incentives for people to extend the reach of conservation into private property in that which seems to me there would be a really good rationale for as well. Do you have an equivalent program like NAPTEP?

5.7 Updating and Enforcing Bylaws

There was a lot of discussion on the theme of bylaws, which is highlighted in Objective 4. There are some serious concerns and strongly-held views based on the participants' experiences of public park use, and private land development.

Dogs in Parks

One thing that is very needed I believe is a review of dog bylaws. Essentially all parks and natural areas in Saanich are used as dog parks and this needs to stop…. By the way the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada, is now reviewing this 'dogs at large' situation in the Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

I've run into the same concerns around us loving - and our dogs loving - these parks to death.

Large Lot Development

I have to say one of the biggest problems with the bylaws is this minimum lot size and the inability to do cluster development, for example, and I've had a couple of these in the last few years where we had to meet this minimum lot size …. And because we had to put these houses on these giant lots, we had to take way more trees down if we could have clustered those houses into a smaller portion, we could have protected half the lot…. how are we using that land? And are there opportunities where we can provide a smaller footprint for the development on the same piece of land? If that footprint is smaller, I guarantee you that the remainder can be larger and the protection within that area can be larger.

Lack of Enforcement

There are bylaws in place right now, but they're not being enforced. I've been working very hard with members of Council and the Mayor and others too. And they know what the issues are and there are some urgent issues. And to put them off for 10 years or 8 years, wouldn't work. So I'm hoping that there will be action before the year 2030…. something like this [environmental policy framework] can be very helpful and very good and very direct and immediate. Or it can be something that allows a lot of developers to go ahead, like the logging companies taking logs. We don't want that; we want action on what we already have such as bylaws that we have in place and are not being acted on right now by Saanich. And, we need these processes and these guidelines, which are very good to also be put into place. But we don't want everything put off until the year 2030 when all of this is the big picture that's going to be developed.

I really appreciate the urgency of some of these things... we have to act very quickly on a lot of these pieces. And enforcing existing bylaws is really important. We have some things in place and they need to be followed.

Meanwhile, development is happening and we're losing a lot of biodiversity. So I guess that's where my skepticism comes. It's concerning. Yes, we can spend 2 years doing all this, but meanwhile, we're losing valuable habitat for Garry Oaks in particular and their associated ecosystems… that's reality and that's what I've seen in 50 years of living in Saanich, quite frankly. But still I really commend Saanich for the community involvement and the restoration and the conservation trying to preserve vital areas, so that's commendable but … if somebody wants to develop something, somehow the permits are approved and places are subdivided and we've lost more species.

Land Suitability

I would like just go back and reinforce the priority of assessing the most suitable land use because it's a land use designation as we all know, that really has the most impact on environmental management success. To do that, in the case of the District of North Vancouver's initiative somewhat similar in the 1990s, they undertook a very detailed assessment from environmental management point of view of all land within the District … coming out of that assessment was identified a number of sites, 32 actually… Council soon decided to take that to the public…. They all were passed as parkland and remain so today.

One of the priorities I believe that you should focus on, is a very true, thorough, careful examination of appropriate land use. In other words, land zoning. Because it's the zoning that's described by Council, to the land, that really has the largest impact on its environmental sustainability, its environmental integrity.

Enduring Policies

We have to act very quickly on a lot of these pieces and enforcing existing bylaws is really important, so we have some things in place and they need to be followed…. All of that's in place is because [of] Council and the Mayor. They change, so you need to have something in place that is going to survive the change in elected officials. … I'm very aware that they may or may not be able to follow through on [Panama Flats] and if they're not elected in the next round then that can change very quickly. So we really need to have good policies. This document needs to be really solid, I think.

Conflicting Policies

And again I really like the terminology of the framework because I think the bylaws and the policies are good. It's just they have a certain focus, and how do you shed all of those lights onto an individual concept or idea or piece of property? How do all of those different policies come to light and not end up beating each other up, which again, in my experience can often happen. And it's very detrimental to pushing forward these concepts to the general public and to the industry because they just see the conflict and they shouldn't.

6.0 FOCUS GROUP ATTENDANCE & RESPONSE

Environmental Services Staff sent invitations to a wide variety of stakeholder groups and organizations.

Staff received seventy-two (72) registrations and organized four sessions for March 2, 3, 4, and 15.

Sixty (60) people attended the sessions in total, excluding the Staff and Facilitator (see Table 1). Although several people did not speak or submit written messages in the chat box, everyone who could be seen on the screen was listening attentively and, at times, nodding in agreement.

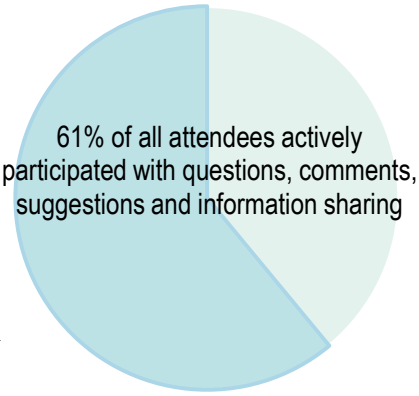


Table 1: Focus Sessions & Attendance

Focus Session 1	**Focus Session 2**
Saanich Parks Volunteers and Stewards March 2, 6:30 – 7:30pm 13 attended 9 active contributors 69% contribution rate	Environmental and Stewardship Groups March 3, 7:00-8:30pm 24 attended 14 active contributors 58% contribution rate
Focus Session 3	**Focus Session 4**
Victoria Natural History Society March 4, 6:30-8:00pm 21 attended 12 active contributors 57% contribution rate	Urban Development Consultants March 15, 6:30-7:30pm 2 attended 2 active contributors 100% contribution rate

Focus session 1 included Saanich Parks stewards and volunteers who work in Haro Woods, Chatterton Hill, Arbutus Cove, Phyllis, Goward, Mount Tolmie, Rithet's Box and Cedar Hill. Three Parks Department Staff also attended to answer questions, if needed.

Focus session 2 included members of eleven (11) environmental and stewardship groups:

- Goward Springs Watershed Stewards
- Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary
- Peninsula Streams Society
- World Fisheries Trust
- Friends of Tod Creek Watershed
- Friends of Maltby Lake Watershed Society
- Golden Rods & Reels
- Birds Canada
- Naturehood Victoria Harbour Bird Sanctuary
- Victoria Natural History Society
- BEES (Beaver Elk Environmental Stewards)
- Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

Focus session 3 included Victoria Natural History Society members. Focus session 4 included consultants with land development and ecology backgrounds.

Overall, the participants were very appreciative of the opportunity to learn and engage with Staff on the Resilient Saanich initiative. The focus group method of engagement was also highly appreciated.

Several participants shared strongly held opinions and values. Yet there was no emotive behaviour shown. Everyone was respectful of both the Staff and their fellow participants; and everyone appeared genuinely interested in seeing the success of Resilient Saanich.

"A great presentation. You did well and covered a lot of ground and it's a good process."

"In some ways the zoom meetings are actually more orderly and fruitful than some public forums I've been to … this is much more in depth than a particular bunch of stickies up on a piece of paper. So, well done. Thank you."

"I applaud the efforts of the Resilient Saanich and its existence."

"I think this is really encouraging, you know. Through the grind of doing this kind of strategic work and turning it into tactical work and all the volunteerism of the technical committee. I think it's really laudable and will serve hopefully when it's finished and it's integrated into the signage of jurisdiction and all levels. I'm looking forward to it being used as a case study and as an example to municipalities everywhere."

"Thanks. This is fabulous so it's really exciting to be here and to hear all these voices."

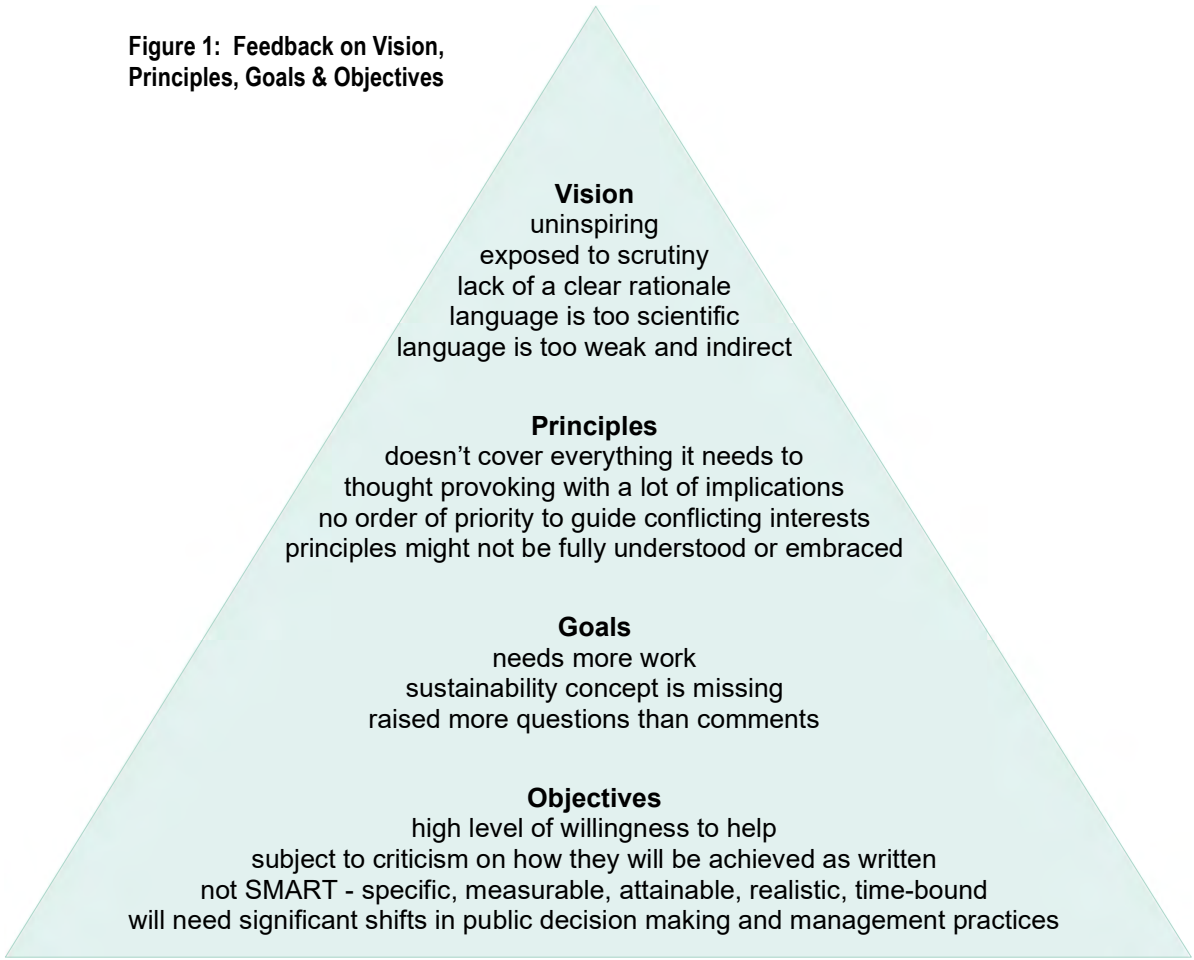
7.0 IN SUMMARY

It was clear that Saanich is seen as a very special place with an abundance of environmental and human assets. Those who actively contributed in discussions showed a high level of support for the initiative, stating that Resilient Saanich is timely. However, in the context of development trends, significant concerns were expressed around the potential for losing habitats and species diversity before new policies become operational.

The Saanich Environmental Services Staff were successful in fulfilling their goal to introduce the Resilient Saanich initiative. Participants were highly engaged and interested to know more. Getting clear feedback on the draft vision, principles, goals and objectives was a little more of a challenge.

Overall, responses pointed out a need to more finely tune the draft, increase clarity, consider what may be missing, and simplify the writing. These critiques are summarized in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Feedback on Vision, Principles, Goals & Objectives



Participants from all of the focus groups were generous with their knowledge, experience and insights, in the following areas:

- Natural assets and habitats, in and around Saanich
- Lived memories of changing local landscapes, currently and over the last 50 years
- Ecological protection & conservation management, and environmental stewardship practices
- Experience with 'green building' and local land development processes throughout south-central Vancouver Island

A lot of rich information was given by people with strong environmental convictions. If this engagement process is any indication, the development and implementation of Resilient Saanich will be examined with healthy skepticism, a critical eye on the details, and a lot of hope for its success. Suggested factors to consider for the success of Resilient Saanich are highlighted in Table 2.

Table 2: Suggested Factors for Success

1 **The value of Resilient Saanich must be clearly communicated to all stakeholders**
2 **Use this opportunity to be creative, innovative and a leader among local governments**
3 **Inter-jurisdictional cooperation is essential**
4 **Private and public interests need to work together**
5 **Evidence-based decision making is important and so is the precautionary principle**
6 **Environmental sustainability cannot be achieved in isolation from economic and social sustainability efforts**
7 **Don't wait until the environmental policy framework is complete to address impacts on local habitats and ecosystems now**
8 **Actively reach out, learn from, and enlist a wide variety of stakeholders through continuous community involvement**
9 **Embed defensible and accountable measures into the framework to withstand scientific and political scrutiny**

APPENDIX 1: FOCUS GROUP METHODOLOGY

DESCRIPTION AND USE OF FOCUS GROUPS

A focus group is a small number of people who have been brought together by a researcher or facilitator to obtain information. Focus group participants usually have similar interests or backgrounds. They might or might not have known each other previously.

The focus group method is commonly used for qualitative research studies and market research, as well as a public engagement tool.[2] Focus groups are particularly useful in gathering perceptions and attitudes, values and beliefs, opinions, responses and feedback. This process differs from other engagement methods, such as interviews or surveys, in that the information is gathered from open discussions and conversations.

As a public engagement method, focus groups offer several benefits.

- They offer an opportunity to draw from expert knowledge & practical experiences.
- Open-ended discussions provide a rich context.
- Participants can exchange information, which can have a synergistic value.
- Participation is much more collegial & relaxed than other engagement settings, such as public meetings for example. They provide a safe environment for open, thoughtful feedback.
- Information gathered from focus groups complements information gathered from individuals through surveys and written submissions.

As an information gathering tool, focus groups also have challenges and limitations. The data analysis for this engagement process was supported by recordings of each session.[3] However, the conversational nature of these sessions meant that a participant might cover several topics at once, which made the analytical process time consuming and complicated. In order to report on feedback within each category (i.e. vision, principle, goal, objective), separate messages and emergent themes were extracted from the discussions. Sometimes the topic area was explicitly stated. Often, the exact topic of a message needed to be inferred from the context of these discussions.

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[2] The focus group is a well established research method (for example, see the Community Tool Box from the University of Kansas). Wikipedia offers a good general description https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Focus_group#Online_focus_groups

[3] The recordings were made with participants' permission. Both the audio and visual recordings were kept confidential and deleted upon final completion of this report. Transcripts of the recordings were made without names and identities.

It's also worth noting the limitations of an online video format. Participant observation is a qualitative research technique used to identify non-verbal forms of communication. Having the Resilient Saanich sessions online limited the Facilitator's ability to observe participants in the larger sessions, as well as those who chose to turn off their video cameras.

ORGANIZING AND CONDUCTING THE FOCUS GROUPS

Saanich Environmental Services Staff organized and led the focus group sessions, with the following activities:

- Sent focus group invitations to stakeholders;
- Organized session dates and received registrations;
- Maintained ongoing correspondence with interested participants;
- Developed and presented a PowerPoint slide deck on the Resilient Saanich initiative and the RSTC proposed vision, principles, goals and objectives; and
- Addressed questions and discussion topics with focus group participants.

Kim Walker provided a supporting facilitation role, with the following services and activities:

- Reviewed and provided feedback to Staff on the schedule, agenda, and presentation;
- Hosted the online synchronous platform (i.e. Zoom);
- Moderated two 60-minute sessions and two 90-minute sessions;
- Participated in follow-up debriefs with Staff, as needed; and
- Wrote this summary report.

The Facilitator began the sessions with an outline of the agenda and time allocated, traditional territory acknowledgments, introductions and instructions for participating. Staff gave their presentation followed by participant discussions. Before the discussions began, participants were asked for their permission to record the sessions to aid in the analysis work. During the discussions, the Facilitator monitored the time and speakers list, kept track of typed (chat) messages, and ensured everyone had an opportunity to speak if they wished.

The discussion format was open ended by design, to give participants the opportunity to say what they wanted to say and allow other participants to respond. Staff provided information and feedback to the focus group participants in an honest and neutral way which was very appreciated. On a couple of occasions, the Staff or Facilitator offered a question to get conversations started.

e.g.

> *Given that we don't have all the resources and all the time in the world, how much value is there in looking back [in history] at the biodiversity that we used to have?*

DATA ANALYSIS

Approximately four hours of recorded sessions were converted into written transcripts using Microsoft Word. The raw transcripts were amalgamated into one document (110 pages) by order of occurrence. The document was cleaned up by deleting the Staff & Facilitator statements, and time stamps and speaker labels (e.g. 00:00:07 Speaker 1). Also, the chat messages were added in the appropriate pages using the time stamp information.

The general approach to conducting a thematic analysis involves a process of looking for similar subject areas, or themes, in the messages. Messages could be ideas, suggestions, questions, concerns and supporting statements. Messages that were not included in the results were mainly words of thanks, indications of agreement (i.e. brief acknowledgment of a statement made by someone else) and questions that were answered by Staff either in the focus sessions or followed up later (e.g. the areas of expertise of the RSTC members).

The analytical process took the following steps:

1. Identify significant comments & messages and separate them into discrete statements.
2. Identify themes that emerged from the participants' words and messages, and group statements.
3. Clarify the transcribed messages by listening to recordings and correcting for accuracy, deleting repeated & extraneous words (e.g. uh, you know, I mean, and then and then), connecting sentences separated by line breaks, and adding punctuations.
4. Pull out the essence of the messages and highlight key words & sentences in bold type.
5. Group messages into the 17 categories (i.e. 1 Vision, 10 Principles, 2 Goals, 4 Objectives).
6. Repeat steps 1 – 5 through an iterative process of reviewing and refining the themes, until the messages & themes make sense. The process was repeated three more times.

The final draft transcript was 29 pages with 166 separate messages and 73 identified themes. During the report writing process, some of the messages were reviewed again to check for accurate transcription, as well as context and meaning.

Notes:

- Some messages and themes fit into more than one category due to the overlapping nature of the categories. References to tree and habitat loss, for example, may have been spoken about in relation to several objectives and principles depending on the context.
- Participants talked about different topics, which required their messages to be separated out in order to place them into themes and categories.
- The meaning of messages was generally direct and clear. However, the placement of messages was not always explicitly stated which left the categorization of a message subject to interpretation.

APPENDIX 2: MORE COMMENTS ON THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Themes	Messages – Public Engagement
Stakeholders	*What other groups are you dealing with, and **are you asking non environmental groups to participate in the process**?* *… you mentioned Indigenous leadership is key for nature conservation and **it would be wonderful to look at in here how indigenous leaders will fully engage in this** …* *I just wanted to say that I support all the comments I've heard tonight. I think this is an area of major concern for people, the important thing is to make sure you get input from all stakeholders as you've mentioned. **I spend a lot of time in Saanich parks every day and I've noticed that there's a huge increase in the number of people using the parks, which has mixed blessings**, but it goes to show me how valued our biodiversity is in our parks, of people taking up birding during this time, Swan Lake is just packed with people with binoculars now, so I think **it's really important to get the input of all stakeholders and a lot of expert opinions**, too, and many of which we've heard tonight as well.* *Maybe just really quickly, I'd love to have some sense [from staff], if you like what are you seeing in terms of feedback. Are feedback levels from the public from the general public pretty good or you seeing what you've been hoping to see. I**t's just kind of interesting to me to wonder who's having input here.***
The Process	*I have already completed the survey, so **I don't know whether I should speak to the same point in this setting or should just leave it with the survey comments**.* *My understanding from reading some of the other documentation is that a lot of this is community feedback that will be rolled together and that the technical working group will make recommendations to Council. And then Council will make recommendations back and then some of that more tangible tractable planning will be in place. That's my understanding from the current documentation, but I'm also new to this process and I really appreciate any greater clarity around who's involved with this feedback. How that will even be rolled up and communicated to the Working Group and then the Working Group will communicate to Council; just more clarity around that so, just in the sense of **how strongly should we be voicing our thoughts at this time for it to reach through several other filters and to the final decision makers**. Some of that kind of information would be wonderful.*

Themes	Messages – Public Engagement
Form & Content	*It was interesting to see where have we come from but I'm curious to know the purpose of this evening? Is it feedback on the objectives, the principles and the goals.* ***I'm delighted to see such a program happening and looking at this whole objective, but we've been through this before in different guises so is it just continuing to preserve and conserve and restore what we've been doing for years.***
Level of Effort	*I think it's extremely important that there is consultation. I think you have to push hard.* ***You might have to push hard to get that consultation with the First Nations communities*** *and I'm thinking for example … they will have unique priorities of their own related to their culture and food for example, thinking of camus beds.* ***But I don't think any of this can go ahead without them being consulted even though it might take some work to get them onside.***

APPENDIX 3: REFERENCES RECOMMENDED BY PARTICIPANTS

Themes	References from transcript quotes and chat messages
Policy	▪ **Muteshekau-shipu Alliance** - *February 23 announced the granting of legal personhood to the Magpie River* https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/for-the-first-time-a-river-is-granted-official-rights-and-legal-personhood-in-canada-848414747.html ▪ **A municipality in Costa Rica** - *has granted symbolic citizenship to pollinators and trees.* https://www.livekindly.co/costa-rica-bees-trees-citizenship/ ▪ **Jim Bendell 's work on deep adaptation** - *If you're looking for some inspiring language around sort of restoration e.g. "do no harm". He's got some really interesting things I think this plan could benefit from around like "stop making things worse"…. May be more down the line when you're communicating with the public. Another one that I like .. would be to "make beauty where ugliness has set in". He's just got some really… good nuggets around easy ways to communicate.*
Applied Research / Program Management	▪ **Nancy Turner** (the ethnobotanist) – *a terrific history of Cedar Hill Park, it goes back to First Nations culture* ▪ **"eBird"** - *A tremendous source of information that is updated every day. Saanich has dozens of eBird hotspots [with] potential in developing a biodiversity strategy* ▪ **Victoria Natural History Society** - *historic information that the society could share with this process … e.g. how much Garry oak has gone, how much is left, what kind of tree cover do we still have, what rate is the tree cover or canopy of the of the area decline has there been, work done on plant diversity within the area* ▪ **District of North Vancouver** - *approximately 2 year time period where the District of North Vancouver took on and successfully developed an internationally award winning Environmental Protection bylaw which becomes the main direction document in terms of trying to achieve the objectives and goals that you have set and referred to* ▪ **Vaclav Smil,** (geographer at University of Manitoba) - *a book published last year called **"Growth".** … everything from insects to humans to diseases to viruses to populations…. in the section dealing with woods and forestry, a tree that's about 300, 400 years old will absorb more carbon in one year than a 50 year old tree has in 50 years.*

Themes	Messages – References
Stewardship Education	▪ … in **Caledon Hills, Ontario** - *a conservation group would go to your property and make suggestions, one on one … it was all free of charge. … the funds for that must have come from somewhere. Sometimes just an offer, to the landowner to say, well, we'll just come to your property for free and have a chat with you about what you've got and what you could have.* ▪ **A blue green presentation or webcast from Miami Dade** - *what they're doing, a tool box on their website, and case studies, very accessible* ▪ **A documentary called "Kiss the Ground"** - *on the importance of soil…so many instructive ideas…*

Reynolds Secondary: Youth Focus Group
Feedback emailed: March 3, 2021

Focus Group
Lead: Heather Coey (teacher)
Youth: Reynolds Secondary Community Leadership Program
Participants: 37 students grades 10-12

Format
Information and a narrated powerpoint were provided to Heather Coey due to COVID restrictions. Heather led the session, showing the powerpoint and facilitated gathering the feedback. Heather reported they had a tight timeframe. Students were also encouraged to fill out the individual on-line survey if they were interested.

Feedback from Youth
The following feedback summary was provided by Heather Coey via email.

Vision
- recommend including definitions of terms and extra clarifications along with it to make it accessible to all people. e.g. (examples of measurable improvements, climate change resilience, ecological footprint (how measured). They understand that a Vision Statement has a degree of vagueness due to its summary nature but want extra "appendix" to clarify
- include a description or link for habitats in our community that the vision is concerned with
- missing an aspect of the approach for the vision... best or quickest?
- suggestion that it is missing an aspect of human focus with health/property connection
- again an overall feeling that there needs to be something more with it so it doesn't assume understanding of the components (opportunity to educate)

Principles
- Suggested additional ones... around encouraging sustainable living as well as the importance of educating

The 37 students ranked what they each thought were the top 3 principles.
1. Recognize intrinsic value of nature (**4** had in top 3)
2. Respect indigenous knowledge and land use (**23** had in top 3)
3. Consider future generations (**26** had in top 3)
4. Ensure evidence-based decision making (**10** had in top 3)
5. Adopt the precautionary principle when facing knowledge gaps (**5** had in top 3)
6. Build upon foundational knowledge of historical land use (**2** had in top 3)

7. Lead by example through innovation and best practices (**8** had in top 3)
8. Look beyond our borders to achieve results on a bioregional scale (**9** had in top 3)
9. Address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do (**9** had in top 3)
10. Work in partnership with diverse interests to achieve outcomes that realize multiple values and benefits (**10** had in top 3)

- Again they said it would be helpful to have some terms defined (precautionary principle, foundational knowledge of historic land use --they wanted examples, mitigation)

Goals & Objectives
Note: only had time for feedback from the grades 11-12 group.

Comments:
- too vague
- missing education piece
- missing personal climate impact, reduction, prevention piece

On a scale of 1-3
1 being a feeling that **Goals were not helpful as is**
2 being **Goal okay but needs something more**
3 being **Goals are great the way they are**

2 said 1
13 said 2
0 said 3

Heather Coey
Reynolds Secondary
(Leadership, Environmental Education, Flexible Studies, Service Coordinator)
https://reynoldscommunityleadership.weebly.com

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

The Chair reviewed the ongoing topics and initiatives which will be reviewed by the committee for feedback periodically. The following was noted:

- The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) has produced draft goals, objectives, and principles for an environmental policy framework and will be focusing on a draft Biodiversity Strategy, among other things this year and next.
- Engineering is currently working on an Integrated Stormwater Management Project, which is a multi-year project. Updates will be presented as targets are achieved.
- Council has recently approved funding for the Urban Forestry Strategy, the committee will receive updates on the project as it progresses.

The committee discussed topics and initiatives that are of interest to committee members, the following items were noted:

- Outreach to engage the community.
- Human/wildlife conflict, specifically human/beaver conflict in watersheds. The Saanich policies to address these issues are vague or non-existent.
- The status of work that is being done related to the environmental aspects of the Strategic Plan, including initiatives and actions, if they are funded or partially funded, and the percent to completion.
- The Capital Regional District (CRD) proposed expansion of Hartland landfill.
- How Saanich can support various stakeholders related to the use of parks, increased visitor use due to the pandemic, and nature based opportunities for restoration.
- The value of local food production, how to support food production and create community gardens. There is interest in increasing biodiversity in suburban areas, possibly by retrofitting lawns to allow more native flowers and species to exist.
- Staff is currently working on a report outlining an overhaul to streamside development area permit guidelines at there have been changes in Provincial legislation.
- Staff is also working on a report to Council which outlines the completion of the first Resilient Saanich milestone and action items.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Manager of Environmental Services presented the Resilient Saanich Draft Goals and Objectives overview (Powerpoint on file). The following was noted:

- Resilient Saanich is an environmental policy framework of existing/improved/new bylaws, policies, strategies, programs and procedures. This includes the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, the Climate Plan and Enhanced Stewardship Opportunities.
- The RSTC has been established to work with staff and consultants to advise and share expertise. The first action item is to propose the project goals and objectives.
- The Draft Goals and Objectives have been created and will be published in the near future. There will be public engagement to gather feedback on the proposed vision, principals, goals and objectives. This engagement will include virtual open house sessions, feedback forms, videos, as well as targeted stakeholder engagement.
- When the engagement phase is complete, the RSTC will consider the feedback. Staff will present proposed goals and objectives to Council, Council will decide on the final goals and objectives.

In response to comments from members of the committee, the following was noted:

- Given the different ecosystems between rural areas and urban areas in Saanich, there is interest in balancing the voices that represent both.
- The RSTC is creating an integrated approach that will apply to all departments within Saanich, aligning policies and procedures for all.

SPECIAL MEETING
PENINSULA & AREA AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING
HELD BY ZOOM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021, 7:00 PM

In attendance: Phil Christie, Chair; Bev Marley; Carol Davidson (Treasurer) Terry Michell; Larry Sluggett; RobinTunnicliffe (Metchosin); Dianne Williamson; Councillors Graham (Central Saanich) and Brett Smyth (North Saanich),Pierre Iachetti, Saanich Planner and Isobel Hoffmann, recording secretary.

Guests: Emily Carmichael, Ministry of Agriculture; Ali Rivers, Central Saanich Planning; Adriane Pollard, Environmental Services, Saanich;

Regrets: Linda Geggie, Larry Kimmett; Satnam Dheenshaw, Councillor Chambers, (Saanich)

Minutes: The Minutes of January 14 were adopted as circulated.

Treasurer's Report (Carol Davidson) – Balance in chequing account is $1,586.07; term deposit $20,691.30, which expires February 19, 2022.

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES: NEW

804/812/820 McKenzie & 4007 Rainbow Road (Saanich Referral) – ALR Exclusion

The Saanich Planner was unable to attend tonight's meeting but has indicated she will attend in March. The Chair noted PAAC would like to know about the general lay of the land and some context to help PAAC provide an informed opinion.

CARRY FWD to March Meeting

PRESENTATION: RESILIENT SAANICH – ADRIANE POLLARD, MANAGER, SAANICH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Ms. Pollard displayed the information on screen and stated:

- Council adopted the Terms of Reference for the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee, which will be active for the next two years.
- The Plan is to create an environmental policy framework and a biodiversity conservation strategy.
- The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) will advise Council on all aspects of the project, starting with draft goals and objectives for the entire project.
- There are 3 key areas:
  - Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
  - Climate Plan (recently adopted)
  - Enhanced Stewardship Opportunities
- Ten experts have been appointed to the RSTC, as well as a council liaison, and administration support staff.

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- The first "action item" will be to propose the project goals and objectives through public engagement, including Stakeholders such as PAAC, analyze the results and present to Council in March/April. Council will then decide on the final guidelines and objectives.

- **Vision from the current Official Community Plan**: "*Saanich is a model steward working diligently to improve and balance the natural and built environments. Saanich restores and protects air, land, and water quality, the biodiversity of existing natural areas and eco-systems, the network of natural areas and open spaces, and urban forests.*"
- **Proposed vision of The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee**: "*By 2030, coordinated efforts by all in Saanich/W̱SÁNEĆ yield measurable improvements in climate change resilience, habitat conservation, watershed health and ecological footprint, benefiting all those who share and inhabit our community.*"

- **Proposed Principles**:
    1. Recognize the intrinsic value of nature
    2. Respect Indigenous knowledge and land uses
    3. Consider future generations
    4. Ensure evidence-based* decision making
    5. Adopt the precautionary principle when facing knowledge gaps
    6. Build upon foundational knowledge of historical land use
    7. Lead by example through innovation and best practices
    8. Look beyond our borders to achieve results at a bioregional scale
    9. Address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do
    10. Work in partnership with diverse interests to achieve outcomes that realize multiple values and benefits
- **Proposed goals:**
    1. Protect, restore and enhance the ecological function and biological diversity of Saanich.
    2. Develop and implement complimentary and coordinated policies, strategies, Aregulations, and incentives grounded in the overarching set of guiding principles to achieve the vision.
- **Proposed objectives**
    1. Fairly and effectively manage the natural and built environment to adapt to climate change, and enhance biodiversity and other essential ecosystem services.
    2. Foster resistance and regenerative capacity (i.e., resilience) in our landscapes against escalating environmental shock and stressors.
    3. Engage and support citizens in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewardship.
    4. Update bylaws and policies across all departments to be transparent and consistent with the Environmental Policy Framework

- In terms of agriculture and its contribution to biodiversity, she has seen good examples on the Peninsula where streams have been restored and helped to provide habitats for birds and pollinators, who in turn have helped with natural pest control and shade trees have helped to keep livestock cool.

.../3

- We need to recognize farm contributions to biodiversity.
- The next steps will be to complete the engagement process, holding virtual open houses and on-line surveys.
- PAAC can make comments as a group, or as individuals using the feedback form on line, or send emails to biodiversity@sasanich.ca
- She urged the Commission to provide feedback and she will ensure a copy of the draft guidelines is sent in a reduced format to Isobel for distribution to members.

The Chair stated he would prefer comments come from PAAC rather than as individuals. It was suggested we could add this as a topic on our agenda while the RSTC is on-going. Ms. Pollard reminded the Commission that the timeline is short, with the first draft guidelines proposed to go to Council in March/April.

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES: CURRENT

Proposed Grape & Fruit Atlas for Vancouver Island – Phil Christie (Chair)

A letter requesting input from various groups was sent mid-December. Two acknowledgements have been received but no comments. Suggested a reminder be sent.

Previously noted that an Atlas was prepared in the 1980s for the Okanagan which has proven helpful to farmers. Also in the 2000s, Central Saanich produced a document which in part recognized that strawberries grew particularly well in Peninsula soils, and some soil mapping was included. Bob Maxwell helped to put this together.

Emily Carmichael, Ministry of Agriculture, advised she was talking to Rob Kline recently about this matter. She has a few pages from the Central Saanich document and noted it would be helpful to get the entire document.

The Chair pointed out that much of the information we need has already been researched. It just has to be organized and edited, and the scope of the project defined. He is not proposing that PAAC take on this project, but we could make a financial contribution using funds we received from the Fruit Growers Association a few years ago; this would be a good fit.

CARRY – reminder letters to be sent

50th Anniversary - establishment of the Agricultural Land Reserve (1972)

The land freeze was introduced in 1972, and the ALR was established in 1973. Unclear whether the celebration would be held in 2022 or 2023.

Emily Carmichael has been in contact with the ALC, who indicated they are planning some sort of celebration but at this time are looking for input and ideas on what this would look like.

- The positions are not just for parking; they will cover other bylaw categories such as park patrol and boulevard enforcement. The managerial positions that will be split will allow for more efficient service delivery.
- The previous model was using outside contractors and this model uses Saanich staff.
- They will work with the Saanich Communications department to get the word out via social media. Education and awareness around boulevards needs to occur.

Committee comments:

- Issuing warning tickets would be the best. Suggestion made that time extensions to pay fines may be necessary for people who have been financially affected by COVID.
- This initiative is supportable as it frees Police for other duties and is linked to the Active Transportation Plan.
- Patrolling areas may be more equitable than relying on complaints.
- Question was raised whether Saanich has a policy on designated parking spots on-street, per residence.
- Concern was expressed about emergency vehicles not being able to drive up residential streets due to boulevard parking on both sides of the street.
- Suggestion to avoid service gaps, continue using the services of Commissionaires for weekend hours. Parking ticket revenue could pay for this.
- Suggestion made to ensure that violation payments are easy to pay, as COVID makes paying in person difficult.

In reply to some of the concerns raised, staff noted that:

- Unless a street is signed as "residential parking only" then street parking is open to all. At the policy level this is handled by Engineering and this is not in their work plan as there are other priorities of Council being worked on at this time.
- Fees increased in the fall when the Streets and Traffic Bylaw was amended. There will be late payment penalties.
- Staff would like to implement technology to ensure tickets are easily paid, however this functionality may take some time to implement.

The Chair noted that when it comes to street parking, care has to be taken to not discriminate between renters and homeowners living in the same dwelling. He also noted, in terms of the concern regarding emergency vehicles, the Motor Vehicle Act prescribes the distance between vehicles for emergency access.

Motion: MOVED by R. Michaels and Seconded by E. Amador, "That the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee receives the presentation from the Director of Building, Bylaw, Licensing and Legal Services regarding Parking Enforcement Service Delivery, and supports the department in moving forward in this direction."

CARRIED

RESILIENT SAANICH ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Manager of Environmental Services presented information about Resilient Saanich and a new Technical Committee that was appointed by Council, and noted they are at the very beginning of the process to examine the environmental policy framework of existing, improved and new bylaws, policies, strategies, programs and procedures.

The following was noted:

- The technical committee (RSTC) is comprised of up to ten appointed experts and are supported by an appointed Council liaison, a clerk and staff liaisons as needed.

- Members of the technical committee are paid an honorarium as they are professionals who are expected to provide deliverables.
- Staff would like committee feedback on the proposed vision and principles as well as communicate how committee members would like to be involved in providing feedback.

Committee comments, and responses to committees' questions were noted as follows:

- There will likely be a separate process for updating bylaws and creating strategies, but bylaws will be the starting point for some things.
- These are draft principles and any feedback is welcome.
- The experts that were appointed by Council include conservation biologists, a First Nations representative, forester, arborist, landscape architect, marine biologist. Information on the committee can be found on the Saanich website.
- The pyramid that describes the process could have specific goals added (eg. daylighting streams) that turn into a strategy. Staff will look at how other municipalities have handled similar processes.
- There is a lot of information to process and this is a very big task to accomplish.
- The draft goals and objectives focus on the human side. Messaging could be clearer in tying specific community needs like Garry oaks and under-storey, streams.
- Would like to see forests, daylighting streams and other concrete examples in the draft goals and objectives.
- Should avoid jargon use less dense language. Goals and objectives need to be more specific, the objectives are not SMART.
- Having an online engagement process will be beneficial.
- The principles are clear, but the proposed objectives may not meet the criteria as they are quite vague. The objectives must reflect the principles and it is important to keep the objectives focused. It would be beneficial to include 'sustainable agriculture' in the objective. There may be recommendations that are not completely in the scope and may be considered, (eg. food security may not directly relate to climate change or biodiversity).
- Staff explained that the precautionary principle referred to in #5 in the proposed principles means that in the absence of science that decisions are made based on precaution (eg. pesticide bylaw assumes that pesticides are bad for humans and the environment so we use them with caution).
- Suggestion made that having a glossary would be useful.
- Clarification was requested regarding the wording 'diverse'. Staff will ask the RSTC for clarification.
- Question raised how the word will get out to those who are not on social media. Staff replied that postcards were sent to every household and business, materials delivered to seniors' centres, and also these handouts will be translated to a variety of languages. Community Associations will be asked to place information on their notice boards. Virtual presentations and conference calls will be offered through the Community and Neighbourhood associations.
- Concern was expressed about the overall goals and objectives of the RSTC (as per their Terms of Reference). Staff clarified that the TOR only has a vision and not goals or objectives, and described the milestones as noted in the TOR.

The Chair noted that there is a lot of work to do and that future updates can be provided to the committee. The Manager of Environmental Services advised that the bulk of public engagement will be done in February and departmental input also needs to be received. This can be brought back to committee in March for further input.

Motion: **MOVED by S. Steele and Seconded by R. Michaels, "That the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee receive the presentation from the Manager of Environmental Services regarding Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework."**

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Friday, March 12, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

_____
Mayor Haynes, Acting Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

_____
Committee Secretary

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
February 24, 2021 at 4:00 pm

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Ted Austin (via telephone), Kathleen Burton (4:25pm), Pamela Carroll, Pat Danforth, Annie Djiotsa (via telephone), Lyndsay Edgar (4:40pm via telephone), Dexter Owen

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks, Gary Darrah, Manager of Park Planning and Development; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services (via telephone); Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Leigh Campbell, Kyle Danielewicz, Amy-Jade Louie

Minutes

MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by D. Owen: "That the Minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held January 27, 2021, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair stated that:

- In lieu of having BikeFest this year we are looking at holding a Saanich Geoquest event which will send residents to different areas of Saanich (eg. public art areas, trails, heritage houses, special ecosystem areas etc.). The participants would take a photo of the assigned number in the area and enter to win prizes based upon how many areas they visited.
- The food truck concept pilot project discussion will be going to Council in April.
- Park usage has increased significantly. For example, last June it was 79% over the baseline for BC.
- The Parks field guide was just launched.

The Chair asked committee members to send in ideas of special places that residents can visit during the Geoquest event. It is hoped that there will be about 20 areas to explore.

RESILIENT SAANICH ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Manager of Environmental Services presented information about Resilient Saanich and a new Technical Committee that was appointed by Council, and noted they are at the very beginning of the process to examine the environmental policy framework of existing, improved and new bylaws, policies, strategies, programs and procedures.

The following was noted:

- The technical committee (RSTC) is comprised of up to ten appointed experts and are supported by an appointed Council liaison, a clerk and staff liaisons as needed.
- Members of the technical committee are paid an honorarium as they are professionals who are expected to provide deliverables.
- Staff would like committee feedback on the vision, principles, goals and objectives and also how committee members would like to be involved in providing feedback.

The following committee comments and responses to comments are noted:

- Vision:
  - The vision is clear and well laid-out; the completion date of 2030 is ambitious.
  - Question raised whether the marine shoreline will be included in the vision as it is not showing to be in the scope.
  - Question raised whether "restoration" should be added to the vision.
- Proposed principles:
  - Committee members appreciate the respecting Indigenous knowledge and land uses principle.
  - Suggestion that principles #6 & #7 appear to conflict with each other. Staff described them to mean that as we go forward, we need to look behind as well; acknowledge and learn from the past as we move forward.
  - Principle #9 should start with "Continue to".
  - More definition is needed for principle #10; (eg. working in partnership, diverse interests, achieve outcomes). What does this all mean?
- Proposed Goals:
  - Some members felt the goals are very broad and vague; what is the specific goal?
  - Some members felt the goals were good and need to be vague to encompass all. If goals are too specific then it becomes too challenging.
  - If they are aiming for measurable goals, these are not measurable.
- Proposed Objectives:
  - "Restoration" and "Biodiversity" could be added.
  - The objectives read like principles; how would objective #2 be measured.
  - The wording in #4 could imply that Saanich is not transparent.

Final comment made that the "next steps" page with the white font on a multi-coloured background is not readable. Font needs to be black.

The Manager of Environmental Services thanked committee members for their comments and noted she is happy to receive further feedback.

PARKS WASHROOM OPERATING AND CAPITAL PLAN FOR 2021

The Senior Manager of Parks noted that a report recently went to Council regarding funding needed for 25 new washrooms. Council supports this and seven washrooms will be done this year. The following responses to questions are noted:

- Four washroom conversions were done last year; meaning washrooms that were for the sole use for clubs will now be available for all. Twelve conversions are to be done in total.
- A large request for proposals for prefab washrooms will be sent to Tender.
- Washrooms will need to meet accessibility design code.
- Permits are needed for some of the conversions in order to bring structures to code.
- There has been a significant increase in vandalism since the COVID. Vandalism events are built into the budget.
- The washrooms will be gender neutral and for use by all.
- There has been much higher usage of toilets. Some existing washrooms are on septic some use vaults/chambers, and some are attached to the sewer system.
- User groups have been in charge of maintenance for their designated washrooms in the past. Washrooms will be maintained by Saanich, and funds for this will be built into the budget.

OUTDOOR STRUCTURES IN PARKS (referral from Council)

The Manager of Park Planning and Development provided information about this item that was referred from Council to this committee. The report dated September 25, 2020 from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services to Council titled, "Outdoor Structures in Parks" was provided to committee members for information prior to discussion. The Chair

MINUTES
HEALTHY SAANICH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
March 3, 2021 at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Councillor Ned Taylor (Chair), Clare Attwell, Carren Dujela, Kam Judge, Liz Miller (SCAN), Abigail Toledo (via teleconference), Jasmindra Jawanda (via teleconference), Nadia Rajan (via teleconference), Jasmine Noble (via teleconference).

Guest: Stewart Guy, Chair of Resilient Saanich Technical Committee.

Staff: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services; Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; and Megan MacDonald, Committee Clerk

Absent: Silvia Mangue Alene and Ryan Henderson.

MINUTES

MOVED by C. Dejula, and seconded by L. Miller: "That the minutes of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting held February 3, 2021 be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

AGENDA

MOVED by C. Dejula, and seconded by L. Miller: "That the March 3, 2021 Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee agenda be amended to include "Strategic Priorities" on the agenda as item 8."

CARRIED

RESILIENT SAANICH FRAMEWORK

The Manager of Environmental Services presented the Resilient Saanich Draft Goals and Objectives overview (Powerpoint on file). The following was noted:

- Resilient Saanich is a framework of existing/improved/new bylaws, policies, strategies, programs and procedures. This includes a new Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, the Climate Plan and enhanced stewardship opportunities.
- The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) has been appointed to work with staff to shape the "Resilient Saanich" Environmental Policy Framework.
- The Resilient Saanich Draft Goals and Objectives have been published. Public engagement is currently taking place to gather feedback.
- When the engagement is complete, staff will present the proposed goals and objectives to Council. Council will decide on the final goals and objectives.
- Members of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee are encouraged to provide feedback on the Resilient Saanich Draft Goals and Objectives.

In response to comments from members of the committee, the following was noted:

- Members of RSTC were appointed by Council. The committee membership includes professionals with a variety of environmental related backgrounds including public servants, First Nation's representatives, and trained biologists. More information on each of the members is available on the Saanich website.
- Marine regulations and protections are needed, such as bylaws and policies to protect the shoreline during developments. The Islands Trust staff are a great resource for information on shoreline development permits and regulations.
- The public engagement includes committee feedback, virtual open house sessions, feedback forms, videos, newspaper advertisements, information at senior's centres, as well as targeted stakeholder engagement.
- Kristi Bridgeman created the artwork for messaging related to the RSTC, which depicts the good, the bad and the ugly aspects of the community that can impact biodiversity.

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A. Pollard and S. Guy exited the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

****

CLIMATE PLAN REPORT CARD

The Manager of Sustainability provided a verbal update on the Climate Plan Report Card (Powerpoint on file) the following was noted:

- The Climate Plan is a detailed plan to reduce Saanich's greenhouse gas emissions. There are six focus areas, which detail 131 actions to achieve the Climate Plan goals.
- The Climate Plan Report Card is an annual report on progress made towards the goals and actions outlined in the Climate Plan.
- Saanich received an "A" grade through the global Carbon Disclosure Project for monitoring and reporting on sustainability initiatives and environmental impacts.
- Changes have taken place with how Saanich reports emissions regionally, in addition to global methodology changes. These changes have improved the accuracy of reporting.
- Considerable progress was made in 2020 despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which had an impact on financing and community engagement opportunities.
- Highlights of the actions taken are provided, along with progress on corporate targets, overall progress on 2020 actions, progress by focus area and detailed summaries.

In response to comments from members of the committee, the following was noted:

- Community Engagement targets and actions are being adapted as festivals and events are not happening with the ongoing pandemic.
- There is a lack of decentralized programs that foster neighborhood engagement. The Saanich Neighbor to Neighbor program is currently being discussed with One Planet Saanich and Greater Victoria Acting Together to get input on how to bring people together in a safe manner during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- There could be benefits to providing free bus passes for youth.
- The off-street parking review will improve the walkability of neighborhoods, as well as enable neighbors to engage meaningfully within the community.
- It is helpful to understand opportunities or barriers that users of active transportation and public transportation experience, especially when it comes to equity. Decision makers having experience with the services they provide is beneficial for all.
- Rebates do not benefit those who cannot afford to purchase the items up front.
- Car pollution is an issue, it is important to get youth using active transportation.

- Reliance on public transit has been a challenge during covid

RESILIENT SAANICH (Adriane Pollard, District of Saanich)

- Adriane provided an overview of the draft framework (vision, principles, objectives)
- This will be Saanich's environmental policy framework; currently under development and seeking public input - **15 MARCH DEADLINE**; being developed with the input of a technical advisory committee; Council liaison is Rebecca Mersereau; see: https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/natural-environment/resilient-saanich-environmental-policy-framework/virtual-open-house.html and provide feedback directly to: Biodiversity@saanich.ca
- More information: https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/natural-environment/resilient-saanich-environmental-policy-framework.html

Action for all: Suggest OPS stakeholders could provide this feedback through the consultation process, consider recommend using the one planet living principles within the framework, also suggest that the technical Team review the One Planet Saanich Scan:

- https://www.oneplanetsaanich.org/uploads/1/1/9/3/119346756/one_planet_saanich_sustainabilty_scan__final.pdf

SHELBOURNE VALLEY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Manager of Community Planning provided background information about the Shelbourne Valley Action Plan that was adopted in 2017.

- Three local areas in the plan include Quadra, Shelbourne, and Gordon Head and integrates three centres and one village.
- This is the first major land use planning doc out of the OCP and the biggest key issue was the design of Shelbourne Street.
- Shorter term transportation improvements have been identified for pedestrians and cyclists and are being implemented by the Shelbourne Street Improvement Project.
- There are three phases to the plan, from the following areas: Phase one is Torquay to McKenzie, phase two is North Dairy to Pear Street, and Phase three is from Pear Street to McKenzie Avenue.
- Construction work is underway for phase one and during this they are renewing underground infrastructure (storm and wastewater mains are being replaced.)
- Phase two is in the design phase, construction is to start in mid-2022 and will take about 18 months. We will see key improvements during this phase such as improved connections to UVic for bikes. Once design is done, then phase three design will be begin and the hope is to have the project completed by 2024 or 2025.
- Land use changes are significant. The focus on Shelbourne Street encourages frontage improvements to implement the long-term vision of Shelbourne and improve walking access to services and transit routes.
- In terms of development proposals, there are 1,100 units in 12 different townhouse and apartments projects. University Heights is separate from this, with 600 units and also commercial space. Saanich recently approved projects for rental apartments for Shelbourne/McKenzie and also for apartments along Shelbourne Street at Stockton.
- Coming to Council soon is a Bowker Creek feasibility study to daylight the creek as it runs parallel to Shelbourne and up to McKenzie along to UVic.
- A key development is the adoption of the new Development Cost Charges program which is effective this year. This identifies key infrastructure, park acquisition and transportation projects. Two primary areas were flagged for parks acquisition, which were Uptown and the Shelbourne valley area.
- It was noted that the land use framework from 2014 could use refreshing. Staff have been learning about the type of development that may be successful based on market changes.

In reply to questions, the Manager of Community Planning noted:

- There is not a lot of flexibility with a modified design on Shelbourne Street in the short term. Part of the work is to try to push forward what we think will be needed in the future. The longer term vision does line up with newer demands that we are seeing.
- A number of staff have looked at a possible roundabout at the Poplar intersection and there was public resistance to this. Staff will look at this area when the UVIC bike connecter is upgraded in Phase two.

Motion: **MOVED by S. Baker-French and Seconded by D. Pascoe, "That the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee receives the presentation from the Manager of Community Planning regarding the Shelbourne Valley Implementation Plan."**

CARRIED

RESILIENT SAANICH ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Manager of Environmental Services provided an update after comments were received from committee at the last meeting. The engagement process has occurred over the past month with three focus group sessions. Staff also received 150 feedback forms and written submissions. There is nothing to report in terms of general trends or feedback as input closes next week.

On Monday March 15, 2021 at 6:30 pm, staff are hosting a focus group on the community development. Invitations were sent to 20-25 active developers and consultants, to join a focus group. If committee members are interested in joining this, they can do so by sending an email to Biodiversity@saanich.ca to register.

*** S. Baker-French left the meeting at 6:40 pm ***

In reply to a question the Manager of Environmental Services noted that this links to three pillars of the OCP; while this is focused on the natural environment, it is also about the built environment and is included in the vision for Resilient Saanich. Staff will focus on all other policies, bylaws and strategies for community resilience.

Motion: **MOVED by S. Cunningham and Seconded by B. Higginson, "That the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee receives the presentation from the Manager of Sustainability regarding Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework."**

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm, the next meeting is Thursday, April 8, 2021.

_____
Councillor de Vries, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

_____
Committee Secretary

Councillor Smyth stated he has reached out to many smaller North Saanich farms over the years; he will provide a list to the Planning Group. He also noted this is a very busy time of the year for farmers and it may be hard for them to find the time to complete surveys.

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES: CURRENT

Proposed Grape & Fruit Atlas for Vancouver Island – Phil Christie (Chair)

- A reminder notice was sent to the wine and grape growers' groups further to our original enquiry last December as no responses have been received to date.
- Emily Carmichael stated she spoke to Adrian Arts at the Ministry who advised the Province funding the BC Wine and Grape Growers Council start up in 2016. A new update is being initiated this year and he suggested we hold off on the proposed Atlas until this update has been completed.

50th Anniversary - Establishment of the Agricultural Land Reserve (1972)

Emily Carmichael stated:

- She passed along PAAC's suggestions to Lindsay McCourtenay with the Ministry who will pass them along to Kim Grout at the ALC.
- Apparently the plan is to look back on past celebrations – such as the 25th anniversary, and decide whether they want to celebrate in 2022 or 2023.
- Emily stated she has contacted her supervisor to determine what group within the Ministry would be working on this project.

Central Saanich OCP Review: Bob Thompson

Councillor Thompson stated:

- The OCP Advisory Committee meets monthly, and April is set aside for agricultural issues.
- Because the Advisory Committee members have no direct knowledge of farming, two of the district's large commercial farmers, Larry Sluggett and Terry Michell have been invited to the discussions and Phil Christie, the current Chair of PAAC has been asked tpl give a presentation on emerging issues.
- Perhaps there will be a virtual open meeting with other farmers to discuss the issues.
- It was suggested that Heather from Saanich Organics, and perhaps someone from Sea Cider (who incorporate agri-tourism into their business) attend to provide input.

Farm Worker Accommodations – Saanich – Pierre Iachetti

Pierre was not present.

Terry Michell advised that the province recently announced it is going to help with the cost of bringing foreign farm workers to BC again this year. He noted that many farmers were not going to plant this spring until they had confirmation.

Resilient Saanich – Comments on the Terms of Reference

Adrienne Pollard stated:

- Any information received will go directly to the Advisory Committee and then to Council.

- She appreciates Saanich Council's original Motion to include Climate Change in the proposed Terms of Reference. Food security is a big part of climate change.
- She doubts there will be any conflicts with the Advisory Committee's mandate vs agriculture, but it will be something to flag as the process moves forward.
- PAAC members can still complete the on-line comment form until next week.
- A virtual Open House will be held: www.saanich.ca/biodiversity

Discussion noted:
- Sometimes the technical side of things and community influence over-ride what PAAC feels is important; our farmers need to speak out.
- The Chair stated that he will attend the upcoming OCP review meeting for Central Saanich (April 28th) because it is important that farmers are represented; however, it is doubtful that at this time of the year whether any farmers will have time to devote to this or commenting on the Resilient Saanich Policy.
- Hopefully PAAC can help work out the bumps so we can continue to support farming through the without too many challenges.
- Councillor Smyth stated he did not want to denigrate Adrienne's work, but it is incumbent on the farm community to stand up and be heard. He asked what kind of feedback has been provided by the farm community in Saanich.

Adrienne advised:
- Other than approaching PAAC, the farm community has not been contacted directly.
- However, residents and business within Saanich have been sent information on Resilient Saanich requesting input.
- To date, 150 feedback forms have been received but none have been reviewed yet. We are unable to download the information until the process is complete.
- We are hopeful there will be some responses from farmers.
- She will report back to the Commission to provide an update.

COMMENTS & UPDATES ON FARMING OPERATIONS SINCE MARCH 2020

Potential Food Hub in Central Saanich

Councillor Bob Thompson stated that the Ministry of Agriculture contacted the District of Central Saanich about a food hub. A recent announcement indicates there are 3 food hubs on the Island. However, we have since learned there is now no money available for a food hub at this time and it is on hold.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) **Letter to Federal and Provincial Ministries of Agriculture re Farm Insurance Costs**

The Secretary has drafted a letter to the Federal and Provincial Ministries of Agriculture about the rising costs of farm insurance, but felt more information was needed prior to sending the letter.

Appendix H: Other written submissions (emails, letters)

The following correspondence about the draft goals and objectives was received during the public engagement process (beginning on January 20, 2021).

All correspondence has been redacted according to the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act.

Ann Klein

To: biodiversity
Subject: RE: (External Email) Feedback on Feb 22 motions re Panama Flats

From: Burl Jantzen [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: March-09-21 12:48 PM
To: Council ; biodiversity ; Planning
Subject: (External Email) Feedback on Feb 22 motions re Panama Flats

To: District of Saanich Mayor and Council

Cc: Resilient Saanich Technical Committee
Cc: Planning
Cc: Environment and Natural Areas Committee

Re: Motions affecting Panama Flats (from the Feb 22 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting)

First I would like to say I am encouraged by the direction Mayor Haynes and council are taking in regards to Panama Flats. I am very supportive and appreciative of the three motions and the comments made during the Feb 22 meeting by Mayor Haynes and Councillors Chambers, de Vries and Mersereau.

Specifically...

1) I commend the council on your desire to protect valuable wildlife habitat in perpetuity. The wording of the motion indicates that staff will provide the council with options for how to do this. I am hopeful that a plan for Panama Flats includes strong protection for existing habitat AND a long term commitment for restoration and rehabilitation of the wetlands/fields, the Garry Oak plant communities, and Colquitz Creek itself. I draw your attention to the recommendations made in the *Colquitz River Watershed Proper Functioning Condition Assessment*, July 2009 (see p 45 & 46).

2) I commend the council on your desire to address local, sustainable food production and to do this in ways that are ecologically and socially responsible. I support the motion made by Councillor Mersereau to give attention to the agricultural potential of other Saanich-owned lands including those not in the ALR or zoned for agriculture. I think there is a lot of room for innovation in dramatically increasing the amount of food grown locally. It seems much more can and should be done in this area including providing for more community gardens, supporting home gardeners in practical ways (for ex. allowing deer exclusion fencing in front yards to protect food plants), and by supporting local, small scale farmers. Councillor Mersereau's motion is a step in the right direction.

3) I support Councillor de Vries' motion to explore options for small-scale food production at Panama Flats, *but I urge you to locate these activities well away from wetland areas (i.e. fields)* which are used so heavily by migratory and resident birds throughout the year (including water birds, shore birds and songbirds). It seems the best site for small scale food production would be located adjacent to Roy Road between Elizabeth St and Dalmeny Rd since this land is dominated by English Hawthorne and other invasives, and importantly, is

screened from the fields by the hill and by vegetation. Perhaps the area near Dunsterville would be suitable also, although I haven't walked that piece. And, I would hope that any food production would have a strong ecological emphasis... as Councillor Chambers and Councillor Mersereau have described in other contexts.

Finally, two recommendations:

1) I am wondering if Saanich would consider acquiring the properties alongside Carey Road that are adjacent to Panama Flats (as they become available), including them in the Panama Flats planning. (I think this is being done at Swan Lake.) The home on Carey that was burned and the lot adjacent to it would be the logical first step - rather than have new construction on this site.

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Thanks again to Mayor Haynes and to each councillor for your decisions and intentions related to Panama Flats. This is legacy work on behalf of two groups that have no voice at the table...the wild creatures and our children (and their children). I believe future generations will deeply appreciate our choices to protect and restore these urban green spaces - rather than "developing" every square inch of land. And, of course the wild creatures need us to protect and restore the habitat they depend on for they are completely dependent on the good will of humans. So well done, and please, please keep up the good work.

Thank you for your time,
Burl Jantzen
[redacted] Leslie Drive
[redacted]

Ann Klein

To: biodiversity
Subject: RE: (External Email) [redacted] Property

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 11:01 AM
To: biodiversity <biodiversity@saanich.ca>; ian bruce <[redacted]>
Subject: (External Email) [redacted] Property

Saanich Biodiversity

Re [redacted] Property W Saanich Rd; [redacted] Alan Rd.

There is a significant environmental problem [redacted]. There is little or no effort made to reduce contaminants [redacted] flowing into "Jail" creek which flow into the Colquitz creek. Often there is several inches of soil left by trucks for hundreds of yards down Interurban especially after rainy periods. The site itself is normally covered by many inches of contaminants which wash directly into the creek.
Great effort has been made to restore and preserve the salmon and trout runs in the Colquitz but large sediment discharge from this property risks smothering egg and juvenile fish and fish habitat. A great deal of money and time has been spent rehabilitating the streams below this property. All of this work is in jeopardy. The issue is compounded by the lack of water quality data on the runoff above and below this property particularly during freshet conditions.
It is recommended that a management plan be developed by Saanich for this site and that it be implemented by the site owners.
Respectfully
[redacted]

Ann Klein

To: biodiversity
Subject: RE: (External Email) Re: Resilient Saanich e-Bulletin subscription incomplete

From: Peter Haddon [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: March-03-21 12:23 PM
To: biodiversity
Cc: Don Scott ; Susan Haddon ; FoBC ; Adriane Pollard
Subject: (External Email) Re: Resilient Saanich e-Bulletin subscription incomplete

Dear Carolyn,

[redacted] and I attended the Resilient Saanich Zoom meeting last night. We are members of 2 Societies you have contacted (Friends of Cedar Hill Park and Friends of Bowker Creek). These 'Friends of' organizations have many years of experience working as volunteers, building community support, working with the Municipal and Regional governments and we would like to share our perspectives with the RSTC.
I wondered if you could let us know what would be best timing, format, etc.

Sincerely,
Peter Haddon
[redacted]

On Wed, 3 Mar 2021 at 12:00, biodiversity <biodiversity@saanich.ca> wrote:

> Hi there,
>
> Our records show that you subscribed to the Resilient Saanich e-Bulletin, but your subscription was not confirmed. You would have received a reply email after subscribing with the subject line “Action Required: Please Confirm Your Subscription”. That email included a link you need to click to confirm your subscription. I realize that for some this confirmation email may have become lost in your junk mail or something similar.
>
> If you are still interested in receiving these e-Bulletins, here is the subscription link:
>
> https://secure.campaigner.com/CSB/Public/Form.aspx?fid=1800205
>
> - and watch for a reply email with the confirmation link
>
> If you’d like to see the e-Bulletins you have missed, we post them all on this page:

https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/natural-environment/resilient-saanich-environmental-policy-framework/resilient-saanich-updates.html

We hope you are able to participate in our engagement that is currently open. The survey is available via our Virtual Open House www.saanich.ca/biodiversity and it closes March 15th at 12noon.

Thanks,

Carolyn

Carolyn Richman

she/her

Environmental Education Officer

Planning Department

District of Saanich

770 Vernon Ave.

Victoria BC V8X 2W7

t. 250-475-5475

e. carolyn.richman@saanich.ca

saanich.ca

PS: the confirmation email has this message

Action Required: Please Confirm Your Subscription

To activate your subscription, please click on the confirmation link below. If you did not request a subscription, then you don't need to do anything and you will not receive any more emails from us.

(Link)

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We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

Ann Klein

From: Tony Goodman [redacted] > on behalf of Tony Goodman [redacted] >
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2021 7:39 PM
To: biodiversity
Subject: (External Email) Liveable environment-let's rid our neighborhoods of wood burning in homes

Hi there:

I would like to speak on behalf of banning wood burning in homes in Saanich. I live at [redacted] Willow St and on evenings during the winter, one or two homes use wood burning to heat their homes. The air quality diminishes greatly.

We're talking about acting on behalf of a clean environment, but wood burning severely hampers air quality. I have reported the offending home to the Saanich fire department, as the smoke was very evident most nights and frequently smelled of pollutants (burning plastic smells). However, I have not heard back from the fire department and am still keen to address this as a quality of life issue in Saanich, where wood burning for heat must surely by now be considered excessively polluting and degrading of the quality of life for neighbours.

Thanks

Tony Goodman

Adriane Pollard

To: biodiversity
Subject: RE: (External Email) Feedback re: conservation strategy, stewardship and climate plan

From: Ter Wen [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: February-03-21 3:50 PM
To: biodiversity <biodiversity@saanich.ca>
Subject: (External Email) Feedback re: conservation strategy, stewardship and climate plan

I support most of the initiatives that increase green space if they include saving trees and bushes and grass. Unfortunately, many of Saanich's new initiatives are opposite to their supposed climate plan.

Proposals to expand the width of streets such as shelbourne and cut down hundreds of old beautiful trees and replace with a few new trees is disrespectful to the existing tree life, in addition to it taking decades for these new trees to offer the green benefits in the air that the existing trees provide.

The legitimizing of carriage houses in backyards is the most anti-climate move I have ever seen!!! Saanich council and mayor should be ashamed of themselves. Neighbours on my street have torn down multiple trees, bushes and removed grass and other green space to put up these enormous buildings. (Neighbour removed over 20 trees, all of the bushes and grass to replace with additional buildings and gravel and Saanich approved this!)

Saanich climate change proposals do not take into consideration the impact of multiple cars on streets with no onsite parking being made available to accommodate the new allowance of 6 unrelated people per house! This shows lack of stewardship and disregard for the environment and climate.

This new environmental policy is a sham made to try to divert people's attention away from all of the destructive policies that Saanich mayor and council have passed these last 2 years.

Ter Wen
Saanich resident

Adriane Pollard

To: biodiversity
Subject: RE: (External Email) biodiversity generally

From: Robert Reimer [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: February-04-21 8:45 AM
To: biodiversity <biodiversity@saanich.ca>
Subject: (External Email) biodiversity generally

Re: Biodoviersity in Saanich

Whilst we pursue biodiversity and healthy neighbourhoods, some practical matters get overlooked.

Of particular interest to me are trees and the problems they create – due mainly to poor decisions. In my work I encounter the results of bad decisions and their consequences.

For example, Western Red Cedars are great in Parks and near water courses. Small urban yards are not the place for those trees. I have been involved in litigation regarding Western Red Cedars. They want to be 150+ feet tall and grow rapidly. Their branches and roots encroach on adjoining property and cause damage to structures above and below ground. In the pursuit of biodiversity, we need to select trees that are appropriate to the area in which they are planted.

For what it is worth.

Bob

ROBERT A. REIMER[redacted]
[redacted] SHELBOURNE STREET
VICTORIA, BC[redacted]
CANADA

TEL: [redacted]
FAX: [redacted]
EMAIL: [redacted]

Adriane Pollard

To: biodiversity
Subject: RE: (External Email) Resilient Saanich - Biodiversity

-----Original Message-----
From: ROSA SCHUH [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: February-04-21 3:54 PM
To: biodiversity <biodiversity@saanich.ca>
Subject: (External Email) Resilient Saanich - Biodiversity

Hello all,
Feb 4, 2020, and although I m not biking anywhere today - I usually ride from the Saanich Municipal Hall to downtown Victoria via the "Goose".
There are several tunnels along the way. Lovely infrastructure. Unfortunately graffiti finds its way into these.
Here is my suggestion: instead of the city painting grey over it incessantly just "let it be" !
Gallons of paint, hours of labour, waste of water and brushes, etc.

JUST LET IT BE —Or commission it and let someone feel proud they have been part of the community; Biodiversity or the Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework !

Kind Regards
Rosa Schuh
[redacted]

PS Many examples around the world in the poorer communities and slums.

Sent from my iPhone

Adriane Pollard

To: Adriane Pollard
Subject: RE: (External Email) publication of The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review

From: Copley, Claudia RBCM:EX [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 5:36 AM
To: Adriane Pollard <Adriane.Pollard@saanich.ca>
Subject: (External Email) publication of The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review

Something for the Resilient Saanich Committee?

Claudia Copley (she/her) Collection Manager and Researcher, Entomology | Collections Care and Conservation

ROYAL BC MUSEUM
Traditional Territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations)
675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC Canada V8W 9W2
T [redacted] | F [redacted] | royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review

The Dasgupta Review is an independent, global review on the Economics of Biodiversity led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta (Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus, University of Cambridge). The Review was commissioned in 2019 by HM Treasury and has been supported by an Advisory Panel drawn from public policy, science, economics, finance and business.

The Review calls for changes in how we think, act and measure economic success to protect and enhance our prosperity and the natural world. Grounded in a deep understanding of ecosystem processes and how they are affected by economic activity, the new framework

presented by the Review sets out how we should account for Nature in economics and decision-making.

The final Review comprises the Full Report, an Abridged Version and the Headline Messages. Final Report documents (above).

Press Notice including external reactions to the Review:

- The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review – Press Notice
- The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review – Reactions (document above)

General enquiries and feedback should be directed to the Independent Review team biodiversityreview@hmtreasury.gov.uk

Adriane Pollard

To: biodiversity
Subject: RE: (External Email) Compostable plastic

From: Sean Murray [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: February-05-21 8:40 PM
To: biodiversity <biodiversity@saanich.ca>
Subject: (External Email) Compostable plastic

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

Dear resilient Saanich,
I would like to see the more widespread use of compostable plastic, especially for one use items, such as the packaging that WalMart uses for salads etc. Can we as a municipality force the issue or is it something that requires Provincial or Federal Authority ? Please let's work on issues like this together.
from
Mr. Sean Murray
[redacted] Darwin ave.
Victoria B.C. (Saanich)
[redacted] ph:[redacted]

Adriane Pollard

From: Angelique <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 11:51 AM
To: biodiversity
Subject: (External Email) Has anyone created a list of planted native trees on iNaturalist?

Hello, I have a few questions about the 'Resilient Saanich' initiative:

1) Are native Vancouver Island plants the only plants that Saanich Parks will use under the 'Resilient Saanich' initiative?

2) Has anyone started a project on iNaturalist which includes a photo of the native plant planted under this initiative, date planted, and any notes on watering times, concurrent native species, and susceptibility to European rabbits and Columbian Black Tailed deer foraging, and possible invasive species danger - eg. could death cap (Amanita phalloides) spores be hiding in the roots of the planted species - which has been seen where tree imports from Eastern North America have brought them in?

3) Are any dog-free parks and beaches included in the plan, to protect pockets of rare, endangered plants and bird populations in our parks?

Thanks for reading :)

Angelique Kambeitz

Sent from my iPad

Adriane Pollard

To: biodiversity
Subject: RE: (External Email) Individual yards

-----Original Message-----
From: Sharon Wetselaar [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: February-06-21 12:00 PM
To: biodiversity <biodiversity@saanich.ca>
Subject: (External Email) Individual yards

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

Hi folks.

Just beginning to wade through the info on your website and really pleased that Saanich is keen to develop a healthy biodiversity policy. I'm wondering how specific it will be for individual households?

Our lot is 85'x110', and has an oldish house on it (built in [redacted]) and 9 fruit/nut trees on it, 5 of which are nearing 100 years old. Big grape vines that still produce fruit, as well.
Over the years, with the help of LifeCycles to prune and pick, we have maintained these plants. Hundreds of pounds of fruit has gone to food kitchens and food banks each year. And there has still been enough left over for us and the deer and raccoons and squirrels and birds to enjoy!

We also have lots of hedges and shrubs (and lawn) to water and maintain. Not complaining - it's all worth it to provide a green oasis for the creatures (human and otherwise) that hang out here. Good for the soul, good for the body, good for the planet!

Sadly, however, we watch the properties on our block - and neighborhood - shrinking in size and increasing in density. Trees and greenery being replaced by stone and parking spaces. Our property is becoming one of the last places around here where birds and small creatures still hang out on a regular basis. (It troubles us, though, to look over the growing list of birds that no longer come to our yard anymore.)

I understand that things change, and we must change with it. House prices are horrendous, most folks are so busy working that they have no time for big gardens anymore, our life styles are different, what we want out of life has changed, etc. etc.
And it IS increasingly expensive to maintain a large garden/yard, especially when we reach the point in life where we are no longer young and fit, and must rely on professional help for pruning, lawn cutting, and hedge and yard maintenance. Not to mention the rising cost of water to keep everything growing.

We do want to stay in this place as long as we can, and keep it as a little green space. And be good stewards of what we've been given. However, I'm sure it's only a matter of time before rising costs, [redacted] will force us to give up that dream....

I'm wondering if there is going to be any space in your idea of biodiversity for encouraging/saving/perpetuating urban gardens such as ours. How can we keep some of these green spaces out of the hands of "developers?" Should we keep them out of their hands? Could there be tax incentives for people who wish to keep their urban gardens as green spaces for the good of all? (Including climate and the planet!) Or.....?

Just thinking out loud....▪

Sharon Wetselaar

Sent from my iPad

Ann Klein

To: biodiversity
Subject: RE: (External Email) Feedback on Feb 22 motions re Panama Flats

From: Burl Jantzen [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: March-09-21 12:48 PM
To: Council ; biodiversity ; Planning
Subject: (External Email) Feedback on Feb 22 motions re Panama Flats

To: District of Saanich Mayor and Council

Cc: Resilient Saanich Technical Committee
Cc: Planning
Cc: Environment and Natural Areas Committee

Re: Motions affecting Panama Flats (from the Feb 22 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting)

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[redacted] Leslie Drive
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Saanich Biodiversity

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>
> If you are still interested in receiving these e-Bulletins, here is the subscription link:
>
> https://secure.campaigner.com/CSB/Public/Form.aspx?fid=1800205
>
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Thanks,

Carolyn

Carolyn Richman

she/her

Environmental Education Officer

Planning Department

District of Saanich

770 Vernon Ave.

Victoria BC V8X 2W7

t. 250-475-5475

e. carolyn.richman@saanich.ca

saanich.ca

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Thanks

Tony Goodman

Adriane Pollard

To: biodiversity
Subject: RE: (External Email) Environmental Policy Framework

From: Sania Poluch [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: February-07-21 10:51 AM
To: biodiversity <biodiversity@saanich.ca>
Subject: (External Email) Environmental Policy Framework

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/05/malmo-sweden-success-rewild-london-aoe

Adriane Pollard

From: Dave F <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2021 10:11 AM
To: biodiversity
Subject: (External Email) Artificial Turf

Does Artificial Turf come under the Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework? (Pesticides, Weed Killers, Micro-plastics, Etc.)
If not Why not.
Thanks Dave

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Adriane Pollard

To: Adriane Pollard
Subject: RE: FYI

From: Adriane Pollard
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 9:34 AM
To: 'Nathalie Chamberss' ; Thomas Munson ; Rebecca Mersereau
Subject: RE: FYI

Hello Nathalie,
Thanks for sending along your thoughts. This will be shared with the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee for their information.
Adriane

From: Nathalie Chamberss [mailto[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.

1420-30 RSTC

Petra Eng

From: Art <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 1:07 PM
To: Council
Subject: (External Email) Additional Ideas for 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 Mayor and Council:
I wish to add a compilation of thoughts, questions and suggestions for Council to consider regarding the Resilient Saanich and EDPA guidelines.
We are witnessing worldwide protests from citizens who are asking that their governments display more transparency and fair democratic practices toward Environments and Climate Change. I am pleased to say that Saanich is showing leadership on this topic.
Questions:
If a neighbouring municipality, (IE: Langford)permits a commercial/industrial rock quarry that disturbs well water (flow/purity) of ground water tables, can Saanich request a "cease and desist" order and demand compensation for Saanich rural properties?
If neighbouring Golf Course watering or irrigation for farming, drains the water table and causes drought in the nearby sensitive environments or estuary, can Saanich request compensation and more water rights if restored environments are impacted?
Will there be a posted list of properties that are having issues with the updated Resilience objectives or EDPA guidelines? (Transparency) Will there be an unbiased Arbitration Panel/council that will resolve conflicts without financial impacts on property owners?
Will "drone surveillance" be used to observe compliance to guidelines?
Will "hoarders" be given a defined time-limit to remove material that is detrimental to the ecosentive areas on their property?
Will tax exemptions/deductions be granted to property owners with large forested areas that they are maintaining, or grasslands and wetlands but are not included in Farm Tax property reductions?
If a property owner becomes disabled or faces bankruptcy, is there a Saanich contingency fund to assist the homeowner during financial difficulty?
If a natural disaster, IE: earthquake, drought, wildfire or International crisis occurs, will the Resilient Saanich plan be postponed?
Will wildlife "culls" be enforced if wildlife rodents and animals with Parvovirus are found on ecosensitive areas? IE:Migration Bird Flu, rabbits, racoons, squirrels, rats, deer mice.
Will there be rapid response for " New Product removal" that may harm the natural environment causing blue/green algae? IE: Insect sprays, salt that de-ices or lawn fertilizers that cause nitrates to enter storm drains, lakes and water tables.
Will there be enforceable updated bylaws on devices that are meant to deter-by- impulse such as buzzing noises, predator sounds, loud music, odours or light - to restrict wildlife and domesticated animal intrusions?
Will Resilient Saanich include new codes that reduce reflective nightlight, mirrored window reflection, neon, coloured or LED lights, sounds, HD cameras that invade neighbour privacy, produce heat from exterior windows or roof designs?

Suggestions:
Do not ban wood stoves, fireplaces or outdoor clean burning in rural areas. Some rural property owners use dead wood as an alternate renewable heat source. Ashes are spread for vegetation enhancement and nutrients. Invasive species are burned onsite as to not spread seeds and spores. Outdoor burning also

reduces combustible forest litter build up and spontaneous combustion of bushes like Broomgrass or dead blackberry bramble.

Park Upgrades:
Saanich must instal more electric vehicle recharge plugins outside park boundaries. A Saanich app or Gift Card should be purchased and used to pay for the power usage. The higher fees must only go toward park improvements.

If Parks are to be used for Movie Locations or special family gathering, sports events or celebrations ... a temporary parking levy should be added to help toward Park acquisitions.
Those who object may park outside or use public transit.
Disabled person with permits will be allowed to park for free.

Politics: Internal/External
Taxpayers are now required to pay a higher new Carbon Tax. Saanich along with the other CRD municipalities, should demand 1% of the taxes raised to be applied to Climate Change innovations within their municipality. The funds must be guaranteed and in place before the next Federal election ... "no promises before election".

If a large public or private parcel of land is for sale, granted or given ... within a municipality, Councils should be informed in advance. This will prevent Councils having to deal with citizens/groups in opposition or with "power, privilege, political persuasion and huge financial resources".
(IE: repressive Un Democratic Foreign government ownership, Communist China or Biker gang connection)

Saanich has a non-harassment in house policy for employees and management. This must also be applied to officials, bylaw enforcers and those in positions of authority who could be perceived as intimidating to the public. The public must not be deterred from speaking up for fear of obstructions, refusal to be heard or future reprisals.
Scam Artists:
Saanich must advertise via Website, newsletters and newspapers that Saanich will never solicit residents for "cash payments, Bitcoin/ITune cards, threatening phone calls, email or visits to the door." If a Saanich resident receives such a request they should report it immediately to Saanich police.

School Districts should be included in Resilient Saanich consultation. PTA, newsletters, private/public student councils and school environmental clubs should be invited to attend via social media. It will create leadership, political involvement and mentoring that will help determine the future they will inherit.

Thank you for considering these questions, suggestions and ideas.
Art Bickerton

Sent from my iPad

Adriane Pollard

From: Sharon Hvozdanski
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:37 AM
To: Adriane Pollard
Subject: FW: received: Resilient Saanich: Need to get it right this time, please

fyi

From: Mayor
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:55 AM
To: Rebecca Mersereau
Cc: [redacted]; Council ; Susan Brice ; Colin Plant ; Ned Taylor ; Zac De Vries ; Nathalie Chambers ; Karen Harper
Subject: Re: received: Resilient Saanich: Need to get it right this time, please

Hello Jeff,
Thank you for bringing these observations forward. They are appreciated.
Cllr. Mersereau has indicated your feedback has her attention will be sent on to the RSTC.
This email is also being shared with council and staff.
As Cllr. Mersereau mentioned, there is hopefully the opportunity for rapid fixes to the technical issues you raised along with a process that can address the items you indicate as more fundamental to the process.
Kind regards,
Fred

Fred Haynes
Mayor
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave.
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

t. 250-475-5510
f. 250-475-5440
mayor@saanich.ca
www.saanich.ca

> On Feb 17, 2021, at 8:13 AM, Rebecca Mersereau <Rebecca.Mersereau@saanich.ca> wrote:
>
> Hi Jeff,
>
> Thanks for taking the time you did to review the new materials for Resilient Saanich, attempt the survey, and share so much thoughtful input with Council.
>
> With your permission, I would like to share your input with the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (it would be published with the agenda for their March meeting). I think you make a lot of points they would be interested in, particularly as they break down the notion of resilience and define the scope of this multi-year work over the next month. I am also going to share it with staff because there are some pieces of survey feedback we may be able to address right away, and so they're aware of your challenges interpreting the process from the communications content.

Additionally, I'm available this coming weekend chat over the phone or using a virtual meeting platform, if you'd like to talk through some of these concerns at more detail.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Mersereau
Saanich Councillor & CRD Director
Chair, Saanich Environmental & Natural Areas Committee
Council Liaison to the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee

Traditional territories of the WSÁNEĆ and Lekwungen peoples.

On Feb 16, 2021, at 10:48 PM, [redacted] wrote:

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is to you.

Mayor and Council,

Last week I received Resilient Saanich e-Bulletin #6. Today it was Resilient Saanich e-Bulletin #7.

Both had a link Saanich.ca/biodiversity which brought me to a webpage called: "Resilient Saanich: Environmental Policy Framework". At some point last week I found the Resilient Saanich 'Have your say' suevey.

"Saanich has started a process to develop an Environmental Policy Framework that is referred to as "Resilient Saanich". "Resilient Saanich" will consider existing and potential future policies, plans, and programs to integrate sustainability and the natural environment."

What? So "Resilient Saanich" is "Environmental Policy Framework." What? I don't get it. Very confusing. Very misleading.

What happened to Resilient Saanich meaning Resilient Saanich? Where did it go?

I attempted to complete the online survey to Have My Say about Resilient Saanich.

I failed or rather the survey failed me.

The questions and responses to choose from make it impossible to express opinions other than those the District wants us express. This survey is for public consultation. As far as I'm concerned, it falls short. I just couldn't 'have my say.'

So it was that survey that made me feel I had to write to Council. What is happening, where we seem to be going, makes no sense to me. Nothing that is happening pertains to Resilient Saanich. I feel Resilient Saanich is now just a new name for EDPA but more broad in scope.

Before getting to a couple of sections from that survey, I'd like to quote Einstein:

If you can't explain it to a 6 year old, you don't really know your subject matter.

Or maybe Edward Koch: I can explain it to you but I cannot comprehend it for you.

Here is a list quoted directly from the Have Your Say survey. It didn't 'copy and paste' well but we are asked to choose if we support, neutral, do not support or are unsure, these statements:

1. Recognize the intrinsic value of nature
2. Respect Indigenous knowledge and land uses
3. Consider future generations
4. Ensure evidence-based decision making*
5. Adopt the precautionary principle when facing knowledge gaps
6. Build upon foundational knowledge of historical land use
7. Lead by example through innovation and best practices
8. Look beyond our borders to achieve results at a bioregional scale
9. Address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do
10. Work in partnerships with diverse interests to achieve outcomes that realize mult

And "Do you have any recommendations to improve one or more of these principles? Are there any principles that you would like to add?"

Also, the subsequent section:

Please indicate your level of support for each proposed objective:

1. Fairly and effectively manage the natural and built environment to adapt to climat essential ecosystem services
2. Foster resistance and regenerative capacity (i.e., resilience) to our landscapes agai
3. Engage and support citizens in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewarc
4. Update bylaws and policies across all departments to be transparent and consister

The questionnaire continues but I did not. It wouldn't let me continue unless I answered every question. And I just couldn't. I gave up. It was going nowhere. It was not going to end well.

Who am I? I see myself as a generic Saanich resident. I do read the documents I come across on the Saanich website especially those I am sent to by links in documents or bulletins. So maybe that sets me apart from most Saanich residents. I try to be informed. Being informed means reading materials Saanich provides and then trying to complete surveys like the above.

Yes, I am confused. I really don't think it is ***my*** problem. It is up to the District to take all steps necessary to inform interested citizens especially those who do

take the time to try to be informed. In this case, Resilient Saanich replaced Natural Saanich which was a new program that evolved out of the failed and finally rescinded EDPA. So I thought. (See below, the direct quote from Councillor Brice as to why the EDPA was rescinded and how moving forward the District needs to end the confusion and rebuild trust)

Yet we have this survey which I feel is so typical. I can see through it. I know it is completely unscientific in every way yet I know those responsible will use it to advance their own personal agenda, get their agenda into new bylaws and force them onto property owners. This is definitely not building trust or ending confusion. It is the polar opposite, in my humble opinion. Terrible.

When will this end? When will the District begin the task of rebuilding trust and ending confusion?

Here are my thoughts. That survey is a trigger event, for me. I just had to write to you in the hope of making a statement that could impact the Resilient Saanich program. I suspect it won't but at least I get this off my plate. BTW, every time I decide to write, I end up spending long hours, in this case possibly 40 because I must go through the various council meetings: watch videos, read documents, transcribe what was said in some of the videos etc. A monumental task because none of this information is easily available to the general public. There is no document that explains Resilient Saanich. After all it is a new concept, a new concept for the District.

It is not easy to access information from Saanich. Rather it is very difficult and confusing. I won't say this is deliberate. I'm sure it isn't. Nonetheless, all of what I read about Resilient Saanich is confusing. I can't see any attempt was made to morph Natural Saanich into what Resilient Saanich should mean. No effort whatsoever. It seems that all that was done to change from Natural Saanich to Resilient Saanich was the most basic search and replace. So it is incomprehensible for anyone outside that inner circle of knowledge keepers.

Back to basics #1: The very narrow Natural Saanich becomes Resilient Saanich-A turning Point

I admit I was surprised and excited at the very end of Council Meeting OCT 29, 2019. Councillor de Vries made a motion to quickly change ***Natural Saanich*** to ***Resilient Saanich***. Brilliant. Resilient must be what we are all after, what we all really want.

> **Councillor de Vries made the motion, seconded by Councillor Chambers:**
> (Council Meeting 29 OCT 2019)
> "That the "Natural Saanich" Environmental Policy Framework be renamed "Resilient Saanich"."
> "Council discussion ensued with the following comments:
> **- It is appropriate to create policies to make Saanich more resilient in the face of change."**

This is brilliant.

I always had a problem with "natural." To me ***Natural*** meant the pre-settler state where the land comprising Saanich is as close as possible to what existed pre-settler. Any deviations from that would be negative, bad, bad, bad.

So I envisioned, the best thing that could happen to Saanich would be to stop all new builds and encourage deconstruction of homes at the end of their useful life or when the owner dies like the acreage at [redacted] Mountain Rd. Let the land revert back and restore to its natural state and give our land to a Conservancy. Sure. No thought given to the impact on ratepayers as land went from residential to conservancy. (BTW same goes for all of those fake farms where a homeowner with 1-2 acres buys a few sheep, chickens and gets reclassified as a farm. Nonsense)

But ***Resilient Saanich*** is a whole new program. It should be. Or so I thought.

What is resilience?

re·sil·ience
/rəˈzilyəns/
noun

1. the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.
   "the often remarkable resilience of so many British institutions"
2. the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity.
   "nylon is excellent in wearability and resilience"

Ref: Oxford

Resilience is easy to understand. So too is ***Resilient Saanich***. Or so I thought. Silly me.

When it comes to resilience and the District of Saanich, I'm thinking, yes, resilience for the present, the foreseeable and anticipated future effects of climate change. Climate change is one aspect. Concerns would include the urban canopy and biodiversity and more. These are some of the most obvious aspects of climate change albeit very small aspects.

But there is more, a lot more "***to make Saanich more resilient in the face of change***."

Resilient Saanich means we forget about restoring back to pre-settler as the ideal. That ship has sailed. We need to plan what might be the ideal, where we want Saanich to be 10, 100 years from now.

Resilient Saanich means planning for the future, not the past. Flora and biodiversity should be resilient to what the future holds. That might not resemble what existed 100 years ago and no longer thrives here in 2021 or going forward.

Resilient Saanich also means resilience regarding other foreseeable challenges of climate change and challenges from natural disasters such as:

- Fire,
- Earthquake,
- Wind,
- Floods,
- Shoreline issues: waves, rising sea levels,
- Financial disasters

BTW, of the above, only earthquakes would not relate to climate change while others like fire, wind, floods, shoreline would fall under impacts of climate change.

How can we discuss Resilient Saanich and not at a minimum include all of the above.

We must not stop at climate change or the environment alone. We need "***to make Saanich more resilient in the face of change.***" That statement doesn't mean to make Saanich more resilient in the face of ***climate*** change. That's not the essence of Councillor de Vries motion. His motion means resilient to ***all*** changes, not just those relating to climate. Councillor de Vries is one of the youngest Councillors ever. He represents the new generation. He has new ideas. Let's not take these new ideas and then simply re-badge the same old, long in the tooth EDPA that was already rescinded.

Emergency Preparedness in Saanich is another example of a far too narrow treatment of a very important topic by Saanich. I attended the official Saanich Emergency Preparedness 2-hour session a couple of years ago. It talked to earthquake only. Why? Why that specific focus, only?

2. "NATURAL SAANICH" GOALS & OBJECTIVES

> "From the Official Community Plan, the vision for "Natural Saanich" is "Saanich restores and protects air, land, and water quality, the biodiversity of existing natural areas and eco-systems, the network of natural areas and open spaces, and urban forests." The vision will inform the development of the Natural Saanich goals and objectives."
>
> REF Draft terms of reference "Natural Saanich" technical committee OCT 16 2019
> https://saanich.ca.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=337&meta_id=20124

Look at the vision statement above. If you substitute "Natural Saanich" with "Resilient Saanich", the vision no longer works. It is too narrow to the point it makes no sense. Yet that is what we have.

At that Council Meeting of OCT 29 2019, the Head of Planning said the Natural Saanich Technical Advisory Committee "could be in place by mid-December."

She didn't promise the Committee would be in place by mid-December, only that the Committee 'could' be in place by mid-December. In the end the Committee was named and in place by mid-July. It is now mid-February and we have had no updates, progress reports. I suspect only Planning and Environment are involved, as in the past. I suspect there is no representation from Parks, Trees, Fire, Engineering, Emergency Preparedness, Sustainability and others.

Again this illustrates that there is no attempt to build trust with stakeholders. There has been no attempt to keep stakeholders informed. It all seems so secret. We have seen a few generic bulletins like #6 and #7 cited above. I wonder if the RSTC authored these but I suspect not. They are not signed.

Similarly the survey I quoted from above was framed as a public consultation- "Have your say". Maybe the District vetted it and believes it is an excellent tool for consultation. To me, it's not by any measure.

So what we are seeing seems like more of the same. More of what got us to where we are. No real progress. No building trust. No ending confusion.

Back to basics #2: Council Meeting NOV 6 2017

1. (Quote) MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Haynes: "That staff bring Council a report, with options, as soon as possible on the potential of developing a Saanich program which includes the topics of Climate Adaptation, a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, and Stewardship Program to serve as a policy framework for other Saanich environmental policies and programs, and a new Environmental Development Permit Area be considered part of this program; and that the **Diamond Head report recommendations be considered as a component of this report**."

   Ref: Minutes Council Meeting NOV 6 2017
   https://saanich.ca.granicus.com/DocumentViewer.php?file=saanich_ff66ea211af9b1fa2d7251e434583e1f.pdf&view=1

2. (Manual transcription from official video JB) 3:09.40 **Councillor Brice** "I feel at certain times with certain issues enough has happened that you really do owe it to everybody to start afresh. I think that there will always be those who feel that they were let down by Saanich Council when the original EDPA came in. I don't believe that myself. I do know what process we went through but I understand there were people who feel that way. ... We can't have gone through that trauma and then just say let's carry on and try fix this thing. I think we owe it to our community. We owe it to our Council to say we've learned a lot. We're not starting at square 1. We've learned a tremendous amount. It's been quite a learning experience for all of us and I think if we take that knowledge that we have learned, carry on with the passion and sincere efforts by all of us to improve the environment and put protections in place for the long run not for this term, not for 10 years from now but the 100-year vision that

we are working towards. This is worth working on. This is worth another try. We can't just say well this was good enough. ... This is tough stuff but it is not impossible."

Ref Minutes Council Meeting NOV 6 2017
https://saanich.ca.granicus.com/DocumentViewer.php?file=saanich_ff66ea211af9b1fa2d7251e434583e1f.pdf&view=1

And:

3. (Manual transcription from official video JB) "Councillor Wergeland stated: - The bylaw needs a restart which can be done with input from residents; a new bylaw needs to provide clarity."

   Ref Minutes Council Meeting NOV 6 2017
   https://saanich.ca.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=53&meta_id=1807

TAKEAWAY: The above led to Council voting to rescind the EDPA. The above quotes from Councillors Brice and Wergeland are clear. Councillor Brice captured the essence: "We can't have gone through that trauma and then just say let's carry on and try fix this thing. I think we owe it to our community." No confusion in her words. Later she repeated she did not want to ever repeat that trauma. Yet 3.5 years later there is still confusion with the District.

The District never accepted their failure. The fact it's 2021 and Saanich does not have anything to replace the failed EDPA. The EDPA had to be rescinded due to confusion and mistrust. It's the same confusion and mistrust that exists today.

Yet it seems clear the District and Councillors believe the EDPA was rescinded based on "faulty science." That is un true. The "faulty science" wording is in several reports and minutes of Council meetings. I pointed this out in the past, to no avail. The motion is still on record as are statements from at least one councillor. The "faulty science" statement is being repeated in public forums. It was made it into a recent UVic seminar by Prof [redacted] attended by several staff and councillors: Oct 29, 2020: "Pitfalls and Promise of Environmental Development Permit Areas". Saanich was singled out as an example of what can go wrong when a small group of vocal citizens had the EDPA thrown out. This is untrue. It is disgraceful and disrespects a fine local biologist. It does not help people of Saanich have any trust in the District. It is the reverse.

I would appreciate it if Council would stop saying and passing motions to the effect the EDPA was rescinded based on faulty science. That is untrue and defamatory. Rather quote from Councillors Brice and Wergeland above for the truth as to why the EDPA was rescinded

One more example of fostering a climate of confusion and distrust was in the agenda of OCT 29 2019. The District added a proposal that Council approve Interim Measures (until a new EDPA was adopted). When asked to explain how Interim Measures differed from the old EDPA, it could not be explained. When

asked why Interim Measures were being proposed, they said it was because Council asked for them. When Mayor Haynes stated Council had not requested Interim Measures then he was told staff thought is was a good idea. This does not end confusion. It creates new confusion. This does not build trust. Frankly it's bizarre.
Ref:
https://saanich.ca.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=337&meta_id=20131

Back to basics #3: The Diamond Head Report: More on rebuilding trust, ending misunderstanding

Key Finding from Diamond Head Report:

> "Our stakeholder engagement generally confirmed the high level of interest, knowledge and passion Saanich residents have towards environmental protection in their municipality. However, we also found that there was confusion and misunderstandings about the EDPA bylaw and its implementation."
>
> Two takeaway points:
>
> 1. Very positive comment about residents: interest, knowledge and passion.
> 2. Very negative: "Confusion and misunderstandings about the EDPA bylaw and its implementation."
>
> **Page 72:** "It has become evident to our team through engagement that the District, public, developers and environmental professionals will need to make efforts to rebuild trust in the EDPA Bylaw and process to move forward with the protection of ESAs on private property, and that this need will not be resolved solely by implementing the recommendations of this review. A number of people highlighted their reluctance to engage on the topic of the EDPA, given the current type of **acrimonious social discourse taking place, and the detrimental effect it is having amongst community members**. This will be limiting to the ability for the District to engage with its community members."

TAKEAWAY: The District "will need to make efforts to rebuild trust"... That was in the Diamond Head Report JUNE 21, 2017. The survey this week confuses me. I find it incomprehensible, confusing. Why would Saanich ever send it out expecting to collect meaningful responses from residents who would be as confused as I am? I don't 'get it'.

QUESTION: Getting to the point: What concrete steps has the District taken to rebuild trust? What milestones were achieved to this end? Have the District measured an improvement in less mistrust and less confusion since Diamond Head in 2017?

QUESTION 2: What concrete steps has the District taken so ***Resilient Saanich*** does not cause more "Confusion and misunderstanding"?

In the motion by Councillor Plant, NOV 6, 2017, "staff bring Council a report, with options, as soon as possible... and that the Diamond Head report recommendations be considered as a component of this report."

Please refer to Recommendation #5: "Remove reference to existing EDPA Atlas map and replace it with text-based descriptions for flagging properties that may contain Environmentally Sensitive Areas."

Why is the District in the process of preparing new maps when Diamond Head recommended abandoning maps? When asked the question by Mayor Haynes, the response was that the $115000 ($150000?) was in the budget. My first question is why was there money for mapping into the budget? Who put it there? Secondly, why was the budget approved with this money for maps as a line item? Where is the review? What steps have been taken so this will not be repeated every year?

Yet it is FEB 2021 and the new versions of these maps are now accessible on the Saanich public website. Without going into details, many of the lands that Council voted and removed from the EDPA because the owner and biologist proved there was no sensitive ecosystem are now re-designated as sensitive ecosystems. For example, sensitive ecosystems includes a neighbour's kitchen and my whole house. Yet somehow some neighbouring homes are somehow carved out of sensitive areas. I wonder how that happened. Who actually believes these maps are a good idea? Not me. Not Diamond Head. Who, then?

Bear in mind it took 3-4 years of "often acrimonious social discourse taking place" (Diamond Head) and intense involvement of many concerned property owners to get these lands removed from the EDPA and ultimately to get the EDPA rescinded. It's FEB 2021 and we are faced with repeating that very same battle. This is terrible. Why is this happening? Is that fair? Is that what Council wants? Is that what the District wants?

Exactly **who** wants to repeat 4 more years of acrimonious social discourse? Is the District hoping they will deal with a whole new Council after the next election?

One last thing on mapping: The most basic interpretation of **FireSmart** would mean no trees closer than 10m from any home, especially my home which is highly combustible cedar. So every single home on these maps should have that 10m zone around it.

These maps are brand new, very costly and are simply not compatible with ***Resilient Saanich, in any way***. Why does the District still spend $$ making these maps. The Diamond Head Report stated they should be abandoned and Council instructed District Staff not to use them. Yet here we are. Here we are again.

QUESTION 3: Seriously, what has the District done to rebuild trust or begin to end confusion and misunderstanding?

That's a serious question. I can't see or say anything positive. Not one single positive step in that direction. Nothing. Nothing that the District has done since the EDPA was rescinded has started to rebuild trust or end confusion and misunderstanding in the least bit. Apart from ongoing pursuit of outmoded mapping, another example of another reason for mistrust was when the District staff presented **Interim Measures** to Council and requested approval. When asked why Interim Measures were proposed, staff said Council had requested them. When Mayor Haynes said no, council had not requested Interim Measures. Then staff said they (the staff) thought it was a good idea; something Council might want. When asked how the Interim Measures were different from the old EDPA, they could not explain. Confusion on all sides.

This email is already far too long but I did want to bring up **stewardship**. There was a question on stewardship in the survey. It asked for our level of support for active and passive stewardship, without describing what was meant by active and passive stewardship. Stewardship is important. It was also in the Diamond Head Report. Again we all have our own ideas about stewardship and how that should be encouraged. For example, I feel it could start with the District encouraging people to clean their yards of rusting vehicles, industrial waste and collapsed sheds as a start. That's simple. The District should lead by example, as Diamond Head pointed out. Let's start with Parks as models of stewardship. Finally as a landowner, I do need help. I would like a resource from the District who could advise me and neighbours directly in a respectful, practical and meaningful manner. What should I do or not do.

In conclusion, I recommend Council pass a motion to the effect that everything the District does, every document they produce, respects, builds trust and understanding of and for indigenous peoples but also for stakeholders, all stakeholders. Either what the District does is respectful, reduces mistrust and confusion if it promotes respect, trust and clear understanding or it promotes more of the same: More mistrust. More confusion More understandings.

This has to stop at some point.

I thought and hoped Resilient Saanich was something I can really support. I feel Saanich needs an all-encompassing program that is Resilient Saanich. Residents like me see the District as a single entity comprised of many departments. Yes it is complex but Resilient Saanich as a program focuses all departments on a common goal. It is what stakeholders want.

I feel we are at a crossroads. For me the line was crossed when the maps came out and were wrong. Then there was the survey which I actually found last week. I reached my breaking point. I had to step up and speak out. In my humble opinion the survey was nonsense. The maps are nonsense.

I recommend that all work on mapping be halted and notes made that the maps are "For information purposes only. Not to be used for zoning or planning purposes." And the District should understand what this means. They could be used by homeowners for general interest albeit at a significant cost.

I recommend Council review the ***Resilient Saanich Technical Advisory Committee*** and re-purpose, reconstitute it to become the Resilient Saanich Technical Advisory Committee. The current purpose of the Resilient Saanich Technical Advisory Committee is to "Protect, restore and enhance the ecological function and biological diversity of Saanich." This is from the old Natural Saanich but is far too narrow and views pre-settler Saanich as the ultimate goal. This simply cannot stand.

This Committee should have representation of ***all*** relevant departments not only Planning or Environment. It was an error to proceed with the current committee with no consideration to broader concerns of Resilient Saanich.

As Councillor Brice put it so elegantly: "It's been quite a learning experience for all of us and I think if we take that knowledge that we have learned, carry on with the passion and sincere efforts by all of us to improve the environment and put protections in place for the long run not for this term, not for 10 years from now but the 100-year vision that we are working towards. This is worth working on." She also stated, more recently we must avoid the bitter 3+ year confrontation with Saanich stakeholders that led to rescinding the EDPA.

I'll leave it here. You might guess I am very upset. I have lost all optimism I had in Resilient Saanich as being a new all-encompassing program. I fear we are stuck in the Saanich version of Groundhog Day and worry that Councillor Brice's worst nightmare will come true. We all fear that.

Stay well. Stay safe. Be calm.

Respectfully,
Jeffrey Brooks
If I didn't care so much, I wouldn't write!

Jeffrey Brooks
[redacted] Spring Rd
Victoria, BC [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Adriane Pollard

From: Rebecca Mersereau
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:39 AM
To: Anita Bull
Cc: Mayor; Susan Brice; Ned Taylor; Zac De Vries; Colin Plant; Karen Harper; Nathalie Chambers; Judy Brownoff; Stewart Guy; Brian Wilkes; [redacted]; Tim Ennis; Bev Windjack; Purnima Govindarajulu; Tiffany Joseph; Tory Stevens; Kevin Brown; Jeremy Gye; Paul Thorkelsson; Sharon Hvozdanski; Adriane Pollard; Thomas Munson; Eva Riccius
Subject: Re: (External Email) RE: Resilient Saanich Virtual Open House // Council liaison response

Hello Anita and members of SCRES,

First - in follow up to our previous correspondence, I want to confirm that the RSTC will be discussing the topic of mapping at their meeting tonight. The agenda includes a memo on the topic of mapping prepared by a couple of members on the Committee, as well as a phone number at the top that members of the public can use to call in to listen to the meeting proceedings: https://www.saanich.ca/assets/Local~Government/Documents/Committees~and~Boards/RSTC/Agendas/2021-02-16-rstf-full-agenda.pdf

Secondly, I'd like to address the comments and questions below, from your most recent email.

I did not address my previous reply on SCRES concerns to the Parks Department because the Environmental Services staff are the lead group coordinating the Resilient Saanich initiative and the content of the email concerned mostly process. The Parks Department and other departments/divisions are apprised when work under Resilient Saanich directly impacts them. As an example, the Parks Department is participating in the RSTC meeting tonight and is likely to for the foreseeable future, since a near-term focus on biodiversity is anticipated.

In response to your questions about the graphic created by staff found in the virtual open house, which states that Milestone 1 is complete: I would offer a clarification that staff have conducted a preliminary review to answer the questions referenced as a component of the preliminary gap analysis. This was presented to the Committee as part of their orientation. As previously mentioned, the preliminary gap analysis is likely to be refined as the RSTC and staff as they look more closely at programs and policies over the next couple of years. I agree with you that this graphic may be somewhat misleading because it does not allude to the fact that seeking answers to these three important questions will be an ongoing process throughout Resilient Saanich.

I'd like to illustrate that point with a couple of examples: one of the initiatives being considered by the RSTC and staff is developing something along the lines of a 'State of Biodiversity' report that would document what is know about the state of biodiversity in our municipality. This exercise would obviously require much more thorough consideration of the question "what natural assets are in Saanich and what state are they in?". Similarly, developing a biodiversity strategy, which is the intent over the next 1-2 years, would require much more in depth consideration of the question "what do we have the authority or opportunity to do?".

Now, to answer the question: "Why has the full Draft Atlas not been provided for residents to view on the Resilient Saanich website?" It's important to note that neither mapping nor the Atlas are specifically or explicitly included within the scope of the Committee's work. They are operational activities that have been underway for a number of years (pre-EDPA) that stem from policy statements in our 2008 OCP. That is why this work is not associated with Resilient Saanich on the website. However, the RSTC has the ability to identity programs and practices organization-wide (under it's environmental mandate) that it would like to review in order to recommend improvements. For that reason, we're seeing the discussion about mapping come forward this week, after staff provided some initial information about their approach back in December.

The email below states "We believe that all the material that Staff has created, and that has been provided to the RSTC, should be fully available to the public, to meet the need for transparency and honesty which was lacking in the original roll out of the EDPA, where landowners were never well informed or involved."

We agree very much with the sentiment that transparency is a necessity throughout the Resilient Saanich process. As Committee meetings are open meetings, materials presented to the RSTC for discussion during meetings, including materials used for committee orientation, should be available publicly. I will follow up with our legislative services staff to ensure that is the case.

Thanks for the opportunity to dialogue on these questions and concerns.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Mersereau
Saanich Councillor & CRD Director
Chair, Saanich Environmental & Natural Areas Committee
Council Liaison to the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee

Traditional territories of the WSÁNEĆ and Lekwungen peoples.

On Feb 9, 2021, at 4:46 PM, Anita Bull wrote:

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

To Mayor and Council, and the RSTC

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to be involved in this discussion, provided by Councillor Mersereau.

SCRES is pleased to hear about Saanich Mayor's (and Council's) commitment regarding the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the statement in its media release by Councillor Brownoff regarding Saanich Parks. *"Saanich Parks is a leader in community stewardship and invasive species management which are both important aspects of ecosystem restoration," said Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee Chair and Councillor Judy Brownoff. "We have strong existing partnerships with community groups such as Peninsula Streams, and many 'friends of parks' groups.* ***We are committed to restoring natural areas and biodiversity within our parks to benefit the long term health of our community***."

We fully support this direction going forward and our followers will be pleased to hear this news regarding Saanich Parks, as we provided similar recommendations for this commitment from Saanich in our 2015 report to Council. We eagerly await significant action on this extremely positive direction forward, and we recognize the enormity of this commitment by Saanich Council.

Saanich Parks are a significant part of the Resilient Saanich initiative, therefore, why is the Parks Department not involved in this email?

We have further concerns regarding some of the Virtual Open House material.

On page two of the Virtual Open House material the graphic states that Milestone 1 is complete, with an arrow above that states that "we are here". There are three questions/actions in green to the left of the arrow:
1 What natural assets are in Saanich and what risks do they face?
2. How do we currently enhance and protect our natural assets?
3. What do we have the authority or opportunity to do?
The implication is that actions 1, 2 and 3 are complete. We have seen the gap analysis table (which is genuinely concerning), but are there other documents that have been created to answer these questions? Is there data that has been used to make decisions on these issues? For example, has there been any analysis on the measurable actions of the previous EDPA? We have not seen anything on this very crucial topic.
We do not believe that the natural assets in Saanich Parks have been fully assessed or that they are being enhanced for the most important ecosystems – Riparian, and Garry oak ecosystems, or for Species at Risk.
Saanich needs to be fully transparent about these issues. Where are these analyses available to the residents of Saanich and to Council? Or is this just the gap analysis table? If it is - what data is it based on?
This graphic, and other graphics, were not present in the RSTC document presented to the Environment and Natural Areas Committee – have these graphics been created by Staff?

We were provided with parts of the Draft Environmental Reference Atlas for the December 8, 2020 presentation on mapping by Staff. Why has the full Draft Atlas not been provided for residents to view on the Resilient Saanich website?

We believe that all the material that Staff has created, and that has been provided to the RSTC, should be fully available to the public, to meet the need for transparency and honesty which was lacking in the original roll out of the EDPA, where landowners were never well informed or involved.

SCRES looks forward to further discussion and involvement on these and other issues that the RSTC will consider. These are important issues for our community.
Saanich Citizens for Resilient Environmental Stewardship (SCRES)

From: Rebecca Mersereau [mailto:Rebecca.Mersereau@saanich.ca]
Sent: February 7, 2021 6:07 PM
To: Anita Bull
Cc: Mayor; Susan Brice; Ned Taylor; Zac De Vries; Colin Plant; Karen Harper; Nathalie Chambers; Judy Brownoff; Stewart Guy; Brian Wilkes; [redacted]; Tim Ennis; Bev Windjack; Purnima Govindarajulu; Tiffany Joseph; Tory Stevens; Kevin Brown; Jeremy Gye; Paul Thorkelsson; Sharon Hvozdanski; Adriane Pollard; Thomas Munson
Subject: Re: Resilient Saanich Virtual Open House // Council liaison response

Hi Anita,

Thanks for sharing feedback from SCRES on the Resilient Saanich engagement materials currently out for public input. Below is my attempt to respond to those concerns and illustrate how they will be taken into account as we move forward with Resilient Saanich. Note that I have cc'd members of Council and the RSTC, all of whom I believe are in receipt of your original email.

It's helpful to know that the thematic plan framing developed by the Committee provides important & perhaps even necessary context to understand the draft goals & objectives. We'll take that into consideration with future steps in our public engagement process. In case you haven't seen it yet, a new diagram on page 2 of the virtual open house (as updated last week) presents framing that is similar (albeit not identical) to the thematic plan approach.

Many of the concerns in the email below relate to the preliminary gap analysis table that was removed from the virtual open house materials before the media launch last week. It was removed due to concerns and questions from members of the RSTC, many similar to those outlined below. In essence, the gap analysis is considered a preliminary tool developed by staff to aid in the review and assessment (by the Committee, consultants, and the public) of Saanich's environmental programs and policies. It is likely to evolve and be refined as we have a closer look at these through the Resilient Saanich process. The specific feedback provided below on the preliminary conclusions and language in the gap analysis is helpful for us to receive and will be taken into account when the table is revisited or revised.

The email below asks, "How much more of the Virtual House material has been created by staff and not by the RSTC?". It also expresses concerns about the extent to which the RSTC is working independently of staff. In answer to that, the principles, goals, and objectives in the virtual open house are the extent of materials drafted by the Committee. It is not practical for any of Saanich's advisory committees to put pen to paper on drafting the entirety of communications materials, and it's important to note that Saanich employs a communications department with qualified staff who take on this role for initiatives organization-wide.

Having said all that, it's become apparent through the process of preparing these materials (which represent the first attempt to describe the environmental policy framework and Resilient Saanich) that there is not yet a common understanding amongst the RSTC, staff, and members of the public about precisely how Resilient Saanich will unfold and who will play what roles. Addressing this will be a focus of discussion in the coming weeks for the Committee, staff, and Council as we work toward more detailed work plans and descriptions of roles and responsibilities.

Finally, it's important to note that through the Resilient Saanich process, we are striving to identify and examine the opportunities we have organization- and community-wide to achieve environmental objectives. This will be reflected in the Committee's engagement with several Saanich departments to fulfill their mandate, including Environmental Services, Sustainability, Parks and Engineering Departments.

Please continue to be forthcoming with suggestions and concerns raised by SCRES members. Expectations are high for Resilient Saanich, and we want to ensure we can deliver on the community's desire for effective and meaningful approaches to environmental protection.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Mersereau
Saanich Councillor & CRD Director
Chair, Saanich Environmental & Natural Areas Committee
Council Liaison to the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee

Traditional territories of the WSÁNEĆ and Lekwungen peoples.

On Feb 4, 2021, at 5:31 PM, Anita Bull wrote:

> **This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is no you.**
>
> RESILIENT SAANICH VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE
>
> At the January 20, 2021 Environment and Natural Areas (ENA) Committee meeting, the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee provided their Vision, Principles, Goals and Objectives plus some Thematic Plans, which explains some of their thoughts – see the agenda (pages 8 – 10) -
> https://www.saanich.ca/assets/Local~Government/Documents/Committees~and~Boards/ENAAC/Agendas/2021~Agendas/2021-01-19-enac-agenda.pdf
>
> Since that time staff provided a revised version that removed some of the explanatory wording – and removed the RSTC Thematic Plan information which SCRES feels is key to understanding the RSTC'S direction.
> https://www.saanich.ca/assets/Community/Documents/Environment/RS-goals-objectives-handout.pdf
>
> On January 25, 2021 the Resilient Saanich Virtual Open House was live and included significant material that was not provided in the ENA agenda package (see attached). Much of this material is genuinely concerning.

Presumably much of the material for this Open House has been provided by Saanich staff rather than the RSTC as it is not in the ENA material from the RSTC. The RSTC provided no gap analysis table (this has now been removed from the Virtual Open House material, but this table is in the attached material). This table appears to have been created to get the RSTC, and anyone else who reads it, to believe that public lands are well managed and private lands are not. This table should be provided by staff to Council with explanation for Council to assess it.

The documents states "*There is minimal protection on private land for terrestrial ecosystems. Enhancement occurs on parkland but is not measured on private land.*" Where is this enhancement occurring in Saanich parks? Not in Garry oak meadows, except where volunteers remove invasive shrubs. The Garry oak ecosystems in Saanich Parks are neglected, very degraded, and abused. The implication of this table is that private lands are the problem and need actions. For Habitat the following statement is made, "*There is almost no protection on private land for species at risk. Enhancement of habitat occurs on parkland but is not measured on private land.*" Where is the enhancement occurring for species at risk on Saanich parkland? How many private properties support species at risk in Saanich? Is this a significant issue? It certainly appears to be when looking at this table. Where is the supporting data?

The whole premise of this table is exactly what the problem was with the EDPA. It was fine to not maintain and restore public areas, but instead control what occurs on private lands even if most of the values that were mapped in the EDPA were long since gone. This table and the document imply the same direction going forward. The staff perspective remains that private lands are the key to maintaining biodiversity in Saanich, even though there has not been a full evaluation of the restoration needs in Saanich Parks. Will it matter what the RSTC proposes if this is staff's perspective? This appears to be a similar approach to the new Saanich Ecosystem Mapping, which is focused on private land while important areas of Garry oak and Trembling Aspen Woodland Sensitive Ecosystems are not mapped in Saanich Parks.

How much more of the Virtual House material has been created by staff and not by the RSTC? For example, the definitions for Vision, Principles, Goals and Objectives provided for the Virtual Open House material are different from the definitions provided in the RSTC ENA information.

We would like to believe that the RSTC is working independently of staff. We understood this was the direction that Council gave. This Resilient Virtual Open House material appears to undermine the trust we had for this independent process. This table and the documentation being presented throws the residents under the bus for being the problem with our environment, but also throws the RSTC under the bus by giving the impression they are responsible for the table and documentation. The RSTC is not being respected or valued by staff for their hard work.

It is now 3 years since the EDPA was rescinded, and Council gave staff directions to move forward as quickly as possible with the Environmental Policy Framework. Lessons learned from many hours of public input, the Rollo report, and the Diamond Head Report, appear to be forgotten or ignored. We are no further ahead.

SCRES believes that the RSTC needs to be acting independently of staff and needs to have neutral staff individuals involved with the work of the RSTC. The role of Environmental Services staff should be, without bias, to answer questions regarding what has happened in the past and to provide documentation.

SCRES also believes that Saanich Council needs to set the tone for how landowners are going to be treated in the future. Rather than protecting values that are long lost on private properties within the UCB of Saanich, Council needs to provide a cooperative, encouraging, and incentive based stewardship approach for landowners to enhance their properties as full partners in improvements to biodiversity and resilience, at the

same time as Council commits to taking action to maintain and restore Saanich Parks and other public properties.
Saanich Citizens for Resilient Environmental Stewardship (SCRES)

The "tipping point" is not mentioned anywhere, which is not the final demise, but the beginning of the rapid melting of the permafrost, particularly in the Hudson Bay Lowlands. The result will be a very significant unstoppable speeding up of the warming process due to the release of methane from the ancient bogs. So, why are goals and targets set so relatively far in the future compared to those deadlines for improvement chosen by the international scientists for U.N. declaration in the Paris Agreement? H.J.G. 3/15/21

I think it is important that as many different fields of science as possible take part in this process of setting the Goals, Objectives, Targets and every step of any action plan. The general population must buy in sufficiently to support the needed projects, but this is an "emergency" that has been declared in Canada for some time [date?], but little action has been taken, with even less result.

It is also important that the end plan be timely; historically, here is a summary:

- Science has been aware, for 100+ years, that Carbon could be a growing problem in the atmosphere of our planet.
- Determined that it is a problem since a paper was presented in ~1952 at a conference which my high school science teacher attended and reported back to his students.
- Many "environmentalists" predicted the likely scenarios the change could result in, all of them very bad for currently existing life due to the speed with which it is taking place. They said it must be faced with the actions equivalent to conducting a war. This attitude was met with huge scepticism and scorn, some due to ridiculous exaggerations by the "activists", but most spot on but hitherto unheard of by the general public. To do something effective would be inconvenient. So the problem got worse and continued to gain speed.
- The United Nations has declared it is a disaster about to go out of any possibility of control if we cross the final "tipping point" when there is no stopping the progress of change and mass extinction to the end of the Anthropocene period of this planet. This is, apparently, unthinkable to the ordinary voting people, --- so that has been the reaction; avoid thinking about it. The appropriate reaction is widely deemed to be too costly and very inconvenient.

A significant portion of the problem is the over population of humans with too big a foot print. This is a common problem in animal populations, but when they exceed the carrying capacity of the local habitat, nature can regain balance in several ways:

- Overgrazing/over harvesting throughout the range of the animals, thus reducing the appropriate vegetation to starvation levels, over predation reducing the prey and starvation or reduced reproduction of the predator. This applies to the human animal as well.
- Overcrowding, thus increasing stress leading to serious conflict and killing and, finally the opportunity for constant contacts between individuals to allow the uptake of a density dependant disease. The geographic area that can be effective in is only limited by the range of the animal affected. This latter is what humans are dealing with now. We are intelligent enough to invent curative/preventive medicines to avoid being overwhelmed entirely, but we are also impulsive enough to suffer considerably anyway.
- Overcrowding in the more complex populations (mostly human) can also lead to pollution levels that can be very destructive, especially if a new material or substance is

invented that has not evolved with nature so it can be naturally absorbed or degraded to a harmless condition.

So here we are, planning to save our planet a bit at a time. Saanich is trying to recognize the problems and implement procedures that can avoid making climate change worse, or cure it. But this has to take place through a democratic process that may require considerable financial costs at the national and local levels, even to the personal individual human. Again, there are costs to humanity and the longer the delay the higher the cost. Is our political system up to it? Are politicians willing to take the political risks needed?

I hope the above contributes something to our collective understanding of what is so urgently needed, and the fundamental change that must be produced so quickly.
The next stage is to consider objectives that we need to achieve, targets set to measure how we are doing and procedures or methods that will get us there, and all in time to minimize disaster.

Saanich has prepared some proposals in their document. I suggest we should look at these and comment on them, as follows:

- Are they realistic in what they could achieve?
- Is it a worthwhile change from what we are doing, or not doing, now?
- Are there any alternatives that could be instituted to the same end?
- Is the objective sufficient to avoid disaster? Is it achievable on time?
- Are there data sets we can compare to that will help us answer the above questions?
- What is missing from our approach and then from the Saanich proposal we are examining and commenting on?

The data sets that should be useful in understanding the parameters of the problem:

- Graph by NASA and POPSI of co2 levels at Mona Loa, or most recent portion of it.
- Graphs from the submission written by the group of climate scientists (for the U.N.?).
- Pertinent tables and statements from that same report.
- Other data that one can extrapolate from?
- The above data will allow a clearly visible and illustrative check on whether objectives and targets proposed are reasonable and timely. If my reality check technique is not obvious, I will explain further after you have the docs in hand.

I hope this can be of use in critically responding to the Saanich initiative. I will next find, and forward to all, copies of the data documents mentioned above.

I will be happy to take part as much as I can, although I do not have the ability to join a zoom beyond observing on my screen. That is, I have no camera in a secure computer.

We should decide whether and how we are going to do this ASAP.

Harold J. Gibbard
Feb.22, 2021

Adriane Pollard

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

Hello Saanich,

I live in the Colquitz area of Saanich and there is much less biodiversity than when I first moved in 15 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."

Adriane Pollard

From: Margaret Marra <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 5:09 PM
To: biodiversity
Subject: (External Email) Biodiversity in Saanich and at YYJ

Hi

I am the Environmental Officer at Victoria International Airport. We have been working on our Sustainability Plan for 2020-2025 and it is almost ready for release. We have included biodiversity targets and have adopted the UN Aichi Targets as a framework for our plan.

In the development of our plan, I was very interested in the work that you have done for Saanich in terms of biodiversity strategy. I would be interested in talking to you about the metrics you are considering for measuring biodiversity. Currently I plan on using non-native/invasive vs. native ratios in airport natural areas as a proxy for vegetative biodiversity and also potentially ecosystem structure for another, but I have not had much time to put too much thought into this yet. I would be very interested in aligning our biodiversity metrics with yours and any other existing ones you may be aware of, so we could at least be comparing and working on comparable metrics.

Would someone from your organization be available for a conversation about biodiversity metrics?

Thanks,
Margaret Marra

Margaret Marra, P. Biol. R.P. Bio.
Environmental Officer

YYJ VICTORIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT | 2020 BC's Top Employers

E [redacted]
T [redacted] C [redacted]
F [redacted]

Adriane Pollard

From: Adriane Pollard
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2021 3:13 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: (External Email) RE: Resilient Saanich e-Bulletin #9

Hello Rick,
Yes, Council will have access to the feedback collected from this public engagement initiative.
Thank you for your interest and completing the survey.
Adriane

Adriane Pollard, MCESM, MCIP, RPBio

Manager
Environmental Services
Planning Department
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave.
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

t. 250-475-7116
f. 250-475-5430
adriane.pollard@saanich.ca
www.saanich.ca

From: Rick [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: March-03-21 12:35 PM
To: biodiversity <biodiversity@saanich.ca>
Subject: (External Email) RE: Resilient Saanich e-Bulletin #9

Hi one question.... I have completed the online feedback survey including some suggestions regarding refinement to vision, goals and objectives. The bulletin below indicates that input will be considered by Council in March/April. Given potentially hundreds or thousands of residents may participate in the survey, I would assume this input will be filtered to Council in a report prepared by staff with summarized metrics and any staff recommended amendments. **Will Council members have access to survey feedback unfiltered should they so choose?**

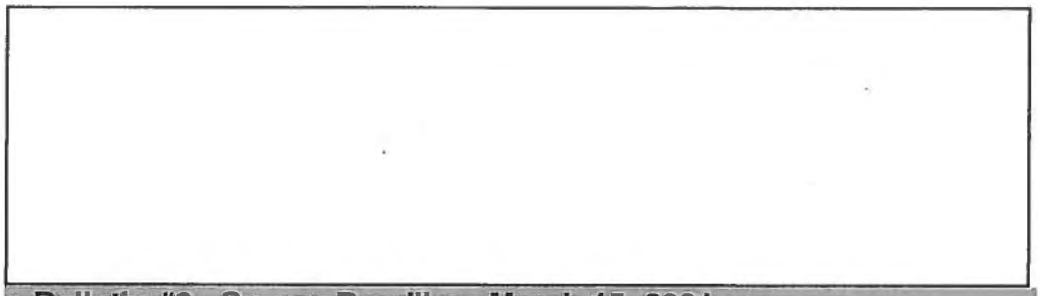
Project plan and process appears well defined subject to some refinement of wording and content for greater clarity. Well done to all involved.

Richard Crosby
[redacted] Northridge Crescent

From: District of Saanich <biodiversity@saanich.ca>
Sent: March-02-21 11:49 AM
To: Richard Crosby <[redacted]>
Subject: Resilient Saanich e-Bulletin #9

Resilient Saanich Initiative Update

Trouble viewing this email? Read it online



e-Bulletin #9 - Survey Deadline: March 15, 2021

Hello Richard,

Resilient Saanich currently has an open public engagement period for feedback on the proposed vision, principles, goals and objectives. A virtual open house and feedback survey forms are available through the link below.

This e-Bulletin is to announce the closing date of the survey (and the official feedback period for Milestone One): **March 15, 2021 at 12-noon.**

Thank you for any assistance in sharing this with others who might be interested. Note that there are Punjabi and Chinese translations of the proposal and survey.

- Visit the Virtual Open House at saanich.ca/biodiversity
- Fill out a feedback form available at the above link (online or print form)
- Contact staff with questions or for information: biodiversity@saanich.ca or 250-475-5471

A report on public engagement – your input - will be considered by Council in March/ April 2021. Council will then provide direction for the next phases of Resilient Saanich.

We are looking forward to hearing from you,

Saanich Environmental Services

biodiversity@saanich.ca

Adriane Pollard

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

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

Adriane Pollard

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

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 [redacted]

[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 understorey 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
[redacted] Leslie Dr. Victoria, BC [redacted]
[redacted]

Adriane Pollard

From: Esther Oltrogge <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:39 AM
To: biodiversity
Subject: (External Email) Cedar Hill Golf Course

I'm wondering if this golf course is reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides/fertilizers on the course?

Thanks,
Esther

March 15, 2021

Ms. Caroline Richman
Environmental Services
District of Saanich
Via email: [redacted]

Dear Ms. Richman,

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the public engagement process; to provide feedback on the **Resilient Saanich Initiative**. Two Board Directors with the Friends of Maltby Lake Watershed Society participated in one of the Focus Group Session.

We appreciated the focus group Framework presentation which helped us to better understand the scope of the Resilient Saanich Technical Advisory Committee. Also, that the Framework it is to include a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, a Climate Action Plan, and enhanced stewardship opportunities.

Understanding the Initiative is currently in Milestone 1, the FMLWS offers little comment on its draft vision, principles, goals and objectives. The language differs from earlier statements, but the intent generally remains the same.

We understand during the development of Resilient Saanich's new/updated policies and programs the Technical Advisory Committee will identify gaps and where enhancement and additions may be needed. This is good news.

The FMLWS Board has before discussed where improvement would support local biodiversity today and possible long term benefits for future generations. We offer the following bulleted thoughts around "gaps."

- Pressures on our biodiversity continue to outpace conservation efforts
- Our protected areas, which are one of our best ways to conserve biodiversity, are often too small; are in the wrong place; are not well managed; connectivity is lacking
- We have insufficient conservation outside of protected areas and specifically on private land
- We often lack conservation resources to invest in conservation actions; may not be using the resources (time & dollars) most effectively;
- improvement to both educating and directly supporting property owners is needed
- Overall, governance, is highly fragmented; not coordinated among departments
- Pressure from Saanich (municipalities in general) is needed to encourage/lobby/demand species at risk legislation for our province
- We are short on enforcement/lack brave environmental bylaw to protect species and ecosystems;
- Most importantly, current approaches to conservation in Saanich is taking too long.

We believe to achieve the Mission and Objectives of Resilient Saanaich, it is likely necessary/helpful to monetize the value of our natural areas and biodiversity. Perhaps only then might we better understand that conservation action today far outweighs costs, and the return on investment today will result in greater and sustained biodiversity benefits in the future.

Thank you,

Carmel Thomson, Director
Friends of Maltby Lake Watershed Society
www.maltbylake.com

c.c. Mayor & Council
c.c. Board Directors, FMLWS

Submission to the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC)

by Ted and Lora Lea, [redacted] Tulip Avenue, Saanich

Green is Saanich OCP
Blue is the RSTC wording
Black are comments by Ted and Lora Lea

We assume that the Vision, Goals and Objectives written to date are just a starting point and as the Committee delves into the details of what is occurring in Saanich that there will be consideration to changes to this document to assure that they are practical, measurable, and achievable.

The vision for Environmental Integrity in the Saanich Official Community Plan states:

*"**Saanich is a model steward working diligently** to improve and balance the natural and built environments. **Saanich restores and protects** air, land, and water quality, **the biodiversity of existing natural areas and eco-systems, the network of natural areas** and open spaces, and urban forests." The challenges posed by climate change are responded to.*

The OCP was released in 2008. We do not believe that the District of Saanich has been a model steward to date. Many of the ecosystems, especially on public lands such as Saanich Parks, have become significantly more degraded over this period due to neglect, abuse and lack of understanding of the very quick changes that are occurring to the ecosystems, and species, in particular caused by overuse, and invasive species, particularly invasive grass expansion and predominance.

The 2008 OCP indicated the following."

*"Looking after the natural environment, and mitigating the impact of the built environment, is an essential and shared responsibility between all levels of government, private interests, and the community. **It requires awareness, cooperation, innovation, and action."***

These were excellent directions at that time. Has Saanich lived up to this? Is Saanich truly a "model steward" in terms of protections of ecosystems at risk and species at risk in our shared parks? What "action", as indicated as being required by the OCP, has occurred since 2008 to protect or restore the Garry oak ecosystems and Species at Risk in Saanich Parks? What percentage of Garry oak ecosystems are being restored to a natural environment? What percentage of riparian ecosystems or wetland ecosystems are being restored to a natural environment? What percentage of other Sensitive Ecosystems? How many species at risk occur, or used to occur, in Saanich Parks? How many of these populations and species are being actively managed in

Saanich Parks? How many have protection in place, preventing damage from recreational activities? How many species at risk populations are being re-introduced, or are being supplemented, or have invasive species removal actively managed?

We do not believe that Saanich followed this requirement for awareness, cooperation, innovation, and in particular, action. There is a need for commitment to significant actions coming out of Resilient Saanich that Saanich Council needs to embrace, in terms of resources, funding, and programs to restore the highly degraded ecosystems on Saanich public lands, in particular Saanich Parks, in terms of restoration of ecosystems at risk and recovery, and enhancement of species at risk.

The above needs to be mirrored in the vision, principals, goals, and objectives.

The 2008 OCP included the following policies under Environmental Stewardship:

24. Foster and support public awareness, engagement, and participation in community environmental stewardship initiatives.

25. Work with private landowners to encourage stewardship that protects, preserves, and enhances natural systems and, where appropriate, enter into conservation covenants or provide incentives to protect riparian or environmentally significant areas.

We do not believe that the District of Saanich has taken this approach in terms of working with landowners to educate, inform, and encourage stewardship to achieve the goals above. As above, there needs to be innovation and a commitment to actions by Saanich Council and staff to achieve improvements to biodiversity and ecosystem resiliency. There needs to be a commitment to a fully funded voluntary private land stewardship program that works with landowners to understand the needs and actions that can help enhance biodiversity and protect against significant climate related risks such as wildfire, flooding, and sea level rise. This program will only be successful by working with landowners, not by forcing them to do trivial actions. A whole new attitude is required coming from the District. There needs to be a program that will encourage landowners to be interested and keen to enhance their properties.

The Rural Local Area Plan states: "Rural Saanich is valued by its residents and by those from outside the area for its natural beauty, diverse environments, high biological diversity, agricultural and well-forested lands, and rural lifestyle. The diversity of the natural environment and the variety of environmental features remain primarily as a result of on-going stewardship by local residents and Saanich's leadership in implementing growth management, environmental protection, and other planning concepts to retain the character of the area and the health of its natural systems."

Again, we believe that Saanich needs to work in partnership with rural landowners to achieve the goal of maintaining and enhancing natural ecosystems. Left along or using a development permit tool, when little development occurs, will have limited value. Incentives will be needed to achieve long term positive actions, including monetary

incentives such as tax breaks to encourage landowners to maintain the natural ecosystems that do actually occur in rural areas.

RSTC VISION

We believe that there should be a one hundred or a fifty-year vision of where Saanich hopes to be with biodiversity and climate change resiliency, as well as a ten year vision, as the RSTC has proposed.

We believe that some of the following should be considered for the long term (100 year) vision:

- Protection of species at risk and natural areas, and restoration of degraded natural areas on public lands – this would include recreational restrictions to allow for recovery of abused ecosystems and species at risk from people and dogs walking all over Sensitive Ecosystems and species at risk locations.
- Attain full development of stewardship initiatives on private lands to enhance biodiversity working in partnership with individual landowners because each property owner will have a different perspective on what they would like to see on their own property.
- Resilience built for fire protection and management, flood control and sea level rise for vulnerable areas.
- Continue to encourage significant buy in from the community through education, encouragement, and incentives.

We see some of the following needed to be considered for a 10-year vision:

- Significant education of residents and buy in to enhance biodiversity.
- Development of a voluntary stewardship program for private landowners – encouragement, education, incentives – get people excited to enhance their properties.
- Watershed health considerations
- Initial movement towards protection of natural areas and restoration of degraded natural areas, and restoration and enhancement of species at risk populations
- Full buy in by Saanich Council and the public for the requirement of urgent long-term action on Saanich public lands. Action is key or Saanich will continue to lose biodiversity. Funding for implementation needs to be committed to before a biodiversity strategy is started.
- Development of climate change resilience and protection – fire, flood, sea level rise
- Measurable changes and monitoring of ecosystem enhancement and resiliency actions

- Encourage enhancement of ecosystem services.

Potential wording for long term visions could be:

1. The District of Saanich leads by example by acting on public lands and working cooperatively with landowners to enhance biodiversity on public and private lands by providing resources including education, encouragement, and incentives. The actions need to be measurable, and include climate resilience, and ecological services and benefits.
2. The District of Saanich and its residents working in partnership to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience on public and private lands through stewardship and action.
3. The District of Saanich and its residents working in cooperation to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience on the natural and built environment through actions regarding restoration and stewardship.

The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee has proposed this vision for the framework: *By 2030, coordinated efforts by all in Saanich/W̱SÁNEĆ yield measurable improvements in climate change resilience, habitat conservation, watershed health and ecological footprint, benefiting all those who share and inhabit our community.*

We believe that some of this is particularly valuable, however, we have concerns about the following:

- The committee uses the term "all". We do not believe there will be buy in by all residents. We feel that if we can get even a small percentage (5 to 10 percent) of residents to start doing positive actions for enhancement of biodiversity, that this will be very beneficial. The former EDPA was no where near this percentage – probably well less than 1 % - and very few landowners were being **encouraged** to do positive actions.
- We are not sure what habitat conservation means – habitat for what? Does this refer to particular species? Staff have used habitat for species at risk. Would it not be more effective to use the term ecological function or biodiversity?
- Should the term ecosystem services and benefits be in the vision?
- There should be some statement of the need to have action and have the District of Saanich commit to actions such as restoring ecosystems and species at risk in Parks.
- There needs to be something about residents working as partners with the District or in a cooperative manner. To date this has been about residents being told what they must do, not working to achieve common goals for the good of biodiversity or the community.

Principles The values that guide progress towards the vision.

The principles are defined by the RSTC as cross-cutting values statements that will guide behaviour and decision-making within the Corporation of the District of Saanich including both elected officials and staff.

1. Recognize the intrinsic value of nature

2. Respect Indigenous knowledge and land uses

3. Consider future generations

4. Ensure evidence-based* decision making

5. Adopt the precautionary principle when facing knowledge gaps

6. Build upon foundational knowledge of historical land use

7. Lead by example through innovation and best practices

8. Look beyond our borders to achieve results at a bioregional scale

9. Address climate adaptation and mitigation in all that we do

10. Work in partnership with diverse interests to achieve outcomes that realize multiple values and benefits

*Evidence-based decision making is supported by as much available and appropriate scientific data, models and research, Indigenous knowledge, historic and cultural documents

The following are our suggestions:

- There needs to be a statement about recognizing the rights and expectations of landowners. Landowners should be partners in these actions, not adversaries.
- There should be something about the need to use regulatory approaches only where it can demonstrably provide proven measurable success well beyond what volunteer actions can achieve. Little success has been shown to be achieved by the previous EDPA – Covenants, and little park areas covered in invasive species, narrow corridors leading to nowhere, etc. (this needs full analysis).
- There needs to be a statement about carrots versus sticks – carrots have been shown to be more effective than regulation in many cases. Only when there is a clear need for sticks should they be used. We believe that we need a Habitat Acquisition Approach (HAT) to stewardship.
- There needs to be honesty from Saanich staff to Council and to landowners about what has happened and the condition of the public lands.
- For # 7 the leading by example needs to include a commitment to action, similar to what the present OCP states (see above): ***It requires awareness, cooperation, innovation, and action.***" Without a commitment to action little will

be accomplished. This includes action in Saanich Parks and actions to work cooperatively with landowners – encourage stewardship etc.

Goals What is needed to achieve the vision. A goal guides decision-making.

The RSTC describes the goals as the outcome Saanich is looking for and proposes these goals:

1. Protect, restore and enhance the ecological function and biological diversity of Saanich.

2. Develop and implement complimentary and coordinated policies, strategies, regulations, and incentives grounded in the overarching set of guiding principles to achieve the vision.

The following are our suggestions:

- The first goal is not achievable in any manner for private lands within the Urban Containment Boundary (the "built" environment"), and it is unclear if it is attainable even within Saanich Parks, due to their very degraded nature and dominance of invasive species, especially invasive grasses in Garry oak, Coastal Bluff and Terrestrial Herbaceous Sensitive Ecosystems. This statement needs to be clarified, otherwise the landowners will not see themselves as part of it. And before this can be used as a goal for Saanich Parks, there needs to be a full assessment of Parks to determine if this is attainable or realistic. It is an enormous undertaking, which was promised in the 2008 OCP and has never been attempted or acted upon. If this goal is just for public lands it should say so (but is it achievable?).
- We are pleased that Saanich Council signed the UN Declaration on Ecological Restoration and hope that Councillor Brownoff's statement "*We are committed to restoring natural areas and biodiversity within our parks to benefit the long term health of our community*" will mean that Saanich Council is committed to significant action. We are not sure that this is a fiscally prudent direction forward, and hope that the RSTC encourages a full assessment of Saanich Parks and public lands.
- A third goal may be to work in cooperation to partnership with private landowners to enhance their properties for biodiversity values and resilience on their properties. There should be a goal to develop an effective, measurable, private land stewardship program working encouragingly with landowners, both in built areas and within the rural areas. This was an important part of the motion that Council put forward which created the RSTC. Landowners will be watching for it.
- It is important to get landowners excited about positive actions on their properties rather than being forced to do actions that are not helpful to biodiversity and climate resiliency. It is important to work with human nature – encourage people to want to do actions on their properties to enhance birds (the Doug Tallamy

methods) or butterflies, and other insects – even get a few individuals excited about trying to grow species at risk on their properties – some will be very keen.
- Encourage private landowners to Fire Smart their properties to reduce fire risk to their structures and prevent spread to other properties.

Objectives Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Realistic and Time-bound steps to achieve the goals.

The RSTC describes the following proposed objectives as the purpose of actions intended to attain a desired goal.

1. Fairly and effectively manage the natural and built environment to adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity and other essential ecosystem services.

2. Foster resistance and regenerative capacity (i.e., resilience) in our landscapes against escalating environmental shock and stressors.

3. Engage and support citizens in diverse approaches to active and beneficial stewardship.

4. Update bylaws and policies across all departments to be transparent and consistent with the Environmental Policy Framework.

The following are our suggestions:

- Staff have indicated that Objectives are specific, measurable, attainable and time – bounded – however, none of these are! Are some of these more like guiding principles?
- Number 3 is very important – It might be helpful to make it clear what is needed in terms of: Improve communications and environmental awareness for landowners to understand reasons to enhance biodiversity. See comments for goals regarding stewardship.

Langford has the following policies (4.10.1 to 4.10.4 below) – should some of these be included in Saanich's policy (nothing like this presently exists – many non–native plants are used in Saanich, even in parks, and on public lands including medians and the boulevard tree program):

Policy 4.10.1 Maintain and adopt appropriate City policies to promote native habitat restoration, removal of invasive species and other sustainable landscaping strategies, including: i.Changing mowing and other maintenance practices ii.Integrated Pest Management strategies iii.Xeriscaping strategies iv.Urban forestry strategies

Policy 4.10.2 When undertaking restoration of habitat areas, removal of invasive plant species will be undertaken. Species of plants indigenous to the area and region will be integrated into restoration practices.

Policy 4.10.3 Promote use of species of plants indigenous to the areaand region for private developments.

Policy 4.10.4 Celebrate native plant species in parks and in the public realm (boulevards, medians, etc.).

Private Land Stewardship is needed. That was what was called for in the original motion by Council (see last paragraph below). We believe it should be voluntary private land stewardship to be most effective – regulatory measures should only be used where it can be proven that measurable success would be well beyond what voluntary, cooperatively created action would achieve. We do believe this is the case with the tree bylaw, however, the EDPA has not proven to be effective in significant enhancements within the Urban Containment Boundary of Saanich.

An example of a voluntary program exists in New Brunswick – see https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/nr-rn/pdf/en/Publications/PrivateLandStewardshipInNewBrunswick-AGuideForLandowners.pdf

The following quotes are from "Private Land Stewardship in New Brunswick: A Guide for Landowners"

"*Private stewardship can be defined as "care given to the land and our heritage by private landowners based on an ethical commitment to conservation". In other words,* ***private stewardship is voluntarily*** *taking care of your land for future generations in a responsible manner.*"

"***Private stewardship programs put landowners concerns first*** *and consider conservation from their point of view. As a result, stewardship agreements may involve little or no land use, or may include an extensive management plan outlining how the owner can maintain, or even expand, the natural features that make their property special.*"

The present Saanich staff documentation on its website refers to Enhanced Stewardship – it is not clear whether a private land stewardship program is part of this. We believe that it is important to educate landowners and get them excited about making enhancements for biodiversity on their properties, whether they make improvements for birds or pollinators or butterflies and moths, species at risk etc.

We attach Councillor Plant's motion (seconded by Councillor Haynes) made Oct. 28/2017.

"That it be recommended that Council direct staff to bring Council a report as soon as possible on the potential of developing a Saanich program which includes the topics of Climate Adaptation, a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, and Stewardship Program to serve as a policy framework for other Saanich environmental policies and programs and a new Environmental Development Permit Area be considered part of this program; and the Diamond Head report recommendations be considered as a component of this report.

Adriane Pollard

From: TED LEA <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 3:10 PM
To: biodiversity
Subject: (External Email) Re: Our submission regarding Vision, Principles, Goals, Objectives etc.

To the RSTC and Saanich

We would like to add one more item to our submission which we believe should be part of the **principles** of Resilient Saanich:

Saanich signed on to the Jan. 26, 2015 DECLARATION OF THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT that states to "Ensure equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens within the municipality".

We believe that these "burdens" need to be shared equally among all landowners in Saanich, not carried by individual landowners.

Thank you,

Ted and Lora Lea

From: "Ted and Lora Lea"
To: "biodiversity"
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 2:54:36 PM
Subject: Our submission regarding Vision, Principles, Goals, Objectives etc.

To the RSTC and Saanich

The attached is our submission to the RSTC process regarding Vision, Principles, Goals, Objectives etc.

Thank you for the opportunity,

Ted and Lora Lea

Adriane Pollard

From: Andrew Simon <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 3:24 PM
To: Adriane Pollard
Subject: (External Email) Re: handout

Hi Adriane,

My apologies for the delay in follow up. [redacted] Unfortunately I was not able to be entirely present even at your information session, for which I ask your forgiveness. [redacted]

Having already established as a caveat that my perspective is somewhat naïve to the complexities of planning at the level you are working on, I feel like my input may be of limited use to you at this stage of the process. The goals and objectives laid out in the plan are comprehensive and certainly laudable. I do wonder about the specificity and time-boundedness of the objectives as laid out, however. It does sound like they are formulated such that they are measurable. Realistic and attainable? I suppose that remains to be seen. They are certainly very ambitious (and once again, laudable) objectives, though I expect that they would be very challenging to assess in terms of progress, given the complexities of climate change and the rapidly changing environment. I am especially interested in better understanding the strategies that the technical committee will advocate for in attempting to achieve those objectives. Certainly it doesn't seem like an easy task to sum this all up in a two-pager. I can only imagine how much thought has actually gone into this process. And I do understand and appreciate to some extent the challenges that you must be confronted with thinking about what stewardship means in the context of the Saanich Peninsula, given the extent of the ongoing development and fragmentation of the system. I am very interested in how communities can work toward building capacity for long-term ecological research and continue to work toward similar goals on a much smaller sale, closer to home in my own community.

Once again, I really don't know how helpful I can be to you at this stage in your process but I do appreciate your keeping me in the loop about this program.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch if you have any further questions or thoughts on how my expertise may be of service.

Kind regards
Andrew

On Mon, Mar 15, 2021 at 6:54 PM Adriane Pollard <Adriane.Pollard@saanich.ca> wrote:

We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

--

Andrew Simon, M.Sc.
Biodiversity Specialist

Office:
Cel : [redacted]
keefereco.com

Keefer
Ecological Services Ltd

Adriane Pollard

From: Ramona Johnston <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 12:20 PM
To: biodiversity
Subject: (External Email) Off leash dogs in Saanich

Hello. I am writing to share my thoughts on an area of concern that I would like to see addressed in the Saanich Biodiversity process.

We are an active outdoor family who has lived beachfront in Cadboro Bay for [redacted] years. We are very concerned about the behaviour of the many off leash dogs and their owners, frequently numbering in the hundreds each day. In addition to excessive barking, trespassing on private property, attacks on other beach users, there are multiple instances every day all year round of dog poop not being removed and off leash dogs chasing birds. I have years of photographic and video evidence of these incidents. Cadboro Bay falls entirely within the federally protected Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary, which prohibits dogs from running at large, and yet Saanich allows this practice to continue with a complete lack of enforcement.

My family enjoys hiking in many Saanich parks and we are continually disappointed to see how many irresponsible owners are allowing their dogs to run off trails, flush birds, dig in the soil around delicate plants and tree roots, splash in prohibited salmon spawning streams, jump on other park users and leave dog poop uncollected (both bagged and unbagged). We've even found bags of dog poop floating in the ocean when we've been kayaking. The presence of off leash dogs in Saanich parks, beaches and trails is consistently the only negative aspect of our outdoor experiences. I don't see any reason why dogs need to be off leash in any Saanich parks or beaches. Leashes are the only way to ensure that dogs are under control, and owners can still exercise and enjoy nature with their dogs on leash.

As a member of a number of Facebook groups devoted to various outdoor pursuits, I frequently see posts warning other families not to visit certain Saanich parks because of how bad the off leash dog situation is (there was one just yesterday regarding the number of dogs charging and knocking over young children at Gyro Park). My own children have been injured (jumped on, bitten, scratched and knocked down) on a number of occasions. I also see many posts from dog owners recommending Saanich parks and beaches as good places to run dogs off leash, especially during the summer months when surrounding municipalities enforce seasonal bans. This municipal policy in favour of making virtually all of Saanich's parks and beaches off leash in the name of encouraging "multi-use" is not in keeping with sound environmental practices, and Saanich has become known for being a wild west for unleashed and out of control dogs.

A leash requirement for all parks and beaches, with the establishment of a few fully enclosed designated off leash areas, would relieve environmental pressures and make outdoor activities safer and more enjoyable.

Thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Ramona Johnston
[redacted] Cadboro Bay Road

Resilient Saanich draft Vision, Principles, Goals, and Objectives

Staff Discussion

Meeting Notes: March 15, 2021

Present: Lesley Hatch (Eng), Eva Riccius, Rick Hatch (Parks), Rebecca Newlove (Sus), Pam Hartling (Com Plan), Shari Holmes-Saltzman (Cur Plan), Thomas Munson (ES) and Adriane Pollard (presenter)

Regrets: Ben Bowker (Eng/PW), Cam Scott (Com Plan), Nathalie Dechaine (Parks), Chris Murphy (Parks), Katie Turner (Parks)

Overall

- The language is defensive, constrained
- Not very practical or grounded
- Language is loaded, using words like "fairly" and "transparent"
- Language should be positive and forward-thinking
- Review the ecosystem language in the Climate Plan. It may have a great starting point.

Vision

- 2030 timeline of vision matches with Climate Plan goal for 2030 50% reduction in community GHGs
- 2030 is a stretch for achieving vision
- 2030 is a reasonable timeline for EPF to be complete
- 2030 is fast but we need some measurable outcomes due to biodiversity and climate change crisis
- Vision is too constrained
- Goals and objectives should be for 2030 to match with vision, tighter
- Vision is unclear, hard to drill down to goals and objectives from an unclear vision
- OCP vision is better—more in the spirit of the process
- Boxing in the vision with a date is unusual. Would we need to start again in 2030?
- Vision is too action oriented
- Vision reads like a goal statement
- Would benefit from being aspirational and inspiring.

Goals & Objectives

- Goals and objectives not strong enough
- Objectives 1, 2 & 3 too vague
- Climate plan goals and objectives have metrics
- The objectives read like actions, but are not SMART

Metrics

- What are the indicators to show you are reaching the goal? Area, condition, ecosystem type?
- Measuring condition of an ecosystem is difficult
- Ecosystem section of the climate plan—a good place to start
- Material is lacking in metrics
- Will there be a target % for conservation?
- Should not get hung up on not knowing what we have and don't have (re biodiversity)
- Use examples from other cities—set a general baseline of what we'd like to achieve
- There are existing metrics and systems out there that could be used, even if not perfect
- Need a handful of key metrics, at least to start

Action item:

Departments are invited to send Thomas their feedback on the Vision, Principles, Goals, and Objectives by March 26.

PARKS, RECREATION
& COMMUNITY SERVICES

Memo

To: Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner

From: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

CC: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Sharon Hvozdanski, Director of Planning, Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services

Date: March 26, 2021

Subject: Parks' comments on Proposed Vision, Goals, Objectives of Resilient Saanich

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed vision, goals and objectives for the Resilient Saanich project.

These comments were developed in the context of the existing terms of reference for the project and technical committee (RSTC).

General:

The set of vision, goals and objectives read as coming from a place of loss rather than a place of opportunity. We would encourage a close look at the language to turn statements to be more positive and outcome oriented to resonate with the public and inspire actions.

While the vision, goals and objectives are broad, we recommend that goals and objectives are developed specifically for private and public lands. Goals and objectives specific to land ownership will clarify for the reader that both types of lands are in scope of this work and are required to help conserve biodiversity. This is especially important since 68% of the District's land base is private land and contains habitats that are worthy of protection, restoration or enhancement and essential in a holistic approach. Providing clear goals and objectives will improve transparency and provide a jumping off point for community discussion. The current set of goals and objectives don't clearly articulate the desired outcome or intent of the RSTC.

Vision:

The terms of reference outline the vision for the project as the existing vision from the District's Official Community Plan. There is not much difference between the two statements at the conceptual level. The RSTC's proposed vision is short term with the date of completion noted as 2030. We recommend that the vision statement, if Council wishes to use the RSTC's, should be longer term to allow it to stand and be relevant beyond 2030.

Principles:

The proposed principles are a good basis for the Resilient Saanich Project. Based on the terms of reference, we don't think it is appropriate for the principles to be applied to "guide behaviour and decision-making within the District" broadly. This seems to be outside of the scope of work.

Goals and Objectives:

We appreciate that there are a number ways to consider goals and objectives. Our comments are based on the following assumption: goals are broad statements that address how the vision will be met. Objectives are narrower and nested under goals. Actions are attributed to fulfilling objectives.

The first proposed goal is clear and well defined. It is similar to the two ecosystems goals in the Climate Plan, which state:

- *Ecosystems have the space needed to thrive and adapt, with protected natural areas and well connected habitat corridors.*
- *Natural areas are carefully monitored and managed to support ecosystem health and biodiversity.*

Each of these goals in the Climate Plan then has a number of strategies (in this case objectives) attributed to them. We suggest that the first RSTC goal considers the strategies and actions from the Climate Plan as a good place to start and then build from there. For example, we suggest that an objective be developed that considers private lands specifically as the Climate Plan is not explicit in this regard.

The second proposed goal reads like an objective, although we would suggest that it be reworked to be a SMART objective (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound). This second statement reads as a 'how to' achieve the first goal.

The proposed objectives should be SMART. In their current form they are vague and don't explain how the goals will be attained. An example as an improvement might be:

- By 2030, existing bylaws and policies related to the natural environment will be reviewed and amended to protect, restore or enhance sensitive ecosystems in the District.

Overall, the reader should be able to follow the logical progression from vision, through goals to objectives and then eventually to actions. While there are good elements presented, as a set it is difficult to follow the flow.

We appreciate the time and effort the RSTC has spent developing this set of vision, goals and objectives and trust that our comments will assist in their refinement.

The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Memo

To: **Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner**

From: **Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability**

Date: **March 29, 2021**

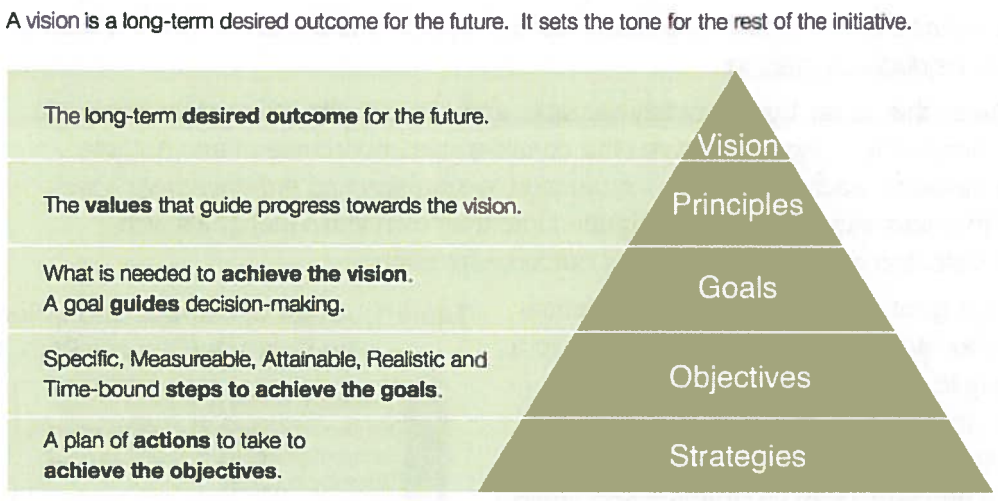
Subject: **Resilient Saanich Draft Goals and Objectives – Sustainability Feedback**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Resilient Saanich Vision, Goals, Principles and Objectives. Staff in the Sustainability Division have reviewed these in light of the Climate Plan: 100% Renewable & Resilient Saanich and provide the following comments.

General

The Resilient Saanich Open House boards were extremely useful for framing the proposed Vision, Principles, Goals and Objectives. In particular, Figure 1 below, is valuable for providing definitions:

Figure 1: Resilient Saanich Open House Board Visual



In general, we felt that some of the proposed wording in the Vision, Principles, Goals and Objectives could be improved by aligning with the definitions outlined above.

Vision

- We greatly appreciate the reference to climate change resilience and ecological footprint within the vision and sense of urgency that reference to the 2030 timeline highlights.

- The Climate Plan overarching vision is for 2050. However, we break down our Objectives to 2030 and 2050 timelines to drive action within the next 10 years and to ensure we can monitor progress and confirm we are on track (or course correct if required).
- We wonder whether the RSTC considered if the overarching vision should be for 2030, or if it should be for 2050 with Objectives and Actions that focus on what is needed in the next 10 years (i.e. to 2030) to help reach that vision?
- The Vision is somewhat action oriented ("*yielding measurable improvements*" within a certain timeframe) and we wonder whether it may be valuable if it were re-framed to describe that "*long-term desired outcome for the future*" (as defined in Figure 1 above) i.e. what we wish the environment in Saanich to be by 2030 or 2050 dependent upon the timeline chosen. Those *"measurable improvements*" that are needed in order to get us to that vision would then be described in the next layers down in the Goals and Objectives.
    - Is there value in some level of incorporation of the Climate Plan Ecosystems vision?: *"Ecosystems continue to thrive, adapt and provide critical services*" (p71, Saanich Climate Plan).

Proposed Principles

- The Proposed Principles are comprehensive and appear to reflect the important values needed to guide the framework.

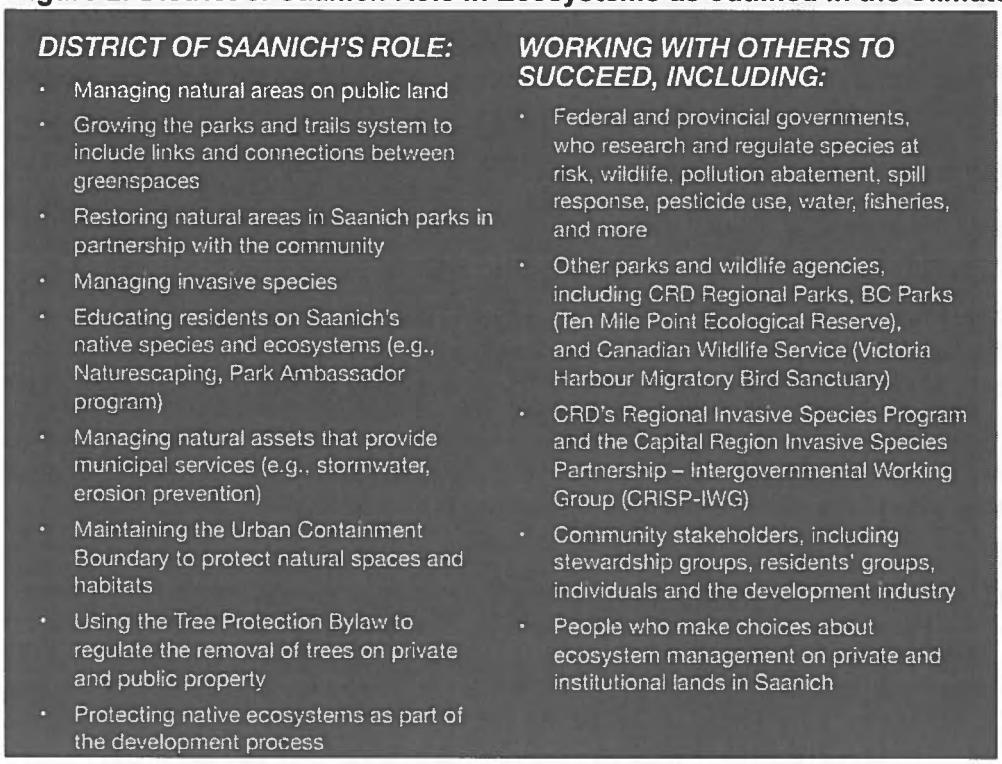
Proposed Goals

- Using the definition from Figure 1, Goals describe "*what is needed to achieve the vision. A Goal guides decision making".*
- Goal 1 - given this, Goal 1 is extremely valuable and aligned with the content within the Saanich Climate Plan. However, given the considerable importance of and notable difference between each topic within - *protection, restoration* and *enhancement* – we wonder if this warrants them being separated into their own individual goals with additional details provided on the desired outcome for each.
- Goal 2 – this goal outlines some of the potential processes/tools/strategies that are available to a municipality to achieve change (policies, regulation, incentives). Note that this could also include partnerships, advocacy, municipal operations and education programs – see Table 1 from p9 of the Climate Plan to the side.
- The Climate Plan also includes more details regarding the District's Role as a municipality in each of the six Climate Plan Focus Areas. For Ecosystems these were identified on p78 of the Climate Plan as follows (see Figure 2):

Table 1: Areas of Control and influence by Saanich (Climate Plan, 2020)

CONTROL	**Direct:** e.g., leading by example through our municipal infrastructure and operations, such as how we heat our buildings or our fleet vehicle choices
CONTROL	**Indirect:** e.g., through land use and transportation planning and policy
INFLUENCE	**Direct:** e.g., policies, incentives, and partnerships with stakeholders and other levels of government
INFLUENCE	**Indirect:** e.g., through advocacy, information sharing, and municipal education programs

Figure 2: District of Saanich Role in Ecosystems as outlined in the Climate Plan, p78



- As such, we wonder whether the focus of the Resilient Saanich Goal 2 speaks more to the processes/tools that can be used by the District in order to achieve the Goals, and should not be an actual Goal itself i.e. the processes/tools it references are effectively types of actions (or strategies) to achieve the Goals and Objectives.
- Additional Goals - we wondered if the Goals could be used to identify the breadth of environmental considerations that Resilient Saanich will cover. For instance, is it natural areas as well as managed areas? Urban as well as rural? Ecosystems and biodiversity? Public and private lands? etc.
- Thinking back to the RSTC vision, perhaps some of the wording from this could be pulled into the Goals? i.e. what are the goals (and end outcomes) we want to see achieved for:
    - Climate change resilience;
    - Habitat conservation;
    - Watershed health; and
    - Ecological footprint?
- We also felt that the first two RSTC Objectives are also somewhat like Goals – what are the goals (and end outcomes) for:
    - Enhanced biodiversity;
    - Ecosystem services;
    - And again, these speak to the capacity for climate change resilience?
- In addition, we wonder whether there should be additional goals on the following:
    - Connectivity – e.g. Natural areas/ecosystems are connected

- It may be valuable to include either a goal or some reference to the need for Monitoring and Reporting e.g. maybe using (as amended if suitable) the ecosystem resilience goal within the Climate Plan: *"Natural areas are carefully monitored and managed to support ecosystem health and biodiversity"*

Proposed Objectives

- Objectives are defined in Figure 1 above as *SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time-Bound) steps to achieve the Goals.*
- Given this definition, we wonder if the current RSTC Objectives are Specific, Measurable and Time-Bound?
- This is where we feel the 2030 timeline would be extremely valuable to reference. It would provide consistency across Saanich Plans and 10 years is a useful timeframe to enable action/strategy design, implementation, monitoring and reporting with some time allowed for course-correction in order to deliver on Resilient Saanich Objectives and Goals.
- Figure 3 outlines the Objectives in the Climate Plan alongside indicators and targets. These were designed to achieve the Climate Plan Vision, Goals and Targets and be sufficiently specific, time-bound and measurable to enable us to track progress on an annual basis. The GHG emissions modelling and review of global best practice were extremely valuable in helping to identify the Goals and Objectives:

Figure 3: Progress on Climate Plan Objectives, 2020 Climate Plan Report Card, p4-5

Progress on Objectives

KEY FOCUS AREA	MEASURE OF SUCCESS (OBJECTIVE)	WHERE WE ARE AT	2030 TARGET	2050 TARGET
Mobility	% of all trips taken by walking and cycling	13%	22%	30%
	% of trips taken by transit	10%	14%	20%
	% of personal vehicles electrified	2%	36%	100%
	% of personal and commercial vehicles renewably powered	1%	-	100%
	% of buses that are electric	0%	100%	100%
Buildings and Infrastructure	New buildings that achieve the higher steps of BC Energy Step Code	<1%	100% by 2025	100%
	New buildings that are net-zero carbon	<1%	100% by 2023	100%
	Embodied emissions are reported and lowered	0%	100%	100%
	% of oil heating systems replaced by heat pumps	3%	100%	100%
	% of buildings in which the heating demands are reduced by 30%	TBD	40%	80%
	% of existing natural gas heating and hot water systems that are replaced by renewable energy systems	TBD	40%	100%
	Sufficient renewable energy sources are available to support required conversions from fossil fuel systems	Metrics to be developed		
	Buildings and infrastructure are designed or retrofitted for changing climate conditions, ecological functions and exposure to climate hazards.	Metrics to be developed		

KEY FOCUS AREA	MEASURE OF SUCCESS (OBJECTIVE)	WHERE WE ARE AT	2030 TARGET	2050 TARGET
Food and Materials	Saanich's consumption-based emissions related to food are reduced.	Metrics to be developed		
	By 2030, 0% compostable organic waste and paper is landfilled	21% organics 15% paper	0% 0%	0% 0%
	Emissions from consumer choice and industry transition (e.g., refrigerants, aerosols, foams, equipment, livestock, fertilizer, etc.) are reduced i.e. Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU) and Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU)	11,397 t CO_2e	-	0 t CO_2e
	Agricultural land is protected: Hectares of land in Saanich within the ALR	1,843 ha	TBD	TBD
	A greater proportion of food is grown and consumed locally: Hectares of land and % of total land that is actively farmed in Saanich	2,222 ha 21%	TBD	TBD
	The majority of local farmers have the ability to adapt their production practices to a changing climate	Metrics to be developed		
Ecosystems	Ecosystem health and biodiversity are protected.	Metrics to be developed		
	The removal of carbon from the atmosphere by trees, plants, and ecosystems in Saanich is increased.	Metrics to be developed		
	Ecosystem services are maintained or enhanced.	Metrics to be developed		
Community Well-being	Emergency and community health services are adequate to respond to the identified climate risks.	Metrics to be developed		
	Climate action benefits people in Saanich, helping to improve air quality and community health while supporting clean energy jobs and a diverse economy.	Metrics to be developed		
Leadership in District Operations	The District of Saanich is a recognized leader in climate action: Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) report score.	A	A	A
	Reduction in GHG emissions from municipal operations compared to 2007 levels.	14%	50% by 2025	100% by 2040

- The following Table 2 provides an example of the alignment between the overarching Climate Plan Vision, Goals, Objectives and Strategies for one key focus area:

Table 2: Example of alignment from Vision → Strategies from the Climate Plan

Climate Plan Vision	Mobility Vision *(or Goal)*	Objectives	Strategies
By 2050, Saanich is 100% powered by renewable energy and is a resilient, thriving community, where climate action has improved the quality of life for all people in Saanich	*By 2050, Saanich residents live in a complete community where trips can be easily and safely made by all forms of transportation, including walking, cycling, public transit and zero-emission share and personal mobility options. Goods and services are delivered in an efficient transportation system, with vehicles that produce no emissions.*	22% of all trips are taken by walking and cycling by 2030, 30% by 2050. 14% of all trips are taken by transit by 2030, 20% by 2050. 36% of all personal vehicles are electrified by 2030. 100% of personal and commercial vehicles are renewably powered by 2050.	M1. **Invest in active transportation** M2. **Prioritize transit-supportive policies and practices** M3. **Accelerate electric and renewable mobility**

- The Climate Plan Strategies follow the definition in Figure 1 – "*a plan of actions to achieve the objectives*". There are multiple actions under each Strategy that relate to the tools available to us as a municipality (see discussion in Proposed Goals section above). These actions were much easier to identify due to the detail contained within the Vision, Goals and Objectives.
- Of note, metrics have yet to be developed for the Ecosystems and Community-Well Being Objectives. In addition, there are specific Resilience Goals in each of the Key Focus Areas of the Climate Plan that we expect to develop metrics, and potentially additional Objectives for over the next two years.

- It is hoped that the Resilient Saanich project may identify Objectives that include appropriate metrics and, in future, data sources, in order to monitor progress. These could then be used to supplement or update the Climate Plan Ecosystems Objectives.
- In a similar way to the Climate Plan, perhaps several RSTC Objectives could be developed for each of the updated/new RSTC Goals, with the Objectives written in a way that they are 'Specific' enough to identify an indicator and metric for each to support monitoring their success.
    - For example, a goal related to habitat conservation may include objectives such as "by 2030, X% of natural areas and corridors are protected", "by 2030, X% of Saanich wetlands are conserved";
    - For example, a goal related to stewardship may include an objective such as "by 2030, X% of Saanich residents identify themselves as stewards of the natural environment";
    - For example, a goal related to biodiversity may include an objective such as "by 2030, X% of rare habitat and ecosystems are protected"; and
    - For example, a goal related to climate adaptation may include objectives such as "by 2030, X% of Saanich has high density tree coverage", "by 2030, impervious surface coverage in Saanich has decreased to X%" etc.

Please note that the above examples are for explanation purposes only, to describe the value of SMART Objectives for monitoring outcomes and informing the development of strategies and actions and to ensure alignment with other Saanich Plans such as the Climate Plan.

Summary

The Sustainability Division is excited to see work progress on Resilient Saanich and we are keen to use SMART Goals and Objectives from the RSTC to update the Climate Plan.

The Draft RSTC Vision, Goals and Objectives could be somewhat broadened and strengthened to align with the style/approach of other Saanich Plans and Strategies. A review of the Objectives to ensure that they are 'SMART' and deliver on a broader set of outcome based Goals would greatly support the development of strategies and actions that are sufficiently robust to achieve the necessary environmental improvements for Saanich and address the climate emergency. SMART objectives will be critical for monitoring progress and ensuring we have the ability to course correct if the resulting actions prove insufficient to meet the outcomes needed.

More Information

Should you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability at Rebecca.newlove@saanich.ca.

RN/
G:\SUSTAINABILITY\Programs and Initiatives\Community\Adaptation\Resilient Saanich\Feedback on Vision Goals

cc: Sharon Hvozdanski, Director of Planning
Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services
Eva Riccius, Senior Manager of Parks
Lesley Hatch, Senior Manager of Water Resources
Shari Holmes-Saltzman, Manager of Current Planning
Cameron Scott, Manager of Community Planning
Pam Hartling, Senior Planner, Community Planning

ENGINEERING

Memo

To: Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services

From: Lesley Hatch, Senior Manager of Water Resources

Date: April 6, 2021

Subject: **Resilient Saanich DRAFT Vison, Objectives, Goals Staff Comments**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Resilient Saanich draft goals and objectives.

The time and attention we give this now will pay off down the road. It is good to see the breadth and depth of feedback that has already come in from other departments.

We think that this framework will benefit from the feedback and guidance offered by others to make the language clear, succinct, measurable, and actionable. The structure and strategy of the Climate Plan is a good guide. In finalizing the Vision, Principles, Goals & Objectives consider:

- A Vision that states the end in mind and is presented in a way that pulls us towards that new, desired state. As drafted, the Resilient Saanich Vision identifies a relatively short term date of 2030 for this shift. In considering the "how we'll do it" (strategies) and "how will we know" (objectives/goals), is this the metric for the Vision? In what way will the community benefit? Perhaps this statement tends more to an objective than Vision.
- Have Goals that underpin the Vision and capture the breadth of actions, strategies and objectives to come; consider the language of the goals open enough to let us adapt as we progress; the goals themselves to be broad enough so all departments see ways to contribute;
- Have objectives and actions that are SMART and feed directly into the *how* and *what* (strategies) we set out to accomplish, and *who* ought to be responsible for that success.

A suggestion for how to build out the strategies and objectives is to engage with teams and departments more directly on how they see themselves contributing to the Vision and Goals. This exchange of ideas, concerns, and actions will link the aspirations (Vision, Goals, Objectives) with the results to come on the ground. You may find that there is a lot of resiliency-based actions already happening and that a big theme for this framework is to channel that work effectively and to bolster the coordination in more tactical ways.

Let me provide an example via integrated stormwater management. Our work so far including our actions outlined for 2021 have a strong overlap with resiliency and could be leveraged more when we set out goals and actions. Here are some suggestions for starting points where we can link these two initiatives:

- Asset management: this may be one the most important objectives for resiliency. To date, we have updated our drainage inventories, flagged them for risk in terms of condition, function, and location, and assessed our ability to properly renew them. Going one step further, every asset-based service we have (of Saanich) will be pressed to both a) renew what is in the ground and b) enhance it so it can be more resilient as conditions change. Using asset management as a lens on resilience is an effective way to bridge (e.g., coordinate) the **things we own**, with the **services we already provide**, with the **obligations we have**, and the **resources we need**. Asset management is another lens that may be applied in multiple places throughout Resilient Saanich.
- Biodiversity:
    a) We have developed a stormwater natural asset guide which we will use to catalogue natural assets in upcoming catchment plans. Natural assets are a form of biodiversity and natural asset management is guided by a simple ideal: *retain what we have, restore what we have lost, and build what we must.* This type of language helps us design services, municipal functions, set targets, and assign budgets to achieve our aims.
    b) We are leveraging the water quality data, collated by others, and we will continue to use it to understand issues and to measure our progress. There is a principle here about building resilience through collaborating with others and modifying existing programs (ours or others) to suit our goals for resiliency.
- Climate plan: objectives, actions and targets from that plan guide our work to date and there is 1:1 reference in our documents to that effect. We are reviewing weather data, flow data, regional reports on sea level rise and climate change so that when we assess our infrastructure we do so with tomorrow in mind. In some cases, hard infrastructure isn't necessarily the answer, and we will investigate, soft techniques to build resilience. We will also be reviewing weather data to better prepare for variable storms. This will affect stormwater models and how we review and accept the design of new infrastructure.
- Watershed health: this is a broad term whereby Saanich has an important role, but not an exclusive role. Saanich will pursue modern stormwater services to protect life and property and to improve stormwater quality. We have end goals to that effect, as well. But stormwater services can build resiliency mostly in what we own and what we control. We will need other stakeholders and regulators to play a bigger role too. But how specifically will that happen? What resources do we need? There is an opportunity for the Resilient Saanich process to wrestle with what it can control and what it cannot and design objectives and goals to suit.
- Regulations: we use rules and standards to *bring the bottom up* and make sure that there is a minimum bar for what is permitted in Saanich. We know that our aspirations are bigger than the minimum, but we need new baselines to mitigate risk. When we amend a Bylaw, for example, we have an opportunity to do so to build greater resiliency. We are planning to update our Drainage Bylaw and Subdivision and Servicing Bylaw so that we take a few, specific steps closer to building resiliency by disallowing historic standards that will not serve us in the future.
- Short-Term and Long-term Actions: other groups have weighed in on the importance of time-sensitive activities to build resilience. Every year, Saanich will collectively make countless decisions and invest tens of millions of dollars to maintain, renew or expand what we own and how we serve. A fundamental requirement of Resilient Saanich is to

configure the framework to show an immediate response to building resiliency as well as building out programs that will have 10 and 20 year impact timeframes. Most of those actions will come from other departments, those especially with capital and asset-based services. How do we modify upcoming projects and programs so that action starts today? This is something that should guide the next round of SMART objectives. This is part tactical and part conceptual.

We hope that next steps in the process allow for closer links between the projects, policies and programs already at play to support resiliency and how gradual modifications help to achieve the vision.

PLANNING

Memo

To: **Thomas Munson**

From: **Pam Hartling, Senior Planner, Community Planning**

Date: **March 22, 2021**

Subject: **Resilient Saanich Draft Review**

Further to the March 15, 2021 staff discussion on the draft vision, principles, goals and objectives, Community Planning offers the following comments:

- The language in the draft material seems defensive
- The Vision is not clear, and seems constrained
- The Vision is critical to the entire exercise, as everything flows down from the Vision
- You might want to look to other vision statements, both within Saanich and in other jurisdictions, to guide the Task Force
- The objectives are not clear and don't answer the question, how will the vision be achieved.

I hope this is helpful.

Pam Hartling
Senior Planner

Making a difference...together

Department
Address
City, Province, Postal Code

T: 250.000.0000
F: 250.000.0000
www.crd.bc.ca

April 22, 2021

File: 5520-20
Biodiversity Project

Ms. Adriane Pollard
Manager, Environmental Services Planning Department
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Avenue
Victoria BC V8X 2W7
Via email: Adriane.Pollard@saanich.ca

Dear Ms. Pollard:

RE: COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR RESILIENT SAANICH INITIATIVE

Enclosed please find a summary detailing a written response to your February 28, 2021 request for feedback from Capital Regional District (CRD) staff on the draft Environmental Policy Framework developed for the Resilient Saanich initiative. The CRD was listed as a targeted stakeholder in the Terms of Reference of this initiative as approved by Saanich Council.

On March 18, 2021, a one-hour virtual meeting was held where Saanich staff presented the draft Environmental Policy Framework to CRD staff. Please see Appendix A for CRD feedback to the proposed questions.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback on the Resilient Saanich initiative to create an Environmental Policy Framework.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 250.360.3090 or gharris@crd.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio.
Senior Manager, Environmental Protection

cc: Jeff Leahy, Senior Manager, Regional Parks (CRD)

Appendix A

Below is a summary of feedback provided by CRD staff in a virtual session held on March 18, 2021. The feedback is summarized based on the three questions provided.

1. **How do the proposed vision, principles, goals and objectives align with the management of CRD Parks as well as CRD initiatives located within Saanich? Are there any suggestions for content?**

   CRD staff was supportive of the vision and principles proposed for the Environmental Policy Framework of Resilient Saanich. Specifically in regard to the principles, it was cautioned to define the terminology "precautionary principle" (Principle 5) in the document, as this term can be interpreted differently based on the readers knowledge and background. The goals were seen as broad and flexible enough to cover multiple themes and key concepts within environmental protection and climate change resiliency.

   CRD staff pointed out that as currently written, the objectives of the Environmental Policy Framework of Resilient Saanich are not SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant & Time bound) objectives. It was suggested to merge the current objectives and goals in the framework and shift the idea of SMART objectives to the strategy level, where future identified actions can be measured and evaluated over time. Such an approach could also allow to streamline the wording used to describe the objectives, as some of those are written as actions rather than objectives. For Objective 3, the wording could include "collaborative", hinting to the idea of this framework strengthening partnerships, engagement and support for environmental stewardship among different stakeholders.

   In regard to the themes mentioned in the goals and objectives, CRD staff suggested to add references to landscape connectivity, restoration and strengthen the lens on climate adaptation. Staff recognized that some of these themes may be explored in depth at the strategy level (i.e. Saanich's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy & Climate Plan). Another key theme missing was how the multi-jurisdictional landscape in which Saanich is nested will be considered in this framework. For example, while Saanich and CRD Parks are located close to each other, their management is undertaken by different levels of local government. Hence the need to clarify how this framework will affect those different levels of territorial jurisdiction.

2. **Are there any sources of biodiversity data that the CRD oversees that could be useful to Saanich for analyzing biodiversity?**

   Milestone Two of Resilient Saanich will entail developing a biodiversity baseline state for Saanich. Data that CRD could provide to Saanich to develop their biodiversity baseline state in this second phase of the project include the following projects:
   - Forest Canopy Cover (summer 2021)
   - Marine Shoreline data, including the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet (2022)
   - Landscape evaluation atlas (https://issuu.com/capitalregionaldistrict/docs/landscape-evaluation-reference-maps)
   - Data publicly available on CRD website (https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/data) and map layers (https://maps.crd.bc.ca/Html5Viewer/?viewer=public)
   - A Conservation Data Centre Contract is currently under way to update the biodiversity data sources for regional parks.

- Olympia Oyster survey data, including the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet (summer 2021).
- Visitor Use data for Elk/Beaver Lake and Island View Beach. Visitor Use Survey for the Saanich Peninsula (2021-2022).
- Watershed characterization of Elk/Beaver Lake (2021-2022).
- Sea level rise data. The entire region was mapped at different storm surge and sea level rise scenarios (https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/data/climate-change/coastal-flood-inundation-mapping-project).
- Forest carbon sequestration report. This is specific to forest blocks and not urban canopy. This document could be of help to frame discussion around what carbon sequestration means. Glenys Verhust, District of Saanich supported this project (report available upon request).
- Stormwater quality monitoring including benthic invertebrate sampling (https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/what-we-do/stormwater-wastewater-septic/monitoring-stormwater#:~:text=CRD%20staff%20monitor%20levels%20of,public%20health%20and%20environmental%20concern).
- CRD Regional Parks is mapping groundwater wells that are currently decommissioned. Such data could be shared if available.

3. **Are there any upcoming initiatives that the CRD oversees that could assist Saanich in creating its Environmental Policy Framework? Similarly, are there any areas of overlap or where a partnership approach could improve efforts?**

   A series of CRD initiatives planned for the next couple of years will potentially inform and overlap with the Resilient Saanich project:

   - CRD is exploring some biodiversity work in the region which will involve the collection and mapping of provincial and federal ecological data sets that could inform and overlap with the Resilient Saanich project. Saanich also plans to compile similar data so there may be opportunities to collaborate on this.
   - CRD is launching a biodiversity awareness campaign on Earth Day which will include a Biodiversity challenge from May 21 - 24, 2021 through i-Naturalist. This challenge will be followed by an awareness campaign on backyard biodiversity, native plants and invasive species. These initiatives provide a great opportunity for collaboration with the Resilient Saanich project and the Naturescape project Saanich is implementing. Saanich could offer some training to their constituency on i-Naturalist to increase resident ability to use this tool during CRD's biodiversity campaign in May 2021.
   - The work CRD is doing around invasive species awareness and management aligns with Saanich stewardship programs and there are already partnerships in place.
   - There is a desire from CRD Regional Parks to map invasive species along the Regional Trails and start a volunteer effort to remove them. The use of an IAPP is envisioned to monitor this project. The vision is to implement this project over the coming two-three years.
   - The Regional Parks Strategic Plan and Land Acquisition Strategy expire in 2022, a process for their renewal is underway. The Climate Action plan is also under review for renewal in 2021.
   - The CRD administers the CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group and Task Force, the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership Intergovernmental Working

Group, the Gorge Waterway Initiative and the Bowker Creek Initiative. These initiatives offer opportunities for collaboration between the CRD and the District of Saanich.

- CRD is developing a series of training, workshops and initiatives about naturescaping and invasive species awareness and management which represents great opportunities for collaboration between the CRD and the District of Saanich. May is invasive species month and common projects could be developed.
- The Regional Growth Strategy provides an overarching policy framework that supports Saanich's proposed work. The two most relevant pieces are Objective 2.1, which sets out a number of principles to guide the protection, conservation and management of land in the capital region, and Policy 2.1(4), which identifies that municipalities and the CRD should use tools such as the proposed initiative to "identify, protect, enhance and restore healthy ecosystems". The proposed Resilient Saanich initiative can help implement the Regional Growth Strategy and supports achievement of the objective to protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health.

Resilient Saanich:

Submission from select UVic specialists in biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration, and natural areas protection.

Geraldine Allen, Professor, Department of Biology
Joseph A. Antos, Adjunct Professor, Department of Biology
David E Atkinson, Professor, Department of Geography
Barbara Hawkins, Professor, Department of Biology
Eric Higgs, Professor, School of Environmental Studies
Nancy Shackelford, Assistant Professor, School of Environmental Studies
Brian Starzomski, Ian McTaggart Cowan Professor and Director, School of Environmental Studies

April 16, 2021

We are pleased to provide comments and support to the *Resilient Saanich* process of addressing biodiversity loss and fighting the causes and consequences of climate change. We are a small number of voices in a much larger interdisciplinary community of scholars and students who care deeply about climate change and implications for protection and restoration of biodiversity. More than half of the UVic campus is located in the District of Saanich, and many of us live in Saanich. Thus, we are committed to engaging with and preserving the land where we live, work and play.

1. The involvement of students and faculty in research to benefit local communities is a priority at UVic, and we suggest extending connections between the University community and the District's planning and implementation process for resilience and environmental stewardship. The University of Victoria is a major Canadian research and teaching university with broad expertise across an array of the topics addressed by the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee and Council. We are national leaders in climate change research, and are home to the Pacific Institute for Climate Solution (PICS), the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC), and the Water-Climate Impacts Research Centre (W-CIRC). Across many academic departments we focus on a full range of sustainability and climate challenges, including expertise in ecological restoration, biodiversity conservation, spatial sciences, environmental law, environmental history, and many other areas. The University has launched, under the leadership of our new President, Kevin Hall, a bold Climate and Sustainability Action plan aimed at positioning UVic as a national and international leader. UVic's Strategic Framework also highlights the importance of community engagement and fostering respect and reconciliation. These efforts should inform, and be informed by, the District of Saanich, with close collaboration rather than isolation.

2. We encourage the prioritization of Indigenous cultural resurgence alongside ecological protection and restoration through active partnerships with Indigenous communities. This is pivotal to achieve social justice and biodiversity protection goals. Crucially in a region where Indigenous landscape management was essential to ecosystem health, biodiversity recovery and cultural resurgence are intertwined.

3. We applaud the *Resilient Saanich* stated goals of conserving existing biodiversity through a network of parks and protected areas. However, as an urban and urbanizing region with a small relict percentage of historically continuous and rare Garry oak ecosystems, Saanich must also place significant effort on effective restoration. Each piece of land is important for biodiversity. More than 95% of Garry oak ecosystems in the Province have been degraded, damaged, or

destroyed; the entire Coastal Douglas-fir zone that Saanich is part of has been impacted by human activity. Significant restoration efforts have at least three benefits: 1) to reverse biodiversity loss; 2) recovering vital ecosystem services; and 3) reconnecting people with nature. UVic is a national leader in restoration through its award-winning Restoration of Natural Systems Program operated collaboratively by the School of Environmental Studies and the Division of Continuing Studies. Our expertise suggests that successful restoration depends on setting clear goals, measurable objectives, and monitoring to track progress. Defining clear targets for restoration would be an important outcome of your *Resilient Saanich* process: what will natural Saanich look like in, say, 2050? UVic faculty and students are available to collaborate on long-term support through research and monitoring.

4. Stemming biodiversity loss and working toward recovery involves connectivity across the landscape, beyond the existing protected area network. This is a topic, especially for urban regions, that needs to be better understood to determine connectivity for different species across the landscape, and the distribution of reservoirs of diversity (core areas). It speaks to how "permeable" and habitable the landscape is to a wide variety of species, what kinds of core habitats support which species, and what actions outside of protected areas are most effective at enhancing biodiversity values across the landscape. Thus, we encourage the *Resilient Saanich* goals and objectives to embrace a wide range of land use types within its planning process.

5. We have experienced the politically divisive issue of private land regulations and policies to protect biodversity loss and encourage effective connectivity (see 4 above) and restoration (see 3 above). In urban and urbanizing regions, significant gains cannot be made without consideration of private land. A robust regulatory framework that restricts further degradation of private land and encourages restoration is required, and strong educational efforts, incentives, and supports will be needed to encourage buy-in and compliance (e.g., consultation services, best practice guides, widely available native plant stock & etc.). It will take a great deal of effort to turn the tide on biodiversity losses in Saanich (and elsewhere in the Region). Existing parks and public lands are important, but not enough.

6. Climate adaptation and mitigation are vitally important, but even more important is the reduction of CO_2 emissions. Reducing, or better yet, eliminating, the consumption of fossil fuels that adds greenhouse gases to the atmosphere is the priority, but it does not appear in your briefing materials.

7. We urge you to take advantage of leading approaches to ensure landscape resilience in a rapidly changing world. For example, the work of the San Francisco Estuary Institute (e.g., their "re-oaking" initiative), or the Welikia project in New York City show the importance of linking historical knowledge to present realities, and then to engage wider publics in understanding the consequences of change. Tellingly, the past still matters in understanding how to protect and restore biodiversity under conditions of rapid climate change and land conversion.

We congratulate Saanich for tackling two of the most critical issues of our time – biodiversity loss and climate change. Our actions today will affect the quality of life of generations to come. We wish that our children and the children of the next millennium will have the opportunity to enjoy an even greater quality of life and the natural environment we so much appreciate in our community, today. We hope the decisions made by Saanich will be based on the best information, knowledge, and experience we can gather. The University community stands ready to assist in these initiatives, because clearly, solutions require the joint engagement of all of our efforts and expertise.