



AGENDA
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
Tuesday, July 20, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

To listen to this meeting by telephone call **1-833-214-3122** and use code **113 865 538#** during the time noted above. **NOTE: MS Teams callers are identified by their phone number which can be viewed on screen by all attendees of the meeting.**

1.	Call to Order	Chair T. Stevens	
2.	Territorial Acknowledgement & Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement	Councillor R. Mersereau	
3.	Approval of Agenda	Chair T. Stevens	5 mins
4.	Adoption of Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 17, 2021 • June 29, 2021 • July 6, 2021 		10 mins
5.	Receipt of Correspondence	Chair T. Stevens	5 mins
6.	Update on Appointment of New RSTC Members	Councillor R. Mersereau	5 mins
7.	Resilient Saanich Terms of Reference Amendments	Councillor R. Mersereau	30 mins
8.	Mapping Working Group Report on ESA Atlas & Saanich Mapping	Mapping Working Group	20 mins
9.	Draft Terms of Reference for Urban Forest Strategy	Senior Manager, Parks	15 mins
10.	Biodiversity Fact Sheet	K. Brown	10 mins
11.	Terms of Reference Discussions for State of Biodiversity Report and Biodiversity Conservation Strategy	Chair T. Stevens	60 mins
12.	Adjournment		

* * Next Meeting: August 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. * *
 Please RVSP your attendance to lynn.merry@saanich.ca

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Via MS Teams
Thursday, June 17, 2021

Present: Councillor Rebecca Mersereau (Council Liaison) (8:13 p.m.), Kevin Brown, Tim Ennis, Purnima Govindarajulu, Stewart Guy (Chair), Jeremy Gye, Tory Stevens, Brian Wilkes, Bev Windjack

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

The Chair read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the Agenda for the June 17, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved."

CARRIED

4. CONSERVATION MEASURES PARTNERSHIP

T. Ennis presented "The Open Standards for Practice of Conservation" (PowerPoint on file) and answered questions from the committee:

- Human Wellbeing Targets could be considered.
- Indicators should be quantitative looking to the scientific literature whenever possible.
- A target may have a lower viability or ecological integrity if there has been impacts/threats to it; some impacts may have been historical and are no longer taking place.
- Threats, such as invasive species, are most often ongoing and active.
- A consultant driven process, in collaboration with staff and the RSTC, should be considered.
- The framework is adaptable to different projects and could be applied to areas with suburban, urban and rural areas.

Committee members made the following comments:

- Review of a case study from Vancouver Island may be helpful.
- It will be important that targets are chosen thoughtfully to ensure the targets remain viable in the long term.
- It will also be important to ensure common species remain common rather than dropping in abundance.

MOVED by J. Gye and Seconded by T. Stevens: “That T. Ennis provide a case study for the committee to review at a future meeting.”

CARRIED

5. RSTC INPUT INTO WORKPLAN AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Committee members reviewed the Workplan and Terms of Reference and made the following comments:

- There is a difference between the Environmental Policy Framework and Resilient Saanich; the framework, which will be a living document, will be a road map to a more resilient Saanich.
- The Workplan has been updated to include the work that the RSTC is already doing.
- Milestone 2 includes a line item to create the Workplan for Milestone 3.
- The timeline for Milestone 2 has been changed to be completed at the end of Q3 2022; the project should be complete before the end of the Council term in October 2022.
- The Stewardship Committee will provide details on what has been done.
- A preliminary evaluation tool has been created.
- Existing policies will be evaluated to ensure that are consistent with the framework.
- The committee will review the Terms of Reference for a consultant to create the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
- The level of public consultation has not changed.

Action:

T. Stevens will update the document and provide it to staff for feedback.

MOVED by T. Stevens and Seconded by B. Wilkes: “That staff be requested to review the Draft Workplan and Terms of Reference and provide feedback to the RSTC in a week or more.”

CARRIED

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

June 29, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Teams.

Stewart Guy, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Via MS Teams
Tuesday, June 29, 2021

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

Staff: Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; and Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by T. Stevens and Seconded by B. Windjack: "That the Agenda for the June 29, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved."

CARRIED

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the minutes of the May 25, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adopted."

CARRIED

5. RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED by B. Windjack and Seconded by T. Stevens: "That the correspondence be accepted for information."

CARRIED

6. APPOINTMENT OF NEW TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

It was the consensus of the committee that T. Stevens be the Chair from July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021. The committee expressed their appreciation to S. Guy for the work he has done as the past Chair.

7. UPDATE ON APPOINTMENT OF NEW TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The committee appointment will be discussed at a future In Camera Saanich Council meeting.

8. DISCUSSION OF RSTC WORKPLAN AND TERMS OF REFERENCE DOCUMENT

The draft Terms of Reference were reviewed and the committee made the following comments:

- The authorship of the Terms of Reference has been changed to the committee.
- Because this is a Technical Committee, it may not be appropriate to solicit non-qualified community representatives for Milestone 3; a community representative may bring a perspective of someone who has been impacted by the previous bylaw or has stewardship experience.
- The committee is able to call resource people when tackling an issue that requires specific expertise.
- Council has the responsibility to appoint members to the committee.

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- Members of the public are permitted to attend meetings and speakers may be invited.
- Public participation opportunities were added to new items.
- There are some amendments to relative expenses.
- Staff will draft the Terms of Reference for the RSTC to review.
- Staff will facilitate the call for new appointees for Milestone Three and Council would appoint members.
- A statistically viable survey would be expensive relative to other items.

MOVED by J. Gye and Seconded by T. Stevens: “That the draft Terms of Reference be amended that “community representative” be deleted from the renewed and expanded Technical Committee.”

The Motion was DEFEATED
with K. Brown, T. Ennis, P. Govindarajulu, S. Guy, T. Stevens, and B. Windjack
OPPOSED

MOVED by T. Stevens and Seconded by K. Brown: “That the draft Terms of Reference be amended to add “community representative with a stewardship background” be solicited for the renewed and expanded Technical Committee.”

CARRIED

The committee made the following comments:

- The Biodiversity Strategy is one of the thematic plans; the Environmental Policy Framework is the overarching piece of work that encompasses more than biodiversity conservation.
- The Mapping Working Group has recommended that an Environmental Reference Atlas not be pursued.
- It would be appropriate to ensure GIS layers are up-to-date and accurate.
- It would be premature to embed an Environmental Development Permit Area in the Terms of Reference; Development Permit Areas are one of a number of tools that will be considered by the committee in the course of developing the Biodiversity Strategy and the Enhanced Stewardship Plan.
- The list of stakeholders has been removed as it is expected that this is work by staff and the consultant.
- The Terms of Reference have been revised to indicate the committee's tasks.
- The State of Biodiversity Report could be added as a deliverable.
- The final report will be prepared by staff.

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- The paragraph on the Secretariat needs to be expanded to better describe the role in order to budget accordingly.
- It may be difficult for Council to determine the changes between the original Terms of Reference and the proposed.
- Staff will revise the draft Terms of Reference based on committee discussion to include public engagement as an appendix, add a community representative with experience or expertise in stewardship, expand on the role of the Secretariat with information provided by the committee, return public engagement to the workplan regarding conservation tools, add to footnote 7 with the deliverables that had been removed, and a State of Biodiversity Report to the list of deliverables.

MOVED by T. Stevens and Seconded by P. Govindarajulu: “That the Terms of Reference be amended to reflect the changes as discussed and then provided to staff for inclusion in the package for Council.”

The committee made the following comments:

- Some of the items that staff were to do are now not included in the Terms of Reference.
- The Terms of Reference should reflect the collectiveness of the RSTC, staff and the consultant.
- The column “Staff Role” is still included and outlines the work of staff.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

9. DISCUSSION ON SAANICH MAPPING

The Mapping Working Group Progress Briefing Note was reviewed and the committee made the following comments:

- More accurate and simplified mapping is needed.
- A Natural Assets Registry could be considered with a focus on ecosystem services and the types of assets that provide those services.
- Natural assets cross jurisdictional boundaries so it is important to work with neighbouring municipalities.
- Indigenous points of view should be included in concepts.

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- Bowker Creek could be considered a natural asset.
- An Asset Management System is being considered for Saanich and natural assets will be included.
- The Capital Regional District (CRD) is looking at mapping tree canopy.
- Improvements have been made in the accuracy in mapping and staff have been working with CRD staff in developing a method to update and improve the marine layer.

MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by B. Windjack: “That the RSTC receive the report from the Mapping Working Group and direct the group to arrange a meeting with staff to discuss how to move forward.”

CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by T. Stevens: “That the meeting of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adjourned.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

July 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Teams.

Stewart Guy, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

MINUTES
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Via MS Teams
Tuesday, July 6, 2021

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

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

Regrets: Stewart Guy

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT**

Councillor Mersereau read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement. She suggested that committee members take turns reading the Acknowledgement at future meetings.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by B. Wilkes: "That the Agenda for the July 6, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved, as amended."

A member of the committee advised that they were uncomfortable discussing the Resilient Saanich Draft Milestone One Progress Report due to the lateness of receipt.

CARRIED
with J. Gye ABSTAINED

4. **REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair stated:

- Field trips to various restoration and ecologically important projects will be offered in coming weeks.
- RSTC meetings will not resume in person until at least September 2021 due to Saanich remaining under the Provincial Health Order.
- RSTC documents will be stored on Google Docs.

5. **CONSERVATION MEASURES PARTNERSHIP & SAANICH BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY**

T. Ennis gave a demonstration on the Miradi software and the committee made the following comments:

- There will be a series of ecosystem targets (i.e. Garry Oak ecosystem GOE) and nested targets under them (i.e. specific species in GOE).
- The licensing of Miradi is moving towards being Cloud based; Saanich would have to purchase a software licence if it were to be considered to develop the State of Biodiversity Report.
- Members of the RSTC could have access to the system with potentially different levels of access, if required.
- Further discussion could take place on the consultant having the licence rather than Saanich.
- It would be valuable to have outside experts involved in setting up the system in Saanich to provide scientific credibility.
- Workshops could be held to determine targets, threats, etc.
- There are some larger threats that a municipality may not have any control over (i.e. climate change).
- There is the opportunity to run template reports.
- The software is complex; there are consultants in southwest BC that have experience using the system.

MOVED by B. Windjack and Seconded by J. Gye: “That the RSTC adopt the conservation standards as supported by the Miradi Software to develop the State of Biodiversity Report and the subsequent Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.”

The Senior Manager, Parks and the Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- A formal system would help for consistency; it would also be helpful to have all data in one place.
- Parks has very limited capacity for gathering data or keeping the data up-to-date; there may be partners that could help to do regular assessments and gather trend data.

The committee made the following comments:

- The system could be designed to be logistically feasible.
- Broader engagement is needed to get the targets and nested targets in place.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

MOVED by J. Gye and Seconded by B. Wilkes: “That the RSTC direct staff to draft the Terms of Reference for a consultant with experience in the Conservation Measures Partnership methodologies for the State of Biodiversity Report.”

The committee made the following comments:

- There may be examples of Terms of Reference that could be used as a template.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

6. RESILIENT SAANICH PROGRESS REPORT TO COUNCIL

The Manager of Environmental Services presented the draft report on the Resilient Saanich Policy Framework and the committee made the following comments:

- The action items include items from both the committee and staff.
- The committee recommends not moving forward with the 4th edition of the ESA Atlas.
- The draft Evaluation Matrix (Table 2) is confusing; the committee will provide rationale in place of the table and the last paragraph on page 3 will refer to the Appendix.

The Manager of Environmental Services stated:

- The goal is to have the report on the July 19, 2021 Special Council meeting.
- The committee's revisions will be incorporated into the report including removing table 2, adding a description about the role of Secretariat and adding "up to" to the projected costs of the Secretariat.
- The original estimate for a Secretariat was \$30,000; after review of similar projects in Saanich, the estimate was increased to \$100,000.
- The consultant would be retained for approximately ten months in Milestone Two.

MOVED by PG and Seconded by J. Gye: "That the RSTC support the Resilient Saanich Progress Report, with revisions as discussed, be forwarded to the July 19, 2021 Saanich Council meeting."

**CARRIED
with B. Wilkes OPPOSED**

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by B. Windjack and Seconded by P. Gov: "That the meeting of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adjourned."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

July 20, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Teams.

Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

July 9, 2021

RSTC Briefing Note

Recommendation on the release of the Environmental Reference Atlas, edition 4.

In a May 4, 2021 memo, RSTC has been asked by Saanich Environmental Services to endorse the release of the 4th edition of the Environmental Reference Atlas (previously the Environmentally Significant Areas Atlas).

The mapping working group of the RSTC recommends that the RSTC not endorse release of this edition of the atlas. It also recommends that Saanich consider ending the use of paper atlases in the future in favour of updated and accurate GIS map layers.

The reasons for this recommendation are as follows:

- An atlas should be considered a source of accurate and authoritative information, but there are numerous inaccuracies in the GIS map layers that make up the atlas, and the release of the atlas would reflect those inaccuracies. Endorsing its publication would mean that the RSTC is knowingly endorsing the release of inaccurate mapping.

For example:

- The various mapping systems used in the atlas result in different labels for the same spot. For example, woodland and Douglas-fir – salal marked on the same parcel, or Older Forest and Young Forest are marked on the same spot, or Arbutus – Douglas-fir forest is mapped where there is a Garry oak forest. This simply creates confusion.
- Marine shoreline is referenced in blue on the atlas but there is not yet a corresponding GIS layer. Rock cliffs and ramps should not be shown as sensitive ecosystem components. Only sedimentary coastal bluffs would be identified as potentially sensitive bluffs. The coastal bluff sensitive ecosystems under the SEI are not the same as the actual sensitive bluffs as pointed out by B. Emmett.
- Most of the mapping (TEM, SEI, coastal zone) is based on air photos that are 20 years old or older. As a decision-making tool, maps based on old data will simply lead to inaccurate and possibly costly decisions.
- The SEM map layer is based on more recent data (2011-2014), but the results are inaccurate if it is intended that the SEM polygons are potential ESAs. This problem was highlighted in the mapping presentation to the RSTC at our February 16, 2021 meeting. (it's in the agenda package and attachment for that meeting).
- Placement of many SEI and SEM polygons do not meet a ground-truthing test. The attached list shows numerous properties marked as SEI and SEM polygons where the criteria to classify them as such cannot be met.
- The term “Atlas” carries with it legacy issues dating back to the former EDPA atlas and the resulting public concerns about accuracy.
- Although some need to be updated, the GIS layers are easy to use and access. The GIS layers can be accessed in the field by smartphone or tablet. In contrast, the draft atlas consists of 62 map sheets that are difficult to navigate, and property-related data and features are often split between map sheets.
- In effect, overlaying different GIS layers produces a site-specific “atlas” containing multiple bits of information on a site or area, tailored to a user’s needs. The CRD Atlas is a good local example of this. A formally published Atlas, that will eventually be out of date, seems redundant and unnecessary.

- The mapping working group recommends that the day of paper atlases is over.

The Mapping working group recommends that these points be discussed at the upcoming RSTC meeting and a decision be made regarding RSTC's endorsement.

Attachment

Draft Environmental Reference Atlas 4th edition TEM, SEI and SEM layers

Original SEI mapping - Many areas still do not meet the Sensitive Ecosystem standard and should be removed from the mapping– the SEI standard requires areas to be “relatively unmodified”¹ from their original condition as is described in the Vancouver Island SEI Conservation Manual (see page 99 for the Garry oak Woodland description). The main and most pervasive modification of these ecosystems has been that they are now dominated by invasive species, usually as ground cover or shrub layer. Areas within Saanich Parks should be retained on maps for now, but not private land areas that no longer meet the SEI standard. (Staff stated in the December 8, 2020 presentation that the SEI polygons have to meet the Ecosystems at Risk Standard). As well, many parks have potential but degraded Sensitive Ecosystems which are not mapped.

Existing SEI mapping Garry oak over lawn and garden areas – lots of these remain in the existing Atlas – that do not meet the SEI standards

- Rhododendron gardens in Playfair Park – mapped as WD Sensitive Ecosystem.
- Wetherby Park – Cedar Hill Road – lawn area
- Derby Road – 1580, 1582, 1584, 1694
- McKenzie Ave - 820
- Richmond Rd – 3561, 3565, 3569
- Rogers Court – 825, 829,
- Simon Rd – 1446, 1450

Existing SEI mapping Garry oak, Coastal Bluff, Terrestrial Herbaceous that are no longer “relatively unmodified” – this includes all Garry oak ecosystems, Coastal Bluff ecosystems and Terrestrial Herbaceous ecosystems in Saanich Parks

- Rainbow Ridge - twin towers property, Catholic Church property – all poor ecological condition
- Lynnfield Crescent 4169, 4171
- Many areas on the Ten Mile Point and Gordon Head waterfront mapped as Coastal Bluff that are invasive grass dominated.

¹ “Relatively unmodified” means in Excellent or Good condition, according to the condition criteria in *Standard for Mapping Ecosystems at Risk in BC*. Ecosystem units that are in Fair or Poor condition are too degraded to meet SEI standards.

- Many Saanich Parks with Garry Oak Woodland, Terrestrial Herbaceous, or Coastal Bluff Sensitive Ecosystems that are dominated by invasive grasses or have become bare rock due to overuse and trampling.

New Saanich Ecosystem Mapping in UCB – lawn and garden under oaks or covered in invasive species – methodology does not meet the SEI standards of being relatively unmodified. Much of this mapping appears to be Garry oak tree canopy which should be captured in the Urban Forest inventory.

- Camosun College Landsdowne – large area of lawn/invasives under oak trees
- Kathleen Street Rock Street – lawn, garden, invasives
- Zinnia Court – ROW mapped as Woodland – covered in invasive species
- Lavender Avenue, Montcalm Street – mapped as Woodland when they are lawn, garden, roadway, pathways, invasives under oak trees
- San Marino – front yards – lawn and garden under oak trees
- Cumberland Street – dominated by invasive species
- Lily Property mapped as Wetland;
- 4140 Quadra Street is lawn and garden under oak trees

To illustrate the inconsistency of the mapping, areas similar to those mapped as SEM polygons are listed below, but are not mapped. These are mostly Garry oak trees over back yards, lawn and invasives that are not mapped and are not Sensitive Ecosystems. Some are mapped but many other similar areas are not.

- West of Cook – between Wicklow and Linwood
- Greenridge Crescent – south of Tulsa Drive – back side of Greenridge properties
- Oak areas between Linwood and Quadra – and Holmes
- Oak areas between Tuxedo and Quadra west of Milner
- Garry oak between Garry oak Terrace and Judge – many others in this area
- Lots of areas through Maplewood, North Quadra, Cedar Hill Road
- Oak areas between Cedar Hill Road, Mercer Place and Mount Doug Cross Road
- Between Genevieve and Chesterlea. oak areas connect Rogers Park to yards
- Between Woodley Rd and Waterloo Rd – east end
- Between Clovelly Terrace and Hollis Rd – area between Hollis Rd and Tattersall
- Margot Road off Cedar Hill Cross Road -

Mixed messages on areas with two or three mapping systems

- Mount Douglas Park – SEI maps as OF – Older Forest; CDF TEM maps it as YF – Young Forest
- Madrona Farms – fields mapped as YF – Fd – Salal, area to south same TEM polygon mapped as WD by the SEI
- Brodick Park – SEI maps WD - Woodland while CDF TEM maps YF – Young Forest Fd-Salal

Rural areas with Mixed messages – many rural properties have natural ecosystems

- 4748 Spring Road – CDF TEM says YF, SEI says WD
- 4811 Excelsior – same unit as above – SEM says SG (second growth)
- 336 Cyril Owen Place – CDF TEM is WD while SEM is SG (second growth)
- 312 Cyril Owen Place – CDF TEM is WD while SEM is HT
- Maltby Lake north side – long narrow polygon - SEM is OF while CDF TEM is YF
- East side of Excelsior Drive – SEM says SG (second growth) – CDF TEM say YF

CDF Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM)

- Nicholson Licorice Lane – Mapped as WD – yet most of the area is houses, roads and non-vegetated areas – appears to be a corridor, but is not; - what year were the air photos that was used for this mapping.
- Fetham Park and Bow Park mapped as YF – need to know what plant community – some is Riparian Forest, some in Garry oak woodland and some is Trembling Aspen woodland
- Queenswood area near Telegraph Bay mapped as Douglas-fir – Salal Community – almost all is Arbutus – Douglas-fir Woodland with some rock outcrops of Garry oak.

Units removed from mapping by Saanich Council, with new mapping now covering same areas

- Rainbow – was SEI mapped as WD – now CDF TEM mapped as WD – lawn and garden under oak tree - Plant community defined as Garry Oak - Brome/mixed grasses
- Tudor/Sea View – was SEI mapped as HT/WD – now CDF TEM mapped as WD – Plant community defined as Garry Oak - Brome/mixed grasses
- Glendenning/Cedarglen/Mount Doug Cross Road - - was SEI mapped as WD – now CDF TEM mapped as YF – young forest – Fd – Salal. and Alberg property with new Saanich Ecosystem Mapping now calls it WD just south of what was removed by Aqua-
Tex report -
- Gordon Head Road – SEI mapped as CB – coastal Bluff – now CDF TEM mapped as WD

Biodiversity definition and measurement brief (Kevin Brown_11 July 2021)

Notes:

At the RSTC May 27 2021 meeting I proposed a briefing note addressing issues pertaining to defining and measuring biodiversity. This was approved by the RSTC. The first draft was sent to working group members on June 22 for comment; a slightly revised draft was sent out July 11. The rationale (A) and draft brief (B) are attached.

The draft, which I originally called a “fact sheet”, for lack of a better term, is somewhat longer than I originally proposed. It is intended to highlight issues we should acknowledge in the biodiversity status report and strategy but is not intended to recommend a specific operational definition for biodiversity or approach to assessing it. That is up to the RSTC to decide on and justify. The brief is intended to be a background piece which supports that decision-making process and, ultimately, the biodiversity status report and strategy.

The intended audience(s) are those involved in developing the strategy (RSTC, staff, consultant(s)) and the public. The “public” undoubtedly vary in their level of interest in what biodiversity means – it may seem esoteric to some and important to others. Regardless, I think it is essential to acknowledge uncertainties in the issues we address – it gives our work more credibility.

Some questions for the RSTC that arose from initial reviews:

1. Does RSTC still agree with the premise?
2. Is the brief appropriate for the intended audiences? Too much or too little information?
3. Are the topics appropriate and adequately addressed?
4. Is there a need for strong recommendations?
5. How should the information be presented? For example, stand-alone, embedded in the biodiversity strategy, or in two parts, one of which is a 1 pager specifically aimed at the “public”?

Possible actions:

1. Review and comment by RSTC – by when?
2. Motion to request staff to review following sufficient review and discussion by RSTC and incorporation of RSTC comments

A. Defining biodiversity and quantifying it in Saanich: need for a fact sheet/background document – for discussion 27 May 2021 RSTC meeting (Kevin Brown)

The RSTC should ensure that concepts essential to the environmental policy framework are clearly defined, that assumptions are explicit, and that unknowns are acknowledged. This helps ensure scientific credibility in the process, facilitates better communication and can lead to better policy. In a more general sense, such discussions can foster greater appreciation and better treatment of the natural environment within the broader community and increase “community science” involvement in monitoring Saanich’s natural environment.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is difficult to quantify. If Saanich is to assess, protect, and enhance biodiversity, we need to ensure we know what it is. Understanding what it is affects how we assess its status (including guidance for a consultant), how we identify and assess threats to it, how we monitor it, and what goals we set for it.

The biodiversity working group is currently proposing an assessment of Saanich’s “natural” ecosystems. Defining what “biodiversity” is operationally in an urbanized environment and articulating the difficulties in quantifying it should not preclude or delay assessments of Saanich’s “natural” ecosystems. Instead, defining and articulating complements the latter assessments and reiterates why a variety of assessments are needed to evaluate the current and future status of biodiversity.

Proposal:

1. *What* – a 1-2 page fact sheet / other document which discusses the practical meaning and quantification of biodiversity as it applies to Resilient Saanich. This would include a review of traditional indicators of biodiversity, their limitations, and emerging approaches to quantifying biodiversity.
2. *Why* – Saanich is preparing a Biodiversity strategy integral to the Environmental Policy Framework. Biodiversity is referenced throughout the TOR and in various fact sheets. These do not define biodiversity operationally nor do they outline the assumptions and difficulties in quantifying biodiversity in a largely urban environment. Doing so provides a record of what the RSTC is thinking, useful to the consultant(s), RSTC, council, and public.
3. *Where it would fit* – the document could either be a stand-alone “fact sheet” or a separate background document that is an appendix in the biodiversity strategy. The draft document will be placed in the RSTC google drive.
4. *Who would do it* – I (KB) am willing to create a first draft which could be reviewed by the biodiversity working group and RSTC, then staff, prior to deciding on how best to present the information. This could minimize costs.
5. *When* – first draft for review by June 7 2021.

Possible outline:

1. Definitions of biodiversity, including those used in Saanich and other municipalities
2. Current operational approaches used in Saanich (e.g., mapping of ecosystem types, formal visual surveys relying on field-based specialists) – limitations
3. Emerging approaches to assessing urban biodiversity, e.g., ecological DNA, acoustic diversity indices, remote sensing, community science (e.g., using platforms such as iNaturalist; specific to species groups and locations).

Action desired / proposed: (a) approval in principle for go-ahead from RSTC; (b) draft to follow for RSTC comment; (3) decision on next steps, e.g., request staff review.

B. Biodiversity definition and measurement brief (Kevin Brown_11 July 2021)

1.0 Introduction

Saanich's biodiversity strategy will likely seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity throughout the municipality, although specific targets have not been finalized. This will require deciding what biodiversity is and how to measure it. Current fact sheets discuss biodiversity conservation strategies and targets from other jurisdictions and describe currently-protected areas in Saanich but do not address how to measure biodiversity.

Appropriate definitions and measurements of biodiversity help to set realistic biodiversity goals, monitor changes over time, assess threats, and develop appropriate policies. Clearly stated assumptions and recognition of uncertainties in local biodiversity data improve communication among users and give the biodiversity strategy more credibility. Even when initial assessments are clearly incomplete, ongoing incorporation of new data should improve the quality of biodiversity monitoring over time. Similarly, the incorporation of traditional ecological knowledge can provide important historical context for current-day estimates; both should lead to better policy. Appropriate selection of biodiversity components and integration of data can improve comparisons with other urban areas.

This note briefly discusses how biodiversity is defined, traditional and emerging approaches to assessing biodiversity in urbanized landscapes, and some advantages and disadvantages of each. The goals are to facilitate communication among users and support development of the biodiversity strategy and environmental policy framework.

2.0 What is biodiversity?

Formal definitions of biodiversity vary (Table 1) and this influences what is measured. Biodiversity is often assumed to mean the variety and abundance of different species, although it may also refer to genetic variation among species and diversity between ecosystems. When referring to species, diversity typically implies some combination of the number of species (richness) and their relative abundance.

Biodiversity may refer only to the diversity of organisms or to their combination with ecological processes and abiotic factors in ecosystems. Quantifying and assessing whether biodiversity is "adequate" is difficult because of the number and variety of organisms, the need for specialized expertise to identify organisms, technical difficulties in determining their abundance, and incomplete understanding of how organisms interact with each other, with the physical environment, and in response to disturbances. In practice, biodiversity may refer only to the diversity of some species of concern, while others are ignored. Given these difficulties, biodiversity is often considered an intuitive and general concept or belief, not something which is measurable.

Assessing biodiversity in urbanized environments is challenging, but important. Urban ecosystems vary greatly in their size, distribution, completeness, abundance of non-native species, and in types, intensity, and magnitude of human-induced disturbance. Urban areas often have less biodiversity than adjacent rural areas but can be surprisingly important for protecting biodiversity. Most urban green spaces represent "novel" ecosystems. Their attributes may not be as predictable as in more natural settings. Appropriate sampling is needed to capture spatial variation in ecosystem area, functional condition, and land use intensity.

3.0 Estimating biodiversity for the purposes of guiding local policy

3.1 Indicators of broader biodiversity

The abundance and diversity of all life forms in a region is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to quantify and interactions among different organisms are also relatively unstudied. Hence, biodiversity assessments may be qualitative and rely on “expert opinion” in the absence of measurement data. A more quantitative approach is to rely on the abundance of indicator species, typically plants or animals, to indicate the presence of other species and ecosystem condition. Indicator species must be appropriate to the location and area of interest. Accurately determining species abundance can require formalized sampling protocols and field-based specialists. This can be expensive and limit data collection. Area, structural diversity and condition of different ecosystems can also be used to indicate species potential biodiversity.

3.2 Plants as indicators of biodiversity

The presence and abundance of certain plants is often used to delineate terrestrial ecosystems and infer their biodiversity. Vegetation is amenable to sampling, certain plant species may be strongly preferred as habitat by certain animals, and the abundance of different plant species may be related to soil fertility, moisture regimes, and soil biota. Hence, vegetation characteristics can indicate broader biodiversity. Indicator plants must be sampled at appropriate times to assure accurate assessments and their presence does not ensure that other important and naturally co-occurring species will also be present, especially in urban environments. Conversely, their above-ground absence does not necessarily mean viable propagules are not present below-ground.

3.3 Ecosystems as indicators of biodiversity

The area and condition of ecosystems, in combination with connectivity between those ecosystems, may be used to indicate biodiversity. The scale of an ecosystem is arbitrary, but for biodiversity purposes, the ecosystem concept is typically applied at the landscape scale. Terrestrial ecosystems have been classified in British Columbia by a combination of climate, topography, and vegetation and the classifications are applied in natural resource management. Familiarity with this approach in BC makes ecosystem area and visual condition assessments tempting to use for inferring broader biodiversity in Saanich. However, ecosystems are often not discrete; boundaries may therefore be difficult to identify and map. Classifications based on natural “intact” ecosystems may not adequately describe the biodiversity and ecological functioning of a similar, but urbanized and novel version of the same ecosystem. Since ecosystem classifications largely rely on vegetation characteristics, they share similar weaknesses as indicators of broader biodiversity. Finally, biodiversity assessments relying solely on ecosystem type and area may underestimate the diversity and abundance of mobile organisms.

3.4 Non-plant species as indicators of biodiversity

Counts of certain non-vegetation species or species groups (for instance, birds) might be used to infer changes in broader terrestrial or aquatic biodiversity and ecosystem condition over time. However, abundance data are typically more difficult to collect for animals than for plants and suitable data are generally less available. Local examples of non-plant species’ counts include regular counts of native birds, certain butterfly species, and returning salmonids in local streams. In addition to potentially indicating ecosystem condition and broader biodiversity, species which are abundant enough, culturally important, or charismatic can ensure community interest and commitment to regular assessments. An abundance of species high on the food web may indicate organisms are also abundant lower in the food web. Conversely, animals move, and their ranges are often not confined to Saanich. This limits their effectiveness as indicator species, but counts of non-plant species complement other techniques in quantifying broader biodiversity.

Traditional approaches to assess terrestrial biodiversity are constrained by a lack of data and by uncertain relationships among native plant and non-plant species, factors exacerbated in urbanized environments. Emerging techniques can provide biodiversity data which complement traditional approaches and provide a more comprehensive picture of Saanich biodiversity.

3.5 Emerging techniques for improving estimates of biodiversity

Emerging techniques for assessing biodiversity share common features: (1) they do not rely directly on static visual assessments of ecosystems or species or species groups; (2) data collection may be less invasive and require fewer expert person-hours at the time of collection or alternatively, can better utilize the time and energy of enthusiasts; and (3) data can be collected continuously and integrated over desired time periods and across wide areas. Increased availability of open-source data, deployment of relatively inexpensive sensors, and development of technologies to better analyze samples and store and analyze data have enabled the development of these techniques. Emerging techniques include:

1. Passive acoustic monitoring relies on the development of acoustic indices to assess diversity and abundance of animal species which emit acoustic signals and has been applied in terrestrial and marine environments. With respect to biodiversity assessments, PAM is currently restricted to certain animals and by the need to separate out background sounds caused by natural physical processes and by humans. While human-caused background noise may interfere with sound-based assessments of species abundance, noise pollution also impacts animal communication and human health. Using acoustic monitoring to map urban soundscapes could aid in urban planning and policy development to minimize detrimental effects of excessive noise.
2. Environmental DNA (eDNA) – Analysis of eDNA is increasingly used to identify the DNA sloughed off organisms that are difficult to find or identify. cannot otherwise be sampled or recognized. Among other uses, eDNA has been used to identify the presence and preferred habitats of aquatic and marine species, presence of at-risk terrestrial animals, and diversity of various soil organisms. Relative abundance of organisms, an essential component of biodiversity assessments, remains challenging but headway is being made.
3. Remote sensing / LIDAR – Remote sensing has been used to map distributions of species, communities and ecosystems and physiological condition of vegetation; LIDAR is particularly useful for assessing canopy structure. Non-destructive sampling is feasible over wide areas and with high resolution. Identifying individual species of terrestrial plants is complicated by overlapping spectral signatures and variation with environmental conditions.
4. **Camera traps (Tory)**
5. Citizen science – Citizen science has a long history in biology. Widespread deployment of relatively cheap and mobile technologies (cell phones) with high quality cameras and GPS capability, combined with web-based data-sharing platforms (e.g., e-bird, i-naturalist) and expert vetting of data have greatly increased the availability of biodiversity and related data from enthusiasts and non-specialists. Inferences of species abundance can be biased toward certain species, locations, and time of observation, although suitable sampling protocols and management of uploaded data minimize these biases.

3.6 Integrating different biodiversity-related data

Available local biodiversity information is likely to be comprised of a mixture of quantitative and qualitative data. For qualitative assessments, it is essential to apply ratings that are scientifically meaningful and can be applied consistently by different observers. Data for specific components of biodiversity (e.g., individual tree species) can be combined into broader groups (e.g., deciduous versus evergreen trees) to simplify the setting of targets and creation of policy but should be understandable

and specific enough to be scientifically meaningful. Quantitative and qualitative data can be combined to generate numerical condition rankings which can then be combined further to provide an overall biodiversity index. However, fewer, but broader metrics may be too general to guide the development of effective policies.

Finally, although outside the immediate scope of this brief, any biodiversity data used to monitor Saanich progress will need to be maintained, perhaps by the municipality, and, ideally, be publicly accessible. That will encourage citizen engagement.

In a nutshell,

- Biodiversity should be defined consistent with measurement needs.
- Quantitative (measurement) data are preferable for spatial and temporal assessments of biodiversity and the setting of targets, but qualitative assessments and “expert” opinion may be needed.
- For qualitative data and targets, the biodiversity components used for assessment and the setting of targets should be specific enough to be scientifically meaningful, yet broad enough to be applied consistently.
- Traditional approaches to assessing biodiversity have relied on systematic surveys which may be expensive and not account for many species. Limited data collection may underestimate biodiversity, especially in urban environments.
- Emerging technologies can complement traditional approaches to better assess and understand biodiversity. However, comprehensive biodiversity assessments likely require a variety of approaches and data sources.

Table 1. Selected definitions of biodiversity

1. *...the variety of life forms...at all levels of biological systems (i.e., molecular, organismic, population, species and ecosystem)* Wilcox 1984 (from Wikipedia)
2. *...the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.* (UN Convention on Biological Diversity 1992)
3. *the variability of life on earth and the ecological processes that support it* (Surrey biodiversity conversation strategy 2014 and related reports; Noss 1997)
4. *the variety of species and ecosystems on earth and the ecological processes of which they are a part – including ecosystem, species and genetic diversity components* (Canadian biodiversity strategy. Environment Canada 2005; Taking Nature’s Pulse: the status of biodiversity in BC. Biodiversity BC 2008)
5. Princeton Guide to Ecology 2009 (Colwell p.257-258) *“the variety of life, at all levels of organization, classified both by evolutionary and functional criteria”* Colwell 2009 Princeton Guide to Ecology
6. Princeton Guide to Ecology (Fischer et al p 431) *“The diversity of genes, species, communities, and ecosystems, including their interactions”* Fischer et al. 2009. Princeton Guide to Ecology

Resilient Saanich Technical Committee

Terms of Reference

July 12, 2021

Proposed Draft by the
Resilient Saanich Technical Committee

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BACKGROUND

Saanich currently has a variety of policies, programs, plans, and regulatory tools to protect and enhance the natural environment. These have developed over time without an over-arching policy framework, resulting in gaps and inconsistencies in the district's approach to management of the natural and built environment. Meanwhile, new Local Area Plans and updates to environmental plans, such as Saanich's new Climate Plan and existing Urban Forest Strategy, are underway without the benefit of such a framework. A work plan to produce an overarching Environmental Policy Framework was prepared for consideration by Council. The intent of the Framework is to produce a more coherent body of plans, policies, bylaws and strategies in support of a more resilient Saanich.

On November 6, 2017, Council made the following motion:

"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 that the Diamond Head report recommendations be considered a component of this report."

This motion was made in anticipation of the rescindment of the Environmental Development Permit Area which occurred on April 23, 2018.

Further, on May 7, 2018, Council designated up to \$250,000 to fund decisions emanating from this staff report.

PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Rationalize existing and new environmental policies and programs into the Framework;
- Develop a new Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and enhanced Stewardship Program to serve with Saanich's new Climate Plan as the strategic pillars for the Framework
- Evaluate the strength of the Environmental Policy Framework (EPF) and the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) to replace the EDPA. Identify a range of potential policy tools, possibly including a new EDPA, for managing the environment in Saanich.

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ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Technical Committee has developed a draft set of principles, goals and objectives for the Framework. In addition, the Committee has proposed a thematic model to identify, review, develop and coordinate key areas of environmental policy within Saanich. Key thematic areas include (but are not limited to) climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, stewardship, urban forestry and coastal marine conservation. Many of these thematic areas are key parts of the EPF or are being revised by staff concurrently. Others can be launched by Council under the unifying umbrella of the EPF as priorities, time and resources allow. The EPF goals and objectives will shape the subsequent process of assessment, research, analysis, report writing, and public engagement.

The EPF will result in a coordinated and consistent environmental program for Saanich by recommending updates to existing bylaws, policies, and programs as well as new ones. Some will have a direct focus on the environment and others may have a different operational focus that nevertheless have the potential to impact or influence the environment in significant ways. Some of the recommendations may require further, independent public process.

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A progress report to Council will follow the goal and objective setting exercise allowing for public input before adoption.

PROCESS & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The process follows three milestones plus a final phase to complete the Environmental Policy Framework. Along with the milestones, Saanich Public Participation levels are set for each action in the following pages. Appendix A outlines the staff approach to public engagement.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

A Technical Committee will be used to lead the development of the Environmental Policy Framework and support staff in completing the Resilient Saanich Program. A Terms of Reference as amended by the committee, follows.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE¹

BACKGROUND

The draft Principles, Goals, Objectives and Thematic Model for the Environmental Policy Framework recommended by the Technical Committee will require refinements to the Committees current Terms of Reference. The Committee feels that these changes will provide the following beneficial outcomes for the Resilient Saanich program:

- Create better tools to conserve and enhance the natural environment on *both* private and public property (e.g. address the shortcomings of the rescinded EDPA as a policy tool and how its goals and objectives might be better achieved);
- Improve the quality of mapping and inventory data;
- Improve consistency and quality of environmental assessment and reporting for Qualified Professionals and staff;
- Improve the coordination of environmental policies and implementation between municipal departments; and
- Expand the focus of environmental planning to include areas such as watershed health, stormwater management, pollution abatement, waste management, transportation, housing, and the critical role of land-use planning and development in exacerbating or remedying matters of environmental concern.

PURPOSE OF THE RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (RSTC)

¹ The RSTC TOR can be amended by a motion brought forward to Council.

The Committee proposes that its purpose be amended to provide independent analysis, recommendations and other input as might be helpful to Council, Staff and consultants to shape and inform the development of an Environmental Policy Framework.

STATUS OF THE RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Of the four types of official committees, the RSTC is considered a Technical Committee because it does not routinely report directly to Council, deals with specific technical matters, and includes a Council member as a liaison. Staff are responsible for preparing reports to Council regarding RSTC progress and outcomes, although draft reports are reviewed by the Technical Committee. Once the Environmental Policy Framework and its three pillars (Climate Plan, Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Enhanced Stewardship Program) is adopted by Council, the RSTC will be disbanded.

SCOPE OF COMMITTEE WORK

- Review and prepare the draft vision, principles, goals and objectives of the Environmental Policy Framework;
- Develop a draft evaluation matrix for assessing new and existing policy needed for the implementation of the Environmental Policy Framework;
- Define the scope of further research and environmental data collection needed to develop the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and the Enhanced Stewardship Program;
- Advise staff and consultant on process to develop a State of Biodiversity Report and a subsequent Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
- Provide preliminary performance outcomes (objectives) and a gap analysis for the core thematic areas of the Framework as time permits (core areas to be determined);
- Revision of Milestones 1, 2 and 3 actions, deliverables and processes, as appropriate;
- Identify, evaluate, and recommend actions to achieve the Environmental Policy Framework goals and objectives through the thematic plan model;
- Prepare a report with observations, analysis, discussion and recommendations to inform the final Environmental Policy Framework; It is understood by the Committee that the final Environmental Policy Framework will be completed by staff for consideration by Council; and
- _____
- Other such duties as defined by Council.

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SELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The current membership of the Committee includes people with the following expertise and backgrounds:

- Active and retired biologists with expertise in vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, terrestrial ecology, landscape ecology, aquatic ecology, marine biology, etc.;
- Climate scientists;
- Conservation planning and management professionals;
- Resource economists;
- Arborists and landscape architects; and
- Senior government scientific staff.

Efforts remain underway to find a replacement for a Committee member with an Indigenous People's perspective.

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Staff subject matter experts, technical, and contract clerical support continue to be provided.

Terms for members on the RSTC may be renewed for Milestone 3 depending on the objectives, potential studies, and on-going project direction. Representation, to an overall maximum of 12 people, may be needed from the following areas of expertise using the same selection process:

- Environmental education;
- Environmental policy/program development and evaluation;
- Stewardship consultants;
- Biologists;
- Landscape architecture and community development planning;
- Urban Foresters; and
- Community representatives with experience or expertise in stewardship.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR

The Committee has adopted a rotating Chair position filled by a member of the Committee.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

All member of the committee have signed the Saanich's Respectful Workplace Policy and endeavour to give equal opportunity for input to each member. All RSTC members are encouraged to participate in discussions.

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Committee discussion should be limited to within meeting times or emails through the clerk outside of the meetings.

The committee may form informal working groups to advance work on selected issues. These will mostly consist of committee members but volunteer experts from the community may be consulted where working groups see the benefit. Working groups report to the technical committee.

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Role of the Chair

The role of the Chair of the committee is to facilitate the meetings of the RSTC in a professional, unbiased, and orderly manner. The chair is the *guardian of the process*, ensuring a fair and consistent committee without unwarranted outside interference. The Chair will sign the adopted minutes. Chair will circulate to RSTC, the notes from biweekly meetings between chair and staff. Chair will circulate a "to do" list after each meeting.

Role of Secretariat (proposed)

The secretariat will carry the work between meetings, ensure continuity of the process and prepare briefing materials to assist the committee. The secretariat will provide support for the chair and working groups, improving the efficiency of recording and communication between all parties including staff and advancing committee work between meetings. This will allow better coordination between RSTC working groups and between the RSTC and staff. The ability to make more progress between meetings is essential to completing this work by the end of 2022.

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Role of Committee Members

Committee members are expected to attend every meeting (or send regrets in advance), read materials in advance of the meetings, review the agenda and minutes in advance of the meeting, and be prepared to participate in committee discussion.

Role of Optional Appointed Council Liaison

If a Council liaison is appointed to the committee, the main role is to keep Council informed of progress. The Council liaison is a non-voting member and their presence does not impact quorum.

Role of Staff

Municipal staff members provide the necessary technical, professional, secretarial, and administrative support to the committee, but do not participate in voting as they are not RSTC members.

Role of the Clerk

The clerk will be responsible for:

- Recording and distributing minutes;
- Facilitating agenda setting with the Chair;
- Distributing agendas, minutes, and reference material;
- Drafting correspondence for signature;
- Booking meeting space and venues; and
- Other related duties upon request.

Members of the Public

Meetings of technical committees are open to the public; speakers may be invited to attend a meeting at the discretion of the Committee.

MEETINGS, AGENDAS, AND MINUTES

The Committee will meet as required to conduct business in accordance with its mandate. Special meetings may be held at the call of the Chair. Staff will circulate a call for agenda items, draft agenda, and minutes of the prior meeting seven days in advance of each meeting when possible. The minutes will record issues, main points of discussion, decisions, and action items identified with a responsible party and due date. All members may contribute to the agenda and comment on the accuracy of the minutes prior to adoption. The agenda and minutes will be adopted at the beginning of each meeting.

BUDGET

Honouraria, reimbursements, refreshments, and clerical support will be funded through the Resilient Saanich budget. Honouraria of \$250/meeting will be offered to professional members who would otherwise not be paid. The honourarium would cover travelling expenses and time spent outside of meetings.

OTHER COMMITTEE MATTERS

- Of the number of voting members appointed to compose the RSTC, a majority of at least 50% shall be a quorum.
- At the first meeting after appointment by Council, the RSTC will establish a regular schedule of meetings, including the date, time, and place of committee meetings.
- All agendas and minutes of the meetings will be posted to the District of Saanich website.
- Achieving consensus is the preferred form of decision-making.
- Members will conduct themselves with respect for fellow members and remain objective. If and when necessary, members will declare a conflict of interest and refrain from providing advice or recommendations that may result in gain for the member individually, or the organization it represents. Non-adherence to Saanich's respectful workplace policy may be grounds for dismissal from the committee.

WORK PLAN

**Milestone One: Initiate
June 2020-June 2021²**

The purpose of Milestone One is to gather information on what we already have in place that would fit into the new *Resilient Saanich* framework. Staff will also gather information on established targets for conservation and examples of effective frameworks and strategies used by other jurisdictions. This information will be provided to the public as information.

The Technical Committee will be established and will work towards setting the goals and objectives that will create the foundation for the rest of the project. Milestone One would end with a progress report to Council and adoption of the goals and objectives.

Action	Level of Public Participation	Relative Expense	RSTC Role	Staff Role	Council Role
1. Create a webpage and subscribe-able bulletins to keep residents updated and engaged in the project, progress, and opportunities for involvement.	Inform Ideas: The website can be adapted based on feedback from users	\$	-no change		
2. Draft a <i>Resilient Saanich</i> framework skeleton of existing policies, etc. Conduct a gap analysis. Identify options for filling gaps using the Green Bylaws Toolkit and other references.	Inform Ideas: Publish summary for information and review	\$	-no change		
3. Collate and analyze examples of, and guides for, municipal-scale biodiversity	Inform Ideas: Publish summary for	\$	-no change		

² All timelines and deliverables to be reviewed by RSTC to promote a sustainable workload and reasonable timelines

conservation strategies and stewardship programs for applicable models and lessons for Saanich.	information and review				
4. Summarize international, national, provincial, regional, and municipal targets for biological conservation.	Inform Ideas: Publish summary for information and review	\$	-no change		
5. Publish the 4 th edition of the ESA Atlas.	Inform Ideas: Our Backyard, email, website	\$	Not endorsed by RSTC by end of Milestone 1.		
6. Establish the Technical Committee and, with staff:	Ideas: Advertising, social media	\$	-no change		
a) Draft an outline for the Environmental Policy Framework;	Inform Ideas: update project website		Draft Environmental Policy Framework outline.	Support RSTC orientation & provide feedback on drafts.	Consider recommendations with the Milestone One progress report.
b) Develop Policy Evaluation Tool; and	Inform Ideas: update project website		Develop the first draft of the Policy Evaluation Tool (formerly 'Evaluation Matrix').	Ensure principles/evaluation framework apply to future strategies/plans/policies and current plans as they are updated.	Consider recommendations with the Milestone One progress report.
c) Draft a preliminary workplan (including scope) for developing	Inform Ideas: update project website		Draft the work plan and scope statements for the Environmental Policy Framework.	Receive for information to note the scope of activities and services subject to the Environmental Policy Framework.	Consider recommendations with the Milestone One progress report.

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the Environmental Policy Framework. ³				Review the work plan and scope statements for the EPF	
7. Gain public feedback on the proposed project goals and objectives.	Involve Ideas: Open houses, pop-up events, feedback forms	\$\$	-no change		
8. Hire a temporary GIS staff person.	Inform Ideas: update project website	Separate Funding	-no change		
9. Identify an enhancement to the stewardship program	Inform Ideas: Website, events	\$	Gap analysis. Provide preliminary ideas for enhancements.	Review and comment	
10. Submit a progress report to Advisory Committees and Council including gaps in data and information considered important for the completion of the framework.	Consult Council Meeting	\$	RSTC reviews staff submission to Council.	Develop progress report on Milestone 1.	Consider the report and approve/reject new TOR and workplan

**Milestone Two: Assess
July 2021 - March 2022**

Milestone Two will build on the objectives established in Milestone One. All existing data will be collated and analyzed for principle thematic areas as these are addressed by the Committee to identify and fill gaps in knowledge.

In order to fulfil the objectives, the Technical Committee may recommend additional studies that may be needed such as data collection, analysis, natural asset valuation, a corridor study, etc. Consultants would need to be hired to deliver any such research. The Technical Committee will lead the setting of standards and methodologies to further the objectives.

Milestone Two will end with a progress report to Council.

³ Any changes to the workplan would need to be approved by council.

Action	Level of Public Participation	Relative Expense	RSTC Role	Staff Role	Council Role
11. Review and evaluate the District's GIS environmental mapping layers and atlas.	Inform Ideas: update project website		Review GIS mapping goals, objectives and methodology in consultation with Saanich staff. Evaluate the accuracy, completeness and ease of use of the data layers for multiple stakeholders. <u>Secretariat to draft report</u> including recommendations for refinement of mapping elements and methodology.	Report to Council. Support RSTC and provide feedback on briefing memo.	Consider and approve/reject RSCT recommendations.
12. State of Biodiversity: Draft a preliminary outline for discussion.	Inform Ideas: update project website		Draft an outline for the State of Biodiversity Study and Report.	Support RSTC & provide feedback on drafts.	Receive for information (with the Milestone One progress report).
13. State of Biodiversity: Review current available data and identify data gaps ⁴ (May be delegated to Biodiversity Strategy consultant, or ongoing as thematic area reviews are done)	Inform Ideas: update project website Consult Council Meeting	\$\$\$	Support consultant and staff in gap analysis. Consider when/how/if to address these gaps & provide recommendations as needed. Briefing memo, including recommendations for additional studies/data gathering for a	Share information about data availability and gaps. Consultant to identify gaps and limitations in existing data and information required to assess and evaluate the current condition of	Consider preliminary resource requests for additional studies/data gathering and State of Biodiversity Study (subject to refinement of project charter, RFP/TOR and task outputs – see below).

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⁴ Reviewing current data and identifying data gaps will be a task common to each thematic element in the Framework.

			<p>'State of Biodiversity' study and report</p> <p>Work with staff to develop a proposal to council to authorize and fund State of Biodiversity Study.</p> <p>Work with staff to develop the terms of reference for the State of Biodiversity Study.</p>	<p>selected natural assets.</p> <p>Draft a Terms of Reference to commission State of Biodiversity Study.</p> <p>Consultant to review data sets to evaluate relevance.</p>	
<p>14. State of Biodiversity Study: Assess, Analyse and Report the state of biodiversity in Saanich⁵</p> <p>(Delegated to Consultant in consultation with RSTC; may be combined with Action Item #15)</p>	<p>Consult Ideas: Publish for comment, presentations</p>	<p>\$\$\$</p>	<p>Set terms and expectations for the report by providing input to the TOR.</p> <p>Review and provide feedback on proposed methodologies and the draft report.</p>	<p>Develop draft RFP/TOR & outputs.</p> <p>Oversee contract management.</p>	<p>Consider the final study budget and report.</p>
<p>15. Review and evaluate the existing stewardship program and recommend improvements.</p>	<p>Consult Ideas: Publish for comment, presentations</p>	<p>\$\$</p>	<p>Integrate stewardship with biodiversity where appropriate.</p> <p>Address gaps and opportunities to improve existing Saanich stewardship programs and activities.</p>	<p>Facilitate RSTC review of programs/activities.</p> <p>Provide feedback on draft recommendations.</p> <p>Operationalize final recommendations if possible.</p>	<p>Consider recommendations and provide direction to staff on implementation and resourcing.</p>

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⁵ A consultant familiar with local ecosystems is preferred by the RSTC.

				Seek direction & resourcing from Council as needed.	
16. Review and evaluate Saanich's Urban forest Strategy			Provide input to UFS review at: scope of work, draft document. Use the UFS as a template for a thematic plan.	Provide opportunity for RSTC to review proposed scope of work and draft document.	Council will consider the entire Urban Forest Strategy as part of separate process.
17. Begin drafting outline for Environmental Policy Framework.	Inform Ideas: update project website		Review input from public and staff. Refine outline. Work with Consultant/ secretariat to begin developing the RSTC report on proposed contents of the Environmental Policy Framework.	To be determined.	To be determined.
18. Produce draft Terms of Reference for a consulting team for the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.	Consult Council Meeting	\$	Review draft Terms of Reference for Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.	Draft the Terms of Reference for RSTC review or approve the existing contractor for the State of Biodiversity.	To be determined.
19. Draft a Milestone 3 Workplan.	Inform Ideas: update project website		Work with staff to create a workplan.	Work with RSTC on workplan.	Consider workplan.
20. Call for Milestone 3 Technical Committee members	Ideas: Advertising, social media	\$		Facilitate public engagement; report to Council.	Appoint members.
21. Submit a progress report to Advisory Committees and Council.	Consult Council Meeting	\$	Review report before submission to Council.		

**Milestone Three: Plan
April 2022 – October 2022**

Milestone Three will be assisted by a renewed and expanded Technical Committee. The focus of Milestone 3 will be to complete the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, the enhanced Stewardship Program and the Environmental Policy Framework report, including recommendations for the development and implementation of the remaining principle thematic areas.

At this point, the process to develop a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and enhanced Stewardship Program will be complete and staff will check in with Council on progress and next steps.

Workplan details will be developed at the end of Milestone 2.

Action	Level of Public Participation	Relative Expense	RSTC Role	Staff Role	Council Role
22. Hire consultant team to develop the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze biodiversity requirements; Apply future climate change, demographic, and development predictions; Apply outcomes of additional studies that may have occurred. 	n/a	\$\$\$\$\$			
23. Test and Refine Draft Environmental Policy Evaluation Tool on existing environmental policy ⁶	Inform Ideas: update project website	\$	Review and refine the current draft of this tool. Apply it to one or more existing environmental policies. Assess and refine tool.	Review and comment on subsequent drafts of the tool. Submit to Council for review and consideration	Receive, review and comment on the Policy Evaluation Tool.

⁶ Formerly referred to as the "Evaluation Matrix".

24. Review and evaluate Ecosystem section of Climate Plans and activities and recommend improvements.	To be referred to the Sustainability Section.		Draft appropriate SMART objectives for the Ecosystems section of the Climate Plan.	Facilitate RSTC to draft appropriate SMART objectives for the Ecosystems section of the Climate Plan.	Council will consider at a future date.
25. Identify and analyze appropriate tools for conservation, including an enhanced Stewardship Program.	Consult Ideas: Options workbook; focus groups Collaborate Ideas: Statistically viable survey	\$\$\$\$\$			
26. Complete the biodiversity conservation strategy and identify enhancements for the stewardship program with recommendations for implementation such as indicators and monitoring.	Consult Ideas: Open Houses, piloting	\$\$\$			
27. Submit a progress report to Advisory Committees and Council.	Council Meeting	\$			

Complete the <i>Resilient Saanich</i> Framework		
Action	Level of Public Participation	Relative Expense
28. Present a complete <i>Resilient Saanich</i> environmental policy framework including a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, enhanced Stewardship Program ⁷ , to Council for consideration.	Consult Ideas: Presentations, Environment & Natural Areas Advisory Committee	\$\$
29. Implement, monitor, and report to Council on indicators within two years (Milestones 4 and 5).	Collaborate Ideas: Establish a citizen science program to assist with monitoring.	\$

Table 1: Approach to Develop the *Resilient Saanich* Framework

BUDGET AND TIMING

After the goals and objectives are established, the budget can be refined as the scope of the initiative will be more defined. The budget for the initiative is \$250,000. Included expenditures are approximated as:

- Supplies and clerical support for the Technical Committee (\$20,000);
- Honorariums for the Technical Committee (\$36,000);
- Milestone 3 Consultant contracts (\$100,000)... anticipate only using a portion of this funding;
- Additional staff time (\$20,000);
- A survey (\$25,000);
- Other public engagement (\$9,000);
- General expenses for print production, advertising, facility rentals, refreshments, supplies, graphic design, etc. (\$10,000);
- Enhanced stewardship opportunities. (Budget to be determined by Council); and
- Additional data collection, research, analysis (Council approval).

With the additional work plan actions identified by the RSTC, the public engagement restrictions due to COVID-19, and the request for a consultant to finalize the project vision, principles, goals, and objectives, an additional \$45,500 is required subject to Council's approval of the revised Terms of Reference:

- RSTC workshop (\$1000)
- Consultant to finalize Resilient Saanich goals and objectives (\$25,000)...may be able to reduce cost with help of secretariat
- Honourariums for additional meetings (\$20,000)
- Additional staff time (\$6,000)
- Public Engagement materials (\$10,000.00)
- ~~Consultant to undertake a secretariat role for the remaining 18 months of the initiative (\$60,000).~~
- A consultant to write a state of biodiversity report (approximately \$75,000).

⁷ Development Permit Areas, amendments to or recommendations for existing policies and bylaws; and new policies and bylaws, are some of a number of tools that will be considered by the committee in the course of developing the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and the Enhanced Stewardship Plan.

Deleted: produce conservation measures study (\$15,000),

Deleted: at one day per week

Deleted: 3

Deleted: and

Deleted: 60

The proposed total increase in budget is estimated as ~~\$197,000.00.~~

Deleted: 67

Additional funds for a two year GIS Analyst position have been approved to input inventory data and creating mapping products for a total cost of \$110,000. It is anticipated that with the delay in the start of Milestone Two, the GIS Analyst position may need to be extended past two years. A request for these funds will be made to Council in the future if needed.

Costs will be minimized by:

- Utilizing part time staff;
- Looking for external grant opportunities; and
- Exploring partnerships with academic institutions, community stewardship groups, senior governmental representatives, Indigenous Peoples, and non-governmental environmental organizations.

Potential for greater costs include:

- Higher consultant costs than expected; and
- Enhanced stewardship opportunities through the life of the project may require additional, on-going funds.

Staff will advise Council on any upcoming budgetary issues as part of the regular progress reporting.

The completion date of this program of work has been adjusted from Q3 2022 to Q4 2022 as a result of Council endorsed alteration to the work program.

Q1 Jan-Mar	Q2 Apr-Jun	Q3 Jul-Sep	Q4 Oct-Dec
2020			
Direction from Council	Milestone One (extended due to COVID-19)		
2021			
Milestone One (continued)	Progress Report to Council	Milestone Two	
2022			
Milestone Two (continued)	Progress Report to Council	Milestone Three	Final Report to Council

Table 2: Project Timeline

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

There are roles and responsibilities for staff, consultants, the public, Major and Council, and the Technical Committee.

- Staff from Environmental Stewardship and Parks continue to manage the project, including public engagement,

- Interdepartmental staff will participate as technical advisors, subject experts, and assist with contracting, public engagement, mapping services, etc.
- Consultants will conduct research, work with citizen scientists, and produce scientific reports. Consultants would also conduct surveys, analyze data, and produce studies if required. Ultimately, consultants would produce the final Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and potentially subsequent policy work.
- Members of the public have a role to play in keeping informed and providing feedback. More involved roles include attending public engagement events and reviewing documents published on the website.
- Mayor and Council are responsible for ensuring the entire staff of Saanich understand and are part of *Resilient Saanich*.

DELIVERABLES

Summary documents and progress reports will be published during the course of the initiative. The Climate Plan has been completed in advance of the final *Resilient Saanich* policy framework.

The final deliverables of this project will be a Report to Council with attachments that are anticipated to include the following for Council consideration:

- Summary of public engagement process and outcomes (staff);
- Environmental Policy Framework Report (RSTC);
- Resilient Saanich Program Report (staff);
- A policy evaluation tool (RSTC);
- Potentially additional research papers;
- A State of Biodiversity Report (RSTC, staff, consultant)
- A Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (RSTC, staff, consultant);
- Guidance for proceeding with thematic plans (RSTC);
- An enhanced Stewardship Program (RSTC, staff).

The Report to Council will also include any financial implications for implementing the recommended actions, monitoring, and reporting.

Appendix A: PROCESS & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Saanich's Public Participation Policy has a continuum of five levels of participation, as shown in Table 4, based on the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2). This project would include: Inform; Consult; Involve and Collaborate.

Table 4: IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

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.

Government Partners during the process may include:

- First Nation Governments;
- Federal Government;
- Provincial Government; and
- Capital Regional District.

Other stakeholders may include:

- Committees of Council;
- Non-governmental environmental organizations;
- Indigenous Peoples;
- Saanich residents;
- Community Stewardship Groups;
- Community Associations;
- Development industry;
- Consulting Biologists;
- University of Victoria;
- Camosun College; and
- Others as needed.

The process would be guided by existing Saanich policy and practice, such as:

- Meaningful public engagement is essential;
- Guidance from scientists and other professionals, including staff, is critical;
- Checking in with Advisory Committees and Council at major milestones is required;
- Lessons learned from Saanich's past experience and from other municipalities will be valuable; and
- An adaptive, flexible process and Project Management techniques will be needed to ensure success.

Staff will complete a Project Charter for each phase which will include plans for public engagement based on the Terms of Reference. Table 1 details the steps for each milestone.

As a result of the public engagement process in Milestone One, staff will include the follow actions as recommended in the public engagement report and endorsed the RSTC:

- Supportive funding be made available to retain a First Nations representative to provide feedback on the draft.
- 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);
- Staff continue efforts to engage First Nations for more in-depth stakeholder engagement for the future phases.

To: Mayor and Council
From: Tory Stevens, Chair, Resilient Saanich Technical Committee
Date: July 12, 2021
Subject: New Terms of Reference for the RSTC

The Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (the committee) is committed to assisting Saanich to realize timely and effective outcomes from its environmental policies, through a consistent and coordinated approach to environmental standards and management. The Environmental Policy Framework (EPF) is a key tool in achieving this goal. Three strategic pillars of the EPF are to develop a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, identify enhanced stewardship opportunities and ensure that the environmental section of the Climate Plan is in alignment with the framework and the most recent science. Beyond these three pillars, the Committee has identified a preliminary list of additional policy areas that together form the current “ecosystem” of Saanich’s environmental program. We propose to review several of these thematic policy areas and provide outlines and recommendations for their refinement, integration and further development. In collaboration with consultants and staff, our goal is first to ensure that the three “pillars” of the EPF are well developed, enjoy broad support from the residents and staff of Saanich, and become well integrated into the culture of the District of Saanich. We sincerely hope that we will also have time to develop selected additional thematic plans.

We believe that this work program will benefit Saanich in the following ways:

1. provide greater strategic focus within Saanich’s environmental program within a context of limited time (think climate change and ongoing species and ecosystem loss) and resources;
2. provide clear and consistent standards for mapping, environmental inventories, reporting and staff review. This “low hanging fruit” is straight-forward to achieve and will significantly reduce the amount of time and stress spent on adjudicating environmental disputes with private land owners and developers within the District.
3. Identify and improve outcomes within Saanich programs that indirectly impact the environment but that have historically tended to be driven by other policy priorities and values (e.g. land use and development, public works, transportation and waste management).

This work is going to require significant effort and collaboration on the part of both the Committee and staff. It requires a close and healthy working relationship with staff, hard work from committee members and consultants, and public support and commitment. Since the inception of the committee, we have worked to clarify this mission within our own minds and our role within it. As experts with wide ranging experience, it is not surprising that we have found ways in which we believe we can make the process of building a more resilient Saanich stronger and more effective. The new TOR represents a clearer path forward for the committee and provides clarity for the working relationship between the committee and staff.

The primary changes are as follows:

1. The document is now a Terms of Reference specifically for the Committee, rather than the broader program of Resilient Saanich. This does not mean that we are not committed to the

broader project of Resilient Saanich (obviously!), but the more focussed TOR makes our responsibilities and relationships with consultants and staff clearer and our tasks more explicit.

2. We begin by clarifying the distinction between the EPF and the larger Resilient Saanich program which was not clear to us in the original TOR. The final sentence in the BACKGROUND states: *The intent of the Framework is to produce a more coherent body of plans policies, bylaws and strategies in support of a more resilient Saanich.* For each action in the Workplan, the role of the committee and staff are identified. In some cases, the committee will take the lead and in others the staff will lead. The committee continues to provide recommendations in the form of reports and reviews and the staff provides information, feedback and support.
3. The committee introduced the concept of Thematic Plans as part of the EPF to make sure the framework created an integrated set of environmental policies that are coordinated and consistently applied. This is the purpose of the EPF and would only partially be accomplished without the addition of the broader suite of Thematic Plans. The Committee will review priority thematic policy areas if time permits. When each review is complete, any decision to move forward must reside with senior staff and council, depending upon other strategic priorities, time and resources.
4. The committee has requested funding for secretariat support. After several months, we recognize that the key to success is good communication with staff, between our internal working groups and with council. The chair has been trying to fulfill this role in addition to its core duties, resulting in an unmanageable workload for a volunteer position and inevitable compromises in work outcomes. The secretariat can prepare materials for meetings, keep information flowing between working groups, be a conduit between the committee and staff, and draft key reports and memos under the direction of the committee, through the chair. The Committee has identified the need to begin drafting the outline for its report to Council for the EPF as of particular urgency and importance, as we see this as a guiding and iterative document as our work proceeds. The secretariat will be key to accomplishing this task.
5. A State of Biodiversity study was identified by staff in the original TOR as being an important foundational document for the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. We agree; however, we recommend a more thorough assessment than can be accomplished by staff as a desktop exercise as described in the original TOR. The committee has identified an approach recommended by the Conservation Measures Partnership¹ which will oversee the task from the Assessment phase (State of Biodiversity) through the Planning and Action Phase (Biodiversity Conservation Strategy). We believe the efficiencies introduced by the adoption of this approach will allow us to complete the task according to our new timelines and budget.
6. The budget has increased, but the only item introduced by the new TOR is the secretariat and that role can cover some of the expenses already identified by staff such as workshopping the public response to the draft EPF goals and objectives, and drafting the Committee's report and recommendations to council for the EPF. (We assume the *actual* and *final* EPF report to council will be come from staff and Legislative Services.)

The committee members are a dedicated group of experts with the best interests of Saanich in mind. Adoption of the new TOR will allow us to move forward with more clarity and purpose.

¹ [Home - Conservation Measures Partnership \(CMP\)](#)

Other items related to the Milestone 1 report are:

The only item in Milestone 1 that is incomplete is publication of the 4th edition of the ESA Atlas. The committee does not want to be on record as endorsing publication for a myriad reasons listed in a recommendation to the committee. Primary among them is confusion for the public in the form of out-of-date information, inaccuracies, contradictions, and overlapping designations. We feel that the usefulness of paper maps has been replaced by GIS layers that can be updated with new information and are conveniently available on tablets for field use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tory Stevens

Chair, Resilient Saanich Technical Committee