



AGENDA
RESILIENT SAANICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Via MS Teams
February 22, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure social distancing, this meeting is closed to the public and can be viewed/heard via MS Teams. Please note that MS Teams callers are identified by their phone number which can be viewed on screen by all attendees at the meeting.

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| 1. Territorial Acknowledgement | Clr. R. Mersereau | |
| 2. Call to Order & Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Approval of Agenda | Chair, T. Stevens | |
| 3. Adoption of Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ January 25, 2022 meeting (attachment) | | |
| 4. Receipt of Correspondence (attachment) | | |
| 5. WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council Presentation – Elder Eric Pelkey | Clr. R. Mersereau
Chair, T. Stevens | 60 mins. |
| 6. Update on Contracts: Milestones 2 & 3 RFP | A. Pollard | 10 mins. |
| 7. Report of Stewardship Working Group | C. Lowe | 15 mins. |
| 8. Report of Mapping Working Group | B. Wilkes | 15 mins. |
| 9. Report of Environmental Policy Framework Working Group | Chair, T. Stevens | 15 mins. |
| 10. Adjournment | | |

* * Next Meeting: March 22, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. * *
Please email nancy.chaggar@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

MINUTES
Resilient Saanich Technical Committee
Via Microsoft Teams
January 25, 2022

Present: Councillor Rebecca Mersereau (Council Liaison); Tory Stevens (Chair); Kevin Brown; Tim Ennis; Purnima Govindarajulu; Stewart Guy; Jeremy Gye; Chris Lowe; Kear Porttris; Brian Wilkes; Bev Windjack.

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager of Parks; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; Thomas Munson, Senior Environmental Planner; Nicole Barrett, Environmental GIS Analyst; Nancy Chaggar, Senior Committee Clerk.

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.

3. **SELECTION OF NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Tory Stevens was appointed as Chair for the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee for a term of six months.

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by S. Guy: "That the minutes of the November 23, 2021, Resilient Saanich Technical Committee meeting be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

The word "document", page 3 item 9, was replaced with "Biodiversity Brief".

MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by B. Wilkes: "That the minutes of the December 11, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee workshop be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

"kiA" was replaced with "KEA", page 3 P8.

MOVED by C. Lowe and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the minutes of the December 16, 2021 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee workshop be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

The words "the principles" were struck from item 4, in the fifth bullet point under the committee comments.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED by B. Wilkes and Seconded by J. Guy: “That the Agenda for the January 25, 2022 Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

- Selection of the Committee Chair was moved to the top of the Agenda.
- The Report of Mapping/Stewardship Working Group was moved to come after the discussion of Saanich GIS Mapping.
- Formation of a Stewardship Working Group was added as a new item to be discussed along with the Formation of Environmental Policy Framework Working Group.

5. **RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE**

MOVED by S. Guy and Seconded by J. Gye: “That the correspondence be received for information.”

CARRIED

6. **UPDATE ON FIRST NATIONS INITIATIVES (Cultural Safety Training, WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council)**

The Chair provided the following update:

- A “listen and learn” will be held in February.
- The Cultural Safety Training will be conducted by Roundtable Consulting on February 28 and March 1, 2022.

7. **UPDATE ON CONTRACTS: GOALS & OBJECTIVES (Milestones 2 & 3 RFP)**

The Manager of Environmental Services provided an update and the following was noted:

- Kim Walker is working on the final report and it will be sent to the Committee once available. The report will be added on a future RSTC Agenda for discussion.
- The RFP process for the Milestone 2 & 3 contract closed last week. Staff are in discussions with Purchasing and will update the committee as soon as they are able to.

8. **DISCUSSION OF SAANICH GIS MAPPING**

The Environmental GIS Analyst presented “Saanich Environmental Mapping” (PowerPoint on file) and the following was noted:

- Green roofs were not considered part of the Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI).
- SEI Data set was released in 1997 but was based on orthophoto imagery from 1993.
- The 43.2 hectares of sensitive ecosystems lost to disturbance refers to the entire data set within Saanich.
- Woodland (WD) is broad and includes Garry Oak and associated ecosystems in the Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM).
- Criteria for tree planting potential in the Land Cover Classification mapping include proximity to buildings, types of surfaces (soil vs. rocky), soil moisture, and underground utilities.
- The Manager of Environmental Services will report back on the potential to include ecosystem services in the Land Cover Classification mapping.
- In an urban context, the size of the polygon patch should not be one of the top criteria

for assessment of ecological integrity; it would be reflected in landscape context and condition of polygons.

- It is difficult to get accurate precision when working strictly off orthophotos. Access to LiDAR data may enable capabilities for polygon delineation and attribution.

9. REPORT OF MAPPING/STEWARDSHIP WORKING GROUP

B. Wilkes reported on Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) sites (PowerPoint on file) and the following was noted:

- Biologists have reported that some of the sites shown in the presentation are SEI.
- There is a request in with the IT department to change the attributes and include more information/interpretation.
- Planning can look at breaking down Woodland (WD) categories in Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM) to clarify them further.
- It is believed that the TEM layer is more reliable than the SEI layer.
- The conversation around empirical veracity of SEI is not meant to diminish the value of parcels that do not rise to the standard of a genuine sensitive ecosystem.
- Restoration potential is important.
- The biodiversity conservation strategy will help inform what type of mapping is going to be most helpful.
- It was suggested that TEM mapping be updated outside of the Urban Containment Boundary area, and that ground-truthing be maximized where possible.
- SEI is just one database and the Saanich Ecosystem Mapping (SEM) combines attributes from different databases and maps areas of significance.

MOVED by T. Ennis and Seconded by B. Wilkes: "That the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee recommends that the Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping be updated outside the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB), and parks and other lands that have natural or near natural areas within the UCB, using at least 50-75% level of ground-truthing recommended to achieve municipal planning and environmental protection objectives."

The Motion was then Put and TABLED

10. DISCUSSION OF SAANICH NATURESCAPING PROGRAM

The Manager of Environmental Services presented to the Committee on the Saanich Naturescape Program (PowerPoint on file). The Chair recommended that the Stewardship working group respond.

11. REPORT OF BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

K. Brown reported to the Committee on feedback provided regarding the Biodiversity Brief and the following was noted:

- Environmental Services and Parks provided written revisions.
- The definitions of biodiversity were for discussion purposes and should not be put in the glossary.
- The audience (Council, Staff, RSTC and the public) should be considered and the Brief should be simplified accordingly.
- K. Brown will file the Brief with staff comments in the shared drive for the Committee's review.

12. FORMATION OF WORKING GROUPS

- The existing Mapping working group will carry on.
- The following two new working groups will be created:
 1. Stewardship working group:
 - B. Windjack
 - C. Lowe (to take on group leadership)
 - T. Ennis
 2. Environmental Policy Framework working group:
 - J. Gye
 - T. Stevens
 - P. Govindarajulu
 - S. Guy

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by B. Windjack: “That the meeting of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee be adjourned.”

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Tory Stevens, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

Nancy Chaggar

From: Anne-Marie Daniel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2022 4:46 PM
To: biodiversity
Cc: Brian Wilkes; Tory Stevens
Subject: (External Email) RUSH Initiative Backgrounder for RSTC public agenda package
Attachments: SIMPLE Rush Initiative RBC Tech for Nature Feb 4, 2022.pdf

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

Dear Biodiversity Saanich,
Attached is a pitch deck on the RUSH Initiative which we hope can support the biodiversity and ecosystem health work you are doing.

Please include this PDF in the public agenda package for the RSTC.

Thanks very much,
Anne-Marie

Anne-Marie Daniel (she/her)
Partner, Innovation

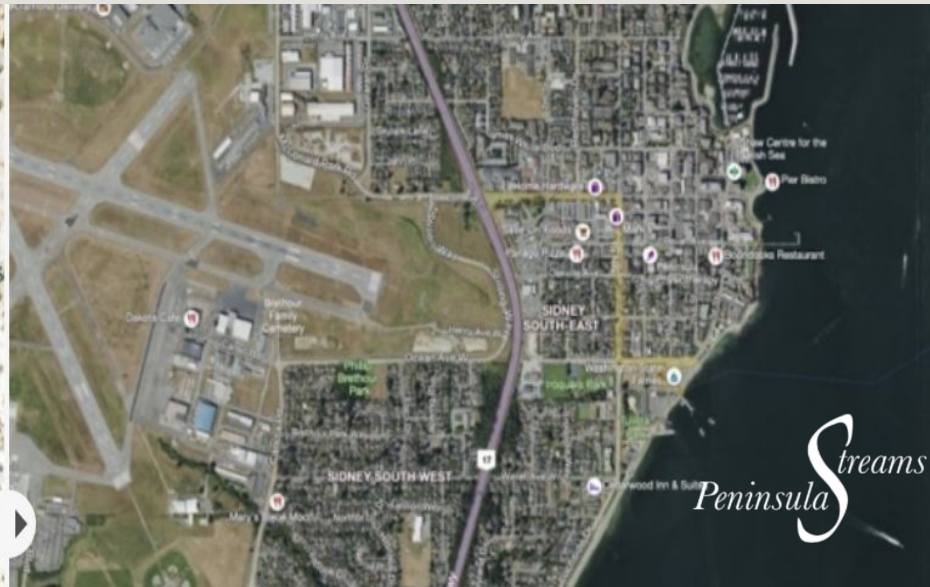
NatuR&D | [REDACTED] | NatuRnD.com

NATUR&D

Located on the traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ people

The Resilient Urban Systems & Habitat (RUSH) Initiative

An open source & accessible mapping platform that consolidates emerging, existing and real-time datasets on community and ecosystem health indicators integrated on the regional GIS system to facilitate climate action.



A Cross-sectoral Collaboration



Objective

A central mapping platform complete with dashboards and interactive functions to support decision-making in the region that results in personal and ecosystem health through climate actions.

Challenge

The municipal GIS maps are missing information to assess health outcomes. Without integrated data on projected climate change impacts, ecosystem health status and hazard areas, it is impossible to know whether we are making good decisions.

Approach

Interpretive tools are being developed to reveal the range of choices we have in creating an overall strategy that enhances quality of life through water quality, food systems, energy efficiency and sustainable land use practices.

Key Milestones

A process of rapid innovation using mapping technology, community engagement and feedback to arrive at a set of tools that are regularly used to make informed decisions. Revealing solutions for resilience in the region with the goal of sharing our learning more widely.



Objective

A collaboration across sectors, the initiative is designed for all stakeholders and rights-holders in the Capital Regional District (CRD). Dashboards, tools and field trips will help communities track towards personal and ecosystem health in record time. A model to scale and share.



The Challenge

The connection between human and ecosystem health is real but the reality does not show up in the planning tools or GIS maps that local governments, developers, and communities use when making decisions about the future. A shared understanding about our level of risk relative to climate change and a way understanding the difference we're making is needed.

Our Approach

Our approach **will change the critical questions** that get asked by communities, regulators and decision-makers. With integrated data, mapping and interpretive tools, gaps can be more quickly identified and empower the changemakers across sectors. Our engagement strategy will lean into action not regulation.

Technologies that allow for privacy and accountability will be an important guiding principle of our mapping work. Our technology will **support people to negotiate in their best interest** and make clear the shared interests that are at stake.

With Nature as our source of inspiration, we **rely on science, indigenous knowledge and nature-inspired design** to guide the R&D resulting in an open source solution to climate action.

Grounded in representation across sectors to engage this work, we are **creating a shared language**, data and interpretive tools to let us know what kind of difference we are making towards a healthy planet.



1. | The big picture

Without integrated data on projected climate change impacts, ecosystem health status and hazard areas, it is impossible to properly assess what the development design constraints should be of a particular area.

2. | Protected & connected

Personal and ecosystem health data is sensitive. The UVic Map Shop RUSH platform meets the need for appropriate levels of granularity with privacy settings for specific groups such as land trusts, conservation agencies and First Nations.

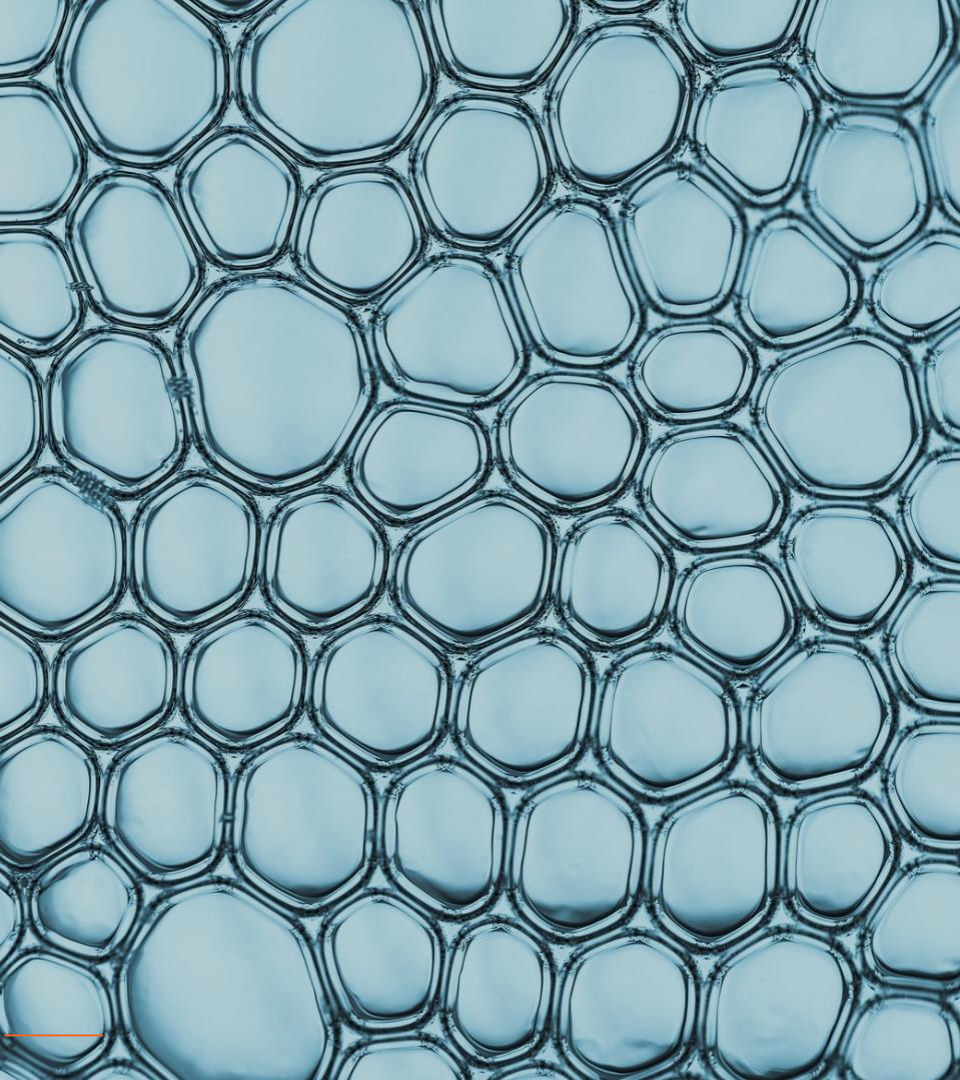
3. | Ground-truth technology

By making complex data accessible through the technologies we use day-to-day, people can verify and participate in revealing the opportunities to make the world a better place.



Human-Nature aligned design

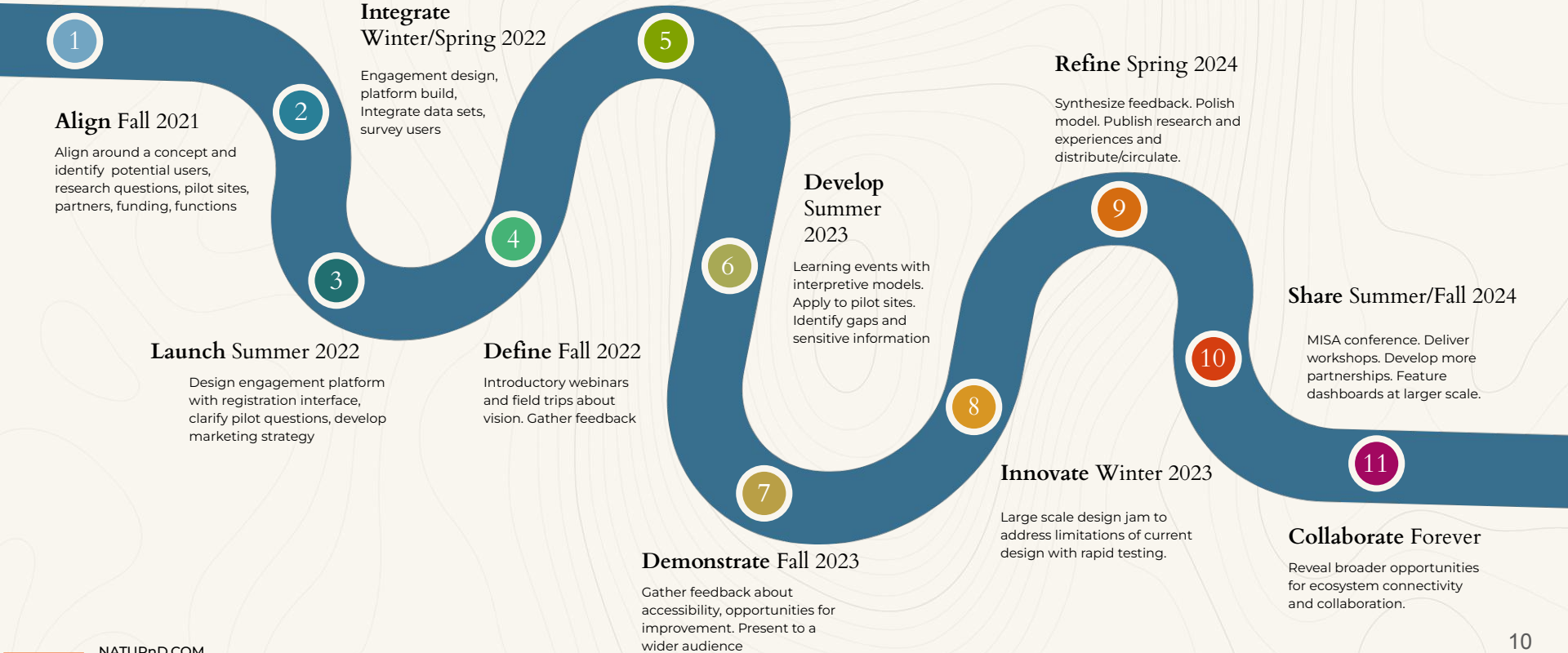
The RUSH collaborative partnership will co- create a platform, supporting research and engagement strategy that anchors the benchmarks of healthy ecosystems in the CRD. Strongly influenced by the practice of biomimicry (looking to Nature for design ideas), developers will gain new approaches to designing their site to optimize function and connect natural and built infrastructure.



Health Indicators through a watershed lens

We are 70%+ made of water and the quality of our water determines the health of biodiversity and the quality of the food we eat.

By connecting watershed and community health indicators, we can put a stronger focus on urban ecosystem restoration and conservation.





Key Performance Indicators

1. # of Baseline parameters established on ecosystem health.
2. # of pilot development areas assessed for natural infrastructure and nature-inspired design opportunities
3. # of feedback responses representing different stakeholders and rightsholders showing climate action.



Peninsula Streams coordinates restoration and habitat conservation projects throughout Greater Victoria. Our goal is to build healthy aquatic habitat that supports self-sustaining populations of native species in both freshwater and marine environments. Through watershed health we protect people & the planet

peninsulastreams.ca