

## Minutes: Transition Sooke General Meeting April 7, 2021

### **Members Present:**

Susan Belford (facilitator)	Lily Mah-Sen (notes)	Alan Dolan
Bernie Klassen	Paula Johanson	Jo Phillips
Nina Cole	Yvonne Court	Dave Court
Heather Phillips	Jack Gegenberg	Hester Vair
Chris Moss	Lynn Moss	Gord Wallace
David Mallett		

1. Territorial Acknowledgement and Introductions
2. Agenda approved as presented
3. Action Items from previous meeting: none
4. Treasurer's Report (see attached)  
Moved by Lily/ Seconded by Lynn "to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented."  
Carried
5. Update on BC-CEN. Lily gave an update on the formation of the BC Climate Emergency Network. The purpose of BC-CEN will be "to serve, support, amplify and promote the climate action work of its member organizations". The elected Board will be made up of 13 members, with 2 spots reserved for individuals from the First Nations. Teams are working on drafting the Vision and Mission statements, filing the network as a society, setting up a learning hub, membership base, website, social media platforms, engaging with First Nations communities, and drafting a list of priorities (10-Pt Plan).

On March 27, BC-CEN held an all-assembly meeting to review progress to date and to develop a list of priorities, attended by Yvonne and Lily. Priorities raised were organized into 10 points:

- i. Overall goals for GHG reduction from 2007 levels: 60% reduction by 2030; 80% reduction by 2035; and 100% by 2040.
- ii. Transportation: reduce no. of gas-emitting vehicles, accelerate active transportation (25% of BC pop will walk or cycle as main mode of transport by 2040), "green" transportation (public transport).
- iii. Fossil Fuels: end coal mining and exports by 2025; end oil and natural gas by 2030; withdraw all government support to LNG.
- iv. Buildings: Establish Retrofit BC as new public corporation to fund the cost of helping people retrofit existing buildings; no more gas heating for new buildings; support to build more affordable housing
- v. Jobs and the Economy: create good jobs guarantee to protect all workers affected in the transition to renewable energy

- vi. Protect and enhance Nature’s Solutions: set provincial goal for carbon sequestration and storage; ecological protection
  - vii. Electric Power: Stop Site C. Invest in alternatives such as wind, solar, geothermal.
  - viii. First Nations Solutions: accelerate initiatives to support BC’s Indigenous communities on climate actions
  - ix. Schools and curriculum: all schools teach Ecology and Climate Solutions
  - x. Citizen Engagement and Mobilization
6. Watch Dogging Sooke Council Meetings. Hester reported on the Sooke Council meeting that took place on March 8. A large part of the meeting was spent on bylaw variances—nothing contentious. Alan reported on the March 22 meeting: vote to accept LCR definition of “climate first”, changing business licence requirements for farm stands, Wild Wise will be building purple martin houses, bat houses, and a seal pup haul out near Ed MacGregor Park; pilot project to charge food trucks in Sooke a service fee of \$250/month. Please contact Hester if you are able to help in watch dogging council or committee meetings.
7. OCP and Climate Action Team (of Transition Sooke):
- i) Scenario D: The consultancy firm Dialog has put together 3 scenarios on where Sooke could house the expected addition of 12,000 new residents over 30 years. Our issue is not *where* to expand, but should we expand at all, given the impact of high rates of growth on GHGs in Sooke. We developed Scenario “D”, with low growth centred mostly in the town centre, buildings for local businesses, low-cost and affordable housing. We sent the scenario to the Sooke Council as well as to all the committees.
  - ii) Press release “Sooke needs to slow growth to meet climate change challenge” sent to media. Published by Sooke Pocket News, and hopefully Sooke News Mirror. Also sent to Discourse, CFAX, CBC-Radio, CHEK TV, Tye and Narwhal.
  - iii) Presentation to District of Sooke’s OCP Committee. Susan B and Alan made a presentation of our concerns to the OCP Committee. They pointed out that just by increasing the number of households by 1200 (as per Sooke’s current plan) would increase GHG emissions by 60%. The presentation generated good discussion amongst the committee.
  - iv) Alan’s Op Ed “Bert’s Dilemma” was published by the Sooke News Mirror.
  - v) TS members who wrote “Letters to the Editor” on this topic: Chris, Roland, Paula.
  - vi) OCP Video Stars and Town Hall: we asked people in Sooke, especially youth, to send in selfie videos on how they felt about Sooke—what they liked, what didn’t they like, how they feel about the pop growth in Sooke. The team also did some on-the-street interviews. We hope to hold a video showing “Town Hall’ with the interviewees, their friends and family to view the videos and discuss the issues raised. The second Town Hall would be more formal, with guest speakers on topics of “degrowth” as well as looking at how other communities have been able to keep growth in check.

General Discussion:

- Concerns were raised about unchecked growth in Sooke (citing Langford as an example and how the Highlands have been able to keep its agricultural and green spaces)
  - Sooke Council is adopting the “Low Carbon Resilience” framework to define “climate first”. (Low Carbon Resilience (LCR) policy framework was developed at SFU [www.act-adapt.org/icabccj](http://www.act-adapt.org/icabccj) Go to View Library to read the reports.)
  - Rights of Nature: if natural features (such as bodies of water, stands of forests, wildlife corridors) were recognized as legal entities, then we could use the court system to stop developers and polluters from destroying natural habitats.
  - The last OCP gave a strong message about the impact of climate change and included some strong recommendations and targets. Unfortunately, these have been largely ignored by past Councils. How can we hold our Council to account?
8. Report from the other Transition Sooke Teams. Zero Waste Sooke sent a letter to the CRD and to Sooke District suggesting a joint project to develop a recycling yard for the region. The yard would include a tracker to determine what goes in and how recycled products will be used.
9. Report from Transition Sooke Members who sit on District of Sooke Advisory Committees:
- i) Climate Action Cmt: There are 4 Transition Sooke Members on this committee. Bernie reported that this committee has been very busy and will be taking motions to the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Anna Russell recently presented to the committee a proposal that every person in Sooke and Sooke itself must reduce their GHG's by 7% a year in order for Sooke to meet its net zero targets.
  - ii) Land Use Cmt: Susan B sits on this committee. They recently held a meeting to examine Dialog's 3 scenarios for the OCP. Sooke staff also shared our Scenario D with the committee. Scenario D generated some support amongst the members and considerable discussion.
  - iii) Economic Development Committee: no Transition Sooke members on this committee. We need to watchdog the proceedings of this committee.

It was noted that the Sooke Council has asked the Climate Action Cmt, the Land Use Cmt, and the Economic Dev. Committee to work together to consider Sooke's response to the impact of climate change.

Discussion: Heather brought up that in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, people are identified for the Advisory Planning Commissions and the Land Use Committee through an election process. When the civic election comes around, people are nominated for these positions. Voters in the Electoral Area indicate who they want on these commissions and on the land use committee. Transition Sooke should try and have people nominated and elected who are friendly to the environment.

10. Motion to Adjourn

**Appendix:**

**TRANSITION SOOKE  
TREASURER'S REPORT**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

**Current Account Balances:**

**Accounts**

<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Coast Community Chequing (100)	\$4,637.90
Wild Wise Sooke (101)	0
Zero Waste Sooke (102)	\$1,197.54
Special Events (103)	0

**INCOME:**

Transfer \$ .51 from Wild Wise Sooke Account (101) to Chequing Account

**EXPENSES in April:**

April 1 monthly automatic transfer to Britt Santowski (Sooke Pocket News): \$20.00

**Notes:**

We will set up a special account for SMBI's video project once the project is up and running. (waiting for funding approval from DoS Community Grants Program).