

SUSTAINABLE GABRIOLA MEETING – SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

Present: Bob M (facilitator), Susan S, Greg B, Deb F, Katherine P, Fay W, Charlotte C, Tom C, John P, Dyan DF, Dorothy H, Nancy HP (notes)

1) **Health & Wellbeing Collaborative – proposed Community Wellbeing Coordinator position – Dyan DF**

Dyan explained the details of this proposed position and responded to questions. See [PROPOSAL: A NEW COMMUNITY WELLBEING COORDINATOR](#) (pdf) on the SG web site.

2) **Pollution from gas-powered leaf-blowers – Susan S**

Susan explained her concern re amount of pollution from the gas-powered leaf-blowers that are currently being used along roadsides. Meeting discussed this situation and offered actions.

ACTION: Susan will contact MOTI and/or MainRoad (MOTI contractor for Gabriola)

3) **Climate Change – Deb F**

Deb provided her monthly excellent report on climate change issues around the world. See links below.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/youth-environmentalists-bring-montana-climate-case-trial-12-years-seek-rcna88927>

Youth environmentalists bring Montana climate case to trial after 12 years, seeking to set precedent

It's the first trial of its kind in the US. Legal scholars around the world are following its potential addition to the small number of rulings that have established a government duty to protect people from climate change.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-latin-america-66886163>

Brazil's Supreme Court rules in favour of indigenous rights

Brazil's Supreme Court has rejected efforts to restrict native peoples' rights to reservations on their ancestral lands. Six of the 11 justices on Thursday ruled in favour of restoring territory to the Xokleng people, from which they were evicted. The ruling sets a precedent for hundreds of indigenous land claims and is expected to have widespread consequences for indigenous land rights.

https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/sep/22/rhino-numbers-rebound-as-global-figures-reveal-a-win-for-conservation-aoe?CMP=share_btn_link

Patrick Greenfield

Rhino numbers rebound as global figures reveal a win for conservation

Tally rises to 27,000 but is still a far cry from former half a million, and Javan and Sumatran rhino remain critically endangered

Global rhinoceros' numbers have increased to 27,000 despite populations being ravaged by poaching and habitat loss, new figures show, with some species rebounding for the first time in a decade.

New global biodiversity fund launched in Vancouver

August 24, 2023

VANCOUVER – In good news for nature in a challenging moment, representatives of 185 countries agreed at the Global Environment Facility's Seventh Assembly in Canada to launch an innovative new fund for biodiversity that will attract funding from governments, philanthropy, and the private sector.

The new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) has been designed to mobilize and accelerate investment in the conservation and sustainability of wild species and ecosystems, whose health is under threat from wildfires, flooding, extreme weather, and human activity including urban sprawl.

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/fire-chief-brolund-un-speech-1.6974427?_vfz=medium%3Dsharebar

Canadian fire chiefs deliver climate change message to United Nations following devastating season

<https://www.axios.com/2023/09/21/climate-week-nyc-unga>

In a shift, fossil fuels take center stage at UN Climate Summit

The [U.N. Climate Ambition Summit](#) on Wednesday marked a potential turning point in the global effort to limit the severity of climate change. For more than three decades, world leaders have gathered to discuss the increasing urgency of this issue. Yet there has been staunch resistance to centering those conversations around the biggest cause of climate change: burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas for energy. That changed on Wednesday in New York, when U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres used his convening power to put fossil fuels in the spotlight of a one-day gathering.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/humans-have-exceeded-six-of-the-nine-boundaries-keeping-earth-habitable-180982909/>

Humans Have Exceeded Six of the Nine Boundaries Keeping Earth Habitable

Scientists find we are “well outside the safe operating space for humanity” in a new study meant to assess the health of our planet

Tara Wu September 18, 2023

Human activities have caused the Earth to exceed six of nine boundaries necessary for keeping the planet healthy, pushing the environment “well outside the safe operating space for humanity,” scientists warn in a new study published last week in [Science Advances](#).

ACTION: Deb will work with the local Climate 12-12-12 working group to find ways to distribute her global information on Gabriola more broadly than just in the Sustainable Gabriola meeting notes.

4) Gabriola Climate 12-12-12 – Fay W

As a result of the very successful Sept/22 to Aug/23 Gabriola Climate 12-12-12 initiative, there are now several action groups working on specific issues: Health & Wellbeing, Food, Economy, Building & Energy, Transportation, Water, Consumption & Energy, and Biodiversity. Team convenors are meeting monthly. A communications plan is being developed.

5) Yellow Heat – Bob

Bob explained that Island Futures (IF) has been studying new uses of waste vegetable oil on the island, because the GERTIE buses no longer can use biodiesel made from this oil. IF is now exploring the possibilities of a “yellow heat heater” that uses waste vegetable oil, and they have purchased a unit. One of the island farms has agreed to an IF experiment to use this heater in one of the farm’s greenhouses this fall and next spring. Bob will provide updates as the experiment continues.

6) Joe Brewer event on Gabriola – Regenerating Gabriola - October 25, 7pm at the Surf – Fay

Fay spoke about this upcoming event. There will be publicity in the Sounder, on social media and on the Sustainable Gabriola website. Link to the podcast featuring Joe Brewer that Fay mentioned: <https://accidentalgoods.life/bio-regionalism-the-design-path-for-regenerating-earth/>

7) Upcoming Fix-It Fair – Greg B

The Fair is postponed to October 14. There will be publicity in the Sounder and on social media.

8) Report from SG rep to the GILSS Board – John P

- The GILSS Board continues to have *in camera* discussions regarding possible properties to acquire.
- The Board is currently learning about “social finance” and how to access opportunities, through a contract with Thrive Impact Fund located in Victoria. Definition of “social finance” from the first of two workshops: *“Social finance is an approach to mobilizing private capital that delivers a social dividend and an economic return to achieve social and environmental goals. Mobilizing private capital for social good creates opportunities for investors to finance projects that benefit society and for community organizations to access new sources of funds.”*
- On October 1, two Board members will present information about GILSS to a gathering of the Gabriola Island Community Investment Cooperative.

9) Next meeting: Sunday, October 29 at 3pm.

Facilitator: Dyan

Notes: Fay