

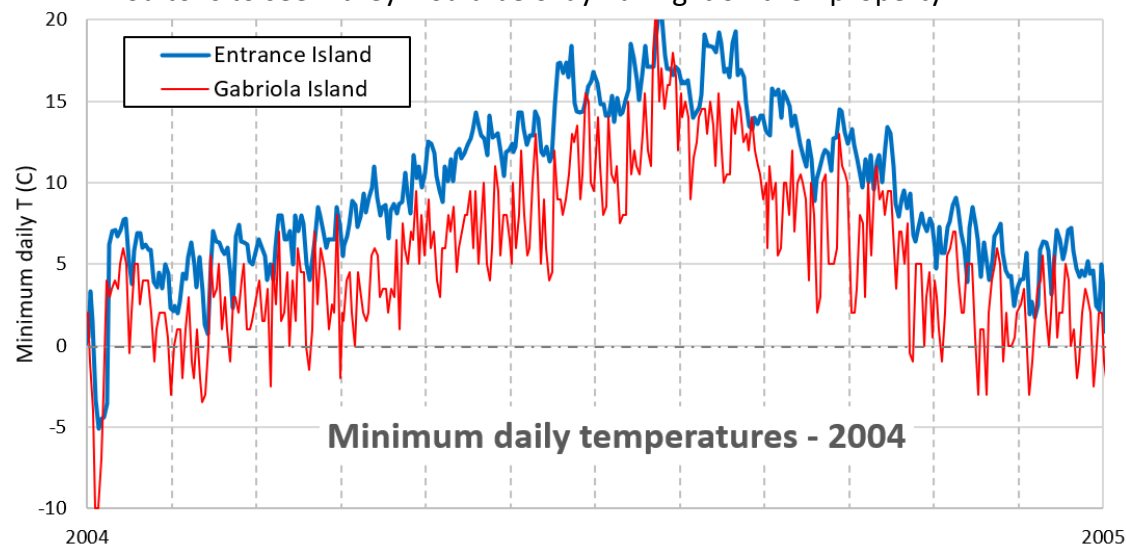
Sustainable Gabriola Minutes January 28, 2024

3 -4:30 pm Commons

Present: John Peirce (Chair), Fay (notetaker) Tom, Bob, Charlotte, Greg, Joan, Susan, Joyce, Steve, Michelle, Doug, Deb F, Deb, Adele, Brynn, Dyan, Nancy, John B.

Introductions and territorial acknowledgement

1. Deb - Reconciling moment: existence of treaty is important for all of us. Other group that reads section of truth and reconciliation and sits with it (Doctrine of Discovery became a focus through this process) and a corresponding repudiation of this papal policy. Holding federal gov't to account key for all of us. Snuneymuxw recently reclaimed 212 hectares on Mount Benson under the treaty process.
2. Greg – Reciprocity Trust. Initiative started on the South Island whereby private landowners and renters are able to designate regular payments to the First Nations that their land is on. Need to explore further within the current context. Snuneymuxw needs to be part of the conversation. Website: <https://reciprocitytrusts.ca>
3. Steve, Dyan and Fay: conference in Nanaimo – Snuneymuxw and Island Health co-chairs Great speakers: Mayor of Duncan and Chief of Cowichan talked about process of addressing watershed in Cowichan valley – members bringing their authority to the table. Steve spoke about the quote from the facilitator's grandmother (First Nations) that *"someday they will come to us to learn"*. Island Health gearing up to hiring more people to focus on climate change and working with First Nations. Protocols for doing research – community participation. Community drives the research. Dr. Paivi Abernethy...- aware of good work being done on Gabriola
4. Climate 12 Action (Fay, Steve, Greg, Susan, Joan): Cross-pollination via Zoom – lots of energy around making things happen – Seed bank announced, Fix it fair, Transportation ideas, next convenor meeting February 15th 3 pm at the library meeting room. Climate 12 2050 Vision session will be February 20th at 7 pm at Ground Up.
5. Steve - Weather Station: Federal government felt that Entrance Island was close enough so Gabriola didn't need a weather station. Steve has researched and found that Entrance Island only had 4 days it froze relative to 30 on Gabriola. See attached Graph. He will continue to pursue it with John Bullas (a meteorologist.) Need to check with Boultons to see if they would be okay having it on their property.



6. Michelle and Doug: Seed Bank: Sal Dominelli initiated the seed bank idea on Gabriola. The idea is that the seeds would be acclimatized to Gabriola and be key in food security on Gabriola. They have 7 local seed companies that have contributed seeds and they have 132 different cultivars right now. They now have more seeds than the Salt Spring Seed Sanctuary. The Seed Bank is working in conjunction with the Agi Coop and will launch at the Ai Coop hall on Sunday, Feb 27, 5 – 7 pm. Hope is to grow out these seeds and acclimatize them to Gabriola and seed bank will end up with all seeds being acclimatized (with stories). Getting seeds from community members really appreciated. They will be supporting the Seed Library with excess seeds from the seed bank. Will develop a map to determine what grows well where. Contact: gabeseedbank@gmail.com
7. Steve: Sue Big Oil initiative. We approached LTC and asked them to support the IT trust council to support the Big Oil initiative.
8. Nancy: PHC sponsoring a health and well-being conference on Sat Feb 10th – effort to provide an opportunity for people that offer health and well-being services in the community. Focused on specific services. Some organizations will be there as well – such as the collaborative, Rollo centre. Naomi M is the contact to ask if SG should be there.
9. Bob M: RDN Grant for upcycling waste vegetable oil – pre-pandemic estimate of 10,000 litres of WVO/yr on Gabriola. We can no longer use it to make biodiesel for Gertie because today's diesel engines don't work well with biodiesel. Two possibilities – making soap, using it to fire up a heater that would keep the greenhouse heated through cold season. Saved the farmer's crop as it was working during the cold spell. Poor design so more problems. Plans to create a small, holistic burner that works. Fay: Another part of this initiative is the creation of soap from glycerine (a by-product of making biodiesel), and the used vegetable oil. We are in the testing phase.
10. Deb: Global Climate issues (see below)

Next Meeting: Sunday, Feb 25, 3 pm @ Commons. Facilitator: Fay, Notetaker: Deb F.,
Reconciliation moment: ?

Global Climate News Jan 28, 2024 from Deb Ferens

<https://www.bond.org.uk/news/2023/12/what-were-the-real-successes-and-failures-of-cop28-and-what-does-it-mean-moving-forward/#:~:text=For%20me%2C%20the%20real%20victory%20of%20COP28%20was,climate%20crisis%20who%20nonetheless%20suffer%20its%20worst%20impacts.>
<https://unfccc.int/cop28>

COP28 – Successes & Failures

Loss and Damage Funds operationalised on day one and was immediately followed by a flurry of monetary pledges. but there are clear challenges and limitations that we must keep working to address.. This means establishing genuinely new and additional finance at scale for the Loss and Damage Fund that reaches communities impacted by climate change.

A global transition away from fossil fuels This was the moment to address the elephant in the room of the climate change negotiations for almost 30 years – that fossil fuels are driving climate change and must be phased out urgently. It was unimaginable even a couple of years ago that at COP28 all countries of the world would agree to recognise the need to transition away from fossil fuels. This is historic and is entirely the result of people power. Across two days in September, more than 600,000 people in at least 60 countries got involved in more than 700 actions calling for a fast, fair, forever, and funded end to fossil fuels.

- Progress on nature was positive at COP28, securing important references to the [Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Biodiversity Framework](#)
- The need for food systems transformation gathered momentum at COP28 with the launch of a Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action that has now been endorsed by 158 countries, and “resilient food systems”, recognised as a key adaptation solution for the first time in a UNFCCC decision.
- Inclusion and human rights had wins and loses at COP28, with some recognition of inclusion, human rights, gender, Indigenous People, children and youth, and people with disabilities, across various strands of the negotiations, but worryingly only one very weak reference to human rights in the core text. However the [Just Transition Work Programme](#) did recognise labour rights for the first time in the UNFCCC.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/dec/09/azerbaijan-host-cop29-fraught-negotiations>

Azerbaijan chosen to host Cop29

Under U.N. rules, it is the turn of eastern Europe to host a COP, and the decision must be unanimous by all countries in the region. The Ukraine war, however, has made that all but impossible.

Russia, which is being sanctioned by the European Union for invading Ukraine, has opposed holding COP29 in an EU member state and is blocking Bulgaria's bid.

After fraught negotiations Azerbaijan chosen to host Cop29. Much like this year's host, the country of 10 million people on the border of eastern Europe and western Asia relies economically on fossil fuels: oil and gas production accounted for nearly half of Azerbaijan's GDP and more than 92.5% of its export revenue last year, according to the US government's International Trade Administration. Civil society organisations have also said Azerbaijan has a poor record on human rights. Mukhtar Babayev an Azerbaijani government minister and a former employee of Azerbaijan's national oil company SOCAR was named president –elect for COP29. The conference's committee originally consisted of 28 men. After criticism voiced by the [Christiana Figueres](#), the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and others, another two men and eleven women were added to the panel

<https://time.com/6563786/montana-supreme-court-upholds-landmark-climate-ruling/>

Montana Supreme Court Upholds Landmark Ruling From Youth Climate Case

Montana's Supreme Court has rejected an attempt by the state's Republican governor to block a [landmark climate ruling](#) that said regulators must consider the effects of greenhouse gas emissions when issuing permits for fossil fuel development. Seeley ruled a state law that prohibited agencies from considering the effect of emissions runs afoul of the state constitution's requirement "to maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment."

In Aug 2023, Sixteen young Montanans who [sued their state](#) over climate change emerged victorious on Aug. 14, 2023, from a first-of-its-kind climate trial. The lawsuit, heard in Montana district court, was the first in the U.S. to rely on a state's constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment to challenge state policies that fuel climate change

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/biodiversity/bc-s-draft-biodiversity-and-ecosystem-health-framework>

B.C.'s draft Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework

Framework sets out a common vision for the conservation and management of ecosystem health and biodiversity. As an overarching priority, the Framework formalizes a new and strategic direction for a more holistic approach to stewarding our land and water resources and making sure they are healthy and resilient for future generations.

The Framework upholds and enables the articles set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) and the requirements and commitments of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Declaration Act).

The Province is now consulting with First Nations Rights and Title Holders, and engaging with multiple natural resource sectors and industry, as well as local governments, on the draft Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework. Members of the public can access the [draft Framework](#) and provide comments no later than January 31, 2024 by contacting biodiversity.ecosystemhealth@gov.bc.ca

<https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/>

2024 Doomsday Clock Announcement

On January 23, this year, the Science and Security Board of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* leaves the hands of the Doomsday Clock unchanged due to ominous trends that continue to point the world toward global catastrophe.

Previously in January 2023, the Doomsday Clock was set at 90 seconds to midnight, the closest to midnight the Clock had ever been. Ominous trends continue to point the world toward global catastrophe include

- The Many Dimensions of Nuclear Threat
- An Ominous Climate Change Outlook
- Evolving Biological Threats
- The Dangers of AI