

## SUSTAINABLE GABRIOLA – NOTES OF MARCH 24, 2024 MEETING

Present: Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, Fay Weller, Katharine Patterson, John Peirce, Nancy Hetherington Peirce, Steve Earle, Bob Andrew, Joan ..., Bob Mckechnie, Tom Cameron, Greg Blee, Charlotte Cameron, Deborah Ferens, Gina Chrobok.

1. Deb welcomed everyone. Greg provided the Reconciliation Moment, speaking about the Douglas Treaties. Meeting agreed on the agenda.
2. Wildfire Hazards – Defer to April meeting
3. Representative for Sustainable Gabriola to the Health & Wellbeing Collaborative – Dyan asked for a new representative from SG, to take her place. This could be a new person, or a SG “regular” who is already a rep for another group in the Collaborative. **ACTION: Ask Suzi to send a request to the membership for a new representative. ACTION: Have “Health & Wellness Collaborative” as a standing item on meeting agendas.**
4. Gabriola Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee Society – Steve reported they are now formally incorporated as a non-profit society. Steve also reported on the recent decision of BC Ferries not to proceed with the land portion of development at the Descanso Bay ferry terminal.
5. Monitoring crab traps – Steve reported that the monitoring will continue this year, from mid-April to early Sept, at both Descanso Bay and Silva Bay. He is looking for more volunteers – about 40 minutes, once a week.
6. Sue Big Oil – Fay reported that Saanich Municipality has recently agreed to join the local governments in this initiative. The Islands Trust Council has not yet decided to do so. The RDN is waiting for the decision of the Capital Regional District.
7. Climate 12-12-12 – Fay, Steve, and Greg reported. Fay recently presented information on Gabriola’s Climate 12-12-12 project at a conference in Nanaimo. There will be a public event on May 11 at the Community Hall, 1 to 3pm, to discuss ways to address climate challenges.
8. Gabriola Climate Charter – Deborah distributed copies of the “Gabriola Climate Charter”, written by Sustainable Gabriola in 2019. Meeting discussed the Charter and possible updates. **ACTION: Dyan, Steve, Deborah and Greg will review the Charter and bring proposed updates to the April meeting.**
9. Commons Spring Fair for 2024 – Bob A reported that the coordinator has recently resigned and there is no replacement as yet. If no-one is found, the Fair will not happen. Bob asked the group to give him ideas re who to ask.
10. Health & Wellness Collaborative – Community Wellness Coordinator position – Nancy and Dyan reported on the progress of this new position, since the RDN approved the position and the tax increase to pay for it in February. Currently, RDN staff are working on their “Request for Quote” process for choosing the organization that will hold the funding transferred from the RDN. Then the chosen organization will hire the coordinator, starting with a half-time contract, hopefully by late spring.
11. Fix-It Fair – Fay reported the next one will be on April 13, 2-4pm, at the Agi Hall.
12. Global Climate News – Deborah provided several informative pieces of information, included at the end of these notes.
13. Next meeting – Sunday April 28, 2024 – 3 to 4:30pm. Chair: Nancy; Notes: Steve.

## Climate Change Tipping Points

<https://www.sciencealert.com/earth-on-brink-of-five-catastrophic-climate-tipping-points-report-warns>

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/explainer-nine-tipping-points-that-could-be-triggered-by-climate-change/>

### Earth on Brink of Five Catastrophic Climate Tipping Points, Report Warns

Five Tipping Points: (Plus more)

- Greenland & Antarctic Ice Sheet Loss – Melting Ice
- Boreal Forest Permafrost Thaw – Methane Release
- Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation AMOC
- Amazon Rainforest
- Coral Reef Die Off

Added: WildFires – Forest Die off.

### Definition of a Tipping Point

The IPCC's definition in its 2013-14 [fifth assessment report](#):

- Passing an irreversible tipping point would mean a system would not revert to its original state, even if the forcing lessens or reverses

### Year 2023 - 2024

- 2023 Hottest Summer on Record
- Dec 2023-Feb 2024 warmest Canadian & US winter on record
- Sea surface temperatures in North Atlantic Ocean are higher than normal.

Nearly three months into the new year, 2024 is carrying on where 2023 ended, with a litany of broken weather records that include higher air temperatures, warmer oceans, higher tides, and other significant losses such as glacier retreat, Antarctic sea ice loss.

<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

Earth's ability to sustain human society depends on nine primary "planetary boundaries," or global systems that are key indicators of its health. Of these nine limits, humans have blown past six: climate change, biosphere integrity (which includes [biodiversity](#)), freshwater availability, land use, nutrient pollution and human-made pollution, such as microplastics and radioactive waste. Only the categories of [ocean acidification](#), air pollution and ozone depletion remain within the constraints.

These boundaries are not "tipping points" that are impossible to return from because they signal humans' impact on the environment, which we can do something about, such as:

- reduce the overabundance of phosphorus and nitrogen in Earth's waters.
- use no more than 10 percent of plant biomass—currently, we use about 30 percent, for food and fuel.
- Clean up land and returning forests to late-20th-century levels

Successful actions on this level include the combined global efforts initiated by the [Montreal Protocol](#) in 1987 and the resulting recovering of the ozone boundary.

This scale of coordinated change is necessary to address the scale of the climate emergency.

### **Two Tipping Points**

- The first is when the Earth's ecosystems and the life they contain tip into irreversible collapse due to climate change.
- The second is when the fight for climate action tips from being just one of many political concerns to becoming a mass social movement.

The existential question is, which tipping point will come first?