

**Cortes Local Economic Action Plan Steering Committee Minutes**  
**4:00 PM Weds 23 Aug, 2017**  
**Pioneer Room, Mansons Hall**

**Present:** Colin Funk, Mary Lavelle, Eric Hargrave, Romina Wendell, Dave Nikleva, Adam Schick, Helen Hall, Fred Savage

**Public Gallery:** Bridget

**Apologies:** Noba Anderson

**Presentation by Adam McKenty:** Adam McKenty presented a brief overview of his document on the local economy.

Traditional Economic perspective is on the economy and not on social and ecological aspects. Alternative economics works the other way round. Many people are on Cortes to gain social and ecological benefits, often at the expense of economic gain. But we need to build the economy to make it sustainable to live here, whilst ensuring it does not damage the social and ecological aspects.

We should look at our ideal island and work out the kind of economy we want, and plan for that, rather than just build on what is already happening.

Proposed having an economic development fund to provide start up money for local businesses, the modest return could go back in to the fund, with aim of developing ecological/economic /social activity. Also could provide economic development support providing local businesses with ideas and expertise. **Action: Helen to send Adam's paper to the Steering Group.**

**1. Review of the minutes of the July Board Meeting and business arising**

*Motion to approve the minutes: Romina / Adam*

**2. LEAP Survey – update**

We had 225 people take part including those that completed the paper copies. The next step will be to analyse the results, which will need input from Daniel.

**4. Focus Group Meetings – planning**

Two more focus groups were held – professional services, and young families. No one was able to attend the professional services focus group, but all invitees were sent the questions to answer. **Action: Helen to prompt with reminder email**

For the remaining focus group meetings it was agreed:

- Forestry - Fred and Bridget to facilitate, and to confirm date with Helen
- Aquaculture – Dave and Dan to facilitate and do invites. Mid Sept.
- Farms – Adam to facilitate and do invites. Late Sept / early Oct

- Tourism and Services - Eric to facilitate and do invites. Late Sept / early Oct
- Long term residents – Romina to facilitate and do invites. Mid Sept
- Trades: Colin / Bridget / Noba to facilitate and do invites. No date set.

**Action: All to progress focus groups as above. Helen to email questions.**

Mary suggested adding manager / supervisor focus group. Attendees to include: Mary, Helen, Tamara, Suzanne / Peter (new Hollyhock CEO), Eric, Colin. **Action: Helen to coordinate.**

A brief discussion was held about the proposed Community Foundation. Agreed should be an item on the next agenda. **Action: Helen**

## **5. Community Forum – planning**

Daniel is due to work out a structure for this. We need a working group for the forum. We need to design something to generate an outcome, but make sure engaging and interactive. The results of the survey must be posted in the lead up to the forum, with questions for people to think about. Will be important to promote it well, with posters and Tideline articles.

Working group to be: Fred, Colin, Adam and Helen. Aim to meet mid Sept and bring proposal to next steering group.

There was a discussion about the title of the forum, to be determined.

## **6. Vancouver Island Coast Economic Developers Regional Meeting**

This day long workshop is coming up in mid Sept. It is very useful for us to connect with other groups like this. **Action: Helen to send details to group to see if anyone wants to go.**

## **7. LEAP Website**

We should be building the website to do more public engagement including blog testimonials and developing promotional information for the forum.

We could have a suggestion box on the website for people to put ideas, and get people to respond to questions from the focus groups about the current and future state of the economy in the lead up to the forum.

We could also put links on there to island communities doing interesting things – eg out of ICET to give people ideas of best practices elsewhere.

## **8. Public Gallery – no comments.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm