REGIONAL ROUND TABLE ON SUSTAINABILITY

“We Envision” IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP #4

**August 10th, 2015**

NOTES FROM A REGIONAL ROUND TABLE ON SUSTAINABILITY HELD AT GIBSONS & AREA COMMUNITY CENTRE, 700 PARK RD, GIBSONS, BC

**PRESENT:** Facilitator - Cheeying Ho, Centre for Sustainability Whistler

Facilitator - Raphael Shay, Sustainability & Education Coordinator, SCRD

**TEAM MEMBERS:** Andre Boel, Director of Planning, Town of Gibsons

Angela Letman, Community Planner, District of Sechelt

Celia Robben, President, Sunshine Coast Tourism

Chris Morse, Environmental Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health

Dave Jephcott, Business Advisor, Community Futures Coast

Don Basham, Sunshine Coast Community Foundation

Leony Croy, Chair, Sunshine Coast in Transition

Linda Williams, Sunshine Coast Cultural Alliance

Matt Tomson, Coordinator, Sunshine Coast Housing Committee

Michael Wilson, Consultant, Enerficiency

Mike Vance, Director of Development Services, District of Sechelt

Nancy Tiffin, Director of Communication & Revenue Development, Sunshine Coast Community Services Society

Naomi Felschut, Sunshine Conservation Association & Sunshine Coast Community Services Society

Valerie MacLean, Executive Director, Sunshine Coast Community Services Society

**WELCOME** 2:00 p.m.

**Welcome and Introductions**

The group made introductions and Raphael gave a brief update of We Envision Sustainability Plan and Roundtable background, upcoming progress report, and places where the We Envision Sustainability Plan is being used in the community. Strategy for moving forward was outlined with this meeting focusing on updating each other of progress and identifying higher level targets. Future meetings will focus on identifying priority actions and fostering collaborations.

**Round of Partner Updates**

The group outlined updates from 2015 priorities and additional actions. Highlights will be used in a progress report and inform identification of priorities for 2016. Highlights include:

* Arts & Culture
  + Relation with First Nations improving, e.g. CCA & Sechelt Arts Fest
  + Art Crawl 2014 saw 21,000 studio visits, strong sales increase, and more artists
  + Festivals still strong with increased numbers and more multi-cultural events
* Community Health and Social Services
  + Food Bank Renovation Project completed with business and volunteer support
    - Celebration August 20th, 5-7pm @ 5657 Lamprey lane
  + My Health My Community survey completed and being used to identify areas needing improvement / successes
* Climate & Energy
  + Gibsons District Energy Utility is looking at 2nd phase, may be excess capacity
  + District of Sechelt has commissioned a solar system at the sewage treatment plant
  + Sunshine Coast community Solar incorporated as non-profit and looking into facilitating bulk buy of panels, education activities, partnership with SD46
  + Transition Streets Pilot Project going well. Project brings families in neighbourhood together to tackle energy, transportation, food, waste and water.
* Food Security
  + Food Policy Council getting under way
  + One Straw Society
    - Started Farm Gate Market
    - Many activities: e.g. edible garden tour collaboration with Sechelt First Nation, fall faire, seedy Saturday, Seed Saving Collective, Fruit Tree project
  + Gibsons Public Market
    - More than 50% of capital campaign goal
    - Will include retail space for local food industry and community kitchen
  + Farmers Market Coupon Program for families in need now includes three markets
  + VCH is connecting local food producers with food service establishments while maintaining standards and legal obligations
  + SC Community Services has 44 plots in their garden, a new Community Kitchen and many programs running, e.g. Welcoming communities
* Housing
  + Sunshine Coast Housing Committee
    - meets regularly to support low / no barrier and house-less shelter initiatives
    - incorporating Community Land Trust
    - Engagement process underway
    - Seeking house to purchase for supportive housing
  + Town of Gibsons now allows garden suites
* Land Use
  + Town of Gibsons Official Community Plan updated and includes GHG targets
  + District of Sechelt revisiting Sustainability Plan and Official Community Plan
  + Planners from local gov’ts will meet to agree on sustainable land use principles.
* Local Economy & Jobs
  + Community Futures is starting Invest Sunshine Coast, which includes
    - Venture Capital Corp, in partnership with Credit Union, incorporated
    - Community Investment Corp will offer local equity financing for local companies
    - Community Investment Coop
  + Sunshine Coast in Transition is testing a Time Bank platform for services
  + Sunshine Coast Tourism is submitting MRDT application, which could bring $1.3million over 5 years to increase capacity for marketing and media relations
  + District of Sechelt working on Downtown revitalization strategy
* Natural Spaces, Parks and Recreation
  + First trailhead kiosks to be installed in 2015. Maps and safety information in Roberts Creek, West Sechelt / Halfmoon Bay, Madeira Park
* Transportation
  + New bike route from downtown Sechelt to [Kinnikinnick](http://fc.sd46.bc.ca/kinweb/information)
  + Town of Gibsons and TRAC working on Inglis trail switchback
* Water
  + Reclaimed water reuse agreement moving forward with District of Sechelt
  + VCH is providing education to small water system operators to increase safety and supply
  + SC Conservation Association is offering water conservation and rainwater catchment workshops
  + Water conservation efforts have led to a 40% reduction in use on SCRD system
* Zero Waste
  + District of Sechelt Green Waste pickup program starting

**Review of SWOT**

Fostered a collective understanding of our community and noted changes since last SWOT exercise.

* Strengths:
  + SC Community Futures new Programs under Invest Sunshine Coast
  + Increased engagement with First Nations
  + Higher number of arts and cultural events and higher attendance
  + Hospital renovated
  + New Gibsons Elementary School building
* Weaknesses:
  + Lack of infrastructure for water storage
  + Limited highway capacity and vulnerability due to lack of alternative routes at points
  + 171 jobs lost at Howe Sound Pulp and Paper
  + Few resources for hard to serve population
* Opportunities
  + Federal election may bring new investments
  + New developments – economy & housing
  + Drought creates motivation
  + Municipal and Regional District Tax for tourism capacity
* Threats
  + Longer summer droughts
  + Lack of long term viability of mill

**Discussion on upcoming action planning meetings**

The group broke into four smaller groups to identify strategic directions and targets that need focus in 2016. Potential collaborators and specific actions were also noted but were not the focus. If the target was from We Envision, then it is noted in parenthesis. If more than one group noted a target, then a (x2) is noted.

* *Arts & Culture*
  + Continue growing a vibrant arts and cultural community (We Envision)
  + Financial Sustainability
  + Fill performance spaces year round
* *Community Health and Social Services*
  + Ensure that support services are targeted to meet the needs of identified vulnerable populations though collaborative planning (We Envision)
  + Targeting seniors
* *Climate & Energy*
  + Increase the supply of local renewable energy on the Coast (We Envision, x2)
    - Larger projects as well as smaller projects
  + Build more energy efficient buildings and increase the efficiency of existing buildings (We Envision)
    - X% of commercial and residential buildings meet energy performance rating of Y
    - Collaborators: Local Gov’s, SC Transition, SC Conservation Association, Fed & Prov Gov’s
* *Food Security*
  + Increase capacity of the local food system to feed 20% (We Envision)
    - OCPs and local gov’s policies foster local food production
    - Triple number of community gardens from (there are 5 known to small group)
    - Increase number of food forests
  + Connect the community to the local food system (We Envision)
    - Connect consumers to producers to reduce money leaving community. One way is to expand the Farmers’ Market Coupon Program
    - Expand food donation programs to reduce waste and assist families in need
* *Housing*
  + Increase rental stock that is affordable in growth nodes & Increase the affordable market housing stock in growth nodes (We Envision)
    - Secure land for affordable housing and support Land Trust
  + Increase supportive housing options for vulnerable populations (We Envision)
* *Learning & Leading*
  + Reinvigorate organizations by connecting people to groups that need new energy (e.g. Voice on the Coast)
* *Local Economy & Jobs*
  + Have a thriving sunshine Coast economy (We Envision)
    - Develop Coast-wide economic development capacity in central organization
    - Asset mapping & Gap analysis
  + Increase the capacity of existing organizations on the Coast (We Envision)
    - Develop shared administrative body for non-profits and coops.
* *Natural Spaces Parks & Rec*
  + Encourage diversity and inclusiveness in recreation programming and park use (We Envision)
    - Increase signage and map availability
* *Transportation*
  + Double transit ridership (We Envision , x2)
  + Use active forms of transport in at least 10% of all trips (We Envision, x2)
    - Develop a bike lane from Langdale to Sechelt
* *Water*
  + Reduce water consumption per person by 33% (We Envision)
    - Install water meters
  + Increase supply for future population projections (We Envision)
  + Protect community drinking watersheds, aquifers and sensitive habitat (We Envision)
* *Zero Waste*
  + Implement curbside organics and recycling collection
    - Collaborators: Local Gov’s, Gibsons recycling, Salish Soils, Entrepreneurs

**Next Steps**

Moving forward will require more content expertise in specific areas in order to identify priority actions. This might be held in a variety of focus area tables.

We will develop filters or criteria that could help filter and identify priority actions for the Round Table such as collaboration potential, attracts youth, and impact. These could be linked to the future need to measure progress and identify KPIs.

Some areas have groups already moving actions forward. In these cases, the Round Table is a location for updates rather than fostering collaborations to implement actions.

The goal of this process is to identify gaps and overlaps that can benefit from collaboration.

**Who is Missing**

First Nations (Candace Campo), Youth perspective (Patrick Bocking offered regrets, Janet Mulligan - Aboriginal Child and Youth Wellness Worker, Kerry Mahlman), groups working on employment creation, SCACL.

**Adjourned 5:10 pm**