

SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Executive Meeting – Jan 17, 2024
Kamloops, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT

President	Councillor Louise Wallace Richmond, Salmon Arm
Past President	Councillor Aimee Grice, Oliver
Directors	Councillor Isaac Gilbert, Penticton (remote – 10:55-11:08)
	Mayor Spencer Coyne, Princeton (remote)
	Councillor Stephen Karpuk, Kamloops
	Director Tricia Thorpe, TNRD
	Councillor Gord Lovegrove, Kelowna (remote – left 11:45)
	Councillor Keith Thom, Peachland
	Councillor Adam Etchart, Merritt
	Councillor Bill Sarai, Kamloops
	Councillor Tasha Da Silva, West Kelowna (remote)
	General Manager Koryn de Vries
	TNRD Barbara Roden

CALL TO ORDER

President Wallace Richmond called the regular board meeting to order at 10:43 am.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded by Adam Etchart/Bill Sarai THAT:

The agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved/Seconded by Keith Thom/Aimee Grice THAT:

The draft minutes of the Executive Meeting held on October 25, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

MAYOR BARBARA RODEN, TNRD BOARD CHAIR, WELCOME

- Thank you to SILGA for representing our region
- Reconciliation with Indigenous groups – including 2024 welcoming ceremonies on traditional land
- Regional District water systems funding is scarce in TNRD
- Ashcroft is relatively unknown – people can't find it on a map, trying to raise awareness and understanding
- FireSmart and other wildfire prevention and cleanup initiatives need expanding because recovery is currently on individuals and communities
- Teeny tiny storytime at rural libraries, resources scarce but doing what they can
- In Memoriam: Mayor Al Raine's passing
 - community-minded
 - Sun Peaks community - Lifetime Achievement Award in Sport
 - Worked with the TNRD

CORRESPONDENCE

1. New SILGA PO Box:
PO Box 563
Salmon Arm Stn Main, BC, V1E 4N7

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. AVICC/JAAVES
 - Meeting Jan. 16, somewhat behind but on schedule for Feb. 28 joint education seminar
 - Panel presentation for EAs
 - Wanting to create joint resolution for UBCM – unsure whether the resolution will be apart of SILGA’s resolution debate
 - Need robust document for UBCM so Regional Districts don’t get shelved: Don Lidstone is still gathering info for the February session
 - Need strong support for Legislative Reform Document – new changes to Local Government Act to make sure things will get updated
 - AVICC is pushing a resolution for UBCM; education seminar

NEW BUSINESS

1. In Camera – details of contracts for Alison Slater’s departure and Koryn de Vries’ onboarding

Moved/Seconded by Gord Lovegrove/Aimee Grice THAT:

Koryn de Vries’ and Alison Slater’s contracts be adopted as written.

CARRIED

2. Alison Slater is retiring from the General Manager position as of December 31, 2024 and will be working under a Memorandum of Understanding to finalize sponsorships

Moved/Seconded by Bill Sarai/Tricia Thorpe THAT:

Alison retire from General Manager and manage Sponsorships under the signed Memorandum of Understanding.

CARRIED

3. Koryn de Vries is taking over as General Manager as of January 1, 2025 and is under contract until June 30, 2025

Moved/Seconded by Tricia Thorpe/Bill Sarai THAT:

Koryn de Vries join as General Manager under the signed contract.

CARRIED

4. RBC Signing Authority change

Moved/Seconded by Bill Sarai/Keith Thom THAT:

Koryn de Vries replace Alison Slater as signing authority on the Association’s RBC account.

CARRIED

5. Acquisition of a SILGA Credit Card

Moved/Seconded by Gord Lovegrove/Aimee Grice THAT:

SILGA apply for a credit card through RBC to manage convention charges.

CARRIED

6. Educational Seminar – Propose move to another time for 2025

- Use Legislative Reform as our Feb thing? It's going to be busy – move the education seminar so it can be reactive to upcoming political shifts - have the non-confidence vote and impending federal election
- Focus on a really good one in the fall - make a board committee to help Koryn come up with an important, timely topic – have to have right topic and right format to get things off the ground
- Have a poll at SILGA convention with a gift basket prize – find out what membership wants
- Push for convention attendance, Merritt/convention support, and campaigning for Legislative Reform Webinar through newsletter
- After convention: finish the SILGA strategic plans: make clear benefits of SILGA membership – tighten up message and branding to address big-picture regional impacts – demonstrate impacts of SILGA - need to celebrate our accomplishments – hold off on seminar so that we can reflect on how to communicate those
- Create a committee to oversee and guide autumn seminar

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Adam Etchart THAT:

SILGA postpone the spring educational seminar to the fall.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Finance Report**

- Bookkeeping through BDO now – Koryn will submit to the bookkeeper and they will keep track
- Renewed 2025 insurance
- 2024 year-end financials were submitted by Alison
- Does insurer need to be updated concerning GM changes?

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Aimee Grice THAT:

As of the 2025 fiscal year, SILGA Bookkeeping be managed by BDO.

CARRIED

Moved/Seconded by Stephen Karpuk/Tricia Thorpe THAT:

The financial report be received as presented.

CARRIED

2. Convention Committee

- a) Merrit 2025
 - Next committee meeting Thursday, January 23
 - Keynote speaker: Norm from StrongTowns – community and economic development
 - o Originated in USA to promote creating community and its benefits
 - o Timely addition in wake of economic and natural disasters
 - Tuesday 28th – Adam will speak to council re: Civic Centre
 - o Koryn to send costs and coordinate with Adam
 - o Not an issue if we need to pay for the rental
 - Promotion can start very soon – late Jan-early Feb
- b) 2026 Convention Location

Moved/Seconded by Aimee Grice/Keith Thome THAT:

The Revelstoke 2026 convention bid be accepted as written.

CARRIED

3. Resolution Submission deadline: Friday, Feb 21, 2025**4. SILGA Candidacy:**

- Tricia, Spencer, Keith, Stephen, Adam
- President and VPs all stand
- If you are running, please submit bios to Koryn before Feb. 28

UBCM REPORT:

Aimee: November quarterly meeting – this term had strat planning, helpful.

Resolutions process discussion – how to make equitable so that smaller RDs can pass their motions too – LGAs need to help by combining similar resolutions to help them pass at UBCM

Code of conduct and ongoing files – Aimee is Indigenous Relations Vice-Chair, also on Health and Social Development Committee – UBCM site has a public version of the November meeting

Spencer: resolutions was the biggest conversation

Strategic planning: threats to UBCM, someone brought up that the LGAs' strength threatens UBCM – took exception to the comment – this attitude is something to keep in mind

Louise: sitting on Economic Development and Convention Committees

FCM REPORT:

Went to Ottawa: focus on communications strategy and upcoming election

Louise gave a brief update of FCM occurrences

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Stephen Karpuk THAT:

Spencer will lead three board members to draft a public statement concerning US tariffs.

CARRIED

EXECUTIVE COMMUNITY UPDATES

1. Bill Sarai – Kamloops - past board refresh: as Chair Roden said, Indigenous rep is important, future consideration for inviting neighbouring groups to join meetings regardless of acceptance – find ways to include meaningfully instead of just ‘as guest’
2. Tricia Thorpe – TNRD - EA Zoom meeting Mon Jan 20 – chance to pick topics for group discussion and collaborate across RDs – second one so far – working with 5 FN bands in Lytton area – Fire trailer from Steveston rotary – first time that unincorporated community and 5 FN bands are cooperating to take care of each other – video coming out about lack of insurance for wildfires by RogersTV – features last year’s impacted regions – RDs don’t have ready access like municipalities to insurance
3. Adam Etchart – Merritt is developing 286 – spring improvements planning – new furniture warehouse being built – trying to attract mobile home business
4. Isaac Gilbert – Penticton – Valley Frost Fest – update on housing 2024, 629 development approvals and more impending
5. Aimee Grice – Oliver – Oliver, supporting local physicians recruitment working group to address ER/GP shortages: regional group w members from Osoyoos, key barrier: housing. IH has donated land to make travelling healthcare worker homes (halfway point while looking for housing) – working with Minister Osborne to get funds – new marketing plan – Doctors on committee too
6. Tasha Da Silva – West Kelowna – final stages of West Kelowna Economic Development corporation – Tasha is director! – looking for other directors and hiring a CEO – at Merritt convention: wish for Economic Development to be represented
7. Keith Thom – Peachland - affordable housing 72 units for seniors – peachlanders first instead of BC housing – 104 space daycare centre will break ground in April w gov grant!
8. Spencer Coyne – Princeton – new fire hall being built, flood mitigation plans, \$6 million water upgrade, \$2 million sewer upgrade, new housing and social housing for seniors, private infrastructure too – Copper Mountain Mine now has over 910 employees, more than projected
9. Stephen – Kamloops – Red bridge burnt, lost connection to t’kemplups (their bridge) – planning session started to rebuild – fire resiliency and firesmart initiatives starting this spring: reconciliation, working with Indigenous knowledge keepers to burn off grasslands that threaten Kamloops since this is a refuge place for many during the fire season – insurance is something SILGA might consider for an educational seminar since Rob Sweitzer has been working with the US forest service and other agencies – Kamloops has a volunteer fire hall for 23% of the community considered ‘rural’ – looking to staff it better to protect those people and reduce insurance costs – needs SILGA attention because insurance will increase in light of climate change – alternate approval process for capital builds is in court; 10 people are holding up breaking ground on art centre and rink complex due to process issues: frustrating – lots of new stuff in Kamloops! – hoping to get a sounding board on SILGA that all communities can contribute to so we can keep an eye across all our representative regions and coordinate knowledge – use website? – need to know parameters and difference in governance systems between SILGA and Indigenous groups to increase collaboration – looking forward to future discussion
10. Louise – Salmon Arm – apartment buildings have been approved: more in the past year than in the past 10-12yrs combined! – hopeful all will make it to market – working through OCP creation, which occurs once every 5 years – emerging SILGA issue: how to facilitate OCPs actually getting implemented

Next meeting:

Online, third week of March, Koryn will put out a date poll

In the interim: please promote SILGA Convention!

Moved/Seconded by Keith Thom/Stephen Karpuk THAT:

At 1:25 pm the SILGA Executive Meeting of January 17, 2025 be adjourned.

CARRIED

Koryn de Vries
General Manager