

SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Executive Meeting – Mar 7, 2024

Remote – via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT

President	Councillor Louise Wallace Richmond, Salmon Arm (left 9:08)
Past President	Councillor Aimee Grice, Oliver
Directors	Councillor Isaac Gilbert, Penticton
	Mayor Spencer Coyne, Princeton
	Councillor Stephen Karpuk, Kamloops (arrived 8:39; left 10:22)
	Director Tricia Thorpe, TNRD
	Councillor Gord Lovegrove, Kelowna
	Councillor Keith Thom, Peachland (left 9:43)
	Councillor Adam Etchart, Merritt
	Councillor Bill Sarai, Kamloops (left 10:22)
	General Manager Koryn de Vries

Absent	Councillor Tasha Da Silva, West Kelowna
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CALL TO ORDER

Past President Aimee Grice called the regular board meeting to order at 8:31 am.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded by Gord Lovegrove/Bill Sarai THAT:

The agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved/Seconded by Keith Thom/Gord Lovegrove THAT:

The draft minutes of the Executive Meeting held on January 17, 2025 at the TNRD Board Office be adopted.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Invitations from Area Associations re: SILGA President attending Convention.

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Keith Thom THAT:

President Louise Wallace Richmond attend AVICC 2025 in Nanaimo from April 11th-13th.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Increasing Indigenous representation and participation with SILGA
 - Discussion from the board looked at how to welcome First Nations in SILGA region to collaborate while acknowledging conflicting interests between groups
 - o Desire for a relationship between LGs and Nations is not unanimous
 - o Sit down with Thompson, Okanagan, and Tkemlups Nations to see what sort of relationship they want
 - o Serious attempt at finding a way forward: find a working plan, invite them to a dialogue/fireside chat
 - o As colonial governments, we must listen and learn first
 - o AVICC has a policy for Bands to opt-in to the Association
 - o Set up a committee for 2025-26 Board and beyond
 - o Building these relationships is critical but we need to include all stakeholders
 - o Need to flesh out the purpose and direction of why we are doing this in Committee
 - o Should also look at Friendship Centres and Urban-Indigenous housing collaboration as a show of good faith
 - o 90s land use determination and territorial assignment gets complicated: will need to look for guidance going forward so that we don't step on toes
 - o How would 32 bands change our quorum structure?
 - o Acknowledgement that we operate within their Nations
 - o Potential educational seminar opportunity for Local Governments to build better relationships

Moved/Seconded by Bill Sarai/Keth Thom THAT:

SILGA create an Indigenous Relations Committee to support building meaningful relationships between Indigenous Nations and Local Governments.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. Keeping It Rural Conference – BC Rural Centre in-kind support of SILGA
 - a. BC Rural Centre will host a panel on Area Association initiatives and advocacy
 - b. SILGA will host BC Rural Centre at Merritt 2025
 - c. Several executives plan to attend Keeping it Rural

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Finance Report**
 - a) Member Dues need to increase to \$1 per 15-20% of population over a number of years to cover operating costs; Committee is attempting to find a more equitable formula so that larger communities shoulder a fair amount of the costs
 - o Finance committee to float a motion for membership – present preemptively at AGM to give members notice and to consider options
 - o Koryn to write the briefing for Stephen and Bill to announce
 - o Board agrees larger populations should shoulder more of the burden – larger places have more of an ability to pay

Moved/Seconded by Bill Sarai/Stephen Karpuk THAT:

The 2024 Financial Statement and the 2024-2029 5-Year Plan be received.

CARRIED

2. Convention Committee

- a) Merrit 2025
 - 166 Registered so far
 - Details of catering, entertainment, and speakers all being finalized
 - Merritt as a model of recovery from climate catastrophe and demonstrate how to move on and thrive
- b) Some concern about the value of SILGA, especially at a rural centre – board discussed having conversations with members about its value as a place to come together to unite in our struggles and the benefit of collective action
 - Expressed need to evolve these conventions to serve our local communities and governments – need more opportunities to talk *together*, not apart
 - Need to assess added value of a clear theme and goal this year
 - Going forward we need clear direction and add in advocacy and collaboration to take on some of the challenges that UBCM doesn't want to take on
 - Present conference as a value-adding product as opposed to a 'fun time'
 - Social aspect brings us together – building connections, realizing our struggles are universal, come together for a portion of meeting to chat casually – can we better incorporate that?
 - Many people want time to discuss council to council – if EA Round Table goes well, could consider breakout discussions based on community sizes or regions
 - Koryn to factor this into 2025 feedback poll
- c) Difficulty reaching Ministers – expand invitation to ADM/DMs or management team?
 - Koryn to reach out
- d) Before covid SILGA used to have regional meetings – maybe we need more team building outside of convention?
- e) 2026 Convention Dates
 - No connections to fly into our communities – if we move to a Saturday then Ministers can commute – maybe move April 29-May2?

Moved/Seconded by Gord Lovegrove/Stephen Karpuk THAT:

SILGA 2026 be moved to a Wednesday to Saturday schedule to accommodate the Province, April 29th to May 2nd, 2026.

CARRIED

3. Community Excellence Awards

2026 Winners were decided unanimously - we need to promote to our member communities as there were very few applicants – perhaps by creating a scoring matrix and/or awarding by community size

- Executives should help promote the awards – adds value to membership – need more promotion and recognition opportunities

- Scoring matrix could be made to consider community size and other inclusivity factors
- Needs to come down to merit – ask an association like the BC Economic Development Association to sponsor the Ec dev award so it carries more weight
- Suggestion to create a U15,000 and over 15,000 category (based on population)

Moved/Seconded by Stephen Karpuk/Bill Sarai THAT:

The 2026 selection committee for Community Excellence Awards create a scoring matrix to equitably assess member submissions.

CARRIED

4. Resolutions

- 38 this year, many are similar
- Trying to ease the number of Resolutions at Area Association level by merging them, but often similar ones are not close enough to make into one
- There are hundreds/thousands of unaddressed resolutions
 - Local Governments need to continue advocating once UBCM endorses
- Resolutions Chair to make a preamble explaining that Local Governments need to continue advocating even after their resolution is endorsed
 - The executive should also look at what areas SILGA needs to focus on in their advocacy work based on the resolutions submitted

UBCM REPORT:

Spencer: met with Minister Anderson and Minister Kahlon, not a lot happened

Aimee: still a lot of confusion on the new ministries & who is doing what with their overlap

- Minister Anderson is very accessible and will hopefully be a good advocate like she was as MLA
- Tariffs – Minister Kahlon is chair, no mandates concerning purchasing and procurement coming down from the Province yet

FCM REPORT:

Louise: FCM is discussing election readiness, election themes, tariff responses: including legal opinion on excluding USA from government procurement and shared procurement opportunities.

Check out connect2canada.com for very detailed trade profile of every single state and county.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNITY UPDATES

1. Spencer Coyne – Princeton – community charter: revitalization tax exemption for new startups –we have tools in our toolbox to encourage economic growth – brother's company diverted 27 million in purchasing to Asia and Europe – Canadian companies are looking to get materials from Canadian sourcing – Canadian products aren't cost prohibitive and there are options out there – getting produce in the winter is the big consideration, will be writing to Ministry of Agriculture for tax incentives to build rural greenhouses – vertical farms supplying to our groceries will help our local economies – moving forward, this is going to strengthen us even if we don't get hit with tariffs
2. Stephen Karpuk – Kamloops – 35 unused greenhouses in Fraser Valley that could be used for supplying greens to smaller communities – opportunities for grants leveraging the use of empty greenhouses from Marijuana industry overages – 1st of 3 Firesmart burns today; more in the fall to protect city limits – MoTT meeting in Kamloops today

3. Bill Sarai – Kamloops – transitioning unhoused folks using provincial funds, providing guidance on how to get people into stable housing
4. Gord Lovegrove – Kelowna – creating 180 tiny homes for unhoused people – dreaming of the day we get everyone out of encampments and into stable housing – pushing lots of housing development but completions are dropping due to tariffs - vacancies up over 3% in short-term rentals therefore requesting AirBNB back – UBCO is researching with intercommunity connections for Valley Rail – attending economic development master-class from Clarence Louie to get Indigenous perspectives – we need buses and rail and we don't have the population density for private corporations to make a profit, so how do we make it a priority? – tramtrains in rural Germany have existed between mountainous cities for 40 years – can be made beside existing highways and therefore need to get MoTT and communities on board – economic feasibility is cheaper than highway increase/maintenance costs – safer, affordable, equitable, tourism – plans to talk with ONA about coming on board – former energy transport advisor who got the first hydro powered train running in Germany here from April 6 – 26th – time to start planning and becoming informed – willing to present to any Local Governments interested – suggestions to make a regional district-oriented presentation to use beyond April

Next meeting:

April 29th for a pre-conference briefing. Then, after the conference with the 2025-26 Executive.
In the interim: please promote the SILGA Convention!

Moved/Seconded by Aimee Grice/Gord Lovegrove THAT:

At 10:35 am the SILGA Executive Meeting of March 7, 2025 be adjourned.

CARRIED

Koryn de Vries
General Manager