

Minutes of the Regular Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission held on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 12:00 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC.

**PRESENT**

Director M. Marcotte, Chair  
Directors L. Duncan, G. Giles and R. Hutchins  
Bob Crawford, Mick Smith, Joanne McLeod, Ian Christison, Pat Durose, Wayne Haddow, Rodger Hunter, Fred Oud, Dave Thomson, George Robbins and Judy Stafford

**ALSO PRESENT**

Pete Keber, Dan Ferguson and Director I. Morrison  
Maddy Koch, Planning Technician  
Warren Jones, Chief Administrative Officer  
Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning & Development  
Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development  
Kathy Lachman, EDC Business Development Officer  
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

**ABSENT**

Director R. Hartmann

**APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA**

**It was moved and seconded that the agenda be amended with the addition of New Business items as follows:**

**NB1 EDABC award;**

**NB2 CVRD supplies;**

**NB3 AVICC speaker;**

**NB4 Vancouver Island Natural Gas prices;**

**and the addition of Information items as follows:**

**IN1 Cowichan Wine & Culinary Festival;**

**IN2 Director Iannidinardo;**

**IN3 South Cowichan Chamber Event;**

**IN4 2012 Buy Local, Buy Fresh, map;**

**and the order of the agenda be adjusted to move NB3 prior to R2;**

**and that the agenda, as amended, be approved.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF  
MINUTES**

**M1**

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the regular Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission meeting held March 27, 2012 be adopted.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING  
FROM THE MINUTES****BA1 – General  
Liability Coverage  
for CVRD Volunteers**

Tom Anderson reported the CVRD has general liability coverage for volunteers. However, Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission members are not liable for anything therefore it is not applicable. It was noted that the CVRD does not have coverage for slander.

**REPORTS****R1 – Subdivisions in  
the ALR under  
Section 946 of the  
*Local Government  
Act***

Maddy Koch provided a report on the background of subdivisions for relatives (Section 946 subdivisions) in the ALR and the outcome of these applications since 2005. In summary, Section 946 of the *Local Government Act* facilitates subdivision of agriculture land to lot sizes much smaller than anticipated by CVRD zoning bylaws. However, in the CVRD these applications have only amounted to an approximate average of one successful subdivision of this type per year since 2005.

**It was moved and seconded that staff report dated April 16, 2012, from Maddy Koch, Planning Technician, regarding Subdivisions in the ALR under Section 946 of the *Local Government Act* be forwarded to all electoral area Advisory Planning Commissions.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion took place. Maddy Koch left the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS****NB3 – AVICC  
Speaker**

Director Duncan attended the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) convention in April 2012 and reported on Richard Bullock's Agricultural Land Commission presentation. It was a powerful speech with a message discouraging sending applications that benefit anything other than agriculture. Chair Marcotte added they are reviewing Agriculture land boundaries to confirm it is good farm land. This is a new way of looking at mapping.

Discussion took place.

**REPORTS****R2 – CVRD  
Integrated Regional  
Sustainability Plan**

Tom Anderson presented the Integrated Regional Sustainability Plan to the Regional Services Committee on March 28, 2012 and they recommended to the Board that the Terms of Reference be forwarded to the Economic Development, Environment, Regional Agricultural Advisory and electoral area Advisory Planning Commissions as well as the four Municipalities and First Nations for comment and support. It is a high priority under the Corporate Strategic Plan and will be funded by gas tax dollars. The Plan will be a 30 year term.

The challenge is to have a common definition of "sustainability" for all. It is a complex integration to fit with current studies including the Sustainable Economic Development Strategy, Social Planning, First Nations and food security. Looking to find unique ways to get the message out and get feedback from the community and engage the youth. Implementation plan will include actions, targets and timeline. Want to raise food self sufficiency to 45 percent. Components to follow actions for irrigating. Full process expected to

take two years. Documents will go out for an expression of interest which will be evaluated down to two consultants who will receive a request for proposal. Cost of the study is expected to be \$275,000 plus \$25,000 for fees and disbursements.

Commission role is to review and provide comments and support back to Tom Anderson within the next month. Potential for key role on steering committee for Regional Agricultural Advisory and Economic Development Commissions. Once input has been received a further report with a revised Terms of Reference will be forwarded to an up-coming CVRD Regional Services Committee meeting.

Discussion took place. Chair Marcotte advised she will add this topic to sub-committees.

**R3 – CVRD Climate Action Plan**

Tom Anderson presented the CVRD Climate Action Plan to the Regional Services Committee on March 28, 2012 and they recommended to the Board that the Terms of Reference be forwarded to the Environment, Economic Development and Regional Agricultural Advisory Commissions for comment and support, and further, that the Climate Action Plan be undertaken as a part of the more comprehensive Integrated Regional Sustainability Plan.

The plan will have five to ten year targets. Want to make systems more resilient to climate change. Budget is \$75,000 and will be funded by gas tax dollars. One consultant will be hired for both studies as they are closely linked.

Commission role is to review and provide comments and support back to Tom Anderson within the next month.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS****UB1 – Sub-committees**

Kathy Lachman provided sub-committee participation handouts. Each member has been assigned to a sub-committee with two goals. Plan is to continue the work of previously identified action items from the 2011 sub-committees. Please advise Kathy Lachman if you wish to switch sub-committees. She will be circulating a meeting schedule. You have the ability to ask people with local knowledge to attend meetings. Sub-committee role is to make recommendations to the Commission.

Tom Anderson left the meeting at 12:54 pm.

Discussion took place.

As per tabled Information Item #1 from the March 27, 2012 Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission meeting Director Giles requested Economic Development statistics on farming be distributed to the members.

**NEW BUSINESS****NB1 – EDABC Award**

Kathy Lachman reported that she nominated the Islands Agriculture Show for an Economic Development Association of BC (EDABC) special event award. We will know mid May if the application was successful.

**NB2 – CVRD  
Supplies**

Member discussion took place regarding CVRD coffee supplies and meeting catering. It was decided that it would be appropriate to be supporting local food providers.

**It was moved and seconded that in the spirit of sustainability, the Board approve the establishment of an Island food procurement policy to support local food.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NB3 – AVICC  
Speaker**

Dealt previously following R1.

**NB4 – Vancouver  
Island Natural Gas  
Prices**

Director Hutchins reported the largest pepper greenhouse is using natural gas and being charged rates 3.5 times higher than the mainland rates. The rate structure was to be adjusted three years ago and has not yet happened.

Director Morrison arrived at 1:24 pm.

**It was moved and seconded that the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission request the CVRD Board direct staff to investigate natural gas rates on Vancouver Island and if deemed appropriate commence efforts to establish a competitive rate structure with the Lower Mainland.**

**NOT CARRIED**

Discussion took place.

**It was moved and seconded that sub-committee #2 consider directing CVRD staff to investigate natural gas rates on Vancouver Island, and if deemed appropriate, commence efforts to establish a competitive rate structure with the Lower Mainland.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Director Hutchins left the meeting at 1:31 pm.

**INFORMATION**

**IN1 – Cowichan Wine  
& Culinary Festival**

Geoff Millar reported that representatives from the Cowichan Wine & Culinary Festival Committee have enquired regarding attending as a delegation at an upcoming Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission meeting.

**IN2 – Director  
Iannidinardo**

Chair Marcotte reported Director Iannidinardo has two items to circulate and review for the next meeting.

**IN3 – South  
Cowichan Chamber  
Event**

A member reported the South Cowichan Chamber is hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Culinary Treasure Hunt followed by a Cowichan 25 mile dinner on June 2, 2012. Tickets are \$35. Great opportunity to learn about the farm industry.

**IN4 – 2012 Buy  
Local, Buy Fresh  
Map**

Judy Stafford reported the 2012 Buy Local! Buy Fresh! map is in final production and will be printed end of May. There is still room for one or two more farms.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary