

Minutes of the regular Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission held on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at 12:00 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC.

PRESENT

Director M. Marcotte, Chair
Directors L. Duncan, R. Hartmann, G. Giles and R. Hutchins
Bob Crawford, Mick Smith, Joanne McLeod, Pat Durose, Fred Oud and Peter Keber (Alternate)

ALSO PRESENT

Dan Ferguson (Alternate)
Emily MacNair (Applicant)
Raelynn Gibson, Cowichan Green Community
Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development Cowichan
Kathy Lachman, EDC Business Development Officer
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Ian Christison, Wayne Haddow, Rodger Hunter, Dave Thomson, George Robbins, Judy Stafford and Tom Anderson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

NB1 Tom Anderson, General Manager Planning & Development, regarding Agricultural Adaptation Strategies Project (Applicant: Emily MacNair);

and the order of the agenda be adjusted to move NB1 prior to Reports;

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 May 29, 2012 be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Not applicable.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 – Agricultural Adaptation Strategies Project

In Tom Anderson's absence, Chair Marcotte introduced Emily MacNair, coordinator of the BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative tasked with supporting the BC agriculture sector in addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with adapting to a changing climate and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Emily presented information on the pilot project for this region. Approval is already in place to work in Delta and Peace River. It is critical to bring together agriculture adaptation issues and government. Benefits include opportunities to build and provide for area agricultural plan and strengthen relationships between government and farming community. There is a second pilot project running alongside looking at farm practices.

Discussion took place.

It was moved and seconded that the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission endorses recommendation of the Electoral Area Services Committee to the CVRD Board that consideration is given to participating in the BC Agriculture Council's Agricultural Adaptation Strategies Project.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded that the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission recommends that a strong letter of support be sent to the Minister of Agriculture, Don McRae, requesting significant investment in climate change research and agricultural adaptation strategies.

MOTION CARRIED

Further discussion took place. Geoff Millar arrived at 12:37 pm.

REPORTS

R1 – Sub-committee 1 update

Sub-committee 1 meeting notes were circulated and reviewed by Director Hartmann. Discussion took place. The sub-committee is continuing to look at strategies to educate on the impacts of living near or adjacent to agriculture land.

R2 – Sub-committee 2 update

Sub-committee 2 meeting notes were circulated and reviewed by Dan Ferguson. The sub-committee is developing an Incubator Farm Program. It was suggested to invite Mary Alice Johnson, who runs an apprenticeship program, to the next RAAC meeting to talk about apprenticeship and training for agriculture. Discussion took place. Weaknesses noted include high cost of land, age of farmers and lack of succession plans. Joanne McLeod will circulate information regarding September 2011 Home Plate article on maximum land and minimum estate.

Director Duncan left the meeting. Further discussion took place.

It was moved and seconded that the CVRD lend financial and in-kind support to local agricultural societies to research and develop an inventory of equipment available for lease or loan to emerging farmers, and that this inventory could include a list of potential mentors and to make this information available through the development of a web page and other means.

MOTION CARRIED

R3 – Sub-committee 3 update

Sub-committee 3 meeting notes were circulated and reviewed by Bob Crawford. It was decided to set a date at the next RAAC meeting for a half day workshop to identify issues and inform on the progress of the Area Agriculture Plan in conjunction with the Islands Agriculture Show.

Director Hartmann left the meeting.

R4 – Islands Agriculture Show

Kathy Lachman reported the Islands Agriculture Show steering committee is meeting monthly and finalizing non-profit status. The website has been re-vamped and as they confirm speakers they will be added. New logo has been developed in vertical, horizontal and banner size formats. It will be

incorporated in marketing and the website. Sponsorship packages are complete and have been added to the website. Shari Patterson has been hired as the event coordinator. Show date is February 1-2, 2013 at the Cowichan Exhibition.

Bob Crawford suggested moving the VIP meet and greet to Saturday.

R5 – Cowichan Exhibition

Kathy Lachman reported the RAAC will have a booth at the Cowichan Exhibition on September 7-9, 2012. It will be inside this year away from heat and dust. A sign-up sheet will be circulated for members to volunteer to participate. Economic Development Cowichan will cover the booth fee. Dan Ferguson noted the Cowichan Agriculture Society may have a booth this year and would be interested to be located beside the RAAC booth.

CORRESPONDENCE

Not applicable.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UB1 – ALR Application 1-H-11

Chair Marcotte reported the applicant, Raymond and Robin Smith, notified the CVRD to advise that they no longer wished to proceed with the application and then later advised they would like to go forward with the second residence application. Joanne McLeod, Director Hutchins and Chair Marcotte attended a site visit on June 23, 2012. Discussion took place.

It was moved and seconded that the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission in regards to ALR application 1-H-11 ALR, Raymond and Robin Smith, supports the construction of a second dwelling on the site, but does not support the proposed location of such dwelling on prime agriculture land.

MOTION CARRIED

Pat Durose and Peter Keber left the meeting.

UB2 – Fortis BC

Chair Marcotte obtained member consensus to invite a Fortis BC speaker to the July RAAC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 addressed after business arising from the minutes.

CLOSED SESSION

Not applicable.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary