

Minutes of the regular Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission meeting held on Thursday, September 26, 2013, at 12:00 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC.

PRESENT

Director M. Marcotte, Chair
Directors R. Hartmann and R. Hutchins
Alternate Directors K. Williams and F. Raimondo
Bob Crawford, Judy Stafford, Peter Keber, Mick Smith, Wayne Haddow and Fred Oud

ALSO PRESENT

Rick Juliusson, Cowichan Food Hub
Emily MacNair, BC Agriculture Climate Action Initiative
Samantha Charlton, BC Agriculture Climate Action Initiative
Director I. Morrison
Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning & Development (12:26 pm)
Kathy Lachman, EDC Business Development Officer
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Directors G. Giles and L. Duncan
Ian Christison, Dave Thomson, Rodger Hunter, Marsha Stanley, Joanne McLeod, Pat Durose and Dan Ferguson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be amended with the addition of items:

R5 Regional Services;

R6 Sunfest;

R7 Balme Application;

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 July 23, 2013, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

DELEGATIONS

**D1
Cowichan Food Hub**

Rick Juliusson informed he is facilitating the development of a Cowichan Valley food cooperative that would involve producers, purchasers, educators, government and all those involved in food sustainability in the region. There have been two organizational meetings and they are currently working on a Feasibility Study, which will allow the group to make a decision in mid-October about how to proceed with main goals, structure, timeline and membership.

Looking at cooperative model, contracted by BC Co-op with intention to pilot projects across BC. High interest from small scale farmers.

Looking for assistance with communication and information for temporary cold storage. Director Hartmann suggested Rick attend a North Cowichan Agriculture Committee meeting to inform more farmers and members.

REPORTS

R1 – CFIA

Chair Marcotte reported the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has extended their on-line consultation for the local food labelling initiative to September 27, 2013.

R2 – Cowichan Region Agriculture & Climate Adaptation Strategies

Kathy Lachman circulated a hand-out on the funding status of the Cowichan Adaptation Strategies and introduced Emily MacNair, Project Coordinator for the Climate Action Initiative.

Emily MacNair gave a Power Point presentation highlighting the Cowichan Region Agriculture & Climate Adaptation Strategies and the benefits of moving forward with the projects outlined in the associated Work Plan. Cowichan has been approved for \$250,000 of Growing Forward 2 grant funding for implementation of projects. Funding contributions from other partners is required. Next step is to initiate 5 new projects between now and March 2014.

1. Integrated Farm Water Planning Pilot
2. Collaborative Water Management
3. Agricultural Extension Officer
4. Extreme Event Preparedness
5. Processing and Storage

Kathy Lachman noted in order to move ahead and obtain the benefits of the projects Tom Anderson and Emily MacNair presented to the Regional Services Committee on September 25, 2013. Staff has been directed to find the necessary \$15,000 partnership funding and prepare a Supplemental Budget item for consideration in the 2014 Budget in order to ensure that the projects in the Work Plan move forward in a timely manner.

It was moved and seconded that the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission approves the release of the four RFP's associated with the projects in the Year One plan for the Cowichan Region Agriculture & Climate Adaptation Strategies.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded that the Local Agricultural Processing and Storage funding application to ICE-T for the amount of \$22,000 be endorsed by the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission.

MOTION CARRIED

R3 – Cowichan Exhibition

Kathy Lachman reported there was a lot of interest and questions and it was an opportunity to show off new posters with our brand. Chair Marcotte thanked the members who volunteered with the booth.

R4 – UBCM Convention

Chair Marcotte circulated a report on the disposition of resolutions related to agriculture for information purposes.

R5 – Regional Services

Kathy Lachman reported EDC will be presenting an Agriculture update to the Regional Services Committee on October 23, 2013. Will be highlighting accomplishments and where we want to go in 2014 which will provide background for three 2014 Supplemental Budget items. Commission members are welcome to attend and provide support.

Supplemental 1 – Update Cowichan Region Area Agricultural Plan
Supplemental 2 – Buy Local Program
Supplemental 3 – Feasibility Study for Incubator Farm Program

Discussion took place regarding ideas for Chair Marcotte to bring forward to the Communications Committee.

Fred Oud reported Island Savings and the Duncan Cowichan Chamber of Commerce are having a presentation on Branding & Spending in the Ten Percent Shift on October 8, 2013, 7:30 to 9am at the Duncan Travelodge. Admission is free. RSVP required. Information will be circulated.

R6 – Sunfest

Fred Oud thanked the Commission and Directors for their letters of support. The ALC has seen a benefit for Agriculture and approved Sunfest for 5 years. Sunfest has donated \$20,000 to the Cowichan Exhibition for land improvements.

R7 – Balme Application

Fred Oud commented on the Balme application decision for information purposes.

1:17 PM

Judy Stafford left the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

C1 – ALC Letter

Received and filed letter from the Agricultural Land Commission dated August 1, 2013.

C2 – District of West Kelowna AAC Letter

It was moved and seconded to receive and file letter from the District of West Kelowna Agriculture Advisory Committee dated July 9, 2013.

MOTION CARRIED

C3 – CAS Letter

It was moved and seconded to receive and file letter from the Cowichan Agricultural Society.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary