

Minutes of the regular meeting of the AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE held at the CVRD Boardroom, March 22, 2011 at 12:00 pm.

PRESENT: Chair M. Marcotte
Director G. Giles
Director G. Seymour
Director L. Iannidinaro
Peter Keber
Rodger Hunter
Joanne McLeod
Ian Christison
Dan Ferguson
George Robbins
Wayne Haddow
John Milne

ALSO PRESENT: Director M. Dorey
Director I. Morrison
Pat Durose, Farm Credit Canada
Mick Smith, Duncan Farmer's Market

STAFF: Tom Anderson, GM, Planning & Development
Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development
Kathy Lachman, Business Development Officer
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Director L. Duncan
Marsha Stanley
George Baird

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Three addenda were added to Business Arising and one addendum was added to New Business.

It was moved and seconded the agenda be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded the February 25, 2011 Regular AAC meeting minutes be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

BA1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The AAC Terms of Reference were distributed for review at the February 25, 2011 meeting to all members. The Chair opened the floor to questions. There were none.

**BA2
AAC MEETING
SCHEDULE**

The Chair reported the member consensus is for a monthly meeting the fourth Tuesday of each month. Please RSVP for lunch or advise if not attending.

**BA3
MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE
DISCUSSION PAPER**

The Chair opened the floor for comments. It was noted the members did not receive a copy of the Discussion paper. Geoff Millar will circulate to all members before the end of the meeting.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

**UB1
PROPOSED AVICC
RESOLUTION**

All members read the background material circulated at the AAC February 25, 2011 meeting.

Director M. Dorey discussed background information that he has collected. Farmland is expensive and there is a perception that in future it will be subdivided based on supply and demand and become unmanageable for purchase as farmland. AVICC proposed resolution is only for farmland in the ALR. If you do not farm the land there would be a premium level of taxation to discourage subdivision. This is one way to improve farming. The resolution has been vetted by many Agricultural professionals who thought it was a good idea.

The following member responses were noted:

- Creating this initiative provides opportunity to create more subdivision.
Director M. Dorey: Under the proposal there is a penalty which will reduce the number of buyers.
- ALR application process goes to EASC to deny/make recommendation. If denied does not go to ALR commission.
- Breaking ALR into 5 acres chunks is erosion. There are other models; apprenticeship programs and mentorships. Who would get the tax?
- Tax penalty is not enough of a deterrent. Covenants and promises work.
- Price of land acts as Farmer's pension.
- Moving in the right direction bringing this forward but needs to be reviewed more thoroughly.
- Identified an issue that is critical. Suggestion to put together working groups to discuss in broader terms. Want to support new entrance farmers.
- Channel change through Assessment Authority and Federal Agriculture rules.
- New provincial appointees:
Minister of Agriculture – Don McRae
Ministerial Assistant – Don Smukowich
Ministerial Assistant – R.J. Senko

- Lease land to gain experience and apply for loans through equipment loan bank, farm bank and mentorship.
- BC has the lowest number of new entrant farmers.
- Proposal is timely and fits with DNC objectives.
- There are very good initiatives on the island to set up for apprenticeships.

It was moved and seconded the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends the CVRD Board not endorse the proposed AVICC resolution.

CARRIED

Opposed: Director M. Dorey

It was moved and seconded that the AAC Chair form a working group of committee members to explore avenues of assisting new farmers to enter into the agricultural industry.

CARRIED

It was moved, but not seconded, that a moratorium be established to prevent any exclusions or further subdivisions of ALR land.

A referral motion was moved and seconded that the intent of the previous motion be referred to staff for additional information on the number and scope of subdivision and exclusion applications.

MOTION CARRIED

**UB2
AREA AGRICULTURE
PLAN & ACTION
ITEMS**

Kathy Lachman collected seven member responses for the top five action items. The information was collated and distributed to members.

The Chair asked the members to comment on how they wished to move forward with this information. Discussion took place and the members agreed on the following:

- Form working groups (based on skill sets) and settle on 6 goals/themes. One person will take notes and one person will report back to Committee. Each group will make a recommendation.
- Working groups can invite outside sources to move things along.

Rodger Hunter will request Mrs. Hunter put together an illustrated logic model based on the Plan to spell out themes. Rodger will forward onto Kathy Lachman to circulate to members to formulate actions.

Committee members homework is to review and establish 6 goals/themes for the next meeting on April 26, 2011.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1
SUGGESTIONS FOR
NEXT STEPS

Director G. Giles reported that Director L. Duncan brought forward the comment that the AAC exists at the pleasure of the Chair. The Environment and Economic Development Commissions are formed by By-Law. A small discussion took place. To establish permanence of this Committee the following motion was made.

It was moved and seconded that the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommend to the CVRD Board that the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be established by By-Law as a permanent Commission of the CVRD.

MOTION CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION

Not applicable.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 pm.

Certified Correct:

Chairperson

Secretary

Dated: _____