

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee held on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 12:00 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

PRESENT: Chair M. Marcotte
Director G. Giles
Director L. Iannidinaro
Mick Smith
Wayne Haddow
Peter Keber
Rodger Hunter
Joanne McLeod

ALSO

PRESENT: Kathy Lachman, Business Development Officer
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Director G. Seymour, Director L. Duncan, Ian Christison, Dan Ferguson, George Robbins, Pat Durose, Tom Anderson, Geoff Millar, George Baird, Marsha Stanley

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

One item was added to Business Arising; one item was added to Reports and three items were added to New Business.

It was moved and seconded the amended agenda be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was noted the September 13, 2011 AAC minutes did not list motions on all the action items that came forward under R1 Subcommittee Reports Goals 1-6. Kathy Lachman distributed a handout of action items discussed and recommendations made at the September 13, 2011 AAC meeting.

It was moved and seconded to approve the recommendations brought forward by Kathy Lachman and amend the September 13, 2011 AAC meeting minutes to reflect these changes.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded to adopt the amended AAC meeting minutes of September 13, 2011.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

BA1 STAGGERING

Under Bylaw No. 3515 the term of office for Commission members shall be three years and terms shall be staggered.

**REGIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
ADVISORY
COMMISSION TERMS**

After discussion it was decided to send an email to each of the AAC members to decide the length of term that works best for them pending their time commitments.

**BA2
AAC
RECOMMENDATION
TO THE BOARD**

The Chair reported on September 14, 2011 the CVRD Board approved the AAC recommendation from the September 13, 2011 AAC meeting as follows:

“that when OCP’s and Zoning Bylaws come up for review they be referred to the Agriculture Advisory Committee for review and comment on policies and issues related to agriculture.”

**BA3
INVITATION TO TED
VAN DER GULIK**

Kathy Lachman reported that Geoff Millar has corresponded with Ted van der Gulik and he is not available in the month of November. There is no December meeting scheduled as commission appointments will occur in January 2012 after the new Board is assembled.

**BA3.1
WATER
CONSERVATION**

Rodger Hunter reported the Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) has some funding for Ted van der Gulik to put on community workshops on water conservation and irrigation management and possibly land use and inventory. In speaking with a local farmer November / December is the best timeframe. Ted is available December 5 and 7, 2011. The question was raised would the AAC be willing to partner with the CWB and Environment Commission to split the hosting costs.

Discussion ensued.

It was moved and seconded that the AAC will partner with the Environment Commission and the Cowichan Watershed Board to host up to 2 workshops facilitated by Ted van der Gulik in December 2011.

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

**C1
JOHN MILNE
RESIGNATION**

John Milne submitted his written resignation on September 30, 2011. He is moving to Calgary to look for employment.

It was moved and seconded to send a thank you letter to John Milne for his involvement as a member of the AAC.

MOTION CARRIED

**C2
JOINT AAC & ALC
MEETING**

Chair Marcotte received a memo dated September 28, 2011 from Kathy Lachman outlining the notes from the September 23, 2011 joint meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC).

Discussion ensued regarding history, resources and abilities of the ALR.

It was moved and seconded to send a letter of invitation to the Agriculture Minister Don McRae to meet with the AAC in early 2012 and discuss farm issues affecting the Cowichan Region. Letter to be copied to the office of the Premier, Honourable Christy Clark.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

R1 SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Kathy Lachman handed out a Subcommittee Report dated July 19, 2011 regarding the Agriculture Land Bank. The action item and recommendation were discussed in depth.

It was moved and seconded that the subcommittee explore the feasibility of policy opportunities including leasing that are supportive of entry level farmers into farming.

MOTION CARRIED

R2 UBCM RESOLUTIONS

Chair Marcotte reported that she attended the 2011 UBCM Convention held in Vancouver on September 26 to 30, 2011. All the UBCM resolutions were passed. She toured a mushroom farm and turkey farm.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Chair reported the work done by the AAC has financial implications. Under the 2012 Economic Development budget Geoff Millar will be requesting a total of \$30,000 in support of the following supplemental items:

- i) Cowichan Region Agricultural Plan Implementation \$20,000
- ii) Agriculture Land Use Inventory Project \$10,000

NB2 REGIONAL SERVICES PRESENTATION

The Chair reported on October 26, 2011 she will be giving an update on the AAC to the Regional Services Committee. All AAC members are requested to attend and provide support.

NB3 AAC COMMUNICATION

Kathy Lachman reported the public perception is that there is a lack of understanding regarding the work the AAC is doing. Some action items have yet to be funded and cannot be confirmed publicly. Consideration could be given to add more to the budget to allow for communication.

Discussion ensued. It was noted that the CVRD is doing a review of their communications.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be November 22, 2011.

The Chair reminded members if you cannot attend to advise your alternates. Please also RSVP if you are unable to attend as the lunch is catered for each member.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm.

Certified Correct:

Chairperson

Secretary

Dated: