

Minutes of the Regular Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission held on Tuesday, May 29, 2012 at 12:00 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC.

**PRESENT**

Director M. Marcotte, Chair  
Directors L. Duncan and R. Hartmann  
Mick Smith, Joanne McLeod, Wayne Haddow, Dave Thomson, Fred Oud, George Robbins, Judy Stafford, and Dan Ferguson (Alternate)

**ALSO PRESENT**

Pete Keber (Alternate)  
Rosalie Power, Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute  
Lyn Jakimchuk, Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute  
Raymond Smith, Applicant  
Alison Garnett, Planner 1, Planning & Development  
Mike Tippet, Manager, Community and Regional Planning  
Director L. Iannidinardo  
Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning & Development  
Kathy Lachman, EDC Business Development Officer  
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

**ABSENT**

Directors G. Giles and R. Hutchins, Bob Crawford, Ian Christison, Pat Durose, Rodger Hunter and Geoff Millar

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**It was moved and seconded that the agenda be amended with the addition of one new business item as follows:**

**NB1 DNC Agriculture Committee update;**

**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 April 24, 2012 be adopted.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**BA1 – Vancouver Island Natural Gas Prices**

Wayne Haddow enquired how the study on natural gas prices was proceeding. Chair Marcotte reported it was left with the AVICC to work on and she will follow up at the next meeting.

Discussion took place. The Chair will look into inviting Nancy Myers, Energy Solutions Manager of Fortis BC, to a future RAAC meeting.

**DELEGATIONS**

**D1 – Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute**

Rosalie Power and Lyn Jakimchuk, volunteers from the Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute & Agriculture Society made a presentation regarding funding to resurrect the youth agriculture education program. Their mission is to educate young people in the Cowichan region about agriculture, growing your own food using sustainable practices, and to promote farming as a business and future

career. They are interested to partner with the CVRD in order to be able to provide written materials, printed matter and other financial support for educational purposes. Propose coloring/activity books for elementary students, kindergarten to grade 6.

Recognize they share a vision with the RAAC in that both have an interest in food self-sufficiency or food security in the region and environmental farm planning with regard to composting and sustainable practices. So far, they have received one grant from Island Savings Credit Union G.I.F.T. program. This funding will assist with the seed program that will be offered to both Evergreen Independent School in Cobble Hill and Discovery School in Shawnigan Lake.

Discussion took place.

Kathy Lachman noted a coloring station would fit well with the 2013 Islands Agriculture Show (IAS). The IAS and RAAC budgets will be reviewed and the Commission will contact the delegates.

Both delegates left the meeting.

## REPORTS

### R1 – ALR Application 1-H-11

Additional photos were distributed to the members. Tom Anderson provided an overview of the application. The applicant, Mr. Ray Smith, spoke to the Commission providing background information to support his application. The Chair asked the members to consider how this application reflects with the goals and actions of the Area Agriculture Plan. The Commission will be making a recommendation back to the Electoral Area Services Committee and Board.

Discussion took place.

**It was moved and seconded that EDC staff set up a site visit for RAAC members and Application 1-H-11 ALR be referred to the next RAAC meeting proceeding the site visit.**

## MOTION CARRIED

It was noted the following members do not wish to participate in a site visit; Mick Smith, Judy Stafford and Dave Thomson.

### R2 – Air Quality in Cowichan

Director Iannidinardo circulated rack cards on outdoor burning from the Engineering Department. In conjunction with the power point presentation that was emailed to members prior to the meeting, entitled *Air Quality in Cowichan*, data was shared regarding health problems and negative impact on attraction to the region. There are options available including the woodstove change out program.

The Chair noted this may generate some discussion at the sub-committee level.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### C1 – Electoral Area E Bylaw Referral

Alison Garnett, Planner 1, Planning and Development Department, reviewed Electoral Area E Bylaw amendments referred by Area Director Duncan.

Discussion took place. Director Hartmann left the meeting.

Discussion ensued. The Chair noted this is for information purposes only.

Tom Anderson and Alison Garnett left the meeting.

**C2 – South  
Cowichan Bylaw  
Referral**

Mike Tippet, Manager, Community and Regional Planning reviewed South Cowichan zoning Bylaw No. 3520 and South Cowichan Official Community Plan amendment Bylaw No. 3604 which covers three communities. Discussion took place regarding zoning uses with respect to agriculture.

Dan Ferguson raised the point that an Agrologist is an expensive cost to incur for young emerging farmers. Kathy Lachman requested wineries be included in farm use. Mike Tippet noted these comments.

Discussion ensued. The Chair requested member comments be emailed to Kathy Lachman and she will consolidate and submit to Mike Tippet. Full copy of draft bylaws and maps are available on the CVRD website.

Director Duncan left the meeting.

Further discussion ensued. Mike Tippet left the meeting.

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS**

**UB1 – Sub-  
Committees**

Kathy Lachman reported the sub-committee meeting schedule has been confirmed and meetings will be starting next week. All meetings will be held at 135 Third Street. The Chair will endeavor to attend all of these meetings.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NB1 – DNC  
Agriculture  
Committee**

In the absence of Director Hartmann, Wayne Hadow gave an update on the DNC Agriculture Committee. They have reviewed the Area Agriculture Plan and determined not as a general rule to review agriculture applications.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 pm.

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Chair

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Recording Secretary