



REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2012
CVRD BOARDROOM, 12:00 PM
175 INGRAM STREET, DUNCAN, BC

AGENDA

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	R1 Ann Kjerulf, Senior Planner, Community & Regional Planning, referral letter dated October 1, 2012 regarding Proposed Electoral Area D – Cowichan Bay Official Community Plan (draft OCP available on CVRD website)	7
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	R3 Kathy Lachman, EDC Business Development Officer, regarding 2013 Islands Agriculture Show	verbal
5.	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
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7.	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
8.	<u>CLOSED SESSION</u>	
	Motion that the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the Community Charter Part 4, Division 3, Section 90(1), subsections as noted in accordance with each agenda item.	
9.	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

NOTE: A copy of the full agenda package is available at the CVRD website www.cvrld.bc.ca

Director Marcotte, Chair
Director Hartmann, Vice Chair
Director Duncan
Director Giles

Director Hutchins
Bob Crawford
Mick Smith
Joanne McLeod

Ian Christison
Pat Durose
Wayne Haddow
Rodger Hunter

Dave Thomson
Fred Oud
George Robbins
Judy Stafford

DISTRIBUTION:

Full Agenda Package:

PETER KEBER, ALTERNATE, ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
DAN FERGUSON, ALTERNATE, COWICHAN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
WARREN JONES, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
TOM ANDERSON, GENERAL MANAGER, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
GEOFF MILLAR, MANAGER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
KATHY LACHMAN, EDC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Agenda:

DIRECTOR KENT	DIRECTOR FRASER
DIRECTOR LEFEBURE	DIRECTOR IANNIDINARDO
DIRECTOR LINES	DIRECTOR MORRISON
DIRECTOR MCGONIGLE	DIRECTOR DOREY
DIRECTOR WALKER	DIRECTOR WEAVER

MARK KUEBER, GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE SERVICES
ROB KLINE, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & LANDS

Minutes of the regular Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission held on Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 12:00 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC.

PRESENT

Director M. Marcotte, Chair
Directors L. Duncan, G. Giles and R. Hutchins
Bob Crawford, Mick Smith, Pat Durose, Wayne Haddow, Rodger Hunter, George Robbins and Judy Stafford

ALSO PRESENT

Carol Greaves, Community Relations Manager, FortisBC
Dennis Light, Key Account Manager, FortisBC
Peter Keber (Alternate)
Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning & Development (arrived 1:15pm)
Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development Cowichan
Kathy Lachman, EDC Business Development Officer
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Director R. Hartmann, Ian Christison, Joanne McLeod, Dave Thomson, Fred Oud and Dan Ferguson (Alternate)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

NB1 Judy Stafford regarding Cowichan Green Community activities update;

NB2 Rodger Hart regarding Agri-Arts;

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 June 26, 2012 be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

BA1 – Agricultural Adaptation Strategies

Kathy Lachman reported the Climate Action Initiative Committee met on September 6, 2012 and there was a high level of engagement and great ideas generated. Chair Marcotte encouraged members to attend if they have the opportunity.

BA2 – RAAC motion to Board

Kathy Lachman reported at the July 11, 2012 Board meeting the RAAC recommendation was amended to request *“that staff report on the feasibility of the CVRD lending financial and in-kind support to the 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.”*

It was moved and seconded to refer the amended RAAC recommendation by the Board on July 11, 2012, CR7, 12-345, back to subcommittee #2.

MOTION CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

D1 – FortisBC

Carol Greaves, Community Relations Manager, FortisBC presented a power point on FortisBC Common Rates and Amalgamation. FortisBC is currently comprised of three companies which each set their own rates. They have applied to the BC Utilities Commission for common rates and amalgamation. This proposes common rates and services across the province and would eliminate current rate discrepancies. If approved, Vancouver Island would see a 25% decrease in rates in January 2014. There is some resistance to the application due to the imposing 5.3% increase in rates on the lower mainland. The original application was suspended with requirement for more public consultation which has now been met and the application re-submitted.

Timing of application is due to infrastructure now being in place and significant financial obligations recently being met. Some residual costs are remaining. FortisBC is now in a position for consistent rates. Very hopeful the application will be approved. Last poll reported was 92% in support and 8% opposed.

Questions and discussion.

Dennis Light, Key Account Manager, FortisBC presented a power point on Agriculture and Natural Gas. They are billing a million gas customers a month, 102,000 on Vancouver Island and 583,000 on lower mainland. BC Agriculture (greenhouses, mushroom growers, animal producers, aquaculture and agriculture related products) is largest consumer then food processing. CVRD consumes 0.004% versus BC overall. CVRD consumes 0.02% in large scale agriculture and food processing industry sector. Lower mainland has economy of scale and growth creates sustainability. CVRD rural gas serviceability is dependent on gas main extension feasibility; size of agricultural operation and distance between potential gas loads. Energy efficiency and conservation incentives include efficient commercial water heater program and organic naturally generated gas; projects include; anaerobic digestion, landfill gas and co-generation.

Questions and discussion.

Director Hutchins left meeting at 1:25 pm.

Peter Keber, Carol Greaves and Dennis Light left the meeting at 1:33 pm.

REPORTS

**R1 – Subcommittee
#1 Land Use
Mitigation**

Kathy Lachman reviewed the report. Discussion took place. Members agreed the brochure is a practical solution, very useful and can be put on the website to inform.

Director Giles left meeting at 1:42 pm.

**R2 – Subcommittee
#2 Land Lease
Website**

Kathy Lachman reviewed the report. There were no questions regarding action item.

R3 – Subcommittee #3 Consumer Awareness Kathy Lachman reviewed the report. Correction was noted to action item #2 IAF refers to IFA, Island Farmers Alliance. Judy Stafford will follow up with the IFA.

R4 – Subcommittee #3 Islands Agriculture Show Kathy Lachman reviewed report and discussed option to have three concurrent session streams, two paid and one free, and incorporate the presentations into the Islands Agriculture Show and take up one of the sessions. This may provide more buy in and attendance. Discussion took place.

It was moved and seconded to adjust subcommittee #3 recommendation regarding the Islands Agriculture Show to plan an information session as part of the 2013 Islands Agriculture Show and invite other agricultural organizations to participate with a session.

MOTION CARRIED

Kathy Lachman reported the budget is available to support 2012 subcommittee action items. Next steps were discussed.

R5 – Subcommittee #3 Farmer's Market Kathy Lachman reported at the June 13, 2012 subcommittee #3 meeting it was noted that farmer's markets are splintering. Mick Smith reported at the last Duncan Farmer's Market meeting he was asked to form a loose committee for advertising.

CORRESPONDENCE Not applicable.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS Not applicable.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 – Cowichan Green Community Judy Stafford reported that as a result of the subcommittee's meeting regarding the Farm Start Program, Cowichan Green Community (CGC) was successful in acquiring a Provincial Grant to complete a Cowichan Region Farm Marketing Report. CGC is also working with North Cowichan to acquire some land to start an Incubator Farm Program. As well, they will be completing a Youth Urban Farm Demonstration Project at Kinsmen Park with support from a Federal Grant.

To support these projects, CGC is relocating to a larger space at the Phoenix Centre on October 1, 2012.

Tom Anderson left meeting at 2:06 pm.

NB2 – Agri-Arts Rodger Hunter reported he is working on a mapping project which includes a cultural inventory broken out by area. They are including a category called Agri-Arts including farm gate, wineries and specialty foods because agriculture is such a big part of culture in the Cowichan Region.

CLOSED SESSION Not applicable.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary



R1

October 1, 2012

CVRD Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission
135 Third Street
DUNCAN BC V9L 1R9

Attention: Director Mary Marcotte, Chair

Dear Director Marcotte:

Re: Proposed Electoral Area D – Cowichan Bay Official Community Plan (OCP)

Please accept this letter as a formal referral of the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) proposed Electoral Area D – Cowichan Bay Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 3605. The proposed Official Community Plan affects lands and water surfaces within Electoral Area D – Cowichan Bay and is intended to provide a policy and planning framework to guide growth and development for approximately ten years following adoption of the OCP.

CVRD Planning & Development staff and the OCP Steering Committee are currently undertaking consultation with affected agencies and other stakeholders. We are particularly interested in obtaining feedback from the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission concerning the proposed agricultural policies within the Plan.

The draft OCP is available on the CVRD website at <http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/index.aspx?nid=1476>. The commission members will likely be particularly interested in the following elements of the draft OCP:

- Schedule A – Main OCP Document
- Section 4.2 Agricultural Resource Designation
- Section 7.4 Agricultural Economy; and
- Agricultural Protection Development Permit Area (Guidelines)
- Schedule B: Land Use Designations Map
- Schedule D4: Agricultural Protection Development Permit Area Map

Planning & Development staff will attend the meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission on Tuesday, October 23rd and would appreciate receiving comments concerning the draft OCP at that time.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at 250-746-2629 or email at akjerulf@cvrd.bc.ca.

Yours truly,


Ann Kjerulf, MCIP, RPP, Senior Planner
Community & Regional Planning Division
Planning & Development Department

AK/lag

pc: Judy Mills, Executive Assistant, Economic Development Cowichan, File: 6480-20-D/2010

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