



C·V·R·D

REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2013
CVRD BOARDROOM, 12:00 PM
175 INGRAM STREET, DUNCAN, BC

AGENDA

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	R1 Carol Taiji from Taiji Brand Group regarding branding action items from subcommittee #3	verbal
	R2 Director Giles regarding alternate for Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute	verbal
	R3 Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development regarding 2013 Islands Agriculture Show	verbal
	R4 Chair Marcotte regarding Climate Action Initiative Committee	verbal
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9.	<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.	
10.	<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 Hutchins	Ian Christison	Dave Thomson
Director Hartmann, Vice Chair	Bob Crawford	Pat Durose	Fred Oud
Director Duncan	Mick Smith	Wayne Haddow	Marsha Stanley
Director Giles	Joanne McLeod	Rodger Hunter	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

Minutes of the regular Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission held on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at 12:00 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC.

PRESENT

Director M. Marcotte, Chair
Director R. Hartmann
Bob Crawford, Mick Smith, Wayne Haddow, George Robbins, Fred Oud and Judy Stafford

ALSO PRESENT

Ann Kjerulf, Senior Planner, Community & Regional Planning
Directors L. Iannidinardo and I. Morrison
Kathy Lachman, EDC Business Development Officer
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Directors L. Duncan, G. Giles, R. Hutchins, Ian Christison, Joanne McLeod, Pat Durose, Rodger Hunter, Dave Thomson, Peter Keber (Alternate) and Dan Ferguson (Alternate), Tom Anderson and Geoff Millar

ADJOURNMENT

After fifteen minutes, no quorum was present, therefore, at 12:15 pm the Commission stood adjourned as per Bylaw No. 3515, 5 (c) a quorum is nine members, one of whom must be a Director of the Board.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Request to Appear as a Delegation

Meeting Information

Request to Address:

CVRD Board

Committee

If Committee, specify the Committee here:

Regional Agriculture Advisory Com

Meeting Date: 01/22/2013

Meeting Time: 8:30 a.m.

Applicant Information

Applicant Name: Tom Barnes

Representing: Cascadia Energy Ltd

(Name of organization if applicable)

As: Manager, Vancouver Island

(Capacity / Office)

Number Attending: 1

Applicant Contact Information

Applicant Mailing Address: 311-1095 McKenzie Ave

Applicant City: Victoria, BC

Applicant Telephone: 250-704-4443

Applicant Fax: 250-704-4440

Applicant Email: tom@cascadiaenergy.ca

Presentation Topic and Nature of Request:

I will be providing a brief overview of the natural gas delivery system in BC. along with explaining the forthcoming changes to Vancouver Island with respect to lower rates for consumers and the options that exist in conjunction with those changes to purchase gas supply.

D2

Request to Appear as a Delegation

Meeting Information

Request to Address:

CVRD Board

Committee

If Committee, specify the Committee here:

Regional Agricultural Advisory Com

Meeting Date: 01/22/2013

Meeting Time: Noon

Applicant Information

Applicant Name: Rick Pipes

Representing: _____

(Name of organization if applicable)

As: _____

(Capacity / Office)

Number Attending: 1

Applicant Contact Information

Applicant Mailing Address: Box 358-1230 Merridale Rd

Applicant City: Cobble Hill

Applicant Telephone: 250.920.9431

Applicant Fax: 250.743.9310

Applicant Email: rick@merridalecider.com

Presentation Topic and Nature of Request:

Seeking a revision to the CVRD bylaws to encourage investment and development of farm stays on Agriculture land wich is consistant with ALR regulations.

FARM STAYS IN THE COWICHAN VALLEY

There is a shortage of places to stay in the Cowichan Valley. As the number of visitors to the Valley over the last ten years has increased annually, we have not seen a matching increase in the number of available rooms. Clearly, we have not reached the critical mass necessary to generate the significant investment needed for new hotels. In fact, one of the larger hotels in the Valley remains for sale by a receiver.

While travelling through Tuscany and Provence we noticed the prevalence of farm stays available. Converted stables, old barns and new construction were all to be found and enjoyed in the rural areas. Why not in the Cowichan?

A few years ago (more than 5, I believe) the ALR rules were changed to permit accommodation on farm land. There are a number of restrictions and controls, but the framework for local governments to pass zoning bylaws encouraging farm stays, is now in place.

In recent visits to the Okanagan, Janet and I have been lucky enough to stay at a few wineries. The Okanagan has made the necessary changes to encourage and permit farm stays.

Below is an excerpt from the Central Okanagan zoning bylaws:

3.24 Agri Tourist Accommodation

Agri tourist accommodation is subject to the following regulations:

- 1. Agri tourist accommodation shall be an accessory use.*
- 2. No more than 10 guest rooms are permitted on parcels 3.8 ha (9.4 acres) or larger.*
- 3. No more than 4 guest rooms are permitted on parcels smaller than 3.8 ha (9.4 acres).*

[Note: Agricultural Land Commission approval is required for agri tourist accommodation with more than 10 guest rooms on lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve.] Applications can be obtained from the Regional District Development Services Department.

- 4. No guest room in the agri tourist accommodation shall have an area of more than 30 m² (323 sq. ft.); a separate or ensuite washroom are not included as part of the area of the guest room.*

- 5. One parking space per guest room is required in addition to those required for the principal dwelling.*

BED AND BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION means a use within a single detached dwelling that provides temporary lodging for tourists and visitors where guest rooms are rented for rental periods of less than one month.

GUEST ROOM means a sleeping room that does not include a kitchen, used or maintained for the accommodation of an individual or individuals to whom hospitality is extended for rental periods of less than one month.

While this is not necessarily the way a bylaw would be drafted to best suit the needs and concerns of the Valley, it is a starting point for discussion. There are a number of variables and restrictions that can be put in place to address neighbourhood concerns while still making it viable for investment and useful for the consumer. Such things as restricting the number of units per acre, the size of units, or number of buildings are all open for discussion.

I believe visitors to our area are ready for farm stays and would love to talk about how to make it happen. It is an excellent opportunity to stimulate investment, jobs and tourism revenues. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss these ideas. Thank you. Rick Pipes, Merridale Ciderworks Corporation.

250.743.4293 rick@merridalecider.com

Island Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop
Beban Hall at Beban Park, Nanaimo
February 6th, 2013
9:00am to 4:00pm

Draft Agenda

- 9:00am- Welcoming Address
- Master of Ceremonies
- 9:30am- AAC Tools for Strengthening Farming, a presentation on AAC mandates and tools for influencing change
- Ministry of Agriculture Staff
- 10:00am- Innovative AAC Approaches, AAC representatives discuss their AAC's mandate and their successes
- Chaired by Ministry of Agriculture Staff
- 10:30am- Coffee Break
- 11:00am- Elected Official Panel, elected officials from various local governments discuss their experiences interacting with AACs
- Chaired by Ministry of Agriculture Staff
- 12:00- Lunch
- 1:00pm- AACs and the Agricultural Land Commission, a presentation on how AACs and the ALC can work together to strengthen farming
- ALC Staff
- 2:00pm- Coffee Break
- 2:30pm- Agricultural Land Use on the Island, a presentation on the status of Island agricultural land using Ministry of Agriculture data
- Ministry of Agriculture Staff
- 3:30pm- Lessons Learned, a discussion on the tools attendees will be bringing back to their AACs
- Master of Ceremonies
- 4:00pm- Closing Address
- Ministry of Agriculture Staff