

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at 12:02 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, Pat Durose<to 12:55 pm>, Wayne Haddow, Joanne McLeod, Mick Smith, and Marsha Stanley

**ALSO
PRESENT:** Director I. Morrison
Peter Keber, Alternate, Environment Commission
Dan Ferguson, Alternate, Cowichan Agricultural Society
Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning & Development
Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development
Dominique Beesley, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Director R. Hartmann; and Ian Christison, Rodger Hunter, Dave Thomson, Fred Oud, and Judy Stafford

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION OF
MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission held on February 26, 2013, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

**DELEGATION
D1**

Emily MacNair, BC Agriculture Climate Action Initiative, provided a presentation on an overview of the Cowichan Adaptation Strategies Project including its potential implementation.

NEW BUSINESS

Activities on Cowichan Exhibition Lands

Wayne Haddow said that he wanted to make the Commission aware of a situation associated with the Cowichan Exhibition in which the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) has challenged what is allowable under its agricultural activities.

Mr. Haddow said he was wondering whether or not this Commission should prepare a letter in support of the Cowichan Exhibition and its related activities.

Responding to questions from members of the Commission regarding what was challenging, Mr. Haddow explained that the Commission had received complaints stemming from non-

agricultural use activities that, he said, resulted from a week-long summer music festival. He noted that the same festival is scheduled to happen again.

Director Giles said that she was made aware of the same complaints to the ALC with regards to the Sunfest Country Music Festival and that there was a potential of fines being incurred.

Director Giles said that she would like to see a letter of support from the CVRD's Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission and the Economic Development Commission in that, in her view she said, Sunfest was a large revenue generator for agriculture.

Dan Ferguson said that he would like further clarification on this issue before the Commission ignores any stand that the ALC has and sends it a letter.

The Manager, Economic Development said that he had spoken extensively with staff at the Cowichan Exhibition Society.

Apparently, said Mr. Millar, the ALC's compliance officer came to Sunfest last year, on its first day, walked in and shut down the gate and entrances to the Festival.

Mr. Millar said that the officer then spoke with Sunfest's organizer to relay a complaint from a residential neighbour.

Mr. Millar noted that he had submitted a letter, on February 20, 2013, to the Society regarding supporting an application to host Sunfest and, he said, if this Commission decided to write a letter to the ALC he suggested that it contain statistics on the economic impacts past Sunfest Festivals have brought to the Region.

Members of the Committee, including Mick Smith who said that he owns a farm 100 yards away, discussed possible bylaw enforcement issues resulting from holding Sunfest and what zoning uses would be expected for Cowichan Exhibition lands.

Therefore, it was the consensus of the Commission that further factual information, and/or discussion, on Cowichan Exhibition Society lands zoning uses be obtained from The Municipality of North Cowichan's Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Agricultural Land Commission and the Cowichan Exhibition Society prior to the Board Chair writing a letter.

12:55 PM

Pat Durose left the meeting at 12:55 pm.

Director Giles gave notice of motion that she would be bringing forward the following resolution at the meeting scheduled for April 23, 2013:

**NOTICE OF MOTION
NM1**

"That the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission recommends to the Board that a letter of support be sent to the Agricultural Land Commission for the Cowichan Exhibition Society's Sunfest Country Music Festival event."

Director Marcotte (Chair) noted that Director Hutchins would be obtaining information on the Cowichan Exhibition Society's lands and that she would be speaking with the ALC, with Mr. Anderson's direction on this, and that their findings would be reported back.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:19 pm.

Certified Correct:

Chairperson

Secretary

Dated: