



C·V·R·D

REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2013
CVRD BOARDROOM, 12:00 PM
175 INGRAM STREET, DUNCAN, BC

AGENDA

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R6 Chair Marcotte regarding booth at Sunfest	verbal
R7 Judy Stafford regarding CFIA new definition of local food	verbal
6. <u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
7. <u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</u>	
8. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
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 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
Marsha Stanley
Judy Stafford

DISTRIBUTION:

Full Agenda Package:

PETER KEBER, ALTERNATE, ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
DAN FERGUSON, ALTERNATE, COWICHAN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
GEORGE BAIRD, ALTERNATE, SHAWNIGAN COBBLE HILL FARMER'S INSTITUTE
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 meeting held on Tuesday, May 28, 2013, at 12:00 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC.

PRESENT

Director Marcotte, Chair
Directors G. Giles, L. Duncan, R. Hutchins and R. Hartmann
Joanne McLeod, Bob Crawford, Judy Stafford, Mick Smith, Wayne Haddow, Marsha Stanley, Rodger Hunter and Fred Oud

ALSO PRESENT

Jon Lefebure, Mayor North Cowichan
Janice Weninger, Farm Appraiser, BC Assessment Authority
Julia Schlieman, Farm Appraiser, BC Assessment Authority
Alternate Peter Keber
Director I. Morrison
Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning & Development
Kathy Lachman, EDC Business Development Officer
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Ian Christison, Dave Thomson and Pat Durose

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be amended with the addition of items:

D2 Mayor Jon Lefebure regarding proposed RCMP site;

C1 Ministry of Agriculture letters

and that Delegation 2 be prior to Delegation 1;

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 23, 2013, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Not applicable.

DELEGATIONS

D2 – Proposed RCMP Site

North Cowichan Mayor Jon Lefebure gave a power point presentation on the proposed RCMP site which included history on the dike alignment and exclusion and inclusion applications submitted to the Agricultural Land Commission.

Mayor Jon Lefebure left the meeting.

D1 – Farm Status

Janice Weninger and Julia Schlieman, Farm Appraisers, BC Assessment Authority gave a power point presentation on the requirements for farm status. Booklets on Farm Classification in BC were circulated. As requested, hard copies of the power point presentation will be circulated to all members at the next meeting. For more information on BC Assessment visit the website at www.bassessment.ca or contact the Nanaimo office.

Janice Weninger and Julia Schlieman left the meeting.

REPORTS

R1 – Membership Chair Marcotte reviewed the option to make alternate appointments and public at large appointments in relation to meeting quorum.

1:32 PM Tom Anderson left the meeting.

It was moved and seconded that it be recommended to the Board that CVRD Bylaw No. 3710 – Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission Establishment Amendment Bylaw, 2013, be amended by the addition of two public representatives, and that the amended bylaw be considered for first three readings and adoption.

MOTION CARRIED

R2 – Sunfest On May 8, 2013 the Board approved the RAAC recommendation to send a letter of support for the Cowichan Exhibition Society's Sunfest Country Music Festival event held at 7380 Trans Canada Highway, Duncan BC.

R3 – Subcommittee Updates Subcommittee updates were referred to the next RAAC meeting due to time constraints.

CORRESPONDENCE

C1 – Ministry of Agriculture Letters Received and filed letters from the provincial and federal Ministries of Agriculture regarding response to freight costs for the Cowichan Valley Region animal feeds and grains.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UB1 – DNC ALC Exclusion Application Item UB1, District of North Cowichan Agricultural Land Commission exclusion application, was previously discussed at the April 23, 2013 RAAC meeting after quorum was lost.

It was moved and seconded to reverse the order of the motions under Item UB1.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded that the Cowichan Valley Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission write to the Agricultural Land Commission expressing concern with the exclusion application by the District of North Cowichan for the property located at the corner of Beverly Street and York Street as it is arable farm land.

It was moved and seconded to postpone indefinitely the motion regarding the District of North Cowichan's exclusion application for the property located at the corner of Beverly Street and York Street.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded that the Cowichan Valley Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission write a letter to the Agricultural Land Commission expressing support for decisions made with respect to retaining existing and potential future agriculture land within the Agricultural Land Reserve and encourage them to continue this practice of protecting agriculture land in the province of BC and in particular the Cowichan Region.

MOTION CARRIED

2:16 PM

Director Morrison left the meeting.

It was moved and seconded that staff prepare a report to the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission to explore feasibility and suitability of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission being a referral body for the Agricultural Land Commission within the Cowichan Region.

MOTION CARRIED

2:20 PM

Director Hutchins and Marsha Stanley left the meeting.

UB2 – GMO Rally

Judy Stafford provided information on April 9, 2013 GMO rally at the April 23, 2013 RAAC meeting after quorum was lost.

UB3 - Funding

Judy Stafford reported there is funding available through the Get Youth Working! Program. Website is www.getyouthworking.ca

NEW BUSINESS

Not applicable.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary

R1

CR5 Report and Recommendations of the Cowichan Lake Recreation Commission meeting of May 23, 2013

13-272 It was moved and seconded that a reserve fund expenditure bylaw be prepared authorizing the expenditure of no more than \$160,000 from "CVRD Bylaw No. 505 – Cowichan Lake Recreation Reserve Fund Establishment Bylaw, 1979" for the purposes of completing the following Community Works Fund (CWF) Projects: Community Hall heating upgrades; Honeymoon Bay Hall rainwater containment and dispersal; CLSA Wastewater Circulating Loop; Youbou Hall Boiler and Asbestos Abatement; and that the bylaw be forwarded to the Board for consideration of three readings and adoption.

MOTION CARRIED

CR6 Report and Recommendations of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission meeting of May 28, 2013

13-273 It was moved and seconded that the CVRD Bylaw No. 3710 - Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission Establishment Amendment Bylaw, 2013, be amended by the addition of two public representatives, and that the amended bylaw be considered for first three readings and adoption.

MOTION CARRIED

CR7 Item CR7 deleted upon adoption of the agenda.

CR8 Report and Recommendations of the Transit Committee meeting of June 12, 2013

13-274 It was moved and seconded that conventional and handyDART transit cash fares be reduced to zero on September 3, 2013 in celebration of the 20 year anniversary of the CVRD transit system and the most recent service expansion to Ladysmith.

MOTION CARRIED

STAFF REPORTS

SR1 Staff Report from the Chief Administrative Officer Re: UBCM Resolution - Regional Hospital District Hospice Funding

13-275 It was moved and seconded that the following resolution be forwarded to the Union of BC Municipalities for consideration at its 2013 Annual Convention:

WHEREAS hospice societies provide important, caring and cost effective end-of-life services for the dying and their families;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Hospital District Act prohibits Regional

R2



May 29, 2013

Richard Bullock, Board Chair
Provincial Agricultural Land Commission
133-4940 Canada Way
Burnaby BC
V5G 4K6

Dear Mr. Bullock:

Re: Cowichan Exhibition Society's Sunfest Country Music Festival

On behalf of the CVRD Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission and the CVRD Board of Directors we wish to express our support for the Cowichan Exhibition's Sunfest Country Music Festival event held at 7380 Trans Canada Highway, Duncan, BC.

The Cowichan Region is one of the major agricultural areas on Vancouver Island, encompassing 55,586 ha of land suitable for agriculture. With over 600 farms in the region, agriculture is an important economic sector generating gross farm receipts of \$47,554,455. Local food production is an important component of the 100 Mile Diet concept and helps to address the issue of food self-sufficiency. The industry is not without its challenges. Agriculture production in the region has declined in recent years and the need to educate, promote and support agriculture has never been greater.

The Cowichan Exhibition Park is the host venue for many agricultural activities throughout the year and raises the awareness of agriculture in the Cowichan Region. Sunfest attracts close to 15,000 visitors for the annual event and generates \$1 Million into the local economy. Sunfest has been in the Cowichan Region for 10 years and has been a huge success, providing much needed revenue to the Cowichan Exhibition Park that in turn allows them to host additional activities that support agriculture.

We hope the Agricultural Land Commission will allow this event to continue in support of agriculture in the Cowichan Region.

Yours truly,

Robert Hutchins
Board Chair

RH:jm

pc: Mary Marcotte, Chair, Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission
Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development Division



June 12, 2013

Richard Bullock, Board Chair
Provincial Agricultural Land Commission
133-4940 Canada Way
Burnaby BC
V5G 4K6

Dear Mr. Bullock:

Re: CVRD Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission Support

The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Agricultural Advisory Commission would like to express their support for decisions made with respect to retaining existing and potential future agriculture land within the Agricultural Land Reserve and encourage the practice of protecting agriculture land in the province of BC and in particular the Cowichan Region.

The goals of food security and food self-sufficiency have been identified in the CVRD Area Agricultural Plan as priorities and keeping farm land in the Agricultural Land Reserve and in production is key to ensuring our goals are achieved.

We support actions and decisions that protect farmland and encourage food production. We hope the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission continues to ensure the agriculture land is protected for present and future generations.

Yours truly,

Mary Marcotte, Chair
CVRD Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission

MM:jm

pc: Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development Division



R4

STAFF REPORT

REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION OF JUNE 25, 2013

DATE: May 30, 2013 FILE NO: EDCGen
FROM: Kathy Lachman, EDC Business Development Officer BYLAW No: 3515
SUBJECT: Agricultural Land Commission Referral Body

Recommendation/Action:

That only matters that relate directly to the action items within the CVRD Area Agricultural Plan or referred by the Electoral Area Service Committee (EASC) or the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board of Directors will be considered for discussion and/or comment by the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission (RAAC).

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan: N/A

Financial Impact: (Reviewed by Finance Division: N/A)

Background:

At the RAAC meeting dated May 28, 2013, the following motion was carried:

It was moved and seconded that staff prepare a report to the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission to explore feasibility and suitability of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission being a referral body for the Agricultural Land Commission within the Cowichan Region.

Staff understands this motion was passed with the intent of reviewing the possibility of having all Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) applications from Electoral Areas and Municipalities referred to the RAAC for comment prior to submission to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for a final decision.

Bylaw No. 3515, to establish a Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission for the Cowichan Valley Regional District clearly defines the responsibilities of the Commission:

a) *Implement the CVRD Area Agricultural Plan and the recommendations contained in that Plan. More specifically to:*

- *Review all 78 recommendations;*
- *Identify those activities already underway and identify the groups and organizations undertaking those activities;*
- *Ensure that sufficient resources are available to accomplish activities and if required, identify the additional resources needed;*
- *Prioritize activities to be undertaken;*

- *Identify the activities that have not been addressed and prioritized;*
 - *Identify the necessary resources to complete those activities; and*
 - *Make recommendations to the CVRD to allocate resources to accomplish those activities.*
- b) *Advise the Board on issues of importance to the agricultural community, and on ALR exclusion applications, ALR subdivision applications and change of use applications as referred by the Electoral Area Services Committee as well as any other matters referred to it by the Board.*
- c) *Subject to the provisions otherwise contained in this bylaw, provide the Board with advice by way of:*
- (i) Matters which may legally or financially bind or commit the Board.*
 - (ii) Provide input to an annual financial plan which will be become a specific Economic Development Agriculture Project in the annual Function 121 budget.*
 - (iii) Quarterly progress/status reports to the Board.*

The current bylaw provides a mechanism for the RAAC to respond to ALR exclusion applications, ALR subdivision applications and change of use applications within the nine electoral areas. The four municipalities are not included as each municipality makes their own decisions on land use in their area. It would not be appropriate for the RAAC to make comment or recommendations outside of the CVRD jurisdictional boundaries unless requested by EASC or the CVRD Board.

The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) has a legislated process (Agricultural Land Commission Act) for dealing with land use issues in the Agricultural Land Reserve. Applications regarding land use changes within the ALR are dealt with by the ALC and the affected local government. The ALC may refer the application to various other agencies, however, this is at the discretion of the ALC.

The responsibilities of the RAAC are ambitious and there is much work to be done. Additional activities for the RAAC should only be considered after the current responsibilities are fulfilled.

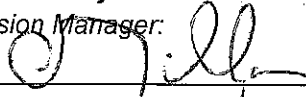
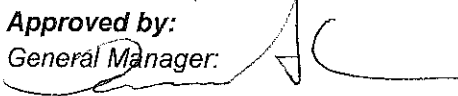
The RAAC is supported by the Economic Development Division staff whose role is to provide economic development services for the CVRD. Staff resources are extremely limited and including additional items for consideration would take away from the RAAC responsibilities as set out in Bylaw No. 3515.

Submitted by

Kathy Lachman

Kathy Lachman, Business Development Officer
Economic Development Division
Planning & Development Department

KL:jm

Reviewed by: Division Manager: 
Approved by: General Manager: 



**Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission
 Sub-Committee #2 Report re: Incubator Farm Program
 May 16, 2013**

In attendance: Mary Marcotte, Rob Hutchins, Gerry Giles, Dan Ferguson, Judy Stafford, Kathy Lachman

Guest: Don Muroc

At the April 23, 2013 Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission meeting, the following recommendation was passed:

It was moved and seconded that the item of supply and demand along with the discussion of incubator farms be referred to Subcommittee 2 for review and report back to the Commission.

Sub-committee #2 met to discuss this one agenda item. Dan Ferguson noted that at the last Cowichan Agricultural Society meeting, there was 80% support to send a letter of support to the RAAC supporting an Incubator Farm Program. The sub-committee agreed that educating farmers was the prime purpose of an Incubator Farm program and decided to move ahead.

It was moved and seconded that sub-committee #2 recommends moving forward in supporting the development of an Incubator Farm initiative. Passed.

Note: Due to a conflict of interest, Judy Stafford left the meeting.

The sub-committee discussed the RFP that staff developed to explore the feasibility of an Incubator Farm Program and develop the program components and budget. The following motions were made and passed:

It was moved and seconded to request the CVRD Planning and Development Department to develop the Incubator Farm Program as per the RFP for the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission and complete the document within six weeks.

It was moved and seconded that if the CVRD Planning and Development Department is not able to accommodate the request within the time frame, the RFP as circulated will be tendered.