



REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

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

AGENDA

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11.	<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.	
12.	<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
Peter Keber

Dave Thomson
Fred Oud
Marsha Stanley
Judy Stafford
Dan Ferguson

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GEOFF MILLAR, MANAGER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
KATHY LACHMAN, EDC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
MARK KUEBER, GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE SERVICES
ROB KLINE, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & LANDS

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Minutes of the regular Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission meeting held on Thursday, September 26, 2013, at 12:00 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC.

PRESENT

Director M. Marcotte, Chair
Directors R. Hartmann and R. Hutchins
Alternate Directors K. Williams and F. Raimondo
Bob Crawford, Judy Stafford, Peter Keber, Mick Smith, Wayne Haddow and Fred Oud

ALSO PRESENT

Rick Juliusson, Cowichan Food Hub
Emily MacNair, BC Agriculture Climate Action Initiative
Samantha Charlton, BC Agriculture Climate Action Initiative
Director I. Morrison
Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning & Development (12:26 pm)
Kathy Lachman, EDC Business Development Officer
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Directors G. Giles and L. Duncan
Ian Christison, Dave Thomson, Rodger Hunter, Marsha Stanley, Joanne McLeod, Pat Durose and Dan Ferguson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

R5 Regional Services;

R6 Sunfest;

R7 Balme Application;

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 July 23, 2013, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

DELEGATIONS

**D1
Cowichan Food Hub**

Rick Juliusson informed he is facilitating the development of a Cowichan Valley food cooperative that would involve producers, purchasers, educators, government and all those involved in food sustainability in the region. There have been two organizational meetings and they are currently working on a Feasibility Study, which will allow the group to make a decision in mid-October about how to proceed with main goals, structure, timeline and membership.

Looking at cooperative model, contracted by BC Co-op with intention to pilot projects across BC. High interest from small scale farmers.

Looking for assistance with communication and information for temporary cold storage. Director Hartmann suggested Rick attend a North Cowichan Agriculture Committee meeting to inform more farmers and members.

REPORTS

R1 – CFIA

Chair Marcotte reported the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has extended their on-line consultation for the local food labelling initiative to September 27, 2013.

R2 – Cowichan Region Agriculture & Climate Adaptation Strategies

Kathy Lachman circulated a hand-out on the funding status of the Cowichan Adaptation Strategies and introduced Emily MacNair, Project Coordinator for the Climate Action Initiative.

Emily MacNair gave a Power Point presentation highlighting the Cowichan Region Agriculture & Climate Adaptation Strategies and the benefits of moving forward with the projects outlined in the associated Work Plan. Cowichan has been approved for \$250,000 of Growing Forward 2 grant funding for implementation of projects. Funding contributions from other partners is required. Next step is to initiate 5 new projects between now and March 2014.

1. Integrated Farm Water Planning Pilot
2. Collaborative Water Management
3. Agricultural Extension Officer
4. Extreme Event Preparedness
5. Processing and Storage

Kathy Lachman noted in order to move ahead and obtain the benefits of the projects Tom Anderson and Emily MacNair presented to the Regional Services Committee on September 25, 2013. Staff has been directed to find the necessary \$15,000 partnership funding and prepare a Supplemental Budget item for consideration in the 2014 Budget in order to ensure that the projects in the Work Plan move forward in a timely manner.

It was moved and seconded that the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission approves the release of the four RFP's associated with the projects in the Year One plan for the Cowichan Region Agriculture & Climate Adaptation Strategies.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded that the Local Agricultural Processing and Storage funding application to ICE-T for the amount of \$22,000 be endorsed by the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission.

MOTION CARRIED

R3 – Cowichan Exhibition

Kathy Lachman reported there was a lot of interest and questions and it was an opportunity to show off new posters with our brand. Chair Marcotte thanked the members who volunteered with the booth.

R4 – UBCM Convention

Chair Marcotte circulated a report on the disposition of resolutions related to agriculture for information purposes.

R5 – Regional Services

Kathy Lachman reported EDC will be presenting an Agriculture update to the Regional Services Committee on October 23, 2013. Will be highlighting accomplishments and where we want to go in 2014 which will provide background for three 2014 Supplemental Budget items. Commission members are welcome to attend and provide support.

Supplemental 1 – Update Cowichan Region Area Agricultural Plan
Supplemental 2 – Buy Local Program
Supplemental 3 – Feasibility Study for Incubator Farm Program

Discussion took place regarding ideas for Chair Marcotte to bring forward to the Communications Committee.

Fred Oud reported Island Savings and the Duncan Cowichan Chamber of Commerce are having a presentation on Branding & Spending in the Ten Percent Shift on October 8, 2013, 7:30 to 9am at the Duncan Travelodge. Admission is free. RSVP required. Information will be circulated.

R6 – Sunfest

Fred Oud thanked the Commission and Directors for their letters of support. The ALC has seen a benefit for Agriculture and approved Sunfest for 5 years. Sunfest has donated \$20,000 to the Cowichan Exhibition for land improvements.

R7 – Balme Application

Fred Oud commented on the Balme application decision for information purposes.

1:17 PM

Judy Stafford left the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

C1 – ALC Letter

Received and filed letter from the Agricultural Land Commission dated August 1, 2013.

C2 – District of West Kelowna AAC Letter

It was moved and seconded to receive and file letter from the District of West Kelowna Agriculture Advisory Committee dated July 9, 2013.

MOTION CARRIED

C3 – CAS Letter

It was moved and seconded to receive and file letter from the Cowichan Agricultural Society.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary



R1

STAFF REPORT

REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 22, 2013

DATE: October 10, 2013 FILE No: 2240-20-Agr/Wat
FROM: Kate Miller
SUBJECT: Agricultural Land Use Inventory and Water Demand Model

Recommendation/Action:

For information.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Developing water planning policies to guide community planning and development decisions is identified as a strategic action under the "Healthy Environment" section of the Corporate Strategic Plan. The research completed through this project will provide a strong information base to support water-related planning policies and development decisions.

Financial Impact: *(Not at this time)*

Background:

In partnership with the Environment Commission and a number of local governments, the Environmental Initiatives Division funded and worked with the *Partnership for Water Sustainability* to conduct a survey of land use in agricultural areas of our region, in order to calculate agricultural water demand specific to the Cowichan Region.

The Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan and the subsequent *Cowichan Region Area Agricultural Plan* identified the need for increased access to water for irrigation, but did not specify how much water or under what circumstances. The Agricultural Land Use Inventory and Water Demand Model Development speaks to water-related concerns by providing a closer look at agricultural activities in our community and calculating how much water is needed for these activities to exist, under both current and possible future climate scenarios.

The land use inventory is an important part of calculating agricultural water needs, and allowing the results to be tailored to local conditions. The *Water Demand Model* is built with this key information about types of soil, crops and livestock, and how much water is required when each is present. Once information is added about actual local land use, including type of soil, crops and livestock as well as irrigation methods and extraction locations, the model is able to calculate water demand that is specific to our community's agricultural sector. In time, the model will also provide the local agricultural community with a tool that will optimize the use of both power and water resources for agricultural purposes.

This information will give a particularly useful and specific update of where, what and how agriculture is currently practiced in our community. This tool will also assist the Agricultural

sector in developing specific climate adaptation and economic pathways in the future.

Two key deliverables have been obtained from this project:

1. A detailed inventory of agricultural activities in the CVRD, which can be used to better understand the profile and trends of our agricultural sector, as well as forecast our potential for increased food security and a stronger local agriculture-based economy.
2. An accurate estimate of water demand, now and under possible futures. The Water Demand Model indicates how much water is needed to support agriculture now, and under different climate change scenarios, where changes in soil moisture and water patterns and supply are likely to occur.

To confirm that all appropriate areas in the CVRD have been surveyed, Environmental Initiatives Staff will be presenting the outcome of the analysis to the local agricultural committees and commissions as well as watershed groups so that the findings can be integrated in their activities.

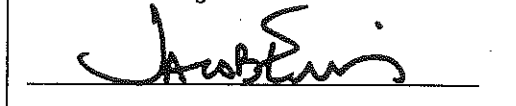
Electoral Area Directors and local Municipalities will also be provided with an informational article about this project to share with their constituents should they so wish.

Submitted by,



Kate Miller, Manager
Environmental Initiatives Division

Reviewed by:
General Manager:



KM:df



R.2

**REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION REPORT
OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 26, 2013**

DATE: September 30, 2013

To: Chairperson and Directors of the Board

Your Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission reports and recommends as follows:

1. That the Local Agricultural Processing and Storage funding application to ICE-T for the amount of \$22,000 be endorsed.

5. That short-term borrowing up to a maximum of \$78,720 be approved, for improvements to the Honeymoon Bay Water System wells and distribution system, to be paid back within 5 years under the Liabilities Under Agreement Section 175 of the *Community Charter*.
6. That CVRD Bylaw No. 3729 – Solid Waste Management Charges and Regulations Amendment Bylaw, 2013, be forwarded to the Board for consideration of three readings and adoption.
7. That the CVRD request Metro Vancouver to extend the existing Solid Waste Export Agreement for three years through to December 31, 2016 on a 'contingency basis' only to allow for uninterrupted waste export service; and further that the Board Chair and Corporate Secretary be authorized to sign the extension agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

CR4 The Report and Recommendation of the Island Savings Centre Commission meeting of September 12, 2013 was discussed as information.

CR5 Report and Recommendations of the Regional Agricultural Commission meeting of September 26, 2013

6:59 pm Directors Hutchins, Giles and Kent declared themselves in conflict of interest for the next item, as they are Directors of the Island Coast Economic Trust (ICE-T), and left the meeting at 6:59 pm. Director Iannidinardo assumed the Chair in Director Hutchins' absence.

13-510 It was moved and seconded that the Local Agricultural Processing and Storage funding application to the Island Coast Economic Trust (ICE-T) in the amount of \$22,000 be endorsed.

MOTION CARRIED

7:03 pm Directors Hutchins, Giles and Kent returned to the meeting at 7:03 pm at which time Director Hutchins resumed the Chair.

CR6 Report and Recommendations of the Transit Committee meeting of October 9, 2013

13-511 It was moved and seconded:

1. That the CVRD Board approve the amendment to the Annual Operating Agreement with BC Transit and First Canada ULC to include the new service to the Town of Ladysmith, and further that the Chair and Corporate Secretary be authorized to sign the amended agreement.