

Minutes of the regular Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission meeting held on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at 12:00 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC.

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Alternate Peter Keber
Directors P. Weaver and I. Morrison
George Robbins, Chair Economic Development Commission
Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning & Development
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Bob Crawford, Ian Christison, Dave Thomson, Pat Durose, Geoff Millar and Kathy Lachman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

NB1 Farmer's Market Program;

NB2 Agricultural runoff;

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 May 28, 2013, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Not applicable.

DELEGATIONS

No applicable.

REPORTS

R1 – Bylaw No. 3710

Chair Marcotte reported Bylaw No. 3710 was adopted at the June 12, 2013 Board meeting and is now in effect.

It was moved and seconded to recommend the Board appoint Peter Keber and Dan Ferguson as the two public representatives for the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission for terms to expire December 31, 2014.

MOTION CARRIED

R2 – Sunfest Country Music Festival

It was moved and seconded to receive and file the RAAC support letter for the Cowichan Exhibition Society's Sunfest Country Music Festival dated May 29, 2013.

MOTION CARRIED

R3 – Agricultural Land Commission **It was moved and seconded to receive and file the RAAC support letter for the Agricultural Land Commission dated June 12, 2013.**

MOTION CARRIED

R4 – ALC Referral Body

The staff report recommendation was reviewed.

Motion was moved to accept staff report recommendation.

Motion was moved to amend staff report recommendation by removing the word “directly”.

It was moved and seconded to refer item R4, staff report dated May 30, 2013, regarding Agricultural Land Commission referral body back to staff.

MOTION CARRIED

R5 – Incubator Farm Program

Chair Marcotte reviewed Subcommittee #2 update on the Incubator Farm Program.

It was moved and seconded to move forward in support of the development of an Incubator Farm initiative.

MOTION CARRIED

Due to conflict of interest Judy Stafford left the meeting.

It was moved and seconded the Request for Proposal to develop an Incubator Farm Program, as circulated, be tendered.

MOTION CARRIED

R6 – Sunfest Booth

Chair Marcotte reported that Sunfest has requested the RAAC have a booth on site in support of their event August 3 to 4, 2013. A sign-up sheet was circulated for members to volunteer.

R7 – Local Food

Judy Stafford circulated information on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regarding their interim policy definition of local food. Comments and suggestions are being received before August 30, 2013.

It was moved and seconded to recommend the Board send a letter to CFIA advising they do not support the proposed interim policy definition of local food to include food sold across provincial borders.

It was moved and seconded this matter regarding CFIA’s interim policy definition of local food be referred to Chair Marcotte, Judy Stafford and staff on recommending a new definition to the RAAC at the next meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Not applicable.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

Not applicable.

NEW BUSINESS

**NB1 – Farmer’s
Market Program**

Judy Stafford reported effective June 24th, the Duncan Farmers Market and Cowichan Green Community implemented the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon program. Thirty families and ten seniors of low income will be able to spend \$15 every week for 16 weeks at the Downtown Duncan Market. This is an influx of \$600 per week that will go directly to our local farmers who sell at the market. This program is funded through the BC Association of Farmer's Markets.

**NB2 – Agriculture
Runoff**

Rodger Hunter reported on June 19th an excellent meeting was hosted by Wayne Haddow of the Ministry of Agriculture with support from the Cowichan Watershed Board on “Keeping Your Farms Runoff Clean”. Great attendance from the farm community was achieved with 15 dairy farmers from 12 farms participating, even though it is an extremely busy time of year. Next steps include applying for a group based planning initiative to Environmental Farm Planning Program. Wayne tipped his hat to Rodger for getting the farmers out.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:42 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary