



REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2013
CVRD BOARDROOM, 12:00 PM
175 INGRAM STREET, DUNCAN, BC

AGENDA

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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 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
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Minutes of the regular Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission meeting held on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, at 12:00 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC.

PRESENT

Director M. Marcotte, Chair
Directors G. Giles and L. Duncan
Bob Crawford, Joanne McLeod, Judy Stafford, Marsha Stanley, Peter Keber, Pat Durose and Dan Ferguson (12:09 pm)

ALSO PRESENT

Director I. Morrison (12:17 pm)
Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning & Development
Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development Division
Kathy Lachman, EDC Business Development Officer
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Directors Hartmann and Hutchins, Mick Smith, Ian Christison, Dave Thomson, Wayne Haddow, Rodger Hunter and Fred Oud

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

R5 September meeting;

R6 ALC referral body;

UB1 Sunfest;

NB1 ALR applications;

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 25, 2013, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Not applicable.

DELEGATIONS

No applicable.

REPORTS

R1 – Bylaw No. 3710

Chair Marcotte reported amendment Bylaw No. 3710 was adopted by the Board on July 12, 2013.

R2 – Appointments

Chair Marcotte reported on July 12, 2013 the Board appointed Peter Keber and Dan Ferguson as the RAAC public representatives.

R3 – Area Agricultural Plan

Kathy Lachman gave a powerpoint presentation to provide an update on the Area Agricultural Plan action items that have been accomplished, are underway and yet to be completed.

It was noted action item #61 is not permitted by the province at this time. Next steps and update will be added to future agenda.

R4 – CIFA

Judy Stafford reported that a meeting did not occur and there is no recommendation for a new local food definition to report.

It was moved and seconded that the RAAC contact other Agricultural Advisory Groups in the province for Canadian Food Inspection Agency views and comments on local food definition.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded that the RAAC request an extension beyond the August 30, 2013 online consultation deadline for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for local food definition.

MOTION CARRIED

R5 – Meetings

It was decided there will be no August meeting. The next RAAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 26, 2013.

R6 – ALC Referral Body

Kathy Lachman reported at the June 25, 2013 RAAC meeting it was motioned to refer item R4, staff report dated May 30, 2013, regarding Agricultural Land Commission referral body back to staff. Tom Anderson offered solution to give ALR application updates at RAAC meetings to keep members informed.

It was moved and seconded to receive and file staff report dated May 30, 2013 regarding Agricultural Land Commission Referral Body.

MOTION CARRIED

1:29 PM

Pat Durose left the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Not applicable.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UB1 - Sunfest

Kathy Lachman will circulate electronic sign-up sheet for the RAAC Sunfest booth on August 3 and 4, 2013.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 – ALR Applications

For information purposes, Tom Anderson gave a verbal report on ALR applications.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:39 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary

D1

Request to Appear as a Delegation

Note: Board meetings start at 6:30 pm

Meeting Information

Request to Address:

CVRD Board

Committee

If Committee, specify the Committee here:

Regional Agricultural Advisory Comm

Meeting Date: 09/26/2013

Meeting Time: 12:00

Applicant Information

Applicant Name: Rick Juliusson

Representing: Cowichan Food Hub

(Name of organization if applicable)

As: Co-op Developer

(Capacity / Office)

Number Attending: 1

Applicant Contact Information

Applicant Mailing Address: 4505 Bench Road

Applicant City: Cowichan Station

Applicant Telephone: 737-1687

Applicant Fax:

Applicant Email: Rick@FreeRangeConsulting.ca

Presentation Topic and Nature of Request:

I am facilitating the development a Cowichan Valley food cooperative that would involve producers, purchasers, educators, government and all those involved in food sustainability in the valley. We have had 2 organizational meetings and are currently completing a Feasibility Study, which will allow the group to make a decision in late September about how to proceed (ie, main goals, structure, timeline, membership, etc).

As suggested by Kathy Lachman, I would like to simply inform the committee about our project and explore ways to support each other in our work.

R1



July 30, 2013

Canadian Food Inspection Agency
1400 Merivale Rd
Ottawa ON
K1A 0Y9

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Online Consultation

The Cowichan Valley Regional District, Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission (RAAC) has been made aware of your initiative to modernize your food labeling regulations, guidelines and policies including claims such as use of the term "local".

We understand that you are adopting an interim policy that extends the use of the word local to include provincial borders and food sold across provincial borders within 50 km. The RAAC is very concerned about this definition and is interested in providing comments and suggestions.

We also understand that the process for feedback was started June 20, 2013 and that interested stakeholders have until August 30, 2013 to comment. The RAAC feels that this window of opportunity has several flaws: the time allowed to respond is very short and it is at a time of year when your most important stakeholders, the agriculture community, is dealing with their peak season. Many farmers and value-added producers are not available to discuss and comment.

The RAAC is respectfully requesting that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency extend the deadline for comments and feedback to allow the agricultural community adequate time to provide meaningful comments and suggestions.

Thank You for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Marcotte".

Mary Marcotte, Chair
Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission
c/o Economic Development Cowichan
135 Third St
Duncan BC V9L 1R9
250.746.7880 / 1.866.746.2508



Ms. Mary Marcotte
Chair
Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission
c/o Economic Development Cowichan
135 Third Street
Duncan, British Columbia V9L 1R9

Dear Ms. Marcotte:

I am writing in response to your correspondence to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regarding the June 20 to August 30, 2013, online consultation period on the Agency's Food Labelling Modernization initiative. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The CFIA understands that industry requires adequate time to provide meaningful feedback, and I am pleased to inform you that the Agency has extended the online consultation for this labelling initiative to September 27, 2013.

Thank you for bringing the concerns of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Council to the CFIA's attention. We always appreciate the views of industry.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Miller
Executive Director
Food Labelling and Claims



R2

**REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 26, 2013**

DATE: September 4, 2013 **FILE No:** EDCGen
FROM: Kathy Lachman, Business Development Officer,
Economic Development Division **BYLAW No:**
SUBJECT: Climate Action Initiative/Regional Adaptation Strategies

Recommendation/Action:

For information only

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

The Climate Action projects all relate to agriculture and are contained as action items in the CVRD Area Agriculture Plan.

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

Background:

In 2012, an assessment of climate change-related risks and opportunities was conducted with the agriculture sector across BC. The assessment evaluated the potential impacts of climate change on agricultural production in five key regions, and explored the sector's capacity to adapt. The province wide assessment made evident that, because of British Columbia's diversity (with respect to agriculture, ecology and climate) a regional approach to climate change adaptation is required. In addition, while some adaptation will occur at the farm level, the context beyond the farm is critical for supporting agricultural adaptation. In particular, broader collaboration is required for land use, infrastructure and resource-related decision-making and action.

Building on these findings, the *BC Agriculture & Climate Change Regional Adaptation Strategies* pilot project has brought local governments and producers together to develop priority strategies and actions to facilitate agricultural adaptation. Producers, local governments and provincial government staff in each of three areas of BC - the Peace region, the Cowichan Valley region and Delta, participated in the pilot project.

The intent of the pilot project is to develop both clear actions suited to the specifics of the local context, and to encourage the integration of agricultural adaptation priorities into decision-making and planning across multiple agencies and organizations. A set of agricultural adaptation strategies has been developed in each pilot area.

An Advisory Committee for the Cowichan Valley region was formed to provide input throughout the project. This committee included participants from local government, and its committees, the BC Ministry of Agriculture and the agriculture sector. The agricultural producer participants volunteered their time throughout the project, representing both local production systems and

agricultural organizations. The Cowichan Valley Regional District provided a written commitment to partner, providing staff in-kind (time and expertise) and covering local workshop costs. With funding from the BC Ministry of Agriculture and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, the BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative provided core management and human resources for project delivery.

There are 23 action items in the strategy and the Project Advisory Committee has chosen five of those items for implementation in 2013 and the early part of 2014. The next steps will be to identify specific timelines, stakeholders and funding for those action items. The five action items are:

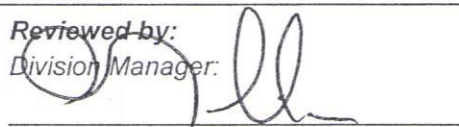
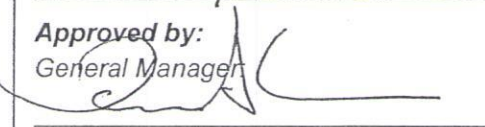
1. *Develop an Integrated Farm Water Planning Pilot*
2. *Develop a Collaborative Water Management process (Phase 1)*
3. *Develop a business case for providing regional agricultural extension services*
4. *Complete an Extreme Events Preparedness scan*
5. *Develop a strategy for Local Agricultural Processing and Storage*

Emily MacNair, Project Coordinator for the Climate Action Initiative will continue to work with each of the pilot regions and has some resources for the implementation of the action items. The Province of BC has dedicated \$250,000 towards funding the 23 action items and is looking at local governments and other funding agencies to participate in covering some of the costs.

Submitted by,



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

<p><i>Reviewed by:</i> <i>Division Manager:</i></p> 
<p><i>Approved by:</i> <i>General Manager:</i></p> 



C1

Agricultural Land Commission
133 – 4940 Canada Way
Burnaby, British Columbia V5G 4K6
Tel: 604 660-7000
Fax: 604 660-7033
www.alc.gov.bc.ca

August 1, 2013

Mary Marcotte, Chair
CVRD Regional Agriculture Advisory Committee
Cowichan Valley Regional District
175 Ingram Street
Duncan, BC V9L 1N8

Dear CVRD AAC:

Re: Agricultural Land Commission Letter of Support

The Agricultural Land Commission would like to thank you for your letter of support for the work of the Commission. It is always helpful to know that our local government partners in agricultural land preservation stand behind the mandate of the ALC.

Yours truly,

PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION

for Shaundeeh Renka
Richard Bullock
Chair

Origin:	<i>EDC</i>	Co-ordinator:	<i>Mary Marcotte</i>
Date:			
File #:	<i>Sh</i>		<i>Aug 1/13</i>

C2



DISTRICT OF WEST KELOWNA AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Municipal Office:
2760 Cameron Road
West Kelowna, BC V1Z 2T6

Tel (778) 797-1000
Fax (778) 797-1001

July 9, 2013

To the Mayor and Council of the District of West Kelowna

Re: Property Assessment Rates on Farm Improvements

This letter expresses the view of the Agricultural Advisory Committee of the District of West Kelowna that property assessment rates on farm improvements such as houses and outbuildings are unfairly high on actively farmed property in the Agriculture Land Reserve.

An average home in District of West Kelowna, since incorporation, has had property taxes increased by about 17.5%. A farm house on farm land in the ALR has seen property tax increases in the range of 240% since incorporation. These increases are due to the phasing out of the long standing exemption portion of property tax for the farm home.

BC Assessment places a value on farm houses and outbuildings that closely mirrors nearby similar residential houses on residential lots. This creates an unfair assessment and therefore unfair taxation on farm homes. When a farm property is sold, the farm house is sharply discounted from its assessed value, proving the case. Further, it is also true that if a neighbour was outside the municipal boundaries but within a rural regional district his property would still receive the long standing exemption.

The provincial government has conducted a Farm Property Tax Assessment Review which concluded:

- 1) Remove split classification on actively farmed property in the Agriculture Land Reserve,
- 2) Exempt a greater portion of the value of farm improvements from municipal taxation.

District of West Kelowna supports agriculture as stated in the Agricultural Plan, the Official Community Plan and the District of West Kelowna Strategic Priorities which states, as a goal, to "ensure taxation levels foster continued development in the community".

It is the request of the Agricultural Advisory Committee that the District of West Kelowna make a motion at the upcoming UBCM that asks for changes to Farm Property Assessment as stated in the Provincial Government Review on the topic.

Regards,

Jennay Oliver
Chair, Agricultural Advisory Committee
District of West Kelowna

Cc: BC Agricultural Advisory Committees

Original: <i>EX</i>	Copies to:
Board:	
Committee(s):	
Directed by: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <i>Aug 14/13</i>
File #	

Attention: Mary Marcotte, Chair, CVRD Agricultural Advisory Commission

Dear Ms. Marcotte,

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Cowichan Agricultural Society and its members. We wish to express our support for educational initiatives that support the development of new and entry level farmers. For example, we believe that the hands-on learning experiences provided by incubator farms not only offer practical education, but also the opportunity to innovate new ideas within a supportive environment.

As our community strives towards becoming more food secure, incentives to encourage farming will be needed to help us achieve this goal. The Area Agricultural Plan reported that one of the challenges we face as a community is an aging farmer population, with few farms having transition plans to carry them into the future. We believe that providing educational opportunities such as incubator farms, workshops and mentorship would allow for knowledge transfer between our current generation of farmers and the next, particularly in cases where these generations are connected by a passion for farming instead of lineage (relevant as more children of farm parents are choosing to pursue other careers).

Charged with the mandate of strengthening our region's agricultural sector, we believe that the CVRD Agricultural Advisory Commission should also be in favour of such learning opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you need any further information, please contact me at 250-748-1028.

Yours truly,


Bob Crawford

President

Cowichan Agricultural Society