



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

MINUTES of a **REGULAR** meeting of the **REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held in the Board Room at the Regional District Office on Thursday, March 21, 2013

Members:	Director M. Macnabb Bruce Naka Director S. Fowler Director P. Nicol Director B. Fleming Director R. Fairbairn Councillor Maria Besso Mike Randell Dennis Lapierre Ian Eggen Mohammad Asif Peter Stockdale Ralph van Dalfsen Darrell Flatla Tony Van den Tillaart Wendy Aasen	Electoral Area "C" Member at Large City of Armstrong City of Vernon Electoral Area "B" Electoral Area "D" District of Coldstream Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Commodity Member at Large	Chair Vice Chair
Staff:	R. Smailes A. Kittel A. Bevan	General Manager, Planning and Building Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator Executive Assistant (taking minutes)	
Others:	Alt. Director S. Verlaan Ken McAra Member of the Public	Electoral Area "F" Ministry of Agriculture	

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting – March 21, 2013

Moved and seconded by Councillor Besso and Director Fleming
That the agenda of the March 21, 2013 regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting – February 21, 2013

Moved and seconded by Dennis Lapierre and Director Fleming
That the minutes of the February 21, 2013 regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

February 27, 2013 Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop Update

The Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator gave a brief overview of Martin Collins' (Agricultural Land Commission) presentation at the Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop held February 27, 2013.

Chair Macnabb and other members gave a brief overview of their attendance at the workshop.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) reducing the frequency of site visits to the applications awaiting a decision
- the possibility of a staff person or a Commissioner from the ALC attending a future Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee (RAAC) meeting

Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee Brainstorming Roundtable Results

Discussion ensued regarding further exploring the roundtable results at a future meeting.

Moved and seconded by Director Nicol and Councillor Besso

That it be recommended to the Board of Directors, the report dated February 22, 2013 regarding Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee Brainstorming Roundtable Results be considered during development of the Regional Agricultural Area Plan Terms of Reference.

CARRIED

Regional Agricultural Area Plan

The Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator advised that the next intake for funding for Agricultural Area Plans from the Investment Agriculture Foundation is April 16, 2013, which, if successful would fund 50% up to a maximum of \$45,000.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- whitepapers on wastewater practices and agriculture
- the 100+ recommendations contained within the Food System Plan

The draft Terms of Reference for the Regional Agricultural Plan will be referred to the Electoral Area Advisory Committee and member municipal councils for their review and comment.

Director Fowler left the meeting at 6:54 p.m. Director Fairbairn arrived at 6:59 p.m.

Backyard Chicken Regulations

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the best management practices developed for the keeping of backyard chickens
- possibility of a requirement to obtain a permit for backyard chickens
- possibility of a register so the RDNO knows where the backyard chickens are located in advance of a possible slaughter operation for an avian influenza or similar outbreak
- other methods of getting information to the public, ex. YouTube video
- enforcement issues – the Bylaw Enforcement Officer will be enforcing bylaw upon a complaint basis
- the guide indicating it is specific to the electoral areas only and not the municipalities

Moved and seconded by Director Fleming and Mike Randell
That the report dated March 7, 2013 from the Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator regarding public education for the keeping of backyard chickens be received for information.

CARRIED

British Columbia 'Buy Local' Grant Program

The Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator gave a brief overview of the British Columbia 'Buy Local' Grant Program:

- Marketing and signage
- Up to \$100,000 matching funds

Agricultural Land Commission Application

LEITRIM CONTRACTING LTD. [File No. 13-0013-D-ALR]

- Non-Farm Use application for a long range gun shooting range on Trinity Valley Road

Comments:

- standard fencing to Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) regulations
- that the land still be available for cattle leasing
- wildlife concerns
- the shooting area will be an enclosed structure, possible future "clubhouse"
- access needs to be addressed as it is currently accessed from a Forest Service Road
- standards that the Vernon Fish & Game Club shooting range has
- could the range be moved to the non-ALR portion of the property?

Agricultural Land Commission Application

WELLS, Donald & Amy c/o SHORTT, Jason [File No. 13-0046-F-ALR]

- Subdivision in lieu of a homesite severance at 51 Monks Road

Comments:

- plan seems to make sense, large piece and then a homesite severance cannot be approved in the future
- increases the size of the agricultural parcel which would be beneficial to agriculture

Agricultural Land Commission Application

CAMPBELL, Dean & Laura [File No. 13-0063-D-ALR]

- Partial exclusion of ALR land at 670 Creighton Valley Road
- There was a previous boundary review in this area (2000-2001) where some lands were removed from the ALR, this piece was not

Comments:

- believe land could still support agriculture, there are 2 bridges on this property that cross the creek, potential to build on non-ALR portion instead of the ALR portion under a non-farm use application rather than an exclusion application
- use the creek as the dividing line and not the road
- place the second residence as close as possible to the main residence so it's minimal in disrupting the land

Agricultural Land Commission Application

HATFIELD, Ann and RICHARDS, Keith [File No. 13-0068-F-ALR]

- Subdivision at 1866 Enderby Mabel Lake Road

Comments:

- concerns regarding destroying the potential for agricultural use through parcelization
- piece outside the ALR is not able to be subdivided
- rationale for subdivision was not provided by the applicant
- property is not being used to its full potential for agricultural purposes, based on its location adjacent to Shuswap River

Genetically Modified Organisms / Bee SAFE Presentation

Discussion ensued regarding:

- GMOs
- labeling GMO products
- some members are not in favour of GMOs, there is not a choice
- the use of the word “ban”, support sustainable agriculture
- providing the consumer the choice
- sources of information on GMOs
- GMO poll/vote in Cherryville – wasn’t a true poll, more like a pledge to not use GMO, did not use the word ban
- need for accommodating both sides, pro GMO and anti GMO
- defining the term sustainability in regards to agriculture

Moved and seconded by Councillor Besso and Director Nicol

That the report dated February 7, 2013 from the Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator regarding the January 16, 2013 Bee SAFE presentation to the Board of Directors and the request that the Regional District consider implementing steps to become agricultural genetically modified organism free be received for information; and further,

That the topic of GMO be brought forward to the next RAAC meeting.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Certified Correct:


Chair


Corporate Officer