



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, May 16, 2013

Members:	Director M. Macnabb Bruce Naka Director S. Fowler Councillor Maria Besso Director B. Fleming Director R. Fairbairn Mike Randell Dennis Lapierre Ian Eggen Tom Boeve Peter Stockdale Ralph van Daltsen Wendy Aasen Doug Gordon	Electoral Area "C" Member at Large City of Armstrong District of Coldstream Electoral Area "B" Electoral Area "D" Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Member at Large Young Farmer	Chair Vice Chair
Staff:	R. Smailes A. Kittel A. Bevan	General Manager, Planning and Building Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator Executive Assistant (taking minutes)	

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting – May 16, 2013

Moved and seconded by Directors Fleming and Fairbairn

That the agenda of the May 16, 2013 regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be approved with the following additions:

- C.2 – Email dated May 10, 2013 from Dennis Lapierre regarding bee mortalities in BC
- C.4 – Letter dated May 15, 2013 from Kamloops Okanagan Dairymen's Association regarding GMOs

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting – April 18, 2013

Clarification regarding the delegation at the March meeting, 60 communities are considering becoming GMO free and 28 have voted to be GMO free.

Moved and seconded by Tom Boeve and Ian Eggen

That the minutes of the April 18, 2013 regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Doug Gordon entered the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Combined Heat and Power Generation at Greenhouses in the ALR

Moved and seconded by Maria Besso and Wendy Aasen

That the letter dated April 10, 2013 from the Ministry of Agriculture regarding combined heat and power generation at greenhouses in the ALR be received for information; and further,

That it be recommended to the Board of Directors that staff be directed to prepare a report regarding the April 2013 Discussion Paper on Combined Heat and Power Generation at Greenhouses in the ALR, to bring back to the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

Peter Stockdale entered the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding Ministry of Agriculture staff no longer attending Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee meetings.

Moved and seconded by Directors Fleming and Fowler

That it be recommended to the Board of Directors that a request be sent to the Ministry of Agriculture to consider replacing the Ministry representative on the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee at the earliest possible date.

CARRIED

Day of the Honey Bee

The Chair advised that the Regional District passed a resolution on May 13, 1998 to cease the practice of making proclamations.

Discussion ensued regarding honey bees, lifespan of, mortality rates, effects of neonicotinoids (type of insecticide) on bees.

Moved and seconded by Dennis Lapierre and Ian Eggen

That the following correspondence be received for information:

- Letter dated March 7, 2013 from the founder of "Day of the Honey Bee" regarding Day of the Honey Bee
- Email dated May 10, 2013 from Dennis Lapierre regarding bee mortalities in BC; and further,

That it be recommended to the Board of Directors that a letter of support be sent to Colin Mayes, Member of Parliament and Gerry Ritz, Federal Minister of Agriculture regarding the establishment of a recognized "National Day of the Honey Bee".

CARRIED

Agricultural Land Commission Application DUKHIA, Kanwaljeet [File No. 12-0283-B-ALR]

- Application for a second residence for farm help (two family dwelling) at 6255 Rimer Road

Discussion regarding the three options of the Board regarding second residence applications:

- Authorize the application to be sent to the Agricultural Land Commission
- Not authorize the application to be sent to the Agricultural Land Commission
- Authorize building inspector to issue a building permit for the proposed second residence

Comments:

- Is there a need for a new septic system with a two family dwelling?
- If Board does not approve, it will need to be decommissioned
- For the amount of land, is there justification for the amount of farm help the applicant is asking for/saying is required?
- Farm help for orchards is typically seasonal
- This is a way to keep younger generations on the farm as the applicant is hoping to have his sons family live on the property
- Is it possible to consolidate the lots that are side by side to ensure more dwellings are not placed on the other properties?
- Staff should conduct a site visit and come back to the Committee with the additional information
- Suggestion of placing a no build covenant on vacant parcel

Discussion regarding work force housing and the size limitations.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Labelling of GM or non-GM crops
- Authority to designate RDNO a GMO free zone – it would be a symbolic gesture as the Regional District has no authority in this regard
- Personal choice to consume GM or non-GM crops/foods – organics are expensive so then it's not really a personal choice
- 7% chance grains can cross – potential for economic ramifications with GM crops in the neighbourhood
- How can the Committee make a recommendation to the Board, what can the Committee do?
- Organic sector is threatened by GMO technology
- Need to hear the other side (pro) of the GMO discussion, obligation to hear both sides
- Focus on what we can do
- More accurate information regarding the anti-GMO side of the argument
- Regarding the "poll" in Electoral Area "D": 500 people of 4500 have voiced concerns, should be addressed, delegation regarding GMOs at April meeting admitted that 2-5% of organic crops may contain GM crops
- Wendy Aasen is willing to work in a sub working group to come up with some wording that the Committee could recommend to the Board as a symbolic gesture
- Ken Clancy, P. Ag. as a possible delegation
- In RGS & Ag Plan, make an effort, Maria read a statement aloud –
- Should not be an emotional decision
- At this point it is a philosophical decision

Moved and seconded by Director Fleming and Councillor Besso

That the letter dated May 15, 2013 from Kamloops Okanagan Dairymen's Association regarding GMOs be received for information.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chair



Corporate Officer