



# 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, October 17, 2013

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<b>Members:</b>	Director M. Macnabb Bruce Naka Councillor M. Besso Director P. Nicol Director B. Fleming Director R. Fairbairn Director E. Foisy Tom Boeve Ian Eggen Dennis Lapierre Mike Randell Peter Stockdale Ralph van Dalfsen Tony Van den Tillaart Wendy Aasen Doug Gordon	Electoral Area "C" Member at Large District of Coldstream City of Vernon Electoral Area "B" Electoral Area "D" Electoral Area "E" Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Member at Large Young Farmer	Chair Vice Chair
<b>Staff:</b>	R. Smailes A. Kittel J. deGroot	General Manager, Planning and Building Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator Executive Assistant (Temp.) (taking minutes)	

**Also**

**Present:** Public

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## CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

The Chair welcomed Director Foisy to the Committee.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting – October 17, 2013

Moved and seconded by Director Fleming and Wendy Aasen

That the agenda of the October 17, 2013 regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be approved with the following addition:

- Item C.6 – Restricted Farm Losses

**CARRIED**

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting – September 11, 2013**

Moved and seconded by Director Fleming and Bruce Naka

That the minutes of the September 11, 2013 regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Agricultural Land Commission Application SMITH, R. & L. [File No. 13-0326-D-ALR]**

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Reasons for the application;
- Soil capabilities for the non-ALR portion of the subject property;
- Issues/difficulties with farming in the Creighton Valley Road area;
- Issues/difficulties to farm a smaller parcel; and
- Irrigation, size and topography of the subject property;

Comments:

- No benefit for agriculture and no reasons given to help support the subdivision;
- Breaking up a large field limits ability to farm (hay) a property;
- Proposal would not be positive for agriculture; and
- Subdivision would make farming difficult and diminish the farming potential of the subject property.

### **Regulating Combined Heat and Power Generation at Greenhouses in the ALR**

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Mechanics of Heat and Power Generation in greenhouses;
- Cogeneration with fossil fuels to create heat helps with plant growth when the CO<sub>2</sub> recycled;
- Electricity production is not an agricultural use but could this lead to commercial electricity generation on ALR Lands?
- Economics play a huge role in the matter; and
- Natural gas is much more efficient than wood waste; economics require a customer for wood waste to be economical.

Moved and seconded by Mike Randell and Bruce Naka

That the report dated October 1, 2013 from the Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator regarding the Ministry of Agriculture discussion paper addressing the regulation of cogeneration within greenhouses be received for information.

**CARRIED**



### **Potential Dates for Agricultural Tour**

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Tour clusters within areas was suggested;
- Tom Boeve would be willing to host a tour within the Spallumcheen cluster; however, December would work better;
- Joel Allen's greenhouse, Coldstream Ranch and an organic apple orchard were suggested as a Coldstream cluster;
- Options for tours such as dairies, feed mills, orchards, processing facilities, slaughter facilities and wineries were suggested;
- Coral Beach Farms who have cherry farms in Lake Country, Coldstream and the Westside has been arranged for a tour on Saturday, November 2 at their Lake Country location;
- Staff will look into coordinating transportation for the tour; and
- Staff will look into other farms/wineries to tour in the area to fill an approximately 6 hour day tour.

### **Update on Committee Membership**

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- There are gaps in the representation on the Committee such as orchardists, wine makers/distillers, cheese makers and poultry.
- Members should advise their agricultural producer contacts that the Committee is looking for new membership in these areas.

### **Restricted Farm Losses**

Dennis Lapierre provided information regarding recent court rulings on restricted farm losses for small scale farmers.

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Importance of the issue for small scale farmers and the economic impacts of this matter; and
- Legislative hurdles to agriculture.

The Committee decided to bring this matter forward to the next meeting.

### **Genetically Modified Organisms: Options**

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Options presented in the staff report;
- Mandate for the Committee regarding Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);
- Role of the Regional District regarding GMOs;
- Reaching consensus to send something to the Board, if consensus cannot be reached there is the option to just provide comments without a recommendation to the Board ie// send discussion notes/items that have been considered;
- Financial impacts on the Region have not been considered; The Agricultural Area Plan has not been completed; Legalities with the *Right to Farm Act* have not been considered.
- Can we limit introduction of new GMOs to the region (i.e. alfalfa);
- There is some urgency to the matter;
- Labelling;
- Consumers make the decisions;
- No consensus but more support Option 1, some support Option 2.b;

- Most support sending all information to the Board.
- Staff will write a report to the Board outlining the direction of the Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

**Certified Correct:**

  
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Chair

  
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Corporate Officer