



# REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

MINUTES of a **REGULAR** meeting of the **REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held in the Boardroom at the Regional District Office on Thursday, March 20, 2014

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<b>Members:</b>	Director M. Macnabb Bruce Naka Director B. Fleming Director R. Fairbairn Director E. Foisy Director S. Fowler Councillor R. Enns Director R. Sawatzky Mohammad Asif Tom Boeve Ian Eggen Dennis Lapierre Mike Randell Peter Stockdale Ralph van Dalfsen	Electoral Area "C" Member at Large Electoral Area "B" Electoral Area "D" Electoral Area "E" City of Armstrong District of Coldstream City of Vernon Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer	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)	
<b>Others:</b>	Blaine Recksiedler Member of the Public	Ministry of Agriculture	

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## CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee – March 20, 2014

Moved and seconded by Director Fowler and Tom Boeve  
That the Agenda of the March 20, 2014 regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be approved with the following addition:

- Item D.5 – Update on the North Okanagan Dairy Seminar

**CARRIED**

## ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee – January 23, 2014

Moved and seconded by Tom Boeve and Ian Eggen  
That the minutes of the January 23, 2014 regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## **DELEGATION**

### **Ray Ivey Jerusalem Artichokes**

Mr. Ivey presented the on the benefits of Jerusalem Artichokes.

Questions and discussion ensued regarding the following:

- The products that can be made from Jerusalem Artichokes; and,
- Growing conditions for Jerusalem Artichokes.

### **Richard Bullock, Agricultural Land Commission, Chair Agricultural Land Commission Overview**

Mr. Bullock provided an overview of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) which included the following:

- The purpose of the ALC;
- The amount of agricultural land in the province;
- The legislation of the ALC; and,
- Recent and ongoing strategic shifts in the ALC.

Questions and discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Perceptions of the ALC;
- Concerns regarding funding for the ALC, specifically in enforcement and support to Local Governments;
- Gravel extraction in the ALR – role of an Agrologist from proposal to reclamation and role of taking security bonds;
- How do we make lands available to young farmers?; and,
- How can the ALC provide more assistance to Local Governments to deal with local agricultural issues and help farmers?

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Soil Removal and Deposit Bylaw No. 2620, 2014**

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- The history and reasons for Bylaw No. 2620;
- Where Bylaw No. 2620 would be in effect;
- Role of the Ministry of Energy and Mines;
- Can Bylaw No. 2620 be varied? – Legislation does not allow for variances, exemptions are the mechanism; and,
- The process to obtain a Permit needs to be clarified.

### **Outcomes of the Food Systems Workshop**

Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator provided a verbal update.

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Regarding the benefits to farmers of an Agricultural Area Plan; and,
- Issues impacting farmers today such as prices of land, utilities, and water.

Moved and seconded by Directors Fleming and Sawatzky

That the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee identifying three to five priority policy areas that will be the focus of the Regional Agricultural Area Plan be postponed to the next meeting.

**CARRIED**

### **Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee Membership**

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- How do we determine which sectors need more representation?; and,
- What is the status of the Agricultural Inventory?

Moved and seconded by Director Fleming and Mike Randell

That it be recommended that Board of Directors the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee membership to increase the maximum number of agricultural producer representatives from seven to eight; and further,

That it be recommended that the Board of Directors appoint Paul Wendt, as producer representative for the poultry sector, to the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee.

**CARRIED**

### **Update on 2013 Agricultural Land Commission Applications**

Moved and seconded by Director Fleming and Ian Eggan

That the spreadsheet dated March 11, 2014 regarding 2013 Agricultural Land Commission applications be received for information.

**CARRIED**

### **North Okanagan Dairy Seminar**

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Update on the success of the seminar;
- What can Local Governments can do to help local dairy producers?;
- Encouraging Local Governments to look to local first; and,
- How important agriculture and dairy production is to the local economy.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**Certified Correct:**

  
Chair

  
Corporate Officer