



# 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, May 22, 2014

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<b>Members:</b>	Director M. Macnabb Bruce Naka Director S. Fowler Director R. Sawatzky Director R. Fairbairn Alt. Director C. Fraser Councillor P. McClean Paul Wendt Mohammad Asif Tom Boeve Dennis Lapierre Peter Stockdale Ralph van Daltsen Tony Van den Tillaart Joel Allen	Electoral Area "C" Member at Large City of Armstrong City of Vernon Electoral Area "D" Township of Spallumcheen District of Coldstream Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Commodity Farmers Market	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>	Ione Smith Andrea Lawseth Brooke Marshall	Upland Consulting Upland Consulting Upland Consulting	

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## CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

The Chair introduced and welcomed the new Agricultural Producer representative, Paul Wendt.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee – May 22, 2014

Moved and seconded by Bruce Naka and Alt. Director Fraser  
That the Agenda of the May 22, 2014 regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

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

Moved and seconded by Director Sawatzky and Bruce Naka  
That the minutes of the March 20, 2014 regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## **DELEGATION**

**Roger Parsonage, Interior Health Authority, Manager, Health Protection**  
**Chris Russell, Interior Health Authority, Health Officer**

### **Update on the Class E Pilot Project**

Mr. Parsonage presented an update on the Class E on-farm slaughter pilot project for the North Okanagan including:

- An overview and background of the Class E Pilot Project; and,
- The status of the current applications.

Questions and discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Will there be more home slaughter permitted? – Evaluation of the project will be lead by Ministry of Agriculture with involvement from the Interior Health Authority (IHA);
- Is there contact between IHA with Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)? – IHA is in close contact with MoA and the applicants involved in the Pilot Program;
- Some applicants have commented the cost associated with the Policies of the program and standard is prohibitive. – These concern have been raised with IHA, some specific concerns have also been addressed;
- Some applicants have commented education workshops seem to not be practical with traditional practices. – Persons should provide that feedback to MoA because that component is specific to the Pilot Program;
- Some applicants have commented they have concerns with the Policy requirements for slaughter facilities, ie//building, chemicals, non-traditional slaughter practices which are limiting some applicants in proceeding with their Licences. Is there an effort to work with the applicants to overcome barriers and have their licences issued? – Have applicants contact IHA to try to resolve their barriers;
- Are enforcement procedures still in effect? – Enforcement is on complaint basis, IHA does not actively search for non-compliant facilities;
- If all the Licences are not issued within some time, will more persons be able to apply? – IHA will discuss the matter with the MoA.
- How do cut/wrap/freeze facilities fall into the regulations? – Separate from the Pilot Program under IHA's regulation.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### Outcomes of the Food Systems Workshop

Moved and seconded by Joel Allen and Mohammad Asif  
That the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee identify three to five priority policy areas that will be the focus of the Regional Agricultural Area Plan.

**CARRIED**

## NEW BUSINESS

### Agricultural Land Commission Application Hatfield, Ann and Richards, Don Keith [File No. 14-0095-F-ALR]

Comments:

- The Committee unanimously supported the application.

### Bill 24 – 2014 Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act

Discussion ensued including the following:

- The amount of consultation is lacking and is concerning;
- ALC should take a more active role in helping farmers; and,
- More time is needed for consultation and for people to review Bill 24.

Moved and seconded by Ralph van Dalfsen and Alt. Director Fraser  
That the report dated March 27, 2014 from the Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator regarding the *Bill 24 – 2014 Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act* be received for information.

**CARRIED**

Moved and seconded by Ralph van Dalfsen and Alt. Director Fraser  
That it be recommended to the Board of Directors staff be directed to contact local MLAs, Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Land Commission with the concerns that have been raised regarding *Bill 24 – 2014 Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act*, specifically to request that *Bill 24* be tabled until more time has been given for appropriate consultation with all stakeholders and ask the Province to provide information on why stakeholder consultation was not properly considered; and further,

That a representative from the Ministry of Agriculture and the local MLAs attend a future meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee to discuss *Bill 24*, before *Bill 24* has passed.

**CARRIED**

### Day of the Honey Bee

Staff will look into posting information regarding the “Day of the Honey Bee” on the RDNO website for information only.

Moved and seconded by Dennis Lapierre and Councillor Peter McClean  
That the letter dated April 29, 2014 from the founder of “Day of the Honey Bee” regarding Day of the Honey Bee be received for information.

**CARRIED**



## **Agricultural Area Plan Workshop**

Ms. Smith and Ms. Lawseth presented an overview of the progress of the Agricultural Area Plan to date including:

- The agricultural profile – preview;
- Developing a vision statement for the Plan; and,
- Top issues regarding Agriculture in the North Okanagan.

Comments and questions ensued, including the following:

- Clarification is needed in the tables within the presentation as it relates to jurisdictions;
- How do horses fit into Agriculture as a bonafide farm use?
- Regulatory context of water rates and access to water;
- Method/tool of educating children regarding agriculture including farm visits/field trips;
- More interaction from the community, specifically children with agriculture;
- Importance of food source and economic sustainability of agriculture;
- Community leaders in agriculture are needed;
- More branding and buy in to local agriculture;
- Processing that accommodates local markets is very important;
- Value added activity is important to give more opportunities for producers;
- Keeping up with population growth is important;
- Farmers need more opportunities/help to expand from all levels of government; and,
- Need to keep costs low for farmers.

Top issues which were identified:

- Reducing 'red tape' / making things easier for producers;
- Water rates / access to water; and,
- Labour / production costs.

Moved and seconded by Tony Van den Tillaart and Director Fowler

That the presentation dated May 22, 2014 regarding the Agricultural Area Plan Workshop be received for information.

**CARRIED**

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS**

### **Update on the Class E Pilot Project**


The Committee will discuss the matter at a future meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

**Certified Correct:**

  
Chair

  
Corporate Officer