



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, July 17, 2014

Members:	Director M. Macnabb Bruce Naka Director R. Sawatzky Director R. Fairbairn Councillor P. McClean Alt. Director C. Fraser Paul Wendt Mohammad Asif Dennis Lapierre Mike Randell Peter Stockdale Ralph van Dalfsen Ian Eggen Joel Allen Blaine Recksiedler	Electoral Area "C" Member at Large City of Vernon Electoral Area "D" District of Coldstream Township of Spallumcheen Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Farmers Market Ministry of Agriculture	Chair Vice Chair
Staff:	R. Smailes A. Kittel A. Bevan	General Manager, Planning and Building Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator Executive Assistant (taking minutes)	
Others:	Members of the public		

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee – July 17, 2014

Moved and seconded by Directors Sawatzky and Fairbairn
That Agenda of the July 17, 2014 regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be approved with the following additions:

- Item D.4 – Agricultural Land Commission meeting – July 22, 2014
- Item D.5 – Communication from Wendy Aasen

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee – May 22, 2014

Moved and seconded by Director Sawatzky and Councillor McClean
That the minutes of the May 22, 2014 meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee
be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

Star View Farms Ltd. (Poultry Farming) Paul Wendt

Mr. Wendt gave a brief overview of his poultry operation and raising chicks into chickens.

NEW BUSINESS

Agricultural Area Plan

The Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator advised that Upland Consulting will attend the September Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting to report on the consultation, background work, and market opportunities analysis regarding the Agricultural Area Plan.

- The process is nearing the completion of Phase 1
- Attended the Farmers Markets in Vernon and Armstrong
- In three weeks since the online survey has been open, 63 electric responses from agricultural producers have been received and 163 electric responses from the public
- Producers Focus Group, consisting of 12 agricultural producers met in late May
- North Okanagan Agricultural Land Inventory will be updated in 2014/2015 with joint efforts from the Ministry of Agriculture, OBWB and the Regional District

Agricultural Land Commission Application K. Mertion [File No. 14-0168-F-ALR]

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Building sites
- Similarities and differences to the first application
- Six inches of topsoil is not enough soil for roots in order to establish crops
- Agrologist report
 - results of the soil test pits
 - net effect of the gravel extraction will be to improve the agricultural capability of the site
 - soil is not going to be any worse
 - there will be a proper base with sand prior to reclamation
- Water retention of the reclaimed soil
- Adversely affect adjoining farmland? Geotech report may identify that
- There were questions regarding the ability to work the ground economically
- Authority to regulate dust control
- Open ended – no final date

Comments:

- Dust on leaves blocks photosynthesis; resulting in a negative impact on neighbouring agriculture (orchards)
- Larger agricultural area
- Reducing grades and leveling the land is a benefit to agriculture
- No end date, mine permits are for 5 years, but can ask for an extension at any time
- Phased approach would be better
- Increase in arable land is a benefit
- Irrigation is available to this land, applicant has not applied for allocation as of yet
- Possible screening to block dust
- Potential for dust problems to be detrimental to adjoining properties
- Who would enforce the reclamation?
- What is below the gravel?
- What will they grow? Sufficient water and nutrients are key
- If it doesn't benefit agriculture, ALC will not support the application
- Is the bond amount for the full cost of reclamation? If it is inadequate who pays? Who sets the amount of the bond?
- Who will inspect the property? Agrolgist? How is that related back to original proposal?

Moved and seconded by Ralph van Daltsen and Alt. Director Fraser

That it be recommended to the Board of Directors to recommend to the Agricultural Land Commission, as the application has the potential for agricultural improvement on site, while mitigating potential negative impacts on adjacent agricultural lands, such as dust, the work and reclamation move ahead in phases with a geotechnical report; and further, That a bond be held for security to ensure reclamation occurs; and further, That a 5 year final end date for extraction and reclamation be proposed.

CARRIED

Opposed Directors Macnabb and Sawatzky, Ian Eggen

**Agricultural Land Commission Application
Bluenose Poultry Ltd. [File No. 14-0195-D-ALR]**

Comments:

- Neighbours seem to be in favour of the application
- Timing of the application
- Strongly support secondary dwellings for farm help

Moved and seconded by Director Fairbairn and Councillor McClean

That it be recommended to the Board of Directors that the Covenant registered on title in regards to the temporary dwelling during construction be removed.

CARRIED

Agricultural Land Commission meeting – July 22, 2014

The Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Land Commission are looking to consult with Regional Districts on potential changes to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act: Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation*.

The Board Vice Chair will determine who attends if seats are limited to only four.

Communication from Wendy Aasen

The Chair advised that Wendy Aasen has resigned from her position on the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Moved and seconded by Director Sawatzky and Bruce Naka

That it be recommended to the Board of Directors that the Member at Large position on the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee vacated by Wendy Aasen be filled.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS

**Star View Farms Ltd. (Poultry Farming)
Paul Wendt**


No discussion.

Ralph van Daltsen advised the Committee of Breakfast in the Barn, scheduled for September 13, 2014 at Davison Orchards.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Certified Correct:


Chair


DEPUTY Corporate Officer