



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

MINUTES of a **REGULAR** meeting of the **REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE** of the **REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN** held in the Boardroom at the Regional District Office on Thursday, October 16, 2014.

Members:	Director M. Macnabb B. Naka Director S. Fowler Director R. Fairbairn Councillor P. McClean Alt. Director C. Fraser Director R. Sawatzky M. Randell D. Lapierre I. Eggen M. Asif P. Wendt R. van Daltsen T. Van den Tillaart J. Allen	Electoral Area "C" Member at Large City of Armstrong Electoral Area "D" District of Coldstream Township of Spallumcheen City of Vernon Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Commodity Farmers Market	Chair Vice Chair
Staff:	R. Smailes A. Bevan	General Manager, Planning and Building Executive Assistant	
Also Present:	Director J. Pearase Blaine Recksiedler Ione Smith Jenny Freeman	Electoral Area "F" Ministry of Agriculture Upland Consulting Ltd. Wild Cherry Learning Garden	

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting – October 16, 2014

Moved and seconded by Director Sawatzky and Tony Van de Tillaart
That the agenda of the October 16, 2014 regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be approved with the following additions:

- Item D.3 UBCM Update.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting – July 17, 2014

Moved and seconded by Alt. Director Fraser and Ian Eggen

That the minutes of the July 17, 2014 meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

Wild Cherry Learning Garden

Jenny Freeman

Presented the following:

- is a farmer
- interested in looking after the farmer not just the land/ALR
- inspiring youth
- currently undertaking Masters of Education
- working towards developing courses to teach youth agriculture, the reality of it, how to make a living out of it, what careers are available in the agricultural sector
- Wild Cherry Learning Garden is a non-profit organization – farm folk/city folk – access to land which they can farm, get people involved.
- looking for greenhouse, barn, opportunities for youth to see farming in action

Upland Consulting Ltd.

Ione Smith, MSc, PAg

Agricultural Area Plan RAAC Update and Facilitated Discussion

Update on Agricultural Area Plan

- Process
- Review of consultation process
- Review of deliverables
- Review of next steps
- 40% of budget

Comments regarding the Vision Statement:

- Not sure about profitable jobs, profitable businesses instead
- To ensure the continuing sustainability of agriculture (similar to District of Coldstream's Agricultural Area Plan)
- Public education is big
- Profitable farming
- Existing farmers
- Farming provides
- Strengthening and supporting agriculture
- Value added (ex. Davisons Farm, agri tourism)
- Signage
- Profitable farms and well paying jobs

Comments regarding the Top Priorities (7)

- Protecting farmland from the environment
- Protecting farmland

- Protecting farmers and farmland
- BC Assessment Authority has a narrowed view of farming, easy to lose farm status
- Provincial Government not Local Government
- Remove local from #6
- Managing or planning not conserving
- Ensuring clean and accessible
- Protecting farms

NEW BUSINESS

Provincial Consultation on Potential Changes to the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation

Reviewed the “Summary of Stakeholder Input on Proposed Amendments to the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation” prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture in September 2014.

Discussion ensued regarding adding the following to the list of key points identified within the staff report dated September 24, 2014 regarding the Potential Changes to the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation:

Moved and seconded by Ian Eggen and Ralph van Daltsen

That the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee provide comments regarding proposed changes to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act: Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation* for consideration by the Board of Directors; and further,

That it be recommended to the Board of Directors a letter be sent to the Minister of Agriculture outlining the Regional District’s concerns regarding proposed changes to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act: Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation*; as follows:

1. The revisions, based upon the information provides, appear move toward more industrial and commercial uses on ALR lands, especially when considering expansions in the size of these operations and reducing on-farm primary production inputs;
2. These proposed changes in ALR uses have unknown local and regional government taxation, servicing, transportation, infrastructure and land use planning implications and impacts, which can not be defined without more detail.
3. Problems have been identified by Regional District staff in the past regarding existing Provincial monitoring and enforcement of current ALC regulations. Expanding the uses to include more commercial, industrial and agri-tourism uses raise further enforcement concerns;
4. Expanding permitted agri-industrial, commercial or tourism uses may introduce uses that have unintended growth management or land use consequences, which may undermine local and regional planning decisions, including introducing potential competition with existing Commercial or Industrial zones; and,
5. The proposed allowable uses move away from the original intent of the Regulation, which was to establish primary agricultural production as the top priority within the ALR.

6. That Local Governments be given the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed regulations before they go to Cabinet; and,
7. That the Life Estate Leases applicability be given to Zone 1 as well.

CARRIED

Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process

Moved and seconded by Director Fowler and Joel Allen
That the PowerPoint presentation from Shuswap Watershed Council regarding Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process be received for information.

CARRIED

UBCM Update

Meat Regulations (Director Fairbairn and Alt. Director Fraser attended)

- Meat regs have caused lots of hardship, what is happening?
 - o Started the review early, five applications, two have been completed, third is close to completing, began analysis of two year study period of having an impact on Class A and B facilities
- Policies – slight wording for personal consumption to be slaughtered on farm property but not owned property.

There is no mechanism to monitor changes to the ALR regulations.

Discussion ensued regarding bringing solutions and not only issues when meeting with Ministries.

ADJOURNMENT

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

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Chair

General Manager, Planning and Building