



# 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, March 19, 2015

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<b>Members:</b>	D. Lapierre Director M. Macnabb Director H. Halvorson Director S. Fowler Alt. Director B. Case Director J. Brown M. Asif T. Boeve I. Eggen M. Randell P. Stockdale R. van Daltsen B. Naka	Agricultural Producer Electoral Area "C" Electoral Area "F" City of Armstrong City of Enderby Township of Spallumcheen Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Agricultural Producer Member at Large	Chair Vice Chair
<b>Staff:</b>	R. Smailes L. Frank A. Bevan	General Manager, Planning and Building Sustainability Coordinator Executive Assistant	
<b>Also Present:</b>	Director R. Fairbairn	Electoral Area "D" and Board Chair	

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## CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

Round table introductions.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting – March 19, 2015

Moved and seconded by Director Macnabb and Alt. Director Case  
That the agenda of the March 19, 2015 regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be approved with the following additions:

- Item E.4 – Time frames for provincial consultation
- Item G.1 – Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop

**CARRIED**

## ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting – January 22, 2015

Moved and seconded by Mike Randell and Ian Eggen  
That the minutes of the January 22, 2015 meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Regional Agricultural Area Plan Background Report & Market Opportunities Analysis**

Staff gave an overview of the Regional Agricultural Area Plan Background Report & Market Opportunities Analysis provided by the consultant. The project is on target in the workplan and on budget for providing the final product in June.

Ralph van Daltsen entered the meeting.

Moved and seconded by Director Macnabb and Mike Randell  
That the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee review the Regional Agricultural Area Plan Background Report and Market Opportunities Analysis and provide comment.

**CARRIED**

#### *Comments on Background report:*

- Challenge of obtaining skilled/seasonal workers through various government programs
- Types of chemicals being used on farms, soil sample data to establish a baseline is lacking (Shuswap Watershed Council's preliminary work indicating the Shuswap River is one of the highest sources of phosphorous in the lake system – indicating that upland farming is the main cause)
- Concerns with farming practices in Spallumcheen where an unconfined aquifer has extremely high nitrate levels to the point where water is no longer potable
- Weather characteristics noted in the report contains information from Vernon-Coldstream Ranch, which is located at a higher elevation than the valley bottom where the agriculture takes place so the numbers are skewed.
- Barriers to farming should be identified

#### *Comments on Market opportunities analysis:*

- Trade corridors and products being moved in and out of the region – more discussion required in analysis
- Concerns that marketing for organic products occurs with a negative impact/connotation for mainstream producers/products.
- Very difficult to get local products into larger box stores, eg. Safeway

#### *Next Steps:*

- Provide comments to RDNO staff to send to the consultant for next meeting
- Valuable feedback that will inform the next steps
- Consultant will be in attendance at April meeting
- Stakeholder engagement in May
- Final product in June

#### *Discussion ensued regarding:*

- Some associations not being aware of the development of the Regional Agricultural Area Plan. Will be addressed during the public and stakeholder engagement portion of the workplan.
- Request for greater representation from other sectors, eg. Wine/cider, swine

**Agricultural Land Commission Application  
J. & J. deDood [File No. 15-0033-F-ALR]**

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- The reasons for the application
- Applicant's proposal – accessory farm sales and a food service area approximately 2300 square feet located within an existing dairy barn. Farm market with retail sales of farm products grown in area not necessarily from the farm where the market is located, more than 50%
- Food service use requires an amendment to the zoning bylaw, which will require Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's endorsement
- Generally, the approval for non-farm use applications are quite restrictive – wouldn't be able to have a different non-farm use on the property if this proposal does not succeed

Comments:

- Covenant for only that use – food service
- Only item produced onsite is unpasteurized milk, will not meet 50% threshold (reason for the application)
- Support local sales
- Concerns regarding how this sets precedent
- Cautious support

**Provincial Agricultural Land Commission Applications 2012-2015**

Moved and seconded by Directors Macnabb and Halvorson

That the listing of Provincial Agricultural Land Commission Applications 2012-2015 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**Time frames for provincial consultation**

Director Macnabb advised that a letter was received March 11, 2015 in response to a letter sent January 21, 2015 signed by Board Chair Fairbairn regarding time frames for provincial consultation.

**REPORTS**

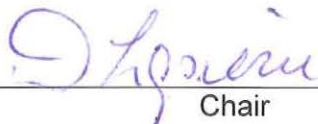
**Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop**

Dennis Lapierre and Mike Randell gave verbal updates on their attendance at the Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop held in Langley in February 2015.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT**

  
Chair



General Manager, Planning and Building