

Minutes of the Regular Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission held on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 12:00 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC.

PRESENT

Director M. Marcotte, Chair
Directors L. Duncan and G. Giles
Bob Crawford, Mick Smith, Joanne McLeod, Ian Christison, Pat Durose and Dave Thomson

ALSO PRESENT

George Robbins and Pete Keber
Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning & Development
Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development
Kathy Lachman, EDC Business Development Officer
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Directors R. Hartmann and R. Hutchins, Wayne Haddow, Rodger Hunter and Fred Oud

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair called the inaugural meeting to order and the members introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Two items of information were added.

It was moved and seconded the amended agenda be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held November 22, 2011 be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

BA1 – Section 946 of the Local Government Act

Director Duncan expressed concern regarding applications for subdivision in ALR. He reviewed the history from 2005 and there have been very few applications. Applications are tracked however decisions are not communicated. He is interested to know how many applications have been approved.

Discussion ensued.

It was moved and seconded the report on applications for subdivision in ALR be included in the next Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission meeting for information.

MOTION CARRIED

Tom Anderson will include a cover letter with definition of Section 946 of the Local Government Act.

DISCUSSION

D1 – Meeting Schedule & Location

Member consensus to hold the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month at noon in the CVRD Boardroom. Due to the statutory holiday the May meeting will be held on the fifth Tuesday. The meeting schedule will be circulated.

**D2 – Review Bylaw
No. 3515**

The CVRD Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission establishment bylaw was reviewed. Economic Development and Environment Commission appointments will be made at the April 11, 2012 Board meeting. Full commission is 16 members; quorum is 9 members one of whom must be a Director of the Board.

It was noted District of North Cowichan (DNC) is included in the CVRD Agriculture Plan. Director Hartmann sits on the DNC advisory committee as well as the RAAC. Chair Marcotte has agreed to meet with DNC at any time.

It was noted that there is general liability coverage for CVRD volunteers. Tom Anderson will provide more detailed information regarding this coverage at the next meeting.

REPORTS

**R1 – Islands
Agriculture Show**

Kathy Lachman gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the success of the first ever Islands Agriculture Show held on Feb 3-4, 2012 at the Cowichan Exhibition. An Agriculture Show is one of the 78 action items in the CVRD Agriculture Plan.

A steering committee was formed to organize this event. The event was very well attended with 148 delegates and over 800 paid tradeshow attendees. Young Farmer's Day attracted over 400 school kids. There were 63 booths sold to 55 exhibitors which included a poultry in motion exhibit as well as outdoor displays. The evaluation included an exhibitor survey of which all 31 responses said they would return next year. The event exceeded revenue projections which included a one-time grant from the Islands Agriculture Foundation (IAF).

At the event Geoff Millar was recognized by the Islands Agriculture Foundation for his dedication to the Islands Agri-Food Initiative and service as Chair.

Bob Crawford reported the Cowichan Agriculture Society signed up 10 new members.

The steering committee has met and set the date for next year's show on Feb 1-2, 2013 at the Cowichan Exhibition. They will be developing a report for the IAF grant and updating the website and are considering setting up a non-profit society.

A 7 minute video of the show was shown and has been uploaded to YouTube and the iashow.ca website. On the website you can vote for the type of speakers that interest you for the 2013 show.

It was moved and seconded a letter be sent to the Islands Agriculture Show Steering Committee thanking and congratulating them on their success.

MOTION CARRIED

George Robbins noted that Country Life had a full advertisement on the Islands Agriculture Show. Their writer is now looking to relocate to the island.

Tom Anderson left the meeting at 1:12 pm.

**R2 – Update on
Agricultural
Advisory Committee**

Kathy Lachman gave a PowerPoint update on the Agricultural Advisory Committee sub-committee activities to date.

Discussion ensued.

Director Duncan expressed interest to use the rooster logo for the Agriculture Branding Program. Geoff Millar has begun discussions with Catherine Pastula of Island Farm Fresh (IFF) so that when we are ready we can move forward with this initiative.

Director Giles left the meeting at 1:26 pm.

Further discussion ensued.

Member consensus that the RAAC will continue with sub-committees. Members will be contacted before the next meeting to advise who is on which sub-committee.

INFORMATION

**IN1 – EDC Stats on
Farming**

Director Giles absent. Item was tabled.

**IN2 – BC Strategy for
Growth**

Geoff Millar reported B.C. Agri-foods has launched a Strategy for Growth to ensure food production in B.C. will continue to grow and support valuable jobs and healthy communities. They are looking for feedback from your community. The information will be circulated.

It was noted that District A Farmers Institutes AGM is being held Saturday, March 31, 2012, Gabriola, BC.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary