

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2011 IN THE RDN COMMITTEE ROOM

Present:

Director J. Burnett	Chairperson
A. Benson	Representative (South)
J. McLeod	Representative (South)
D. Johnstone	Representative (South)
A. Brown	Representative (North)
R. Thompson	Representative (North)
C. Springford	Representative (North)

Also in Attendance:

Carol Mason	Chief Administrative Officer
P. Thorkelsson	General Manager, Development Services
D. Lindsay	Manager of Current Planning
L. Rowett	Senior Planner
Wayne Haddow	BC Ministry of Agriculture

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

DELEGATIONS

Ione Smith, Upland Consulting (via conference call) provided an update to the Committee on the public consultation activities for the Agricultural Area Plan project, including recent open houses and a stakeholder focus group meeting. Ione said she is working on a public consultation summary report and organizing another focus group meeting for January 2012. She also advised that the consulting team is completing the technical background report, which will be used to inform the Agricultural Area Plan.

The Committee then discussed the consultation activities, the purpose of the Plan, and the role of the Agricultural Advisory Committee. Some members expressed their impressions of the project having a positive start, and its relevance given public interest in the subject of food security.

Agricultural Area Plan Video

Following this discussion, the Committee and staff previewed the draft Agricultural Area Plan video series produced by the project Consultant. The Committee provided suggestions to staff for revisions and additions to the video content, and recommended various opportunities to showcase the video series to the public and other jurisdictions.

MOVED J. McLeod, SECONDED D. Johnstone that the video presentation be received by the Committee.

Regulation of Nuisance Wildlife and Feral Animals

P. Thorkelsson provided information regarding a delegation/report to the Regional Board about the regulation of nuisance wildlife and feral animals. He explained that the Board recommended this topic be included in the Agricultural Area Plan review. The Board passed a motion that this matter be referred to the Agricultural Area Plan Consultant, to be considered in the Plan and to make recommendations, and that staff refer the issue to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for further information. P. Thorkelsson explained that the RDN does not currently have the jurisdiction, and would require Provincial approval for additional authority to regulate wildlife and feral animals.

MOVED J. McLeod, SECONDED R. Thompson, that the information concerning damaging wildlife and feral species be forwarded to the Consultant and the ALC.

Further, MOVED J. McLeod, SECONDED R. Thompson, that the conservation committee/commission come and educate the Committee further on this matter.

MINUTES

MOVED A. Brown, SECONDED R. Thompson, that the minutes from the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held September 16, 2011 be received.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

J. McLeod asked staff for clarification of the process of appointments to RDN committees and commissions. She also asked if the Regional Board comments on ALR exclusion applications. Staff confirmed the Board does not provide any formal comment in support/non-support, but rather a staff report is submitted to the ALC with information about RDN bylaws and policies that are relevant an application. J. McLeod suggested the Committee be involved in reviewing and commenting on ALC applications. Staff advised this function is currently beyond the scope of the Committee's Terms of Reference, as approved by the Regional Board. Staff further explained the ALR application review process.

OTHER

W. Haddow provided an update on the Ministry of Agriculture's preparatory work for the RDN Agricultural Land Use Inventory project to be completed in 2012. He indicated the Ministry requires a letter of commitment from the RDN for funding (\$15,000.00) and resources (a car and driver) needed to commence the project in March 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

CHAIRPERSON