

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission held on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at 12:00 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

PRESENT: Director M. Marcotte (Chair)
Directors L. Duncan<to 12:55 pm>, G. Giles
<to 1:40 pm>, R. Hartmann<at 12:10 pm>,
and R. Hutchins<to 1:40 pm>
Bob Crawford, Joanne McLeod, Wayne Haddow,
Rodger Hunter, George Robbins, and Judy Stafford

ALSO

PRESENT: Director I. Morrison<to 12:50 pm>
Peter Keber, Alternate, Environment Commission
<to 12:55 pm>
Dan Ferguson, Alternate, Cowichan Agricultural
Society
Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning &
Development<to 1:35 pm>
Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development
Mike Tippet, Manager, Community & Regional
Planning, Planning & Development
<at 12:28 pm>
Robert Radford, Economic Development
Commission
Tom Barnes, Manager, Cascadia Energy Ltd.
Rick Pipes, Co-owner Merridale Estate Cidery
Judy Mills, Executive Assistant, Economic
Development
Dominique Beesley, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Mick Smith, Ian Christison, Pat Durose, Dave
Thomson, Fred Oud, Marsha Stanley and Kathy
Lachman

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the following items be added to the agenda under New Business:

NB1 – Manager, Economic Development, regarding Once upon a day...*Cowichan* film invitation,

NB2 – Dan Ferguson regarding Feed Freight Rates, and

NB3 – Bob Crawford regarding BC Assessment Authority;

and further that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION OF
MINUTES**

Director Giles pointed out a typographical error in the minutes of the meeting held on September 13, 2012, regarding Rodger Hunter's name.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission held on September 13, 2012, be amended by changing the word 'Hart' to 'Hunter' under Approval of Agenda, Item No. NB2; and further that the minutes, as amended, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission held on October 23, 2012, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

D1 - Cascadia Energy Ltd

Tom Barnes, Manager, Cascadia Energy Ltd., provided a presentation on a brief overview of natural gas delivery system in BC. Mr. Barnes noted that there was a forthcoming change to Vancouver Island with respect to lowering rates for consumers and that there are options that exist in conjunction with those changes to purchase gas supply.

Discussion ensued.

The Manager, Economic Development, requested that Mr. Barnes send his complete presentation to him and he will circulate to members.

The Manager, Community & Regional Planning, joined the meeting at 12:28 pm.

D2 – Agri-Tourism Accommodation

Rick Pipes, Co-Owner, Merridale Estate Cidery, provided a presentation on seeking a revision to CVRD zoning bylaws to include agri-tourism accommodation or farm stay use which, he said, may encourage people to invest in and develop on agricultural land within the Cowichan Valley.

The Manager, Community & Regional Planning, Planning & Development, said that because 'Farm Stay' would be considered as conditional use, it would cause issues for the CVRD if changes were later made to a property – for example a cessation of farming activities – and a Provincial Farm Status was removed. It would create difficulties were that to happen, because we would have an illegal use under both zoning regulations and the ALC regulations in that scenario, which could result in the demolition of the buildings that were used for farm stay accommodation.

For example, said Mr. Tippet, if there were a ten room motel being operated on agricultural reserve land which lost its Farm Status then the CVRD would immediately have to deal with a major zoning

non-conformity.

Discussion ensued. Director Morrison left the meeting at 12:50 pm.

It was moved and seconded that the topic of proposed agri-tourism accommodation zoning be referred to subcommittee #3 regarding goal #3 and that a copy of Federal and Provincial agri-tourism accommodation policies be provided to subcommittee members.

MOTION CARRIED

Director Duncan and Peter Keber left the meeting at 12:55 pm.

REPORTS

**R1 –
Subcommittee #3**

A verbal report from Carol Taiji, Taiji Brand Group, regarding branding action items from subcommittee #3, was received as information.

Ms. Taiji showed the commission four branding themes that could be further developed. Members agreed to keep the Cowichan brand as the cornerstone, keep it bright, fresh and nostalgic feeling with a modern flair. As well keep family of icons as subset and include a fish icon.

R2 – SCHFI Alternate

A verbal report from Director Giles, regarding an alternate for Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute, was considered.

Director Giles noted that there was no Alternate member for the Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute and Agricultural Society.

It was moved and seconded that the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission recommends the Board approve the appointment of George Baird as Alternate for Ian Christison representing the Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmer's Institute on the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2014.

MOTION CARRIED

**R3 – Islands
Agriculture Show**

A verbal report from the Manager, Economic Development, regarding 2013 Islands Agriculture Show was received as information.

Mr. Millar noted that the Islands Agriculture Show will be held on February 1 and 2, 2013, at the Cowichan Exhibition Park. He said that volunteers for the Show are still required and that he will put anyone interested in touch with Shari Paterson, Event Coordinator, Islands Agriculture Show.

Mr. Millar said that a reception will take place beginning at 4:30 pm on Friday evening which is being organized by Cindy Solda, Chair, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. He also noted that a sampling of local Alberni Valley food and wines, served by Alberni Valley vinters, would be offered and that no rsvp was required to attend.

Mr. Millar also said that VIP passes to the show are available at the Economic Development office.

R4 – Climate Action Initiative Committee

A verbal report from Director Marcotte, regarding Climate Action Initiative Committee, was received as information.

Director Marcotte, Chair, noted that the Climate Action Initiative Workshop was very well attended and included a discussion on the impact of farm level commodity groups. Part two of that Workshop, she said, is being held on February 12, 2013, at Somenos Community Hall, and that the Steering Committee will meet before then.

CORRESPONDENCE

C1 – Island Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop

The Island Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop draft agenda dated February 6, 2013, was considered.

Wayne Haddow said that the Committee was seeking members of the community and Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission to attend the Workshop and he noted that lunch and coffee breaks would be provided.

The meeting's theme, explained Mr. Haddow, would be how to form an agricultural advisory committee and how to strengthen agricultural work in BC.

Due to a limit to the number of allowed attendees, he said, he would not count CVRD Directors as members of the Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission. If you are interested to attend please email Geoff Millar.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 – Once Upon A Day...Cowichan Film Invitation

The Manager, Economic Development, said that on March 7, 2013, two films will be released entitled Once upon a day...Cowichan and Once upon a year...Cowichan.

The documentary films, he said, both focus on wine, culinary, arts and culture and were being sponsored by the CVRD, Economic Development Commission, the Watershed Board, 15 businesses, and the Town of Ladysmith.

Mr. Millar said that the film promotion trailer will be set up on the CVRD website soon. He also noted that Nick would be presenting

it on February 5th to the CVRD Communication Committee.

Mr. Millar said that on March 7th there will be a film opening reception, beginning at 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm, to be held at the Cowichan Theatre, Island Savings Centre. Admission to the show is free and open to the public and will begin at 7:30 pm.

NB2 – Feed Freight Rates

Dan Ferguson re: Feed Freight Rates

Dan Ferguson, Alternate, Cowichan Agricultural Society, said that, in his opinion, there was an unfairness of feed freight costs and that charges should be equal among all farmers.

He said that Southern Railway is giving Top Shelf Feeds a 47% increase under its shipping costs and that currently 32% - 35% is the cost for grains.

The General Manager, Planning & Development, left the meeting at 1:35 pm.

Mr. Ferguson said that there were unfair rates for transporting feed to Vancouver Island via VIA Rail and that the South Island region had to pay for all feed costs.

Director Hutchins and Giles left the meeting at 1:40 pm.

A member of the Commission noted that, at one time under Federal jurisdiction, supplies used to be prorated when coming to the Island.

It was moved and seconded that it be recommended to the Board that the Board Chair send a letter to both the Federal and Provincial Ministers of Agriculture, on behalf of farmers of the Cowichan Valley, to address problems of unfair freight costs of Cowichan Valley Region animal feeds and grains.

MOTION CARRIED

NB3 – BC Assessment Authority

Bob Crawford addressed BC Assessment Authority and farm stays.

The Manager, Economic Development, accessed BC Assessment Authority's website and reviewed its literature regarding farms status application deadlines, noting that farm income was calculated once per year.

Discussion ensued.

It was moved and seconded that the Chair, Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission invite a representative from the BC Assessment Authority, to a future meeting of the Commission, to explain the rules regarding the process required to receive farm status.

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT **It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.**

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:51 pm.

Certified Correct:

Chairperson

Secretary

Dated: