

MINUTES OF A MEETING

Regional Food and Agriculture Task Force

Thursday November 23, 2017

10:00 AM –12:00 PM

Commons Room– Capital Regional District 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC

ATTENDEES:

Bruce Greig

Bernadette Greene

Gerard Leblanc

Jane Evans

Sue Hallatt

Linda Geggie

Rudi Wallace

Virginie Lavallee-Picard

Bob Maxwell

Terry Michell

CRD STAFF: Jeff Weightman, Kaeley Jeffery

REGRETS: Director Finall, Fiona Deveraux, Rob Buchan, Derek Masselink, Erich Kelch, Robin Tunnicliffe

FACILITATION

The meeting was chaired by Virginie Lavallee-Picard, calling it to order at 1:08 pm.

1.0 WELCOME

CRD staff Jeff Weightman welcomed participants.

2.0 Chair's COMMENTS

Virginie welcomed everyone and thanked them for their input.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus

4.0 APPROVAL OF THE October 25, 2017 MINUTES

The minutes were approved by consensus

5.0 UPDATES ON OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on RFFLT feasibility study process

Process was approved by the Board during the September meeting. Terms of Reference were drafted and received input from the Task Force working group. Will seek final input this meeting.

It was noted that the Board discussion emphasized considering a range of options to support agriculture with differing levels of involvement for the CRD and other local governments. Farmers and farm groups must also be involved in these discussions as they are great resources

b. Update on National Food Policy recommendations

The National Food Policy recommendations are expected to go to the Board on December 13, 2017.

c. Update on CRD Board Priorities – agricultural infrastructure needs/abattoir

The Board Strategic Priority 4C “Work with partners to find a solution to lack of abattoir, and other farm related farming infrastructure, in the region or on the island” will be covered via a letter to the minister requesting matching funds of \$25 000 from the Ministry of Agriculture.

A motion was made during the service review meeting that will go to the Board meeting on December 13, 2017

6.0 REGIONAL FOOD AND FARMLAND TRUST TERMS OF REFERENCE INPUT

a. Jeff provided a historical outline and answered questions about discussions at the Planning and Protective Services Committee and Board. There were additional questions about the amount of funding and if it was sufficient to complete the project, and how the project would be perceived by potential consultants. Task Force members discussed government involvement in the food and agriculture sector in other regional districts on Vancouver Island.

Discussion followed about a potential phased approach and ways to explore alternative approaches and models. Task force members want to emphasize a model that uses existing government owned agricultural lands and that does not involve land acquisition.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

N/A

9.0 NEXT MEETING

Holiday Wrap Up event date.

ACTION 1: (Jeff)

Revise Terms of Reference as per the Task Force Discussion

ACTION 2: (Jeff)

Draft report for Planning and Protective Services Committee for early 2018

ACTION 3: (Jeff)

Schedule a holiday event for the group