

Appendix 3 – Letters and Motions of Support for Regional Food and Farmland Trust



The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich

February 24, 2014

File No. 0400-50/14

Capital Regional District
PO Box 1000
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Attention: Alastair Bryson, Board Chair

Dear Mayor Bryson:

Re: Regional Services Supporting Agriculture; Input to the Regional Sustainability Strategy and Food Systems Sub-Strategy

At the Regular Council Meeting held on February 17, 2014, the Municipal Council of the District of Central Saanich requested the Capital Regional District to include the following regional services for consideration as a mechanism for the region to support local agriculture, within the draft Regional Sustainability Strategy and Food Systems Sub-Strategy:

1. *Building on the existing regional water service, continue to provide farms with bulk water at reduced rates and support expansion of the water delivery system where it can be demonstrated to support local food production and processing;*
2. *Support, through prioritized regional gas tax funding, agricultural drainage infrastructure projects that demonstrate a benefit for local food production;*
3. *Ensure that regional composting of organic waste protects the agricultural land base, and provide a mechanism for farms to access compost at a bulk rate that is affordable in the quantities necessary to enhance farm soils for food production;*
4. *Create a regional office for agricultural extension and business development to support innovation and growth in local food production, processing and marketing, with a mandate to focus on the following:*
 - a) *Regional food distribution;*
 - b) *Regional processing and storage infrastructure*
 - c) *Support for institutional purchasing of local products*
 - d) *Support for innovation and funding (navigating provincial and federal funding programs); and,*
 - e) *Collection and analysis of data on regional farming.*

1903 Mount Newton Cross Road, Saanichton, B.C. V8M 2A9

Phone: (250) 652-4444 Fax: (250) 652-0135

Capital Regional District Board February 24, 2014
Re: Regional Services Supporting Agriculture; Input to the
Regional Sustainability Strategy and Food Systems Sub-Strategy Page 2

Furthermore, Council suggests the CRD seek funding from the Province to support the creation of this regional office and the Ministry of Agriculture has indicated interest in exploring this model if there is regional support.

In addition, the District reiterates its request for the CRD to support the following (as initially requested in 2011)::

5. *Create a regional farm land trust and farm land acquisition fund to acquire a supply of land for lease to farmers, including incubator farm plots for new farmers;*
6. *Create a farmland-wildlife stewardship programme to pay farmers for providing ecological goods and services, and establish a regional levy to fund the programme; and,*
7. *Guide institutions (universities, school districts, health care facilities, local governments, etc.) within the region to adopt procurement policies to buy locally produced food by investigating legal hurdles and providing examples of approaches that have proven successful.*

Yours truly,



Alastair Bryson
Mayor



TOWN OF SIDNEY

CRD EXECUTIVE OFFICE Sidney Avenue, Sidney, British Columbia V8L 1Y7
 Phone: 250-656-1184 Fax: 250-655-4508
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Received

JUL 25 2014

July 16, 2014

Alastair Bryson, Chair
 Capital Regional District
 PO Box 1000
 Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Chair
 CAO
 GM PPS, FT
 Board
 Communications th
 For action / resp. by _____
 Corresp. for Board / Committee meeting 1951
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Dear Mr. Chair:

Subject: Regional Food System Sub-Strategy

This is to advise that Town of Sidney Council, at a meeting held on July 14, 2014, endorsed the Regional Food System Sub-Strategy, of the Regional Sustainability Strategy, and passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Capital Region is working to support agriculture and farming through the Regional Sustainability Strategy and the Regional Food Systems Sub-Strategy;

AND WHEREAS individual municipalities have begun efforts to work regionally to support these aims;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Sidney work in concert with the CRD and other regional municipalities to support a regional farm trust and farm land acquisition fund to acquire a supply of farm land, and including land already acquired, for lease to farmers, including incubator farm plots for new farmers;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED that the CRD Board be notified of this resolution and encouraged to work actively toward this initiative.

The Town supports food security initiatives that focus on viable and long-term strategies that work to strengthen local and regional food systems.

Yours truly,

Larry Cross
 MAYOR

- c. Mayor A. Bryson, District of Central Saanich
- Mayor A. Finall, District of North Saanich

District of Saanich
 Legislative Services
 770 Vernon Ave.
 Victoria BC V8X 2W7

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 saanich.ca



CRD EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Received
DEC 19 2016

File: 2110-65
Via Email

December 13, 2016

Chair Barbara Desjardins and Directors
 Capital Regional District
 PO Box 1000
 625 Fisgard St
 Victoria BC V8W 2S6

- Chair
- CAO
- GM K. Lorette
- For action / resp. by _____
- Corresp. for Board / Committee meeting
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- Board
- Communications

Dear Chair Desjardins and Directors:

0220-20 Food Security/Planning

Exploration of Farmland Trusts

This letter confirms that at their meeting held December 12, 2016, Council considered the Capital Regional Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CRFAIR) "Findings Report – Exploring Farm and Food Lands Access in the CRD: A Local Government Farmland Trust Approach" and resolved as follows:

"That Council:

1. *Receive, with thanks, the Capital Regional Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CRFAIR) "Findings Report – Exploring Farm and Food Lands Access in the CRD: A Local Government Farmland Trust Approach" for information;*
2. *Request that the CRD Board refer the development of a regional farmland trust to the proposed Regional Food Security Task Force as a priority initiative; and*
3. *Support continued work to explore a farmland trust in the Capital Regional District, through participation in the proposed "Capital Region Food and Agriculture Strategy Plan" companion Task Force."*

If you require further clarification, please contact my office at 250-475-5494, Ext. 3500.

Sincerely,

Donria Dupas,
 Legislative Manager

dh

- cc: Mayor and Council
 Paul Thorkelsson, CAO
 Sharon Hvozdzanski, Director of Planning
 Elizabeth van den Hengel, Secretary, Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee
 Brent Reems, Senior Manager, Legislative & Information Services

CRD EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Received

OCT 23 2014



DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

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Chair
 CAO
 GM

Board
 Communications

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October 14, 2014

Capital Regional District Board
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Dear Chair Bryson and Board Members:

Re: Regional Farm Trust and Farmland Acquisition Fund

I write on behalf of Mayor and Council of the District of North Saanich. At the meeting held October 6, 2014, North Saanich Council considered the enclosed Staff Report and adopted the following resolution:

That Council direct staff to send a letter of support to the CRD and other municipalities to consider establishing a regional farmland trust and farmland acquisition fund.

On behalf of Mayor and Council, thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Curt Kingsley
Director of Corporate Services

Enclosure

cc: CRD Municipalities





CRD EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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SEP 21 2016

- Chair *AK*
- GAO
- GM *PPS*
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- Board
- Communications

0400-50 North Saanich

September 13, 2016

September 13, 2016

Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Attention: Board of Directors

Re: Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Food and Agriculture Section and the draft Food and Agriculture Strategy: Comments from the District of North Saanich.

The District of North Saanich has approximately 14 km² or 35 % of the District lands in the Agriculture Land Reserve (the ALR) and eight percent of the total ALR land in the CRD. The total land in the District with OCP Agriculture designation is a total of 1,323 hectares or 3,269 acres including 410 lots, of which 366 have been developed in some capacity. Approximately half of the 1,323 hectares are forage and pasture crops (DNS, 2009). The District of North Saanich's primary agriculture activity includes berry farms, field vegetable and flower farms, vineyards, pasture land, nurseries, greenhouses, stables/riding facility, horse and poultry farms, dairy, beef cattle and sheep/goat farms.

Further to the District of North Saanich's May, 2016 correspondence to the Capital Regional District Board providing comments on the Regional Growth Strategy the District provides comments on Bylaw 4017 "Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1, 2016" (the "RGS") Food and Agriculture Section and concurrently on the draft Food and Agriculture Strategy. The comments on the latter will also be provided directly to the forthcoming Forum of Council meeting on Food and Agriculture.

The District comments on the Section's principles and policies in context of the following District of North Saanich goals, policies and objectives:

Official Community Plan cornerstone objective:

Retain the present rural, agricultural and marine character of the community.

Strategic Plan goals:

*The Agricultural Community Preserved and Strengthened
A Vibrant and Sustainable Agriculture Economy*

The District comments on the Strategy's recommendations and actions in context of the following District of North Saanich Strategic Plan objectives:

To enhance protection of regional rural and agricultural municipalities and public agricultural holdings in the region with a farm land acquisition program.

Food and Agriculture Section

The District encourages a strong and robust food systems policy in keeping with the key interest and significance of food security to the region. Bylaw 4017 RGS is a regional growth strategy with a food and agriculture section with a target to increase crop production by 5,000 ha by 2038. The CRD has a total of 16,382 ha in the ALR and 13,606 ha in production, 4,752 currently in crop production. The RGS projects a net population increase of 94,900 by 2038. The District understands the 5,000 ha aspirational target to increase crop production is not linked to food self-sufficiency as it is not an objective of the RGS or the Strategy nor to population projections and not intended to be an indicator on food security. The District suggests an aspirational target without meaningful context and measurable outcomes is lacking purpose and likely not substantively achievable.

The District comments that the target would benefit from the following refinements:

- Crop Production - differentiated between animal and food production;
- Food Security - linked to population projections and self-sufficiency goals;
- Refine the Target – additional research to refine the target is required as the current target may not be realistic given that there is only a total of 16,382 ha of land in the ALR in the CRD such as a crop production capacity study.

Draft Food and Agriculture Strategy

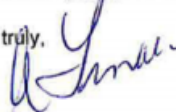
The District supports the Strategy recommendations and actions and encourages the CRD to strengthen the actions needed to achieve the following:

- a. Food Security & Production - encourage the development of a regional agriculture plan which improves food security and production and discourage non-farm use of agriculture land, including federally owned crown land; and make regional food trust a high priority;
- b. Economic support – encourage the CRD to support farmers and local governments with marketing, drainage and wildlife control and water rates; and
- c. Partnerships – improve the CRD capacity to address regional issues such as supporting a regional agrologist specific to the region and support the CRD to find a solution to lack of cattle abattoir and other related farming infrastructure, in the region or on the island.

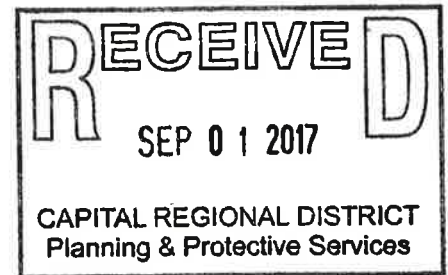
Thank you for considering our comments on the Food and Agriculture Section and the draft Food and Agriculture Strategy. The District supports consistent regional direction to strengthen the food and agricultural sector.

The District is still in the process of considering matters that may result in Map 3 amendments and will advise the CRD accordingly.

Yours truly,



Mayor Alice Finall
District of North Saanich



Office of the Mayor

K. Lorette, General Manager, Planning and Protective Services
 CRD Planning and Protective Services Committee
 625 Fisgard Street
 Victoria, British Columbia V8W 1R7

August 31, 2017

Dear Mr. Lorette and Planning & Protective Services Committee members,

Re: Regional Food & Farmland Trust

The District of North Saanich submits this letter of support for the advancing the feasibility and development of a regional farmland trust and farmland acquisition fund. Mayor and Council passed a motion on May 25, 2014 supporting this initiative. The Notice of Motion is as follows:

WHEREAS the Capital Region is working to support agriculture and farming through the Regional Sustainability Strategy and the Regional Food Systems Sub-Strategy AND WHEREAS individual municipalities have begun efforts to work regionally to support these aims

BE IT RESOLVED that the District of North Saanich work in concert with the CRD and other regional municipalities to support a regional farm trust and farm land acquisition fund to acquire a supply of farm land, and including land already acquired, for lease to farmers, including incubator farm plots for new farmers.

AND FURTHER RESOLVED that the CRD Board be notified of this resolution and encouraged to work actively toward this initiative

258 That the District of North Saanich work in concert with the CRD and other regional municipalities to support a regional farm trust and farm land acquisition fund to acquire a supply of farm land, and including land already acquired, for lease to farmers, including incubator farm plots for new farmers and that the CRD Board be notified of this resolution and encouraged to work actively toward this initiative.

Subsidiary Motion

259 That the initiative to work in concert with the CRD and other regional municipalities to support a regional farm trust and farm land acquisition fund be referred to the Tri-Municipal meeting.

260 That the initiative also be referred to the District Agricultural Advisory Commission.

On June 5, 2014 the Agricultural Advisory Commission discussed the referral and passed the following resolution in response to Council:

23-AAC DISCUSSION: The Agricultural Advisory Commission agrees in principle with the idea of farmland trust and recommends to Council that the District of North Saanich work in concert with the CRD and other regional municipalities to support a regional farm trust and farm land acquisition fund to acquire a supply of farm land, including land already acquired, for lease to farmers at fair market value, and incubator farm plots for new farmers provided that the regional farm trust and farmland acquisition fund address the following concerns:

- full public consultation process on all acquisitions and expenses;
- a cap to be set on taxpayer funding;
- possible unfair competition of existing local farmlands must be addressed in a fair and equitable way; and
- a management and sound business plan must be presented.

And, further resolved that the CRD Board be notified of this resolution and encouraged to work actively toward this initiative.

Food and farmland trusts provide long-term protection of farmland and are one mechanism used to help farmers secure affordable, long-term land tenures in the face of increasing land prices. They are voluntary agreements involving the sale or donation of property or a perpetual conservation covenant by a will/ estate of a land owner to a government agency (e.g., District of North Saanich) or a private, non-for-profit land trust organization (e.g., Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust) and are intended to complement the existing provincially designated Agricultural Land Reserve.

A food and farmland trust can also broaden its mandate to help strengthen the economic viability of local agriculture by:

- 1) becoming the coordinating body to promote and develop economic opportunities for local farmers;
- 2) increasing local agricultural training and mentoring opportunities for existing and new farmers;
- 3) supporting the implementation of beneficial farm management practices; and
- 4) advocating for policies to preserve and enhance regional agriculture.

A broader mandate for the proposed trust would not only be consistent with the "North Saanich Agricultural Plan", it would also be consistent with the "Whole Community Agriculture Strategy" and "The Economic Development Strategy for Agriculture in North Saanich." Thus, the AAC and Staff are in support of the concept of a regional food and farmland trust and acquisition fund and fully support feasibility and further exploration moving forward of this important mechanism to increase land access in the CRD.

Yours truly,



Mayor Alice Finall



Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission

c/o Saanich Municipal Hall
770 Vernon Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V8X 2W7
Telephone: (250) 475-1775 Fax: (250) 475-5440
Secretary: Isobel Hoffmann, isobel.hoffmann@saanich.ca
Co-Chairs: Bob Maxwell & Jack Mar

March 15, 2015

CRD Board
Planning and Protective Services
Regional and Strategic Planning
Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Dear CRD Board

RE: Comments and Feedback on the Draft Regional Sustainability Strategy – RSS.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft Strategy.

The Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission, PAAC, (originally the Peninsula Agricultural Commission) developed its *Agriculture Strategy for the Saanich Peninsula* in June 1997. The District of Metchosin and Juan de Fuca Electoral Area has since joined the Commission.

Our commission supports the Draft Regional Sustainability Strategy – RSS. Basically, we have had the same objectives and a working / supportive history for 18 years.

Our Background

PAAC's Mission and Objectives : *as they relate to the CRD draft Strategy:*

- We support the Agricultural Land Reserve as a means of preserving farm land for future generations.
- Mission: To ensure the sustainability of the Saanich Peninsula's Farm Community, (now including Metchosin and Juan de Fuca)

Objective #1:

To secure an adequate supply of water to farms at a competitive cost, and to protect the community's interest in a secure supply of ground and surface water of a quality appropriate to farm needs.

Objective #2:

To increase economic returns to Farmers. (*see attachment 'PAC Strategic Plan' of details for each objective*).

Objective #3:

To Enhance the Sustainability of the Agricultural Land Base.

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Objective #4:

To Foster Stewardship of Farm Land Which Embraces Environmental and Other Community Values.

Objective #5:

To increase Public Awareness, Education and Support for a Sustainable Farm Community.

Objective #6:

To Establish a Continuing Focal Point For Farm Issues and Implementation of the Strategy.

With respect to PAAC's projects, municipal and farm support we have:

Participated in and agreed with the Districts of North Saanich, Central Saanich and Saanich as to their

- OCP's agricultural sections where sustainability, farm and food statements support farmland and farmer sustainability;
- Promoted the development of Agricultural Area Plans for North Saanich and Central Saanich; here we participated in and approved these plans, significant mention of sustainability and positive farmland initiatives are documented.
- Promoted and participated in a large CRD Agricultural Water Use study to understand water use and promote sustainable consumption.
- Included CR-FAIR as a member to our Commission and to accept and help with their approaches to a more sustainable food system, and promote connections with rural growers and city consumers.
- Promote the Environmental Farm Plan Program to protect farmers and encourage sustainable farm practices.
- To participate in and encourage wetland improvement projects such as Durrell Creek (to facilitate better farmland drainage) as well as Martindale Flats, Panama Flats and Maber Flats.
- Participate in meetings and significant communications on regional compost use for farmers to build their soils.
- To initiate and participate in a Regional Canada Geese Management Plan and Program, and to participate in the CRD's Deer Management Program.
- To work with and provide input to municipal farmland acquisitions such as Panama Flats and the Sandown property.
- To encourage Municipalities to help with and develop strategies and plans to increase local food production, as related to reducing GHG and local climate concerns.

All of the Municipal Official Community Plans have significant policies and positions for working towards sustainable farming, food and environmental sustainability.

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Member Municipalities:
Districts of Saanich, Central Saanich, North Saanich & Town of Sidney

CRD Board – Feedback on Draft RSS

March 15, 2015

At its April 10th 2014 meeting, PAAC considered a letter dated February 24 2014 from Central Saanich. PAC agreed with and supported this letter on Regional Services Supporting Agriculture: Input to the Regional sustainability Strategy and Food Systems Sub-Strategy. *An excerpt of the April 10th minutes, and a copy the February 24th letter is attached for reference.*

If the CRD would develop and adopt similar policies, we believe it will help significantly with agricultural sustainability.

As a side-note, the Regional Districts of the Cowichan Valley, the Alberni Valley and the Courtney-Comox area are very supportive and involved with agriculture and its economic potential.

We hope the CRD Board will find our comments useful. We look forward to seeing the policies set out in the Strategy come to fruition. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

Sincerely,

Robert Maxwell, Co-Chair
Peninsula Agricultural Commission

cc: PAAC members
PAAC Council Liaisons: Councillors Derman, McLennan, Graham and Stock