



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING

Regional Food and Agriculture Task Force

Tuesday April 4, 2017

1:00 PM –4:00 PM

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

ATTENDEES:

Bernadette Greene
Bob Maxwell
Bruce Greig
Derek Masselink
Director Finall
Fiona Deveraux
Gerard Leblanc
Jane Evans
Linda Geggie
Robin Tunnicliffe
Rudi Wallace
Virginie Lavallee-Picard

CRD STAFF: Signe Bagh, Jeff Weightman, Sue Hallatt, Lyn Coles

REGRETS: Terry Michell, Rob Buchan

PRE-MEETING PREPARATION

Participants received the following documents in a binder at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- Central Saanich Presentation discussion summary
- Planning and Protective Services Committee meeting summary
- Farmland Trust report –CR FAIR
- Farmland Trust report – Notice of Motion
- Farmland Trust presentation – James Anderson
- Food tree/shrub invitation/application

FACILITATION

The meeting was facilitated by Jeff Weightman, who called it to order at 1:00 pm.

1.0 WELCOME

CRD staff Jeff Weightman welcomed participants

2.0 CHAIRS/DIRECTOR FINALLS REMARKS

Virginie Lavallee Picard and Director Finall provided some opening comments, noting the Planning and Protective Service Committee's decision to not proceed with IAF grant request of \$8k to complete a \$70k Agricultural Land Use Inventory and Agricultural Water Demand Model.

3.0 PRESENTATION BY JAMES ANDERSON RE: FARMLAND TRUST

James Anderson presented his experiences and knowledge with farmland trusts in 1980's, outlining his concerns for the model outlined in the notice of motion brought forward to the PPSC. Concerns were specific to cost and competition.

4.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved (1st S Hallatt 2nd B Greig)

5.0 APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2017 MINUTES

The minutes were approved (1st V Lavallee Picard 2nd D Masselink)

6.0 UPDATES ON OLD BUSINESS

a. Jeff provided an update from the Central Saanich Agriculture Commission presentation, outlining questions and concerns. Namely, wildlife concerns, the cost of water and fairness of a farmland trust to bonafide farmers.

b. Jeff outlined the actions taken to provide 150 food trees to applicants from Le Coteau nursery. 16 applicants were selected and 150 food trees were distributed with a media release and social media support from the CRD.

c. Jeff outlined the Planning and Protective Services Committee decision to not support the application to the IAF for the Agricultural Land Use Inventory and Agricultural Water Demand Model.

d. Jeff provided a summary of the discussion regarding the notice of motion for the farmland trust using the Regional Housing Trust Fund and Regional Parks Acquisition Fund as examples (using a per capita household tax to fund), a staff report outlined that the task force would like more time to review details before providing recommendations. The PPSC outlined concerns around funding, services, and fairness to other farmers.

7.0 RFAS RECOMMENDATION PRIORITIZATION & 7.0 FARMLAND TRUST RECOMMENDATIONS

The RFATF further refined the recommendations in the RFAS.

The task force discussed recommendations noting a need to change the approach for the ALUI, ADWM and Farmland Trust. Additional information and balance was required to move forward. Myths needed to be addressed, concerning the competition of lessee's and farmers in a farmland trust. Further discussion noted the value of farmland and the need to separate the value of real estate and farmland. The task force discussed additional information in terms of managing soils and wetlands and status updates of each recommendation.

8.0 2018 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Signe Bagh provided an overview of the 2018 budget process including opportunities for to provide input. The PPSC authorizes the budget and the Board finalizes it. There are existing funds in the consulting budget that the RFATF can use but not substantial. May require additional funds or a single supplementary.

9.0 Election of Vice Chair

Postponed until next meeting.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS

Bob Maxwell outlined a need for soils expert to assist farmers, and briefly presented an outline for how an existing expert could be co – funded by governments for part of the year so that farmers could have direct access to technical expertise and solutions.

11.0 NEXT MEETING

May – specific dates to be confirmed via doodle and email.

ACTION 1:

Virginie to set up 1 on 1 meetings with each task force member, and compile actions and outcomes from each meeting.

ACTION 2:

Contact Deb Curran for consideration in exploring a regional farmland trust model.

ACTION 3:

Create document that displays the status of each RFAS recommendation and input and potential advancement opportunities from 1 on 1 meetings

ACTION 4:

Create shared access folder for RFATF members to collaborate.