

**REPORT TO SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION  
MEETING OF THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025**

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**SUBJECT**     **Food and Community Organizations Fee for Service Contract**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To consider a fee for service contract with the Farmland Trust Society, Abattoir Society and the Community Market Society to enhance agriculture and food production on Salt Spring Island.

**BACKGROUND**

A representative of Agriculture Alliance attended the Salt Spring Island (SSI) Local Community Commission (LCC) as a delegation on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in support of funding requests from the Farmland Trust Society, Abattoir Society, Community Market Society and Transition Salt Spring.

Members of the Agricultural Alliance discussed funding requests and priorities for 2025, and four projects were put forward for LCC consideration that were believed to have the most immediate impact (Appendix A)

- Neighbourhood Farmer Training Program - \$7,000
- Abattoir Skills Training - \$5,000
- Tuesday Farmers Market Advertising and Promotion - \$4,500
- Invasive Chipping Program - \$3,500

The LCC approved Transition Salt Spring's funding request in the amount of \$3,500 through a Grant in Aid application reducing the 2025 funding request from \$20,000 to \$16,500.

The CRD funded four fee-for-service contracts through the Economic Development Service in 2024:

1. SSI Chamber of Commerce: Visitor Information Centre 2024 Operating Season - \$10,000
2. SSI Farmland Trust Society: Farmland Trust Grow Local Food Aggregation - \$20,000
3. Southern Gulf Islands Tourism: DMMO Annual Funding - \$10,000
4. SGI Community Resources: Housing NOW Home Share Registry - \$22,830

Total \$62,830

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### *Alternative 1*

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission approve

- 1) Neighbourhood Farmer Training Program fee for service contract with Farmland Trust in the amount of \$7,000 for 2025.
- 2) Abattoir Skills Training program fee for service contact with the Abattoir Society in the amount of \$5,000 for 2025.
- 3) Tuesday Farmers Market Advertising and promotion fee for service contact with the Community Market Society in the amount of \$4,500 for 2025.

### *Alternative 2*

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission refer the report back to staff for additional information.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies*

Salt Spring Island Local Area Farm Plan

#### Goal 1:

- To ensure the long-term viability of farming and increase local food production on SSI
- Increase cooperative marketing and resource sharing and strengthen the linkages in the supply chain
- Facilitate increased access to farmland for new entrant farmers

#### Goal 2:

- To engage the public and governments on the value of buying local food and protecting land for farming
- Provide opportunities for community participation in the local food economy

The LCC's Strategic Plan from 2024 to 2027 has a related Objective to 'improve local food security', with an Initiative 'to support local food security initiatives.'

### *Financial Implications*

The Economic Development Service has \$101,652 budgeted for project costs and third-party payments in 2025. \$51,652 of this funding was carried forward from 2024 to support LCC housing strategy initiatives. There is \$50,000 remaining to support fee-for-service contracts through the Economic Development Service in 2025

### **CONCLUSION**

As members of the Agricultural Alliance, four community groups submitted a joint proposal for funding initiatives in 2025 through a fee for service contact under the SSI Economic Development Service.

If approved, the CRD will enter a fee for service contact with three local community groups to support agriculture and food production on Salt Spring Island.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission approve:

- 1) Neighbourhood Farmer Training Program fee for service contract with Farmland Trust in the amount of \$7,000 for 2025.
- 2) Abattoir Skills Training program fee for service contact with the Abattoir Society in the amount of \$5,000 for 2025.
- 3) Tuesday Farmers Market Advertising and promotion fee for service contact with the Community Market Society in the amount of \$4,500 for 2025.

Submitted by:	Dan Ovington, BBA, Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area
Concurrence:	Stephen Henderson, BSc, MBA, Senior Manager of Real Estate, Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Local Community Commission

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Appendix A: Funding Request - Dated January 2025