

Legserv

Subject: FW: Addressing the Board - Submission

Sent: Monday, February 18, 2019 1:28 PM

To: Legserv <Legserv@crd.bc.ca>

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Your name::

Nathalie Chambers

I represent::

The District of Saanich/CRD Alt.

Municipality/Electoral Area in which you reside::

Saanich

I wish to address::

Planning and Protective Services Committee

Meeting Date::

February 20, 2019

Agenda Item::

Regional Farmlands Trust

My reason(s) for appearing (is/are) and the substance of my presentation is as follows::

Although newly elected to the District of Saanich, to the board as Alt CRD director and Regional Water Commissioner, I have been a farmer/author and advocate for food security and farmland trusting municipally regionally, provincially and nationally for the last 16 years. Also worked with 90m exemplary farmers in BC in the conservation partners program.

My book Saving Farmland the fight for Real Food is the community love story of how in the absence of a regional farmlands trust the community rallied to protect the ecological, agricultural and cultural values of Madrona Farm in perpetuity by removing Madrona Farm out of private ownership and putting it in a land trust.

The Dream of Protecting Madrona Farm with the TLC became a reality on June-2010.

When 3500 people donated 2.7 million dollars to this end. It was a testament of the power of people, and what we can collectively accomplish when the community works together. We can and climate change forces us to move mountains.

This success really formed the foundation of my belief-that I adhere to that I believe that a small committed local government can be a model and change the world. This is the sentiment that I wish to deliver.

Location Location Location we live in a national marine, cultural and biological diversity hotspot in the Rainshadow of the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges-ample rain-sunshine and usually mild winters. We are the most Climate Change Logical Place to grow food in the World.

Yet we are most food secure in Canada. The Rocky provinces of new Brunswick and Newfoundland have greater food security.

As well with UNDRIP and TRC it is important to note that our soils here on the Saanich Peninsula are a result of 14k years of Coast Salish management, including the use of fire to manage and enhance berry bushes and maintain the open camas meadows, etc. In fact our current ecology and the Garry Oak ecosystem is the source

of fertility on the Saanich Peninsula.

The largest obstacles to food security in Saanich/CRD and province is price of farmland and secondly the industrialization and non permitted use of farmland which in addition to inflating price can degrade soils, waterways and furthers inflates price while often contaminating and destroying lands for future generations.

We can and must solve this market failure. For climate change, for our kids or wildlife or whatever reason you need.

My book advocates for a sustainable model presented by the English national trust that has protected 233 000 hectares of farmland and provides 1000's of long term sustainable leases to farmers.

Land banking through a CRD regional trust means we can take farmland out of speculation-offer long term sustainable leases to farmers, increase food security, but also regional ownership of farmland is an investment in our food security and leasing lands in partnership with farmer-land linking groups will also be a money maker for the municipality. /region.

Farmers will pay market value for farmland, \$350 per acre per year depending on fertility, monthly fees and will be able to get farm tax.

Finally since Saanich is 50% rural and contains most of the farmland an agricultural levy of \$10 per year/CRD residents can really add up and add to the purchase of more farmland.

I am hoping the climate change declaration is the wake up call we need. Our 3 days of surplus food² was evident in the winter storms.

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I will have a PowerPoint or video presentation and will submit it at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.:

Yes

The meeting and my presentation will be webstreamed live via the CRD website and recorded.:

I understand.