

MEETING MINUTES

Regional Food and Agriculture Task Force

February 10, 2021

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Microsoft Teams – Capital Regional District 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC

ATTENDEES:

Erich Nahser-Ringer

Linda Geggie

Virginie Lavallee-Picard

Doug Pepper

Emily Carmichael

Ivo Vandecamp

Pierre Iachetti

Robin Tunnicliffe

Bob Maxwell

Gerard Leblanc

Terry Michell

Cliff Macneil Smith

CRD STAFF: Jeff Weightman

REGRETS: N/A

FACILITATION

The meeting was chaired by Virginie Lavallee-Picard, calling it to order at 1:04 pm and providing First Nations acknowledgement.

WELCOME

CRD staff Jeff Weightman and welcomed participants.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING NOTES

It was acknowledged that the meeting notes from 2019 and 2020 were project based. 2019 focused on task force priorities, and 2020 produced the scope of work for the regional foodland trust business case. The deliverable was the terms of reference for the agreement with Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

1. UPDATES ON OLD BUSINESS

a. Task Force Priorities

The Task Force produced a set of priorities throughout 2019 and focused on the development of a terms of reference/scope of work for the business case in the meetings in 2020. Members are requested to review the priorities to see if they still remain true for 2021.

b. Vancouver Island Agricultural Climate Adaptation Strategy

The Strategy process was completed in 2020, the strategy itself is available on the BC Climate Adaptation for Agriculture Website. The first pilot project will focus on pests (insects) and pollinators information collection and distribution and the second pilot project will complete crop trials on Central Vancouver Island.

c. Update on the Agricultural Land Use Inventory and Water Demand Model

The survey was completed in summer 2018, however, a draft layer is available in GIS but a final report has not yet been produced. The current layers are difficult to navigate.

d. Regional Food Land Trust Business Case Update

The final research agreement is now with KPU, after being delayed due to COVID 19 in 2020. Work is expected to begin in February 2021.

e. Problem Wildlife Update – Geese/Deer

A report on deer went to the January Planning and Protective Services Committee, after discussion the committee recommended to the Board to wait before any additional action is taken until the Oak Bay immune contraception project is finished.

2. Foodlands Trust Business Case Kwantlen Polytechnic University

A signed agreement is now in place with KPU, a team of three researchers and project managers will begin working on a final workplan before proceeding. The agreement and scope of work took 3 months to agree on and develop. The final business case and presentation to the Committee are anticipated for Fall 2021.

Roundtable Updates:

Virginie – City of Victoria -new community gardens, community meal programs,

Robyn – Langford residents consuming everything on the farm, starting agritourism, composting toilet, very busy farmstand, selling everything from the farm.

No longer going to 5 markets and Saanich Organics, seeing a big shift of how people buy food

Mentorship with Young Agrarians. Traditional mentorship has eroded, more learning online now

Incredible winter harvest, unprecedented

Erich – Mayne Island & Coles Bay shellfish harvest; presentation to north Saanich

Linda – Farmer to Farmer to link up experienced farmers with new farmers, trying to figure out what is needed

Pierre- Foodland Trust – community push back on Panama Flats; farm stand bylaw; farm worker housing

Ivo – community garden from community group on district land; need to do public engagement; some negative feedback; OCP review; determine topics and what to consider

Max – pollinators, need to grow potatoes

Terry – huge sales, unprecedented, institutional purchasing for retirement homes, demands from chefs, more local purchasing, farm workers did come – province paid for quarantine, limited outbreak

Geese harvested, still not great but better; deer not bad in Central Saanich

Prices on wholesale were up a bit

Cliff – OCP review; concurrent with Central Saanich and North Saanich

Same consultant – Modus; no farmland but residents value it

Gerard – Sooke Food CHI – virtual seedy Saturday coming up; working with Christina and Emily at CRFAIR at food supply chain resulting in virtual symposium; Food security survey in the west shore; monitoring Sooke OCP review for Sooke food CHI

Meeting completed at 2:15