

DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Agricultural Advisory Commission**

January 14, 2010 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Chair B. Brennan
Members H. Crawford
B. Greene
B. Hughes
N. Schafer

APC Liaison T. Izard
EAC Liaison J. Thornburgh (4:23)

Council Liaison A. Scoones
Manager, Corporate Services C. Kingsley
Recording Secretary L. Coburn

ABSENT

Members B. Dunic
J. von Kaldenberg
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands R. Kline

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOVED BY: B. Hughes
SECONDED: B. Greene

1-AAC That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councillor Scoones stated that Council had requested that the minutes of December 3, 2010 be amended to reflect that the vote to raise the cost of agricultural water was not unanimous, but opposed at both the Regional Water Supply Commission (by 3 of 16 members) and at the Capital Regional Board (by 4 of 23 Directors).

MOVED BY: N. Schafer
SECONDED BY: B. Greene

2-AAC That the minutes of December 3, 2009 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS TO DEPARTING MEMBERS

The Chair expressed her appreciation to departing member Hamish Crawford. She noted that Hamish was a member of the Agricultural Task Force which preceded the Agricultural Advisory Commission. H. Crawford stated that he hopes the Agricultural Plan can give farmers hope that they can move forward to implement the plan. He stated that there was a need for a farmers' group to spearhead implementation of the Agricultural Plan.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Scoones advised the Commission of the resolutions she and the Manager of Corporate Services are working on in advance of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities convention. The agriculture-related resolutions are:

- Support for local abattoirs
- Geese management
- Funding for year-round local farmers markets

B. Hughes suggested that the resolution on geese be expanded to include deer as they are another nuisance species.

The Chair informed members that Council has agreed that J. von Kaldenberg can finish out his term on the Commission despite no longer living in the District.

Councillor Scoones informed members that Council had agreed to engage the services of Deborah Curran as requested by the Commission.

The Manager of Corporate Services advised the Commission that Council had made commission appointments and he expected to be able to inform the Commission of the names of the successful applicants shortly.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Horticulture Meeting

The Chair will forward registration information to Commission members. She urged Commission members to attend and stated that she had found this annual gathering to be very useful.

B. District of Saanich Draft Climate Action Plan

The Commission decided to table this agenda item until the February meeting.

C. Budget

MOVED BY: H. Crawford
SECONDED: N. Schafer

3-AAC That the Agricultural Advisory Commission requests funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the 2010 North Saanich Flavour Trail and an additional \$500 for other Commission expenses.

CARRIED

D. Flavour Trail Working Group

MOVED BY: H. Crawford
SECONDED: N. Schafer

4-AAC That Councillor Scoones be nominated as Chair of the working group organizing the 2010 North Saanich Flavour Trail.

CARRIED

B. Hughes and H. Crawford agreed to participate in the working group. Members suggested other local organizations that should be approached to assist in the working group, such as Holy Trinity Church and Food for the Future Society.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Draft Agriculture Plan

Derek Masselink joined the meeting.

Commission members mentioned those parts of the draft agricultural plan they were pleased with. They commended Mr. Masselink for condensing the thoughts of so many into one document.

The following concerns with the draft were raised by Commission members:

- There are instances of repetition;
- More emphasis needs to be placed on value-added and direct farm marketing;
- Agritourism is not the same as Direct Farm Marketing or Value Added;
- There is not sufficient encouragement of small scale farming (towards self-sufficiency) by the average person;

- The organization of the material is confusing and it was suggested that the key strategies be placed at the beginning of the document;
- There is insufficient consideration of agro-forestry;
- The BC Self Sufficiency Report standard (the amount of land required to be self-sufficient in food) was disputed;
- The tone of the document needs to be more encouraging and it must give people hope. It must show what they can accomplish and contribute.

D. Masselink asked members to send him their comments and noted that an open house must be held in mid-February.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

February 4, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: H. Crawford
SECONDED: B. Greene

5-AAC That the Commission do adjourn at 6:10 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair