

MINUTES OF A MEETING

Regional Food and Agriculture Task Force

Wednesday June 26, 2018

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Meeting Room 107 – Capital Regional District 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC

ATTENDEES:

Bernadette Greene

Director Williams

Erich Nahser-Ringer

Fiona Deveraux

Gerard Leblanc

Linda Geggie

Virginie Lavallee-Picard

Cam Scott

CRD STAFF: Jeff Weightman, Kaeley Jeffery, Signe Bagh

REGRETS: Bob Maxwell, Gerard Leblanc, Sue Hallatt, Fiona Deveraux, Rob Buchan, Robin Tunnicliffe, Rudi Wallace, Terry Michell, Jane Evans

FACILITATION

The meeting was facilitated by Virginie Lavallee-Picard, calling it to order at 1:08 pm.

WELCOME

CRD staff Jeff Weightman and Director Williams welcomed participants.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 5, 2017 MINUTES

The minutes were approved

1. UPDATES ON OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on ALR/ALC Recommendations Report

The report was sent to the board and accepted and sent to the ministry and positively received.

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

The windshield survey will be completed in August, maps and data will be compiled through the winter and presented in 2019.

c. Wildlife Management Update

Geese: There are activities being undertaken in the Saanich Peninsula that are currently successfully addressing this problem.

Deer: There have not been many complaints about deer recently. Hunting activities seem to be managing the numbers.

2. LAND ACCESS FEASIBILITY STUDY FEEDBACK – IONE SMITH

a. Introduce Ione and team

Consultants Ione, Greg and Louise provided brief introductions about themselves and their backgrounds.

b. Comments on the report.

Ione provided an overview of the project and discussed involvement with the Task Force. The task force discussed the scenarios, focusing on the valuation of eco system services and public amenity value provided by farmland. The task force discussed the assumptions made, such as 5 acre parcels, shared rental for machinery and how investments could be recouped. Carbon sequestration valuation was brought up along with opportunities to sell carbon credits.

The task force confirmed that farmers do not see a land access and leasing as direct competition, and would welcome more farmland being brought in to production. Competitive market leasing rates would level the playing field. Motions of support will be sought from PAC and other agricultural groups in the region.

c. Comments/Questions for Consulting Team (RFATF)

Ione answered questions from the Task Force about the project. Discussion ensued around public concerns about tax implications for land donors/donees, how First Nations Groups fit in, fairness and equity, fair land license rates (currently there are none), benefiter selection, the City of Victoria's \$10M Smart City Grant.

d. Next Steps/Timeline

The anticipated project timeline is:

Final Feasibility Study and Business Case

Presentation to the Planning and Protective Services Committee – October 2018

Final Feasibility Study and Business Case – December 2018/January 2019

2. Membership changes

Due to retirement, temporary work assignment and non-response of 3 Task Force members, some membership changes will have to be made to the Task Force. The Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the CRD Board in early 2019

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting will occur following the revised feasibility study and business case.