

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2013
2:00 PM

(Committee Room)

A G E N D A

PAGES

CALL TO ORDER

MINUTES

2 - 3 Minutes of the regular Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held April 5, 2013.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4 Summary of ALR Applications.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORTS

5 – 7 Update on AAC Resolution to Comment on ALC Applications (Verbal).

8 - 19 Summary of AAP Action Items for Consideration in the Implementation Work Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Distribution: D. Johnstone (Chair), H. Houle, J. Fell, C. Springford, K. Reid, A. Brown, C. Evans, A. Benson, J. McLeod, R. Wahlgren, W. Haddow, L. Rowett, G. Keller, J. Holm, P. Thompson, G. Garbutt, P. Thorkelsson

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2013 AT 2:00 PM
IN THE RDN COMMITTEE ROOM**

Present:

Director D. Johnstone	Chairperson
Director H. Houle	Electoral Area B
Director J. Fell	Electoral Area F
C. Evans	Representative (South)
A. Benson	Representative (South)
A. Brown	Representative (North)
C. Springford	Regional Agricultural Organization
J. McLeod	Regional Agricultural Organization
K. Reid	Shellfish Aquaculture Organization

Also in Attendance:

P. Thorkelsson	Chief Administrative Officer
T. Armet	A/ General Manager of Strategic and Community Development
J. Holm	Manager, Current Planning
L. Rowett	Senior Planner
G. Keller	Senior Planner
N. Hewitt	Recording Secretary

Regrets:

R. Wahlgren	Representative (North)
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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by the Chair.

MINUTES

MOVED H. Houle, SECONDED A. Brown, that the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on June 22, 2012 be adopted.

CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

New Directions from ALC (August 2012).

MOVED J. Fell, SECONDED H. Houle, that the correspondence from the Agriculture Land Commission regarding the new direction, be received.

CARRIED

BC Agri Tourism Alliance – Re: Highway Signage for Agritourism (January 2013).

MOVED J. Fell, SECONDED H. Houle, that the correspondence from the BC Agri Tourism Alliance regarding the highway signage for Agritourism, be received.

CARRIED

Vancouver Island Coast Regional Agricultural Framework for Action (August 2012).

MOVED J. Fell, SECONDED H. Houle, that the correspondence from the Vancouver Island Coast Regional Agriculture Framework for Action, be received.

CARRIED

REPORTS

Staff provided an overview on the following reports:

- Adopted Agricultural Area Plan (AAP)
- Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop
- RDN Agricultural Land Use Inventory and Water Demand Model (verbal report)
- Revised AAC Terms of Reference

Adopted Agricultural Area

Chairperson Johnstone requested that all members review the 130 action items from the Agricultural Area Plan and prioritize the top 20 items.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS

Staff distributed copies of the Urban Farming Guidebook for information.

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED K. Reid, SECONDED H. Houle, that this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Time: 3:36 pm

CHAIRPERSON

Summary of ALR Applications

RDN Application Type	2013 (to May 1 st)	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
ALR	4	6	11	17	10	14	22

[Commission Home](#)
[Government of British Columbia](#)

Application Status


[The Commission](#)
[ALR](#)
[Legislation-Policies](#)
[Publications](#)
[Contacts](#)

Applications Submitted 2010

Region	MONTH												Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Interior	0	6	5	5	8	2	12	1	7	3	6	2	57
Island	3	8	6	3	4	3	6	11	5	8	9	3	69
Kootenay	3	10	11	4	6	6	10	8	4	11	8	8	89
North	7	7	15	15	15	8	23	9	5	13	8	2	127
Okanagan	5	6	11	4	12	7	9	7	17	4	12	7	101
South Coast	6	7	11	8	14	13	11	4	4	6	9	10	103
Totals	24	44	59	39	59	39	71	40	42	45	52	32	546

Applications Submitted 2006-2009

Region	Year	MONTH												Total
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Island	2009	4	5	9	6	11	8	3	6	6	3	3	5	69
	2008	1	6	3	1	6	9	8	6	8	6	4	4	62
	2007	3	4	5	10	8	4	4	15	6	8	18	13	98
	2006	2	3	11	5	11	7	5	8	6	2	4	9	73

http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/application_status/ALR_apps06-10.htm

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2012
IN THE RDN COMMITTEE ROOM

Present:

D. Johnstone	Chairperson
B. Dempsey	District of Lantzville
J. Fell	Director, Electoral Area F
J. McLeod	Representative (South)
A. Benson	Representative (South)
C. Springford	Representative (North)
K. Reid	Representative (North)
A. Brown	Representative (North)
R. Wahlgren	Representative (North)

Also in Attendance:

W. Haddow	BC Ministry of Agriculture
P. Thorkelsson	General Manager of Development Services
J. Holm	Manager, Current Planning
L. Rowett	Senior Planner
K. Sanders	Recording Secretary

Regrets:

C. Evans	Representative (South)
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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2 pm by the Chair.

MINUTES

C. Springford noted that he was listed as present at the meeting, when in fact, he was not.

MOVED J. Fell, SECONDED J. McLeod that the minutes, as amended, of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on November 18, 2011 be adopted.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

CARRIED

MOVED J. McLeod, SECONDED J. Fell that the Board consider revising the Agricultural Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference to allow the Committee to review and comment on ALR applications.

CARRIED

REPORTS

Staff provided an update on the status of the Agricultural Area Plan and the next steps towards completion of the plan.

MOVED A. Brown, SECONDED J. Fell that the following reports be received for information:

- Board Report dated January 12, 2012 on Agricultural Area Plan Update,
- Public consultation Summary Report, and
- Phase 1 Background Report

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Copies of the Ministry of Agriculture’s new policy “Regulating the Siting and Size of Residential Uses in the ALR” were circulated to the Committee members and Wayne Haddow was invited to give a brief overview. He explained that the document includes suggestions of policies that local governments can adopt to minimize negative impacts of residential development on agricultural lands in the ALR.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED A. Benson, that this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Time: 3:01 pm

CHAIRPERSON

NEW BUSINESS

Agricultural Area Plan Recommended Implementation Action 1.1A.

- 13-321 MOVED Director Veenhof, SECONDED Director Fell, that this item be referred back to the Agricultural Advisory Committee to provide a recommendation on the proposed amendment to the terms of reference:

That the Agricultural Area Plan Recommended Implementation Action 1.1A, "consider updating the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Terms of Reference to allow the AAC to make comments on every application (exclusion, non-farm use, subdivision) that is forwarded to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)", be referred to staff for a report on options to proceed; including in those options, the opportunity for optional Area Director comment to be incorporated into the process.

CARRIED

Rural Signage.

- 13-322 MOVED Director Veenhof, SECONDED Director Young, that staff be directed to prepare a report to the Board on a proposed consultative process with the intent of identifying rural signage concerns and reducing any impediments to effective signage.

CARRIED

SCHEDULED ADVISORY AND SELECT COMMITTEES

Electoral Area 'H' Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee.

- 13-323 MOVED Director Veenhof, SECONDED Director Lefebvre, that the minutes of the Electoral Area 'H' Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee meeting held on Thursday, February 21, 2013 be received for information.

CARRIED

Nanoose Bay Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee.

- 13-324 MOVED Director Van Eynde, SECONDED Director Brennan, that the minutes of the Nanoose Bay Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday, March 4, 2013 be received for information.

CARRIED

Electoral Area 'F' Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee.

- 13-325 MOVED Director Fell, SECONDED Director Van Eynde, that the minutes of the Electoral Area 'F' Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 be received for information.

CARRIED

Priority	Action #	Brief Description	Resource Implications & Sources	Comments											
					Diana	Colin	Albert	Joanne	Andy	Howard	Keith	Craig	Richard	Julian	
	1.1.a	Consider updating the AAC Terms of Reference to allow the AAC to make comments on every application (exclusion, non-farm use, subdivision) that is forwarded to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). Precedence for the Terms of Reference and protocols exist in many other jurisdictions.	Requirements: Low to Moderate Source: RDN	RDN	√	√	√	√	√	√					
	2.2.a	Create and distribute a local food guide or directory, similar to what is produced in the Comox Valley and Southern Vancouver Island, and include aquaculture. Ensure that it is available online. This would assist not only the public, but also farmers get to know what types of activities are occurring in their area and potentially create opportunities for collaboration and cooperation. Promote those farms that participate in the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) to build consumer awareness of the stewardship efforts by farmers. Work with the tourism industry to develop 'taste of RDN' tours, guidebooks, cookbooks and promotions at local and regional restaurants, convention/hotel facilities and other venues.	Requirements: Moderate to Significant and ongoing funding required depending on the nature of the position (full time vs. part time). Sources: RDN, member municipalities, EDC	farmers institutes,RDN,BCAF M & great advertising and marketing tool	√	√		√	√	√					
	1.2.a	Create a webpage for agricultural information and related issues that extends from the RDN website. Use the webpage to promote local farm directory, including a 'operation/farmer of the month' feature, seasonal local food recipes, 'fact sheets' and videos created for the AAP. The directory could also be included as an insert in local newspapers.	Requirements: Moderate (will require additional RDN staff time or services of an external web designer). Long term maintenance costs will be lower than start-up. Sources: In-kind: RDN, member municipalities, Farmers Institutes Possible summer student position.	Farmers Institutes & Importance of publicising agriculture	√	√			√	√					
	2.1.b	Consider establishing an Agricultural Development Committee (ADC), possibly as an extension of the City of Nanaimo's Economic Development Corporation (EDC) or through the rural economic development office, with a mandate to improve communication, promote agricultural and aquaculture business development and initiatives, and identify and access funding opportunities. As first order of business, have the ADC pursue an Economic Development Strategy for agriculture in the region.	Requirements: Significant Sources: IAF, RDN and member municipalities, chamber of commerce, Tourism BC	EDC,Farmers Institutes & This would promote agriculture and aquaculture (and EDC known how to get funding)	√			√	√	√					

Priority	Action #	Brief Description	Resource Implications & Sources	Comments	Diana	Colin	Albert	Joanne	Andy	Howard	Keith	Craig	Richard	Julian
	7.3.f	Update regional and local sign bylaw(s) to allow farm businesses to: Advertise farms on farm properties and along roadsides; Identify agricultural and aquaculture areas, similar to gro+E113undwater or watershed signs; Engage the public in respecting farm traffic; Provide directions to local farmers markets; Develop themed signs such as a "Wine Route" or "Circle Farm Tour" or "Entering a Farm Fresh Area."	Requirements: Moderate Sources: RDN, IAF, AGRI, commodity groups, Farmers Institutes (in-kind), other grants		√	√	√		√					
	1.1.b	Consider adopting a "no net loss to agriculture within the same bioregion" criterion when evaluating land development proposals, whether they are within the ALR or adjacent to it. Ensure that any farmland removed is replaced with equivalent Agricultural Capability soils or better. Use the same criterion to plan transportation, drainage and utility corridors.	Requirements: Low to Moderate Source: RDN	RDN	√	√				√				
	1.1.f	Advocate BC Assessment Authority (BCAA) for changes in farm tax assessment to include the sale of value-added and agri-tourism products in determining primary production gross income – currently only the sale of raw farm products are included in the calculation of income, and this threshold is often too high for small farms to achieve farm status for tax purposes.	Requirements: Negligible	AGI BCAA & attaining farm status with increase in gross revenue		√			√	√				
	1.3.d	Assist farm families dealing with the challenge of farm succession and financial assistance by connecting them with professional support services and information.	Requirements: Negligible (these online programs already exist, need only to connect to them) or Low. Sources: Real Estate Foundation	TLC,FF/CF,AGRI	√		√			√				
	2.1.a	Secure funding for and create the position of Agricultural Support Officer either through the RDN in collaboration with member municipalities or through an Economic Development Corporation. The role would involve one-on-one support to businesses; responsive and focused assistance to the agriculture sector; and development of promotional and marketing opportunities.	Requirements: Moderate to Significant and ongoing funding required depending on the nature of the position (full time vs. part time). Sources: RDN, member municipalities, EDC	This would help put the ag plan into action and ease the workload for planners & Key to bringing new farmers and agriculture investment to the RDN	√		√	√						

Priority	Action #	Brief Description	Resource Implications & Sources	Comments	Diana	Colin	Albert	Joanne	Andy	Howard	Keith	Craig	Richard	Julian
	2.2.b	Support a year-round indoor farmers' market, possibly at the VIE grounds.	Requirements: Significant Sources: IAF, RDN and member municipalities, chamber of commerce, Tourism BC	very worth looking into and the EDC could be helpful	√			√	√					
	4.2.a	Support efforts to allow farmers to develop on-farm water-related infrastructure to help with farm operations (such as storage, holding tanks, ponds, winter water surplus storage).	Requirements: Low to Moderate for a feasibility study Sources: RDN, IAF, MOE	this is a great tool and farmers and the public need to know about it		√		√	√					
	6.1.a	Partner with realtors and the Real Estate Board to: Encourage the real estate industry to provide education for realtors to market farmland for farming; Educate the real estate and development industry regarding the <i>Right to Farm Act</i> . This could involve producing a brochure and communicating with realtors, and lobbying for disclosure statements to be included for property sales adjacent to farms; Develop information materials that could be provided to new or future residents who have purchased or are considering purchasing ALR property or property adjacent to or nearby farmland or aquaculture operations.	Requirements: Low (e.g. brochures and pamphlets already created by AGRI and local governments). Sources: AGRI (in-kind).	lobbying for disclosure statements for property sales adjacent to farms. Realtors in a hurry to close a sale are doing a dis-service to their customers by not explaining farm issues such as odors, dust and or livestock noise	√			√	√					
	6.1.g	Partner with School Districts to add agriculture and aquaculture into the District school curriculum and extend this up to the University and College level by supporting the provincial Agriculture in the Classroom program; encouraging schools to grow food on school grounds; developing farm-based learning opportunities for credit for high school students; reviving/enhancing 4H programs through the school system; encouraging school policies that provide and promote local food choices for lunch and snack programs; and supporting the creation of scholarships in agriculture/aquaculture to a Grade 12 student interested in pursuing agricultural studies.	Requirements: Low to Significant Sources: School districts (in-kind), Farm 2 School program, ActNowBC, commodity groups, NGO grants.	I took agriculture in 1957		√	√		√					

Priority	Action #	Brief Description	Resource Implications & Sources	Comments	Diana	Colin	Albert	Joanne	Andy	Howard	Keith	Craig	Richard	Julian
	7.2.b	Consider adopting the ALC recommendation of rejecting ALR exclusion and non-farm use applications if they do not align with Electoral Area OCP land use designations and/or zoning, rather than forwarding applications directly to the ALC for decision-making.; or consider adopting a policy to comment on ALR applications, perhaps in combination with a revised Terms of Reference for the AAC (see Recommendation 1.1 A in this Plan).	Requirements: Moderate to Significant Source: RDN	Reject ALR exclusions and non-farm use applications if they do not align with Electoral Area OCP land use and or zoning. Again, the RDN must comment on all ALC Applications.	√			√	√					
	7.3.c	Encourage the development of processing, warehousing, distribution facilities, and retail/sales (including signage) for local food products by ensuring that these activities are recognized as permitted uses in local zoning bylaws (e.g. allow opportunities for combined or cooperative on-farm processing and sales).	Requirements: Moderate to Significant Sources: RDN, member municipalities			√	√		√					
	1.1.i	Improve public awareness and access to information regarding ALR applications for non-farm use and/or subdivision.	Requirements: Moderate Source: ALR applicants	RDN			√			√				
	1.3.a	Coordinate a farmland clearinghouse or land-linking database to connect potential farmers with voluntary landowners and link it to a regional agriculture website. Include a database maintenance strategy.	Requirements: Low. These online databases already exist and need only to upload regional data. TLC may hire a co-op student to create a local database if existing databases are not scaled appropriately.	Land Conservancy, Farmers Institutes	√					√				
	1.3.b	Ease efforts of aquaculture operators in securing licence tenure by hosting consultation sessions with First Nations and other government agencies.	Requirements: Moderate (some staff time for meetings) Sources: RDN, BCSGA, Fisheries and Oceans	integrated land, fisheries, BC shell fish growers	√					√				
	1.3.c	Provide information to both farmers and non-farming ALR landowners about different types of land use agreements (licences, leases, profit-a-prendres, and memorandums of understanding) to ensure that the maximum amount of farmland is in its most productive use regardless of ownership.	Requirements: Low (could be a one-day workshop or could hire a co-op student to develop a handbook). Sources: Real Estate Foundation, TLC, FF/CF, West Coast Environmental Law, AGRI	farm folk /city folk ,west coast environmental law	√					√				

Priority	Action #	Brief Description	Resource Implications & Sources	Comments											
					Diana	Colin	Albert	Joanne	Andy	Howard	Keith	Craig	Richard	Julian	
	2.1.c	Initiate a regional market research project to identify: Current consumer perceptions, Competitive advantages (e.g., organic, quality, freshness), Market gaps, new product niches and opportunities, Trends and opportunities for processed and value-added products, Potential for expansion of alternative marketing channels.	Requirements: Moderate Sources: Chamber of commerce, EDC, commodity groups, academic grants, IAF	VIU,EDC,CSR & New Product			✓			✓					
	2.2.c	Link agri-tourism activities to farm stays, Willing Workers on Organic Farms (WWOOFing), and working holiday programmes and coordinate with the Economic Development Strategy and with other tourism promotion activities and include aquaculture.	Requirements: Moderate Sources: Chamber of commerce, EDC, commodity groups, academic grants, IAF	Farmers institutes ,EDC,BC Tourism					✓	✓					
	3.2.a	Improve the identification of local agricultural and aquaculture job opportunities for youth, especially seasonal opportunities for increased labour. This could be a simple internet-based local labour posting service or pool that better connects food industry workers and employers on a regional basis. The Canadian Agri-Labour Pool could be used as a template to create a similar regional or Vancouver Island-based system.	Requirements: Moderate to establish, low to maintain. Sources: HRDC, VIU, Community Futures, Food industry grants.	always encourage the young folk.				✓	✓						
	4.1.b	Communicate the progress of the RDN's upcoming Agriculture Water Demand Model project with Farmer Institutes, the aquaculture industry, and other agricultural stakeholders once it is launched and as it progresses.	Requirements: Moderate Source: RDN	this is a great tool and farmers and the public need to know about it		✓		✓							
	5.2.a	Develop a management strategy for over-abundant, alien, and invasive species on agricultural lands. This management strategy could include recommendations for management of invasive species within non-agricultural lands.	Requirements: Low (organize/attend meetings with MOE). Sources: In-kind MOE, AGRI, RDN			✓			✓						
	5.3.b	Investigate opportunities to connect regional composting and zero waste initiatives with the current nutrient cycling (composting) needs of farmers and aquaculture operators so that excess waste can be made available to those in need of extra nutrients. Identify any regulatory impediments that may exist in achieving this goal.	Requirements: Low for a survey - could be a VIU student project. Sources: RDN, VIU, private industry	very important for aquaculture	✓			✓							

Priority	Action #	Brief Description	Resource Implications & Sources	Comments	Diana	Colin	Albert	Joanne	Andy	Howard	Keith	Craig	Richard	Julian
	5.5.b	Encourage the development of on-farm energy production programs, which give producers the power to assess and plan renewable energy options for their farms.	Requirements: Low to Moderate, information and expertise exists and any upfront investments by the farm operator may be recouped by energy savings. Source: BC Climate Action Network, farmers		√				√					
	7.2.d	Consider adopting a Development Permit Area (DPA) for Farmland Protection in the OCPs for Electoral Areas C, F, and H to ensure consistency throughout the RDN for requirements of development (e.g. vegetative buffers, consideration of road endings) within properties adjacent to ALR land for development permit and subdivision applications on properties adjacent to ALR land. Request member municipalities to adopt similar DPA guidelines for Farmland Protection.	Requirements: Moderate to Significant depending on the technical work needed to update policies. Sources: RDN	Consider adopting Farmland, DPAs in Areas C, F, & H, This would help with Farmland Protection	√			√						
	7.1.c	Continue to provide pre-application assistance to farmers requiring approvals for farm related structures and other works that fall under regional authority where applicable (i.e. farm buildings are exempt from building permit process).	Requirements: Negligible to Low Sources: RDN, member municipalities		√		√							
	1.1.c	Work with the province to create financial deterrents, profit recapture taxes, or penalties applied to ALR that is for sale for non-agricultural land use.	Requirements: Moderate Source: Real Estate Foundation		√									
	1.1.d	Encourage Member municipalities to form AACs and appoint liaison staff to sit on the RDN AAC.	Requirements: Low	RDN						√				
	1.1.e	Develop guidelines for siting and size of residential uses in the ALR.	Requirements: Low (templates available from ALC and other jurisdictions) Sources: RDN			√								
	1.2.c	Conduct/undertake the uploading of all provincial soil capability and soil series map data so that farmers can investigate and identify agronomic opportunities and constraints.	Requirements: Low Sources: ALC (in-kind)				√							

Priority	Action #	Brief Description	Resource Implications & Sources	Comments											
					Diana	Colin	Albert	Joanne	Andy	Howard	Keith	Craig	Richard	Julian	
	1.2.d	Distribute information regarding farm waste composting and the availability of local compost to farms that need to improve soil structure.	Requirements: Negligible			✓									
	1.2.e	Promote and encourage research into small and medium-sized farming strategies.	Requirements: Moderate Sources: Academic grants, IAF	VIU						✓					
	1.2.f	Assist farmers in accessing other sources of information and funding that result in the implementation of environmental farm management practices.	Requirements: Negligible	AGRI, ARD CORP						✓					
	1.3.e	Provide access to research and information regarding alternative farm business arrangements such as stratas, cooperatives, and corporations and alternative land ownership/tenure models.	Requirements: Low (could be a one-day workshop) Sources: RDN, TLC, AGRI	TLC,FF/CF						✓					
	1.3.f	Work with the province to set up an agricultural land bank to purchase farmland from retiring farmers and sell to new farmers.	Requirements: Depends on how the program is implemented (e.g. land purchases vs. land donations) Sources: Donors of funds and donors of land. Real Estate Foundation				✓								
	2.2.d	Develop a Circle Farm Tour, Slow Food Cycle Tour, and other events for the RDN that take members of the public to different farms and highlight farming activities.	Requirements: Low to Significant Sources: RDN, BC Tourism, farmers (in-kind), BCAF (in-kind), chamber of commerce, local media outlets (in-kind).				✓								
	2.2.f	Assist the agricultural and aquaculture community with the development of a common local identity, logo, or brand that can be used to highlight RDN farms and their farm products and differentiate them from other Island farms and farming areas.	Requirements: Moderate Sources: IAF, RDN, graphic designer in-kind, other grants	EDC ,Farmers institutes ,BC tourism						✓					
	2.3.a	Support and improve linkages to Vancouver Island Produce and other farmer-owned brokerage firms or co-ops to: Co-ordinate production and on-stream timing, Provide a central order desk for local retailers, Provide information about sources of supply and on-farm markets, Co-ordinate transportation of inputs and goods for sale.	Requirements: Depends on how the program is carried out. Could be low – moderate. Sources: Co-op Assoc. of BC, Farmers Institutes (in-kind)						✓						

Priority	Action #	Brief Description	Resource Implications & Sources	Comments											
					Diana	Colin	Albert	Joanne	Andy	Howard	Keith	Craig	Richard	Julian	
	2.3.e	Set up a system of coordinated distribution for local food products to reach retailers and restaurants. Further develop relationships between RDN farmers, aquaculture operators, and hotels and restaurants on the island. Some food distributors, such as Sysco and Gordon Food Services (Neptune), are assisting by developing contracts with local producers for restaurants who want to profile local foods.	Requirements: Negligible Sources: AGRI				√								
	2.4.a	Meet with the Comox Valley Farmers Institute, who operates a similar equipment sharing endeavour, to discuss opportunities and challenges.	Requirements: Negligible	interesting, but needs research				√							
	2.5.a	Develop a database of local on-farm, aquaculture, and commercial processing facilities in the region. Investigate the feasibility of pursuing community kitchen/other shared processing initiatives to encourage local value-added opportunities.	Requirements: Moderate Sources: Chamber of commerce, SSFPA, Vancity	Farmers institutes,BCSGA						√					
	3.1.b	support,apprenticeships, mentoring ,incubation farms ,and aquaculture	Requirements: Low to Moderate Sources: HRDC, chamber of commerce, CSR, Farmers Institutes, AGRI	Farmers institutes, AGRI						√					
	4.1.a	Widely advertise and share the in-depth online map data available on RDN watersheds (WaterMap) and through the BC Water Resources Atlas to regional water users.	Requirements: Low Source: RDN	agriculture relies on water				√							
	4.1.d	Review current groundwater inventory and mapping and assess potential opportunities for irrigation from aquifer sources.	Requirements: Moderate	this is a great tool and farmers and the public need to know about it				√							
	4.1.e	Review the feasibility of reusing wastewater from municipal waste treatment systems, rainwater discharge, or other large water-using activities for use as irrigation water.	Requirements: Low to Moderate for a feasibility study Sources: RDN, IAF, MOE	this is a great tool and farmers and the public need to know about it				√							

Priority	Action #	Brief Description	Resource Implications & Sources	Comments											
					Diana	Colin	Albert	Joanne	Andy	Howard	Keith	Craig	Richard	Julian	
	4.2.a & c	Support efforts to allow farmers to develop on-farm water-related infrastructure to help with farm operations (such as storage, holding tanks, ponds, winter water surplus storage). And Encourage farmers to use provincial and/or federal programs to develop shared facilities and infrastructure (e.g., water storage, distribution). Access any available funding sources such as infrastructure programs to support shared storage facilities and water distribution systems among individual farms.	Requirements: Low to Moderate for a feasibility study Sources: RDN, IAF, MOE						√						
	4.2.e	Use the Ministry of Agriculture Watercourse Classification in Agricultural Areas, and Agricultural Ditch Maintenance Guidelines to help determine drainage priorities and options.	Requirements: Low Sources: AGRI (in-kind)				√								
	5.1.b	Encourage farmers to enroll in the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) to expand agricultural best practices throughout farm operations in the RDN.	Requirements: Negligible – just involves advertising opportunities that already exist. Sources: ARDCorp			√									
	5.2.d	Advocate to the Ministry of Environment to develop carrying capacity parameters and population management strategies for wildlife in the RDN that are a nuisance to farmers, including consideration of strategies used in other jurisdictions. AND Develop a public communications tool to inform both farmers and the community about how wildlife is affecting farming, discussing issues and possible solutions such as greenbelts and wildlife corridors (possibly web-site based).	Requirements: Low (organize/attend meetings with MOE). Sources: In-kind MOE, AGRI, RDN & Requirements: Low Sources: ARDCorp, MOE						√						
	5.2.b	Develop a management strategy for over-abundant, alien, and invasive species on agricultural lands. This management strategy could include recommendations for management of invasive species within non-agricultural lands.	Requirements: Moderate Sources: ARDCorp, MOE	important for farm and public land					√						
	5.2.e	Investigate the feasibility of establishing a farmland-wildlife stewardship organization that delivers programs to recognize valued habitat preservation for wildlife.	Requirements: Moderate to Significant depending on mandate of organization. Sources: Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, Ducks Unlimited, other grants.				√								

Priority	Action #	Brief Description	Resource Implications & Sources	Comments											
					Diana	Colin	Albert	Joanne	Andy	Howard	Keith	Craig	Richard	Julian	
	5.3.a	Work with member municipalities to identify a location for a composting facility that would accept compostable wastes (plant material, manure, fish wastes) from farms and aquaculture operations.	Requirements: Low for a feasibility study - could be a VIU student project. Moderate to Significant for the development of the operation. Sources: RDN, VIU, private industry.	it would be worth a feasibility study				✓							
	5.3.c	Discourage large-scale slash burns and encourage efforts to reduce CO2 emissions from farming activities by promoting green composting, wood re-use, agroforestry techniques, shelterbelts, and alley cropping.	Requirements: Low Sources: MOE, AGRI, RDN	protecting the environment is good practice				✓							
	5.4.b	Explore the role of agriculture in supplying carbon credits and supporting carbon storage techniques. Develop a pilot carbon sequestration incentive program that helps the RDN reduce its carbon footprint and meet Bill 27 requirements. Reinvest carbon credits back into agriculture.	Requirements: Moderate to Significant Sources: MOE, commodity groups, RDN				✓								
	5.4.e	Work with farmers to better understand what adaptive technologies and practices are being employed or needed (i.e. successful farming techniques necessary under different climatic factors).	Requirements: Low Sources: AGRI, ARDCorp	it always pays to be prepared				✓							
	6.1.b	Use mainstream and social media in promoting local agriculture and aquaculture business to raise awareness of local agriculture.	Requirements: Low (e.g. RDN YouTube videos of local "Agriculture in Action") Sources: EDC, Chamber of commerce				✓								
	6.2.a	Assist with the promotion of agricultural and aquaculture events and festivals in the RDN with other Vancouver Island events. Encourage agriculture/aquaculture-focused public education activities, events and celebrations. Identify existing activities and events that could feature local agriculture and aquaculture.	Requirements: Low (if simply assisting to advertise other events) – Moderate (if hosting new events). Sources: Chamber of commerce, EDO, hotels and restaurants.	Promotion (VIU)			✓								

Priority	Action #	Brief Description	Resource Implications & Sources	Comments	Diana	Colin	Albert	Joanne	Andy	Howard	Keith	Craig	Richard	Julian
	7.1.d	Strengthen the RDN development approval process to better consider the potential water-related impacts of new development on agriculture and aquaculture (e.g. runoff and rain water management) and ensure that agricultural water supply is not negatively impacted. Establish processes to address water management issues and impacts if they do occur.	Requirements: Moderate to Significant Sources: RDN, member municipalities		√									
	7.1.g	Monitor Agricultural Land Commission/ALR policy changes and update policies and bylaws as needed.	Requirements: Negligible to Moderate Sources: RDN, member municipalities				√							
	7.2.a	Continue to provide support for agriculture and aquaculture as legitimate activities that increase the RDN's long-term sustainability and resilience as outlined in the RGS and OCPs.	Requirements: Negligible Sources: RDN, member municipalities			√								
	7.2.c	Strive for greater consistency between land use designations in the RGS and OCPs and zoning in the Zoning Bylaws for ALR land. This may involve creating an Agriculture Land Use Designation at the RGS and OCP levels, as is supported by Electoral Area 'A's OCP. That way, if land is removed from the ALR, but is still designated and zoned locally for agriculture, use of that land will be limited to activities outlined in the Agriculture designation and associated zone, such as farming and silviculture.	Requirements: Significant Sources: RDN, member municipalities					√						
	7.3.d	Ensure all local policies and guidelines encourage Agriculture and Aquaculture	Requirements: Negligible Sources: RDN, member municipalities			√								
	7.4.a	Ensure that all policy documents make it clear that neither a subdivision approving officer nor the ALC is obliged to approve subdivision applications that meet minimum lot sizes in the ALR.	Requirements: Negligible				√							

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	7.4.d	Reduce regulatory restrictions for farmers who wish to create water holding tanks, detention ponds, or other water-related infrastructure on ALR land.	Requirements: Low						√					
	7.4.e	Consider developing Integrated Stormwater Management Plans (ISMPs) in watersheds that drain agricultural areas.	Requirements: Significant				√							
	8.1.c	Investigate the feasibility of implementing flood control strategies for farmland located in flood areas.	Requirements: Moderate to Significant Sources: RDN, AGRI						√					