CENTRAL KOOTENAY | FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

All Council In-person Meeting
16 July 2019
Shoreacres Community Hall

Welcome and get settled – Call meeting to order - Ari

Introduction Round: Ari Derfel, Dana Hawkins (RDCK staff); Kevin Murphy, Hailey Troock, Paul Peterson, Leah Main, Andy Davidoff (guest), Mick Wilson, Amanda Verigin, Tara Stark, Paris Marshall Smith, Allie Ho (RDCK staff), Ron Leblanc (guest).

Guest: Andy Davidoff, Director Area I – gave insights into the agriculture and food history and present circumstances of Area I, where our meeting was held.

- Ag. Plan integration into OCP for Area I
- 2016 survey for OCP Area I
    - Strong support for ag. But also challenges
    - Less than 5 acres is ideal lot size
    - 2/3 believe ag. Is important component of community
    - Maintain ALR land for ag. Uses – 80% in favour
    - 80% agree local food production is important
    - Truck market garden history of area
    - Keeping of farm animal regulations or revision to look at usable acreage based on slope and domestic water supply
    - Kootenay Grown – 3 regional districts initiative – 'Welcome to Kootenay Country' – 12 year existence – RDEK wasn't on board – shut down this April – local govt officials of three governments staffed the booth – Council is logical inheritor of Kootenay Grown branding - Kootenay Country or Kootenay Grown booth operated through CKFPC and promoting – highlight produce – trade shows – fairs – Chamber of Commerce – taxation as source of revenue
    - Huge pressure on area directors to support subdivisions of ALR land – Paul and Andy feel the pressure
    - Area I anyone can put mobile home on any property for family member – meet health requirements – exception to ALC rule – has backed off for a year on housing change (only for farm workers)

Abra comments:

- ALC to revise "moving to country" guide – work with real estate board – proactive around that – land in ALR not as development opportunity – "The Countryside and You"
    - Canada land inventory used to map ALR land in 1970s
    - What constitutes a viable farm?
    - Pressure of placing farm use parcel next to non-farm use parcel

Leah comments

- Farms as ecosystem – self-reliant – small farms need larger organism to fit inside -system has deteriorated – need to rebuild system

Minutes of 28 May 2019 adoption – Moved: Hailey Troock; Seconded: Mick. None opposed.

Abra introduced the approval of our new Executive - Ari as President; Patrick Steiner as Vice-President; Elizabeth as Treasurer; Hailey as Secretary, Mick as member at large. Moved: Paris; Seconded Tara; none opposed.

Finance Update - Abra

- Ongoing commitment for 1- 2 years from RDCK – 10k per year for core activities
- CBT – prelim work on Basin-wide farm and food directory
- Cheque signing policy – two signatories – Exec. Agreed to two-step virtual transfer of funds
- 60k in the bank – mostly for projects – evidence-based policy making project – farmland advantage doing technical review report for eco services payment project
- Gaming grant – yearly opportunity that we explore
- Community Food Action funding – revisiting how funding is allocated – could look at multi-year funding for regional food initiatives

Policy training: ALR changes – Dana Hawkins, RDCK

- Bill 52 – Feb 22 2019 – brought into force
    - ALC Act
    - ALR General Regulation (how)
    - ALR Use Regulation (what)

    - Biggest change is residential use
    - Limits placed on principal residence size (500 m2)
    - Can have secondary residence in permanent residence
    - Non-adhering residential use application
- ALC application required for:
- "Legally non-conforming" – existence in perpetuity is not guaranteed
- Local Government roles
- Soil or Fill use application – new authorization process
- Exemptions and prohibitions
- Trails
- Cannabis
    - -permitted in ALR without ALC application
- Bill 15 – adopted May 30 but not enforced yet
    - -Exclusion applications – time / fee / risk

Supporting local businesses: Chicken Marketing Board Case Study – Abra presented, supported by Ari

- Supply Management
- Chicken Marketing Board regions
- Lack of new entrant programs in interior of BC (region 3) – based on population density – consumers' locations
- Discussion with Curtis around secure supply / demand from Co-op
- 20k chicken / year supply
- Feed as variable cost (high)
- Role of Co-op as negotiator – interested party
- Disposition of Board to hear issues and address them
- Challenge of figuring out how to support businesses in mid-size growth

Updates from Council members and guests

Kevin:

July 12 announcement of Food Security Task Force – 3 members – agri-tech July 17 – KB Climate Adaptation report – meeting - 3 regional districts
Field Day – July 22 – Creston – Climate Action Initiative – mulch use in orchards

Tara
1 year cycle for funding applications
100k for 8 projects in food systems and security

Dana
Updating zoning bylaws in relation to ag. Regulations
Align work with evidence-based policy making project

Abra
Ag. Innovation Network report – 3 hubs across the Basin
Transportation and logistics assessment
Candidate for GPC in upcoming federal election

Mick
VP of FM Society of New Denver market
Busier year this year than several years – coupon program
14 families on coupon program
Resurgence of market this year
Looking to buy dehydrators, freeze drier, meat processor and other tools to rent out to folks to other people
Satellite food hub in New Denver modelled after what Patrick does in Kaslo
Worked with BBA – business advisor – CF bookkeepers to review finances

Allie
State of the RDCK report – snapshot of climate action
Mitigation vs. Adaptation
One pathway is agriculture and food security – identify indicators to allow RDCK know how communities are doing towards climate change and ag.

Leah
Rural Dev. Institute project
Silverton reviewing OCP
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
-brings perspective of small, micro, hobby, niche farms to national discussions
-recognition of different scales of farms
Rural Econ. Devlopment Ministry

Paris
Area H – survey on backyard production being sent out
Watershed Governance Initiative – scoping study – understand role of local govt in watershed governance
CV Food Action Coalition
12 classes from July to October – how to use local food – cook local food

Paul
Improvement to food bank in Nakusp – doesn't meet needs of community
In electoral area – only 5 significant growing places in area despite lots of ag. Land
Many citizens are retirees from other places – not in tradition to garden

Keen alternate – get involved to get something going
Hope to see export of ag. Goods from area that is just given away

Amanda
Packaging still an issue for membership
Recycling – shift of consciousness vs availability
Pass some cost of eco packaging onto customer but not all of it

Ari
Fiscal year ended end of May – one of best years for financial performance
Focus on building most efficient, effective systems – operationalizing business
Co-op as anomaly – no example of Co-op of this size in such an unpopulated region in NA
Two commercial spaces – downtown Nelson – heavily subsidize use of spaces for entities that share common mission
Warehouse – developable space into commercial commissary
Final stages of coworking office space - $350 / month
Business continuity plan – CF hosting sessions
Turnover in Managerial staff
Industrial smoker coming online soon

Hailey
Basin events including:
Tool school recap, Creston Valley farm tour on August 18th, Windermere Seed Cleaning Demo on July 23rd, Basin Food Summit and Columbia Basin Mixer in October, brief mention of leases in progress