



## **Food Policy Council Minutes (Teleconference)**

1 April, 2019 10:00AM – 11:30PM

In attendance: Ari, Abra, Kevin Murphy, Kim Charlesworth, Patrick Steiner, Paris Marshall Smith, Ramona Faust, Elizabeth Quinn, Rob Hay, Mick Wilson, Nicole Schreiber, Rachel Roussin

Abra called meeting to order 10:00

### **Minutes from last All-Council meeting, 23 Jan, 2019**

Motion to approve Kim/Patrick Carried Ari indicated that individual reports were a little difficult to understand, Abra suggested we will develop a template.

### **Coordinator report - Abra**

- Directory up to 113 entries up 60%.
- Abra will attend Kootenay Cannabis group meeting in April as policy advisor
- Discussion regarding challenges to those in industry due to policy and regulation development to date.
- Communications working group meeting to be scheduled soon.
- Policy Working group also meeting soon to advance the policy portal project, which is currently unfunded
- Abra asked each person to consider new members for May AGM.
- Will be attending the Cdn Assoc for Food Studies conference in Vancouver in June.

**Motion** to Approve of Hailey Troock as Council member: Reflects youth and farming sectors. Elizabeth/Nicole Carried

### **Executive Update - Ari**

- Mickey has stepped down due to health issues,
- Met in February 22, straightening out financial info from RDCK has been completed
- In process of Creating ED job description and putting a proper employment contract in place.
- Decided not to hire a communications person,
- Looked at membership sector gaps
- Working on Strategic goals and work plan,
- Met with Zoe Creighton as consultant giving expert advice for nonprofits. She suggested we work on
  - More formal strategic plan
  - Succession planning



- Insurance for Directors and Officers
- Develop a robust communication plan

Next executive meeting will be on strategic planning in order to bring focused discussion to next all member meeting which is the AGM in May.

#### **Financial Report: Elizabeth**

- Abra, Leah (bookkeeper) and Elizabeth met – financial statements for year-end ready. Involved a great deal of time to gather and accurately reflect the data, and turnover of funds from RDCK to our own bank account.
- Turnover of funds from the RDCK will be reflected in March statements.
- Now have fresh accurate, simple financial statements for 2019 year to date.
- We have separate spreadsheet to track various project income/expenses, and Abra is tracking her hours on each project, and general council work.

**Motion** to accept treasurer's report: Elizabeth/Mick carried

#### **Evidence-based Policy Development Project – research focus group discussion**

Started in January, have Identified data sets, now ready to work with academics

We Reviewed the scope and focus of the analysis, suggested additions:

- In Harrop Proctor area the requirement for subdivision of parcels to be minimum of 10 acres is not necessarily a relevant requirement – historical use of the bench shows good food production on parcels smaller than that. Should they look at how type of farming affects minimum size of parcels?
- Existing water flows and number of users is critical, knowing before you buy or lease farmland. Also whether or not it is chlorinated, and treated.
- Watershed governance initiative looking at what is potential role of RDCK in stepping into watershed governance. Contract to be awarded soon.
- Water use study was initiated by Sangita, Paris confirmed it is on the website
- Equipment – what is available; Scale
- Abbatoirs were not mentioned

#### **Council Member Updates – what is happening in your food world?**

##### **Ari – Coop:**

- Chicken marketing Board – Coop working to leverage their large economic impact to help local producers.
- Annual birthday party for end of June



### **Elizabeth - Fields Forward**

- Since Jan 2018 was employed by KES now only a few weeks left in contract, maybe more funding coming
- FF runs online Kootenay Marketplace and mobile press. Meeting with Food Action Coalition (runs farmer market and harvest share) to explore how they could partner more effectively. Are submitting a joint application for food recovery program.

### **Kevin Murphy - Ministry of Agriculture**

- There are two Introductory irrigation workshops this week (Invermere and April 3 in Creston). At Creston Andrew Peterson to talk about water demand models for Erikson system.
- Kootenay Boundary Climate Lobby Action Initiative held last workshop in March identified priority areas for two projects coming up, including water use.
- Gov't completed gathering input on making changes to ALC. Presentation to local govts to be made June 5 in Cranbrook.

### **Kim: Nelson Community Food Center and Kootenay Boundary Food Producers Coop**

- NCFE still undergoing renovations, Garden Coordinator not yet hired, this will be a transition year
- KBFPC finished up 2018-2019 season which was wholesale only, will not be operating for 2019-2020 season.

### **Mick Wilson - New Denver**

- Seedy Saturday in March well attended,
- snow only left a week ago, salad mix will be ready in 3 weeks
- Farmers Market applied for Nutritional coupon program. Any interest in Central Kootenay program? CBT funded BCFM to expand the coupon program – association must be a member of BCFM. What are barriers for small farmers markets to become members to BCFMA so they can participate in coupon program **Patrick, Paris, Abra Nicole to discuss.**
- Knows a large parcel of land available for farming – will talk to Hailey

### **Nicole Schreiber – Community Food Initiatives Crawford Bay**

- Will hold 3 market days this year: mothers day, Sunday after Starbelly, and Sept;
- working on harvest share and juicing with mobile press.
- Continuing Kootenay Food tree project – offering information and young trees.



### **Paris – RDCK and Food Action Coalition**

- Watershed Governance Initiative Scoping study to happen this summer. Looking at potential role for RDCK in watershed management.
- Regional energy efficiency program launching this week. Anyone in RDCK with buildings on your farm is eligible for subsidy for home energy evaluation. Also community halls – encouraging them to explore energy efficiency upgrades – please have them connect with Paris.
- Hiring a climate action intern who will be identifying indicators for report looking at how RDCK is meeting mitigation and adaptation goals. Food and agriculture will be included.
- Board of Food action coalition is looking at partnerships with Fields Forward specifically in two areas
  - 1) food recovery working with loads of cherry that would otherwise go to landfill, to process into juice and powder
  - 2) Program “Whole food for whole family” – food skills for new/recent immigrants using a local chef to work with local foods and sharing cooking experiences.

### **Patrick Steiner - Kaslo Food Hub**

- almost completed construction of walk-in cooler and freezer. Farmers already talking about renting space. Hoping to have backup propane so can run off grid in emergency where there is loss of power (e.g. wildfire).
- Saturday Market manager change. Fresh from a conference with great ideas.

### **Ramona Faust - RDCK**

- Living Garden in Balfour provides food for food insecure programs in Nelson and area.
- Farmers Market in Harrop will be continuing.
- Regional District has done study to see interest from (Creston, Nelson, Castlegar) re removing organics from waste stream

### **Rob Hay - Valley Kitchen in Winlaw**

- Going into third year, some renters doing well and needing to figure out how to scale up, booking more kitchen
- Third pop-up restaurant event Friday April 5
- Slokan Valley youth coordinator hosting a Cooking and Food Management course for youth 12-18 years old on Mondays coming up
- Two 12 year olds just hosted workshop for 5-8 yr olds for baking.



### **Rachel Roussin - Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisors**

- Newsletter coming out today highlighting: Irrigation workshops, Climate action initiative, Advertising spring farm tours
- Drop in coffee talk sessions around region
- Held Food safety certification workshops in Creston last month - on farm food safety for fresh fruit and vegetables. Some retailers like SaveOn starting to require this kind of certification from suppliers. One in Grand Forks end of April.
- Met couple of months ago with Abra, Tracey Fredrickson (Basin Business Advisors), & Brie Seabrook (Columbia Basin Trust) re farm labor. Discussed job board needs and the possibility of hosting one on our directory website? May help to attract workers to our region.

Council members were reminded that the AGM will take place on May 28<sup>th</sup>, not May 30<sup>th</sup> as originally scheduled and will hopefully be held in Ainsworth. More information will be forthcoming.

Adjourned 11:45