



## Council Minutes

**Date:** March 30, 2020  
**Time:** 10:00AM – 12 noon  
**Group:** All-Council Virtual Meeting

Called to Order at 10:00 am

**Participants:** Abra Brynne - Executive Director CKFPC, Ari Derfel - Kootenay Co-op. Alys Ford - Nelson Farmers Market / KOGS / Ravine Creek Farm, Mick Wilson - Healthy Communities / New Denver FM / Earthly Pleasures Organics, Patrick Steiner - Kaslo Food Hub / KBFA Advisor, Shauna Fidler - Kootenay Food / West Kootenay Permaculture Co-op, Rachael Roussin - KBFA Coordinator. Kevin Murphy - MOA Regional Agrologist, Elizabeth Quinn - Fields Forward Society, Tara Stark - Public Health Dietician / IH Healthy Communities Team, Paris Marshall - Creston Valley Food Action Coalition, Rob Hay - The Valley Kitchen in Winlaw, Hailey Troock - Young Agrarians, Matt Carr - Linden Lane Farms / KLAS Director

**Welcome** by Patrick Steiner

- Increased interest in local food
- Opportunity for FPC to work with elected officials etc.

### Action Items

1. Shauna to share West Kootenay Food Hub model survey link with Council (sent) and info about May 7 Zoom meeting involving an interactive assessment of the models
2. Paris to share Food Charter info with CFAC
3. Patrick to share Zoom meeting concept with local farmers in Kaslo area
4. Abra and Shauna to circulate information and updates on Basin wide Food Hub conversations to members
5. Tara to bring forward issue of FMs viability when vendors are cut in half to provincial working group weekly meeting on emergency food issues hosted by BCCDC
6. Shauna and Paris to connect on best practices for food recovery programs
7. Abra to give Matt original funding applications of KLAS
8. Abra to send link circulate to members and put on Council website:  
<https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#166159518/hub>

**Minutes from 29 January meeting review** No comments

Motion to adopt as circulated First: Elizabeth / Second: Shauna Adopted

**Coordinator Report - Abra**

Abra provided an update on activities since the report was circulated. Recent activities / news, comments from participants

- Tuesday afternoon Basin-wide meetings about covid-19
- Conversation on standards around food cleaning and processing with Rachael Roussein and Sylvia Chong
- Agritech as solution of food security in province
- Kwantlen response report
- City of Nelson - letter with advice on integrating food into emergency response and planning

Food Charters

- Patrick: Ratified by village council that guides food policy in emergency situations; great time to remind the town council that Charter exists as an inspirational and practical road map
- Paris: April 14 CSLAC meeting - bring up Food Charter

Farmers Market

- Tara: First reactions have been to close markets but BCAFMS says to keep open
- Patrick: BC Centre for Disease Control - lengthy statement importance of FMs - modifications to make them safe according to guidelines

## Member Updates

### Ari Derfel - Kootenay Co-op

- Guidelines for grocery business
- Screening - health check point - handwashing - no personal bags
- Membership supportive
- Quota system in place - serve 1/3 customers but buying 3x more every time
- Staff - sick and emotionally overwhelmed
- Hard to do what big grocers doing of giving raises to staff to recognize work
- Survey - scale out online shopping program
- Some True Local suppliers impacted by quarantine
- Major suppliers are also vulnerable
- Sustenance won't be issue, but variety and choice

### Alys Ford - Nelson Farmers Market, KOGS, Ravine Creek Farm

- Hasn't been in touch with KOGS as group
- Local FM farmers' insights: all farmers getting messages from seed suppliers that they are backed up because of hobby gardeners
- Will everyone grow their own food?
- How does that impact supply and demand?

- Impacts on small-scale market garden
- Farms engaged in direct-to-retailer already haven't experienced reorganization but farms that sell through FMs, their whole business model has been upended
- Need to modify how FMs are run - how will farms pivot if they usually sell most produce at FMs
- Farms can produce same volume, squeeze bottleneck to get product out to customers now
- Shifting sales to online sales - delivery - on the fly
- If there is a market in Nelson this year, it will be different from what we are accustomed to
- Increasing production needs logistics of distribution, support with irrigation, labour and season extension

**Mick Wilson - Healthy Communities Society - Market garden business**

- Same situation as Alys - stress of how to sell
- Change slightly what they are producing and produce more assuming higher demand
- 40% buy at FM in area
- Trying to get ND market going - 1 person at a time
- Operational changes - 1 person touches money, one person touches food
- Late winter - late start to season
- Healthy Communities Society - breakfast and lunch program with CBT funding
- Trying to keep lunch program going - deliver to seniors and kids in community in need
- Zoom meeting with Slocan farmers

**Patrick Steiner - Kaslo Food Hub - KBFA**

- Some farmers moving product they wouldn't normally move
- Other farmers who lost restaurant sales sold it all to local residents
- How to make farmers markets work - challenges for markets themselves - Kaslo market in doubt if can financially run - reduced to just food producers and vendors are cut in half (income halved) → non viable economically
  - Charge vendors more to be there? Ask the village for space for free? Cut manager's wage?
- Food bank modifications for social distancing - volunteer drivers
- CBT funding - stock up on food
- Provincial government gave 3 million to food banks BC - take time for economy to rebound and higher need into the fall
- Zoom meeting - interesting concept - local farmers in area of Kaslo

**Shauna Fidler - Kootenay Food / West Kootenay Permaculture Co-op**

- Programming has stopped but have surplus of money and need to pivot to spend it
- Food Charter is a priority
- Free seeds sent to 400 homes in 24 hours → time to support local farmers - CSA
- IGTV, youtube channel - local farmers give advice - videos - how to videos - asking people who are able to grow extra row from free seeds
- Assessing farmers needs on call tomorrow morning - all feed back into regional initiatives that are happening
- Food hub project - survey going out today targeting food producers and farmers in West Kootenay region
- Shauna to mention tomorrow's meeting in farmers call
- Working with local food banks as well
- Interested in Sylvia's toolkit
- How will programming look this year without events
- Farm visits will commence when distancing regulations allow for it again
- Not setting up community meetings since other groups doing that already
- Idea of foodshed - how to connect with farmers in east and west - can do so through KBFA
- Exploration of 3-4 Food Hub models - Farm Food Drink got contract to initiate this process
  - Opportunity to share information and outcomes of that
  - If more regional assessment happens, that work for this region can contribute to that larger audience

#### **Rachael Roussein - KBFA Coordinator**

- Cattle sector doing well - Kootenay Natural Meats - incredible response
- What will this mean for produce vendors? demand / distro ?
- Increased packaging due to health and safety measures - values vs practical distribution things
- Distancing regulations for staff
- Opportunity for agriculture - need to seize it
- Rossland scene - challenges for Rossland Farmers Market
- Food charter in Rossland - exists but has no legal weight

#### **Kevin Murphy - MOA Regional Agrologist**

- Ministry staff working from home
- Biweekly updates fed to executives - gathering issues from region
- Issue with labour for harvesting, packing etc
- Efforts for local labour

- Emergency operation centers - participate and monitor calls - Nelson's running for a few weeks
- PPE to First Nations and at risk communities and health centre capacity
- Food Hub funding - don't know when it will be released for another intake
- Doubt whether agri stability would apply to market gardener
- Interim - Mar 31 deadline to submit application if believe income will be reduced significantly but doesn't apply to many market gardeners
- BC Centre for Disease Control - Covid requirements to keep workers safe
- Agsafe BC factsheet
- Burden to set up CSA?
  - Mick: Complicated to get variety and delivery - chance of going back to limited CSA due to less people at FMs
  - Alys: Huge increase in requests for CSA - they've already been doing it and increasing shares - increased logistical challenges in packing CSA vs FM

#### **Elizabeth Quinn - Fields Forward Society**

- Emergency planning process initiated by CF and taken over by Economic Action Partnership
- To develop workforce development plan for agriculture
- 25 acre market garden and 12 acre market garden - neither go to FM and will have challenge getting workers (6 workers waiting for flights from Mexico)
  - Would hire locals and has in past but university students leave too early in season
  - Needs skilled farm labour - 6 from Mexico and 40 locals
  - 25 acre MG has 6 weeks to find labour or might not be able to plant
  - Spent 40k on seeds so hopefully won't lose all that investment
- Fields Forward to continue with investment readiness
- Survey to all micro-processors and food processors to learn what's needed in whole Basin
- Still believe it's worth planning for the whole Basin - what's needed for everyone?
- Kootenay Farms Marketplace - ended it at end of January - could be resurrected - waiting to hear how things go with Local Line and FM in Creston
- Aggregation service easier for farmers?
- Economic office doesn't know what's needed in agriculture - no work so far that has brought that info forward
- Kootenay Mobile Press for cherry and apple season
- Cherry growers still have time to hire

#### **Tara Stark - Public Health Dietician - IH Healthy Communities Team**

- Focus on supporting emergency food providers
- Crisis situations in emergency food world
  - Volunteer base is smaller
  - How to provide services safely
- Reach out individually to get info on local food banks and community meals - trying to get comprehensive list to update communications
- IH working on page for comm orgs w/ covid info (operational info)
- Provincial working group meeting on emergency food issues hosted by BCCDC - meeting weekly to share resources and tools - all health authorities are scrambling
  - Will bring forward issue of FMs - vendors being cut in half - viability threatened - relevant to bring to group - will be people from province there

#### **Paris Marshall - Creston Valley Food Action Coalition**

- Food Action Coalition is in planning mode - have been planning to go online - distro vs aggregation
- Need for RD to support food systems work
- Conversation about food recovery program with Trust
- Wanting to re-do the food recovery program - adjusting program
- Opportunity exists to connect as a group (with Shauna) - best practice sharing

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

- Small business working with small-scale producers
- Down 60-70% total revenue - had to close cafe
- Still have producers that make product for local grocery stores
- Can still rent out kitchen with new guidelines and restrictions
- Level of debt vs taking on debt through financing even with low interest rates
- Opportunity to shift focus - want to take time to adjust - small enterprises renting space and retailing from cafe
- Thought there would be more local processors en masse, but not as much as their capacity can do - not even close to maximizing output for storage and processing
- Exciting time to rethink everything about their shift and how that looks and how to harness power of their space
- Food Hub planning stages
  - Can operate as test or trial on how programs are run - how much local food is stored and distributed to local area - comes with hyper-localization of hubs (less travelling around) - if people are growing more this year and interest in local food is up that's an opportunity and they will be there to process it - people still need to eat!

### Hailey Troock - Young Agrarians

- Q: How will food recovery programs need to pivot?
  - Shauna: Harvesting won't be affected but processing will be affected, as volunteer work groups to process together and that can't happen (programming would be happening now)
- Q: Still space in the free KF seed program?
  - Shauna: Had waiting list but now sold out
- Q: Space in local coupon programs?
  - Sold out for years - every year there is a new application process - not just families with young kids
- 2 first events postponed - see what happens with regulations
- BMN meeting with farmers - pivoting (input shortages and restaurants to direct to consumer models)
- Transition toolkit
- Remote support models
- Nest Lab
- Getting farmers online

### Matt Carr - Linden Lane Farms - KLAS Director

- Had meeting last week with FM and farmers
- CSA has expanded twice - crop planning questions
- Ideas for tool library - trying to get tools online and back to deposes
- Online sign up and registration
- Rentals need to be built into production schedule
- KOGS and KMG collaboration
- Trying to get website up and resources going
- Abra to give Matt original funding applications of KLAS

### ALR Residential Flexibility Consultation

- Farm labourers important but in time of scarcity but agricultural land in province is scarce
- Abra: Hyper cautious about it due to degree of flexibility
- Patrick: Power of Council in sending statement or letter is helpful - group will have feedback for letter to collate things into larger document - would like the Council to have an opportunity to voice opinions- secondary homes and residences (in favour but need to use caution) - nuances can be included in letter - would love to have ways to share info and collate info to offer different opinions of members
- Abra: Outline of thoughts into google doc - Rachael and Matt to give feedback? Matt would be interested - supportive but with caution



- Thought exchange - <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#166159518/hub>
  - Abra to send link via email - survey and link - Abra to put on website
- Tara: How to share info with Council members?
  - Abra: Grab list and send out email themselves so bottleneck not created

Adjourned at 12:00 pm