



## All-Council Virtual Meeting

December 14th, 2020, 1:00 – 2:30PM

Present: Ramona Faust, Nic Walsler, Mick Wilson, Tara Stark, Patrick Steiner, Nicole Schreiber, Rob Hay, Rachael Roussin, Hailey Troock, Paul Peterson, Nadine BenRabha, Abra Brynne, Amy Allcock.

Regrets: Ari Derfel, Rosemary Hughes, Alys Ford, Kevin Murphy.

### **Welcome and get settled – Call meeting to order**

**Food Justice Exercise:** Abra introduced a food justice exercise and invited people to reflect on how and where systemic racism may be manifested along food supply chains. The conversation highlighted a range of issues and opportunities:

- Unpaid workers on farms - middle class white people and the only ones who can afford to WWOOF or apprentice for no pay.
- Indigenous people's access to foods and medicines that are local to their territories but not seen as food by settlers
- Rural food security depends for many on the non-cash, exchange economy, on relationships, and on knowing what is available.
- It is hard to get into agriculture in this area - structural barriers exist for minorities to get into farming
- Creston farming community includes a growing number of Indo-Canadian families
- The Lower Kootenay Band has a large farm being managed by a settler farmer but building skills for LKB members and providing food for the community and the cash economy

### **Minutes from last Council Meeting, October 6th, 2020**

The minutes were reviewed. Elizabeth requested two additions:

1. Motion to accept the 2020 Budget
2. Core funding request CTA: add 'because we may not have enough core funding for 2021'

Motion to adopt the minutes as amended: Moved – Elizabeth; Seconded – Ramona. Passed by consensus.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Elizabeth presented the financials, including the budget to actuals, to the end of November and answered questions from Council members, with Abra's help. We were able to raise more funds than was originally budgeted and costs have been kept low for various reasons, some related to the pandemic and others from careful management. Both Abra and Amy have not been using all hours budgeted. Excess funds will be carried over to cover staff time in 2021. The Evidence-based Food Policy Project wraps up at the end of December, has a few last expenses to be paid out, and will result in final payments in early 2021.

**Motion to accept November financial statements as presented Moved by Elizabeth; Seconded: Tara; passed by consensus.**

### **Executive Director Report**

Abra reviewed highlights from her report and added a few details, including an update on the cannabis work with Community Futures which included the launch of the Cannabis Economic Development group which will focus on policy, the creation of a Kootenay label (appellation) and economic development barriers and opportunities. There are various funding proposals in process but no confirmed new funding as of yet.

### **Communications Report**

Amy provided an update on the communications since our last meeting, including statistics related to our newsletter subscriptions, opens and click rates, website traffic and most popular pages. Amy encouraged all Council members to reach out so that the Council can amplify your work and support your own communications.

### **Council Member & Guests Updates**

#### **Nicole Schreiber - Food Roots, East Shore**

All in person events cancelled but flexible funding - gave funding to Christmas food hampers in the community

Kootenay Food Tree projects

Apple harvest and gleaning - small socially distanced but no apples

Funding from CBT for Food cards for families in need was greatly appreciated since there is no food bank locally

#### **Rachael Roussin - KBFA**

Nine events in person in the fall that went really well. Planning for 2021 underway.

Shout out to CKFPC for food systems round tables

#### **Nic Walser - Field Manager at Linden Lane – on Accreditation Board of COABC**

Updated national organic standards just released and include a new Aquaculture standard released. The Organic Federation of Canada has a good guide to the changes from the previous standards.

COABC conference is virtual in February 2021, launching with 25 podcasts to be released in January.

**Ramona Faust** - Area E

15 properties applying to come out of ALR in Blewett

Secondary housing limitations is pushing more landowners to apply for exclusion from ALR

Young Agrarians supported new farmers in the Harrop Procter community

Online Kootenay Christmas Fair - over 300 members

Summer student to integrate GIS info related to the Water Governance project of the RDCK.

**Mick Wilson** - New Denver

New Denver community garden approved by Village of ND

Grant application and funding in place by end of January

Food Hub with commercial kitchen application to be announced by January

Is working with someone who has expertise to speak to the Council about racial justice and food systems

**Tara Stark** - IH

IH team working in Healthy Communities initiatives update

The Community Food Action Initiative funding for 2021 will be for one year and will be announced early in the new year and will focus on communities that have not yet received funding.

**Patrick Steiner** - Kaslo Food Hub

Research and public engagement resulted in their organic waste diversion study for the Kaslo area was recently submitted to the RDCK and may be useful to other small rural communities.

Lack of population density in rural areas requires creative solutions to food waste management in order to reduce wildlife conflict and other needs. Working on creating best practice around bylaw development on organic waste diversion

**Paul Peterson** - Burton Area resident and Area K Director on the RDCK

He approached the Food Bank in Arrow Lakes region to see if they needed a donation and was informed that they are doing well and had no need for funding from him.

**Hailey Troock** - Young Agrarians

Transition Toolkit for non-family farm transitions just released

Land Forum Online last month was very well attended. They are planning a Basin Mixer in January.

**Nadine BenRabha** - Kootenay Coop True Local Coordinator

Customers have adapted to changes for the most part. Nadine is leaving Coop at end of December. Coop is still considering how the True Local Program will continue following her departure.

**Elizabeth Quinn - Fields Forward**

They have results from a Basin-wide processing survey which will inform their ongoing food hub development work. Recently invited by the Ministry of Agriculture to apply for food hub funding, which they have been working on since 2019 and applied for last year. Current focus is on developing a business plan for a Creston food hub. The mobile press processed 450,000 pounds of culled apples and cherries last year and has processed in excess of one million pounds since it was launched.

**Closing & Adjournment at 2:30 PM**