



**Date:** July 29th, 2021

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:30 AM

**Present:** Leah Main, Paul Peterson, Valerie Cowan, Elizabeth Quinn, Dana Hawkins, Lynn Shortt, Amy Allcock, Paris Marshall Smith, Kevin Murphy, Tara Stark, Matthew McClelland, Ramona Faust, Hailey Troock, Rachael Roussin, Nyree Marsh, Anneke Rosch.

**Welcome and get settled – Call meeting to order 10 am**

**Minutes from last meeting – May 13th, 2020**

Motion to adopt the minutes as circulated: Moved: Leah, Second: Elizabeth, None opposed

**Financial Report - provided by Abra**

- Food Security Action Plan wrapped up
- RDCK Directors and support - board passed motion to provide core funding to CKFPC - more formal commitment - made by Board - general commitment for 15k on annual basis
- \$7500 secured to support the development of our Forest Values project
- Gaming Grant -Food systema literacy program
- Funds to continue until end of year
- Cannabis Development Council provides funds for 8 hours per week

**Staff reports - circulated in advance of meeting and discussed:**

Amy - Communications:

- Print version of Directory is now out
- Food Security Action Plan
- Website updates

Abra - Exec Director:

- BC Govt announced Cannabis farm gate and direct delivery to retail for small scale growers will enable better access to market. Cannabis Council submitted a proposal on how this could be developed to best serve the needs of legacy craft growers.
- Food Security Action plan revised and finalized.
- Working with two Matthew: one working on a Masters at Royal Roads University on increasing citizen engagement in land use planning; and the second one is a law student in Ottawa researching and analysing cannabis policy in other jurisdictions

- Food Hub project in Silverton - we have been asked to submit a quote to support their work.
- Discussion on the cannabis sector and how people are impacted / understand it:  
 Ramona: cannabis policy work interest - need to look at adjoining farms and interests.  
 Abra to follow up with Directors to get more involved in cannabis policy. Paris she is aware of concerns of contamination and poisons used in pest control and water.  
 Legalization would bring the sector under pesticides regulations at the federal level. Tara is also interested. Those who wish for more information are encouraged to send Abra an email

**ALC residential policy change update** - provided by Dana Hawkins RDCK Planner

Bill C-52 - broadened non adhering rules

Bill 15 - taking away exclusion application

NEW: Residential flexibility coming back to ALR

Dec 2021 - come into force - options for 2nd home

Garden suites, guests houses, carriage suites, manufactured homes

Principal residence can be built in addition to manufactured home that was a principal residence

Extended family, agri tourism, farm labour, rental property for income (not just immediate family and owner)

Size of 2nd residence will depend on land parcel and existing home: parcels 40 hectares or less

No application to ALC if fit into these regs but RDs and other local govts can be more restrictive

Tiny homes and yurts wouldn't be considered legal second residence since don't pass provincial building codes, which is the limitation here

**Council Members & Guests Updates**

Paul - Area K Director

Brand the area, brand marketing strategy

Different farmer needs - need retailers

50 calls per day on fires

Econ Dev Commission

Leah: get commissions more involved in relationship with agriculture - assistance to small growers

Leah Main, Silverton

Rural Forum member for Canadian Municipalities - bringing ag and food security to national stage for discussion

Speak of different degrees of rural represented throughout Canada from Halifax to BC

Valerie Cowan, Lardeau

Infrastructure and wage subsidy support for local farmers

Rural Divident Funding from BC govt

Funds from RDCK now

Agricultural support programs expanding in the fall - assess and support farmers who are raising livestock, cattle and need to sell meat

Class D Licensing available in Area D as of 2020 - Amy Watson, Abra

Farm Gate Plus licensing

Break down barriers to local meat production and sale

Working with Kaslo Council and Econ Dev Committee for Area D - food storage building within Lardeau Valley by May 2022

Nyree and Rachael suggestions for food storage buildings

EDC use kitchens already that exist in the valley to produce value add

Elizabeth Quinn, Creston, ED of Fields Forward

Funding from BC govt and CBT to support food hub in Creston

First in Kootenays, lease as of June 1 - hired Project Manager experienced in food hubs

Help from community to promote the use of the food hub in the valley, canning processing etc.

Kathy Finley new board member, regenerative farmer in Langley

Hailey: open for tours? Yes to the fall for a YA tour of the food hub

Rachael to share in KBFA newsletter

Mobile press divided up - will make profit for specializing

Nyree Marsh, BBA

Visiting farms across region for last 6 weeks

Quadrupled production at farms that received wage subsidies and infrastructure grants

Producers renting space in East Kootenay (Fernie), the local store

Small-scale food processors

Anneke Rosch, Grocery Buyer at Coop

Support local growers and producers

Ingredient gap analysis - potential - how farmers can easily get rid of products and do value added products

Daniel, Outreach Coordinator at Coop

Lynn Short, Nakusp

Business Management Consultant - operations/systems - small businesses

Horticulturist - hops, potato, tomatoes, cucumbers

Run market stand on farm

Local challenges of production and accessibility of local food in area

Kevin Murphy, AGRI Agrologist

Early July spent week visiting 6 farms in Kootenays that received acceleration funding

17k towards purchase of infrastructure

Regional and provincial drought - drought level 4

Livestock relocation initiative due to wildfires - Kamloops

Challenges for producers in a state of emergency (disruptions)

Abra: Make acceleration funding permanent - good feedback received

Tara Stark, Interior Health Healthy Communities Program

Community Food Action initiative single year grants - Lucerne School in New Denver gardening and foraging workshop - create guidebook for workshops and circle of indigenous nations in castlegar is building garden beds for families and partnering with local elders for ceremonies and teaching there - warfield funding for community food systems assessments - 5 other projects that received funds too

Farm to School BC - provides schools with \$\$ to connect with local farms

Paris Marshall, RDCK

Watershed Protection and drinking water protection

Data collection and mapping- resource for residents

Watershed concerns

Climate Action initiatives

4 projects being brought forward for food security action plan

3 other projects: deep geothermal mapping on east shore to support full season greenhouse production

Need for reliable electricity and power and internet

West Kootenay EcoSociety Farms to Friends program - how to be more effective

Ramona Faust

Food Program Living Garden

Local govt climate caucus - may contact some people on the council

Hailey Troock, Young Agrarians

Land Matching Program and events this season

Rachael Rousein, KBFA

Have talked to Valerie in Area D

Water challenges, livestock producers decreasing herds

Drought, fire, heat - profound impacts on producers across region

Sales down as well at farmers markets

Water is biggest concern

Field Days - Grazing, building soil across region

Matt McLelland, Glade

Addictions counselor

Working on 12 person CSA on land in Glade

Working on thesis with council - enhance citizen engagement in land use issues through survey and looking at multiple dwellings on ALR land issue - look at ways to navigate public domains and opinions and working them towards one shared goal

**Closing 11:45 am**