



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 7:00pm
Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338 – 65 Avenue, Langley, BC

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor K. Richter, Council Representative Co-Chair
M. Dykeman, Community Representative Co-Chair

M. Gunn, D. Kang, T. Knight, and B. Sharp

Staff:

B. Andrews, Economic Development Co-ordinator
J. Chu, Manager, Long Range Planning
V. Gafka, Senior Manager, Corporate Administration
C. Quin, Legislative Services
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

Guests:

C. Dorward, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Dr. K. Mullinix, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - February 22, 2017

Moved by D. Kang,
Seconded by M. Gunn,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve
the agenda and receive the agenda items of the January 25, 2017 meeting, as
amended.

CARRIED

Clerk's Note: Item H.1, "Tourism Langley: Chronological Overview", was added
to the agenda.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee -
February 22, 2017**

Moved by M. Gunn,
Seconded by T. Knight,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the
Minutes of the January 25, 2017 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Southwest BC Bioregion Food System Design Project

C. Dorward and Dr. K. Mullinix, Institute for Sustainable Food Systems
Kwantlen Polytechnic University, provided a presentation regarding their
Southwest BC (SWBC) Bioregion Food System Design Project. Dr. Mullinix
commented that the Township of Langley was one of the first endorsers of this
project, which allowed KPU to approach seven other municipalities for funding
support. 34 other municipalities and organizations endorsed the project.

Dr. Mullinix provided the background for this project:

A sustainable future requires a sustainable food system:

- Current food systems not sustainable – environmentally, economically, socially;
- Growing interest in localization;
- Little information about how or to what degree localization can address concerns;
- Accurate information is needed.

Project objectives:

1. Develop a method for assessing the potential for regionalized food systems.
2. Apply the method to the southwest BC Bioregion (SWBC) to provide data-driven information about:
 - a. The potential to increase food production for local markets.
 - b. If doing so could improve food self-reliance, benefit the economy, and create jobs.
 - c. The environmental impacts of food production and strategies to reduce them.

Dr. Mullinix then provided information on their methodology:

- Bioregions are areas that share similar topography, plant and animal life, and human culture.

Food System Modeling and Scenarios:

- Developed a computational model to compare SWBC's current food system to "what-if" scenarios for the year 2050.

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- What if we continued with a business as usual approach?
- What if we prioritized production of food that meets local food need?
- What if we mitigated some environmental impacts of agriculture?
- What if we farmed more of the arable land in SWBC?

14 indicators were measured in each scenario:

- Food self-reliance - amount of our diet satisfied by local food.
- 6 x ecological indicators - environmental impact of SWBC's food system
- 7 x economic indicators - contribution of SWBC's food system to the BC economy.

Important assumptions:

Data:

- Used best secondary sources available.
- Many data gaps identified.

Population:

- 2011 population: 2.7 million (BC stats)
- 2050 population: 4.3 million (projected a 58% increase based on BC Stats projection to 2040).

Food consumption & self reliance:

- Assumed food produced in SWBC first consumed in SWBC; surplus exported.
- Accounted for seasonality of production.
- Source of livestock feed greatly impacts outcome.

Habitat enhancements: Models the impact of planting

- Riparian buffers (vegetation) along all waterways on farmland, and
- Hedgerows (woody vegetation) along the boundaries of all farm parcels

C. Dorward then provided the results of the project:

Our current food system: 2011 Baseline

- 40% food self-reliant.
- High ecological footprint of food consumption.
- ALR and Crown grazing land offers poor habitat for regional species.
- Nitrogen and phosphorous surpluses in bioregion.
- 1.8 billion food imports annually (economic leakage – loss to economic opportunity).

Food System Potential in 2050:

Food Self-Reliance:

- If some crop and livestock mix is produced, food self-reliance worsens from 40 to 28%
- If production mix is changed, could increase from 40% to:
 - 56% on the same land base
 - 49% if some negative environmental impacts of farming were reduced

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- 57% if additional land farmed, and environmental impacts reduced.

Economic Impact in 2050:

- If same crops and livestock mix is produced, economic impact does not change.
- Increase in imports to meet food need – larger “economic leakage” or lost economic opportunity (82% increase from \$1.8 to 2.9 billion)

If production mix changed according to local food need, economic impact increases:

- By 50% if the same amount of land farmed as in 2011.
- By 30% if some negative environmental impacts of farming were reduced.
- By almost 100% if additional land farmed and environmental impacts reduced.
- Processing sector is key to stimulating the regional food system economy.
- To achieve economic gains, local processing and distribution capacity must be increased.

Ecological Impact in 2050:

- To reduce ecological footprint, we must change diet.
- Mitigate nutrient surplus by bringing livestock and crop production in balance.
- Support biodiversity by planting hedgerows and riparian buffers across the agricultural landscape.

Our Food System, Our Choice to Make:

- Given our diet, land availability, the seasonality of production, and size of our population, we will never achieve 100% self-reliance in Southwest BC.
- By changing what we produce and/or increasing the area farmed, we could substantially improve self-reliance over 2011 levels – even with population growth.
- Doing so would substantially increase the contribution of the SWBC food system to the BC economy, and more so than would occur by only increasing food exports.
- There are trade-Offs: increases in self-reliance and economic impact worsen our environmental impacts unless mitigation measures, including dietary change, are taken.

The project reports are available online at www.kpu.ca/isfs

Discussion ensued and the committee felt it would be valuable for Council to receive this presentation and also approve having a Sustainable Food System Study done for the Township of Langley.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

COUNCIL

Moved by M. Gunn,

Seconded by D. Kang,

That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee recommend that Council invite the Institute of Sustainable Food Systems to present the BC Bioregional Food System Design Project, due to its potential agricultural and economic value.

CARRIED

COUNCIL

Moved by T. Knight,

Seconded by M. Gunn,

That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee recommend that Council consider undertaking a Sustainable Food System Study for the Township of Langley, conducted by the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems, costing approximately \$25,000 and to be completed in a six-month time frame.

CARRIED

D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. 2017 Work Program

The AAEEC 2017 Work Program was endorsed by Council on February 6, 2017. It was provided in the agenda package for information.

2. Tourism Industry Inventory (Preliminary List)

B. Andrews provided a preliminary inventory of key destinations in the tourism industry. The list is to help the committee explore opportunities for strategic branding of tourism in the Township. This topic will be discussed at future meetings.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Tourism Langley: Chronological Overview

Councillor Richter provided the released Memo to Council regarding Tourism Langley. She noted that Tourism Langley has issued a Notice of Special General Meeting to its members to be held on March 2, 2017 regarding the proposed dissolution of the organization.

Action: Staff will provide links to reports on Destination BC website, issued by municipalities that quantify tourism impacts, value proposition, and return on investment.

N. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2017
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338 – 65 Avenue
Time: 7:00pm

O. TERMINATE

Moved by M. Gunn,
Seconded by D. Kang,
That the meeting terminate at 8:43pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair