

Appendix C

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Implementation was factored into the development of this Agriculture Plan throughout the entire process, from the communication plan to the community consultations through to the drafting of the actual document. RDCK residents engaged in the process understanding that it would result not just in another report that would gather dust but rather a Plan that would help to support farmers and the food systems of the Region. They also understood that the Plan would focus on actions that are within the purview or influence of the RDCK, increasing the likelihood of successful implementation.

Appendix B contains the Recommendations sorted by those that are priorities, those that are easy to implement and those where the RDCK would use its influence. Appendix C is the Implementation Strategy, proposing steps to accomplish each recommendation, partners or funding agencies and helpful comments.

Brynne Consulting urges the RDCK to maintain the momentum built through the public engagement process and proceed with a combination of the high priority and easy to implement recommendations. Among the suite of recommendations, many focus on amending language and intent within RDCK policy and practice. Some have financial implications and others will entail communicating the recommendation to external agencies, such as the Agricultural Land Commission. The first step will be to establish the Agricultural Advisory Committee to guide the implementation of the rest of the recommendations.

For ease of reference, the Implementation Schedule has the recommendations sorted under the four goals of the Agriculture Plan:

1. To identify priority actions to support the **viability** of farming in the District;
2. To ensure that the **agricultural capability** of the area is realized and protected;
3. To foster a **secure food supply** for the region; and
4. To **implement** the Agriculture Plan.

Goal 1: To identify priority actions to support the **viability** of farming in the District.

Viability Recommendation #1

It is recommended that the RDCK explore a partnership with the Columbia Basin Trust to establish a pilot project to provide an agricultural development service to farmers and other food producers in the RDCK.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
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| Send request to Columbia Basin Trust to explore a pilot project; engage key members of the agriculture sector in the RDCK to provide guidance on pilot project parameters. | Columbia Basin Trust, Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-foods Canada, RDCK agricultural organizations, Selkirk College and College of the Rockies. | Ministry of Agriculture staff, Don Low, based in Creston, was formerly employed as an Extension Agent for the Ministry of Agriculture and will be a key informant for this process. Agricultural Extension / development services are commonly associated with colleges and universities in the USA and may be a useful model for engaging Selkirk College and the College of the Rockies in the project. |

Desired Outcome: An agriculture development (a.k.a. “extension service”) pilot project established, providing data on the level of need and costs of the program.

Viability Recommendation #2

It is recommended that the RDCK create and maintain a database for the collection and analysis of agricultural inventory data in the Creston Valley, as recommended in Creston Valley Agricultural Inventory of 2002.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
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| Design and build a database that integrates with ArcGIS for the data collected in the 2001 agricultural inventory; update from data available through air photo interpretation using Google Earth, Census Canada’s Agricultural data (2005 and 2010), and “windshield” surveys where possible. | Creston Valley Agricultural Society, Investment Agriculture Foundation, Ministry of Agriculture. | Creating, updating and maintaining the database will help to ensure that decisions taken by the RDCK on land use planning that affects agriculture are based not on current “snapshots” but that also include information on trends and agricultural capability. The Creston Valley Agricultural Society stated in the Inventory Final Report that they are willing to share the inventory data with the RDCK, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Town of Creston and the Lower Kootenay Band. |

Desired Outcome: A functional database integrated with the RDCK's mapping software to guide land use planning as it relates to agriculture and the food systems of the Region.

Viability Recommendation #3

It is recommended that the RDCK designate appropriate resources in the Development Services Department for those seeking information and support concerning regulations and requirements related to farming in the RDCK.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
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| Designate staff to be lead; survey relevant staff in other departments to identify information and resources and establish information collection; communicate with area agricultural organizations to notify them of the change and to survey them on useful content. | Ministry of Agriculture; Agricultural organizations in RDCK, Agricultural Land Commission. | Will strengthen relationship between farmers and government when their requests are handled efficiently and knowledgeably, encouraging them to continue that positive working relationship over the life of their farm operation. |

Desired Outcomes: More efficient processing of applicants to the RDCK related to farm activities; better informed farmers and landowners regarding government oversight and requirements for their operations.

Viability Recommendation #4

It is recommended that the RDCK explore re-instating exemptions from building permits fees for structures that meet the National Farm Building Code of Canada definition of farm buildings having low human occupancy.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Review historical exemption criteria and rationale for discontinuing it; draft proposal for re-instating an exemption that applies to fees only (not building permit itself); consult industry and RDCK staff; present for approval to the Directors. | Area agricultural organizations. | The Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen currently has a farm building exemption, as does Saskatchewan. |

Desired Outcome: Elimination of fees for farm buildings with small footprints and low human occupancy.

Viability Recommendation #5

It is recommended that the RDCK review agricultural zones in the Zoning Bylaw and amend them as necessary and appropriate to allow on-farm processing of livestock and / or other agricultural crops.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amend Zoning Bylaw 1675 to permit expanded on-farm processing of farm products in all agricultural zones. - Revise DPA for farm processing to apply only to abattoirs. - Establish appropriate restrictions to ensure that agricultural capacity is not compromised. Example: limiting processing to an accessory use to agriculture; to a specified floor space area; or by source type such as from another parcel in the RDCK or from a farm operation with a BC Assessment farm status. | <p>Ministry of Agriculture; agricultural community</p> | <p>Currently the RDCK Zoning Bylaw 1675 permits "All activities designated as 'Farm Use' as defined in the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Part 2 of the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation" in all agricultural zones. For farms in the ALR, a non-farm use approval would need to be acquired from the Agricultural Land Commission for farms processing > 50% off-farm product.</p> <p>See City of Abbotsford Zoning Bylaw for definition of processing as accessory use.</p> <p>See Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen Area C Zoning Bylaw – limits floor area for processing for all buildings associated with the retail, processing, packing and storage of farm products to ranging from 600 m2 to 1500m2.</p> |

Desired Outcomes: Broadened income generating opportunities for farmers as well as expanded capacity for processing of agricultural products in the RDCK.

Viability Recommendation #6

It is recommended that the RDCK review restrictions on livestock numbers in rural non-agricultural zones and increase them as reasonable for the area, and environmentally sustainable for the lot size.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Consider amending Section 613 of the bylaw to permit additional numbers of animals for specific parcel sizes; Consider performance-based zoning such as participation in Environmental Farm Plan</p> | <p>Ministry of Ag, Agricultural Land Commission, BC Agriculture Council's Agricultural Research and Development Corporation – Environmental Funds.</p> | <p>Provincial legislation regulates many objectives addressed in this bylaw provision such as guidance on the keeping of animals for environmental, humane and other conditions such as the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, Animal Disease Control Act and Environmental Management Act. The Ministry of Agriculture has also recently developed a factsheet for "Agricultural Building Setbacks from Watercourses in Farming Areas" (www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/800Series/823400-1_Agriculture_Building_Setback_Factsheet.pdf) to guide environmental considerations.</p> |

Desired Outcome: Improved animal husbandry opportunities for residents while ensuring animal welfare and environmental values are maintained.

Viability Recommendation #7

It is recommended that the RDCK investigate a region-wide pest control program and potential partners, incorporating elements such as an agricultural pests bylaw and the Invasive Plant Management Plan.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Letter of Introduction to area farm organizations and Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Council; review models from other Regional Districts; convene meeting; determine mechanisms for enforcement (if any); draft bylaw</p> | <p>Area agricultural organizations, Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee, Ministry of Environment, Community Development Program of the Federal Rural Partnership Program.</p> | <p>An RDCK Director sits on the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee; the SIR bylaw in place in the RDCK until recently may be a useful resource; pests can have a significant and negative impact on farm, often from sources beyond their operation and ability to control.</p> |

Desired Outcomes: Greater awareness in the general public about the harm done by plant and insect pests; legal tool to enforce control measures of pests, if necessary.

Goal 2: To ensure that the **agricultural capability** of the area is realized and protected.

Capability Recommendation #1

It is recommended that the RDCK continue to use land use planning tools to discourage subdivisions of agricultural land and to encourage the consolidation of contiguous smaller agricultural lots provided they do not result in additional residences (resulting in higher land values for the farm).

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Revise ALR Board Policy (standing resolution no. 456/98) to provide clear decision-making criteria for ALC exclusions, subdivisions and non-farm use applications in support of maintaining agricultural capacity.</p> <p>Establish ALC application policies to ensure no net loss of agricultural lands or ensured benefit to the agricultural community. Subdivisions and exclusions should provide a benefit to the farming community; Consider increasing the minimum lot size for agricultural zones; Consider requesting that an applicant for subdivision enter into a Land Title Act Section 219 covenant (2(1)(a) restricting the principal use of land as agricultural, with residential uses as permitted accessory.</p> | <p>Ministry of Agriculture; Agricultural Land Commission, area agriculture organizations.</p> | <p>Formalize such policies by adopting in OCPs; Work with agricultural community to establish a list of 'benefits to agriculture' as a condition of referral for subdivision, non-farm use or exclusion applications in ALR.</p> |

Desired outcome: Protection of viable agricultural lands.

Capability Recommendation #2

It is recommended that the RDCK work with member municipalities to investigate a co-operative approach to agricultural lands within the

urban / rural interface that will mitigate the loss of agricultural land to urban boundary expansions. (“build up, not out”).

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Work with municipal elected officials and staff to encourage the preservation of agricultural lands when boundary extensions are proposed; Consider developing a policy for responding to municipal requests for boundary extensions that would protect agricultural lands.</p> | <p>Municipal staff and elected officials</p> | <p>See following recommendation for OCP Development Permit Area policy designations for the protection of farming.</p> |

Desired outcome: Coordinated and planned approach to boundary extensions in order to reduce the loss of agricultural lands.

Capability Recommendation #3

It is recommended that the RDCK encourage the protection of agricultural land where appropriate, through the Official Community Plan process and other land use planning tools.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|--|---|--|
| <p>When electoral areas are developing or reviewing OCPs, consider removing language that supports the removal of land from the Agricultural Land Reserve.</p> <p>Work with municipalities to assess areas under significant growth pressures adjacent to agricultural lands and consider adopting OCP Development Permit Area policies for the protection of farming; Consider developing ‘transfer of development potential’ or ‘density transfer’ policies to</p> | <p>Municipal planners and Directors</p> | <p>Consider developing region-wide growth policies to determine appropriate ‘receiving’ areas for residential development.</p> <p>‘Donor’ areas could be designated in OCPs as all Agricultural Zones.</p> <p>When reviewing OCPs or the Zoning Bylaw, consider requiring that the setbacks be established on the non-agricultural land.</p> |

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| <p>direct residential development out of agricultural areas and into areas where high density is appropriate; When reviewing Temporary Use Permit applications on Agricultural lands, the Board consider referring the application to the Agricultural Advisory Committee.</p> | | |
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Desired outcome: Directing residential growth out of agricultural areas and into appropriate areas.

Capability Recommendation #4

It is recommended that the RDCK establish a maximum residential footprint policy for all agriculturally zoned land. (See Table below #5)

Capability Recommendation #5

It is recommended that the RDCK amend the Zoning Bylaw to incorporate a maximum setback requirement for residential buildings in agricultural land.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze existing setbacks and footprints to reduce non-conformance - Establish definitions for residential and non-residential farm buildings in order to differentiate between farm and residential use. - Establish policies and mechanisms for managing exceptional circumstances. - Determine appropriate Farm Home Plate regulations (FHP). | <p>Ministry of Agriculture; Agricultural Land Commission, area agriculture organizations.</p> | <p>Consult with Ministry of Agriculture for final version of "Bylaw Standard for Residential Uses in the Agricultural Land Reserve" and consider using guidelines for all agricultural lands.</p> <p>See Pitt Meadows, Abbotsford and Delta, Surrey and District of Summerland for recent FHP regulations.</p> |

Desired outcomes: Preserving agricultural capacity by limiting non agricultural activity using setbacks and capping residential floor areas; discouraging estate home development on agricultural lands.

Capability Recommendation #6

It is recommended that the RDCK develop educational materials to promote and support the establishment of no-build clauses on agricultural land.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|--|---|
| Consider in conjunction with implementation of Farm Home Plate regulations in Zoning Bylaw. | Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Land Commission, The Land Conservancy. | Follow up with Ministry of Agriculture resources pending finalization of "Bylaw Standard for Residential Uses in the Agricultural Land Reserve." The Land Conservancy has expertise related to establishing covenants related to environmental or agricultural considerations. |

Desired Outcomes: Maximizing agricultural land for production and restricting the construction of buildings to land not suitable for farming.

Capability Recommendation #7

It is recommended that the RDCK continue its agreement with the Creston Valley Agricultural Society to operate as the Creston Valley Agricultural Advisory Commission.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Convene meeting with the Creston Valley Agricultural Society to review the Terms of Reference; revise as necessary; renew Agreement. | Creston Valley Agricultural Society | The working relationship between the RDCK and the Agricultural Advisory Commission will be strengthened if the Terms of Agreement include a commitment by the RDCK to provide a rationale to the Commission when a decision taken by the RDCK is counter to the advice of the Commission. |

Desired Outcomes: Strong working relationship between the RDCK and the Agricultural Advisory Commission; qualified and experienced Commission providing advice to the RDCK on land use planning in the Creston Valley.

Capability Recommendation #8

It is recommended that each RDCK Director reserve and fill a position on his / her Advisory Planning Commission for someone with a background in agriculture.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners & funding | Comments |
|---|--------------------|--|
| Revise Advisory Planning Commission Terms of Reference to add requirement for a member with agricultural expertise. | Regional Directors | Consider developing template advertisements to be placed in local media sources seeking agricultural expertise for Advisory Planning Commission. |

Desired Outcome: Land use decision-making processes across the RDCK supported by agricultural expertise and that adequately factor in food production needs.

Capability Recommendation #9

It is recommended that the RDCK work with the Agricultural Land Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that the Central Kootenays is represented on the Commission.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|--|--|
| Letter to the Agricultural Land Commission; follow-up as necessary. | Agricultural Land Commission, Ministry of Agriculture. | Commission procedures have been changed, as of early 2011 to have application decisions taken by the full Commission rather than Regional Panels. A Central Kootenay representative is still warranted, no matter what the governance structure. |

Desired Outcome: Ongoing representation of the RDCK on the Agricultural Land Commission by a suitably qualified individual.

Capability Recommendation #10

It is recommended that the RDCK encourage the Agricultural Land Commission to update their Agricultural Land Reserve decision-making guidelines incorporating criteria that acknowledges the unique characteristics of this region and the productive capabilities of smaller parcels.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Initiate discussion with the ALC; engage RDCK-based agriculture organizations in development of criteria and profile of agricultural diversity in the Region. | Agriculture organizations in the RDCK, Ministry of Agriculture. | Other jurisdictions within BC that are similarly geographically constrained may be useful contacts. |

Desired Outcome: Decision-making by the Agricultural Land Commission that better reflects the agricultural diversity and capacity of the Region.

Capability Recommendation #11

It is recommended that the RDCK work with the Columbia Basin Trust to expand the Columbia Basin Trust "Water Smart" initiative to encourage household water conservation practices.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners & funding | Comments |
|---|----------------------|--|
| Review Water Smart initiative to determine where action items may be applied to other RDCK communities. | Columbia Basin Trust | Work with CBT to determine how initiative may apply to agricultural practices. This recommendation links many of the recommended actions with the Kaslo Area D Climate Change Adaptation & You Report under Water. |

Desired outcome: Expansion of successful water-reducing practices and programs throughout RDCK and into agricultural sector.

Capability Recommendation #12

It is recommended that the RDCK work with farm and food security organizations of the Region to provide information on and encourage the use of water conservation practices in food production.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
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| Consult relevant agencies for resources on water conservation and agriculture; circulate letter to farm organizations in the RDCK encouraging water | Ministries of Agriculture and of Environment, Columbia Basin Trust, Waterbucket's Agriculture and Water program, BC Agriculture | The Climate Change Adaptation Reports from Kaslo / Area D and Castlegar both addressed water and planning for future water use and conservation. Some of their Action |

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| conservation practices and directing them to resources. | Council. | recommendations can be integrated into the background and implementation steps for this recommendation. |
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Desired Outcomes: Widely adopted water conservation practices on farms across the RDCK.

Capability Recommendation #13

It is recommended that the RDCK, in partnership with the Creston Valley Dyking Districts and the Columbia Basin Trust, submit information to the Columbia River Treaty negotiation process to secure compensation for the dyke damage and maintenance costs resulting from the Libby Dam water level management practices.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|--|--|
| Consult Lower Kootenay Band, Creston Valley Dyking Districts, Columbia Basin Trust and others as appropriate; draft background paper for RDCK representatives on the Local Government Committee of the Columbia River Treaty; monitor negotiations. | Columbia Basin Trust, Dyking Authorities in the Creston Valley, Lower Kootenay Band. | The Columbia Basin Trust functions as an information resource to local governments and residents in the Columbia River Treaty and so will be a key partner in this recommendation. Note, however, that the negotiations may result in the termination of the Treaty, which can be done with a minimum of 10 years written notice on or after September 2024. |

Desired Outcomes: Recognition of and compensation for the recurring damage to the dyke infrastructures in the Creston Valley resulting from water level management practices.

Capability Recommendation #14

It is recommended that the RDCK explore options for including the provision for agricultural needs in the design and operation of RDCK water systems.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Initiate internal review of the Water Management Plan and amend as necessary to incorporate agricultural water needs.</p> <p>Consider establishing policies that prioritize food production over non-essential uses when there are water shortages.</p> | <p>Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, industry, Waterbucket (www.waterbucket.ca)</p> | <p>Data related to water sources and systems could be overlaid with farming data to assess level of need and whom to consult. Design considerations could include larger pipes to accommodate irrigation volumes; operational considerations could include mechanisms to segregate irrigation water from chlorination and encouraging best management practices in irrigation.</p> |

Desired Outcome: Sufficient water to support agricultural activities in the RDCK.

Capability Recommendation #15

It is recommended that the RDCK, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, promote the Environmental Farm Plan program to farmers in the Region.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
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| <p>Work with Ministry of Agriculture and the Environmental Farm Plan Advisor based in Creston to obtain or develop materials suitable for promotion through RDCK communication vehicles.</p> | <p>Ministry of Agriculture, BC Agriculture Council's Agriculture Research and Development Corporation, area agricultural organizations.</p> | <p>Duane Holder is the Creston-based Planning Advisor for the program who will assist farms to understand their environmental risks and develop management and infrastructure plans to address them. Funding is available on a cost-share basis to the individual farms once they have completed a Plan. Higher uptake of the Environmental Farm Plan program across the RDCK will water preservation and environmental practices issues raised in the community consultations.</p> |

Desired Outcomes: Widely adopted Environmental Farm Planning; funding support for

farms; increase in sustainable farm practices across the RDCK.

Capability Recommendation #16

It is recommended that the RDCK encourage regionally based farm organizations, colleges and employment / career development service agencies to establish and administer farmer training and mentoring programs.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|---|--|
| Circulate letter to regional partners; co-ordinate initial meeting (conference call or in person); monitor progress and promote via RDCK communication vehicles as appropriate. | Creston Valley Ag Society, Kootenay Organic Growers Society, Kootenay Local Ag Society, Community Futures, Kootenay Career Development Services, College of the Rockies, Selkirk College / Agriculture and Agri-food Canada | Agriculture and Agri-food Canada has a Career Focus Program that funds agricultural internships. The RDCK role is primarily as a catalyst and convenor in the preliminary discussions about creating the programs. |

Desired Outcomes: New farmers with stronger business and production skills and structured training opportunities for those interested in farming as a career.

Capability Recommendation #17

It is recommended that the RDCK develop and distribute an information sheet on the tax exemptions available to landowners whose land meets income threshold criteria from production by the landowner or lessees.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|--|---|
| Draft document; Confer with BC Assessment Authority to confirm accuracy; include information on lease agreement templates; distribute annually with property tax notices. | BC Assessment Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Linking Land And Future Farmers. | Linking Land and Future Farmers website has lease agreement models: http://laff.ca Lorraine Gilbert is a Senior Appraiser and agricultural expert with the BC Assessment Authority, best qualified to confirm accuracy of the draft info sheet. |

Desired Outcomes: Better-informed owners of agricultural land and an increase in agricultural land under production.

Capability Recommendation #18

It is recommended that the RDCK champion a resolution at the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments to have a Kootenay-based bee inspector suitably staffed to meet the needs of apiarists across the region.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|--|--|---|
| Draft a resolution; consult relevant stakeholders; launch process to be taken to the Annual General Meeting in April 2012. | Regional Districts of Kootenay Boundary and East Kootenay, Ministry of Agriculture local staff (Darrell Smith and Don Low) and Provincial Apiarist | Timeline: The 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held in Trail from 19 – 21 April. Director Shadrack is the Vice-President of the AKBLG. Ministry of Agriculture Provincial Apiarist is Paul van Westendorp |

Desired Outcomes: Resolution passed and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture; Apiary Inspector staffed on an ongoing and adequate basis to meet the needs of regional bee-keepers.

Goal 3: To foster a **secure food supply** for the region.

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #1

It is recommended that the RDCK continue to work with and support food security organizations in the Region to expand and become more effective in their work.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|---|--|
| Survey food security organizations to determine appropriate and useful measures that the RDCK can take to support them; maintain contact with the organizations and direct resources and personnel as appropriate to provide the support. | Non-profit sector focused on food security in the RDCK. | Most if not all measures to support the organizations will draw on existing programs and capacity within the RDCK, such as enabling access to meeting room space (when it is not otherwise in use), grants in aid programs, communication vehicles such as Director newsletters, the RDCK website etc. |

Desired Outcome: Sustainable food security organizations across the RDCK, supporting access to food and public education on food systems.

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #2

It is recommended that the RDCK work with the Edible School Grounds Network and School Districts 8, 10 and 93 to promote, establish and incorporate working school gardens into their curricula and food supply.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|--|--|--|
| Draft letter of introduction to the Network and the School District; arrange meeting; maintain contact to provide support where appropriate. | School Districts 8, 10 and 93, Edible School Grounds Network, Agriculture in the Classroom, Community Foundations. | Support from the RDCK can draw primarily on existing capacity: promotion of the value of school gardens in RDCK materials (website, newsletters), grants-in aid, technical support with regards to construction of new structures (greenhouses, garden sheds) etc. |

Desired Outcomes: greater awareness amongst children and youth of the sources of their food, increased knowledge amongst children of vegetable growing techniques, seasonality, environmental impacts on food production.

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #3

It is recommended that the RDCK encourage the re-establishment of the Agricultural Land Commission’s agricultural training programs at the Union of BC Municipalities Annual General Meetings.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|--------------------|---|
| Letter to the Agricultural Land Commission requesting the continuation of the training, with copies to the Minister of Agriculture, the Premier, the Minister of Finance, and the Union of BC Municipalities. | N /A | The training likely stopped due to funding constraints at the Commission over which they have limited control. Encouraging other Regional Districts to submit letters would strengthen the request. |

Desired Outcome: Increased awareness of and support for agriculture amongst local governments across the province.

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #4

It is recommended that the RDCK support the public libraries in the Region to expand their agricultural resource offerings, in a range of media.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|--|--|
| Circulate letter to area farm organizations, soliciting suggestions for resources; encourage Directors to direct some of their grants to area libraries specifically for the acquisition of agricultural resources; provide collated list of resources to area libraries. | Area libraries, regional farm organizations, BC Library Association. | Support for libraries is an established RDCK practice – this recommendation is about dedicating some of that support specifically to increase agricultural offerings in the libraries. |

Desired Outcomes: Greater availability and use of agricultural resource materials across the RDCK.

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #5

It is recommended that the RDCK encourage the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Land Commission to update and disseminate “The Countryside and You” booklet in print and electronic format, and other quality material as appropriate.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|--|--|
| Letter to the Agricultural Land Commission. | Agricultural Land Commission staff, Strengthening Farming Program. | Education of non-farming rural residents is widely understood to be key. This quality publication only needs to be updated to be useful. |

Desired Outcomes: Updated and distributed booklet promoting increased understanding of and support for farming amongst rural non-farming residents.

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #6

It is recommended that the RDCK support agencies like the Kaslo Food Hub to establish the small-scale local food distribution centres in other communities.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Integrate with the actions to implement Food Security Recommendation #1 so that the organizations are only surveyed once; consult Kaslo Food Hub for implementation strategies for other communities.</p> | <p>North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (host of the Kaslo Food Hub), Interior Health's Community Food Action Initiative, Ministries of Agriculture, of Children and Family Development, and of Social Development, Community Foundations in the RDCK.</p> | <p>Lessons learned by the Kaslo Food Hub would be useful to capture for any new Hub development in the RDCK since there are few successful small-community models to draw on and large municipal Hubs draw on population bases and resources not commonly available in smaller communities. Since the Centres address hunger and household food security, there may be funding and program options under the Ministries listed.</p> |

Desired Outcomes: Food hubs located across the RDCK, supporting local farmers through their sourcing practices and local residents through their distribution programs.

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #7

It is recommended that the RDCK assess and enact mechanisms to expand local market options for regional food.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners & funding | Comments |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Consider amending Zoning Bylaw to permit farmer's markets and street vending of local foods in all commercial and tourist commercial zones; Consider developing a procurement policy sourcing local food first.</p> | <p>BC Association of Farmers Markets, Investment Agriculture Foundation, Ministry of Agriculture, area farm organizations.</p> | <p>Local market options will mostly be about supporting venues that sell food produced within the RDCK. However, it can also include supporting businesses and infrastructure that will enable longer storage or further processing of the primary agricultural product, which can help to lengthen the season for access to local food and also increase value to the farmers when they are able to retain ownership of the final product. Examples of support include helping to identify suitable land or assisting with zoning changes and public consultations.</p> |

Desired outcomes: Expanded local market opportunities for regional food producers, increased access for area residents to local food, heightened awareness in the general population of regional food.

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #8

It is recommended that the RDCK encourage the creation of a regional food and farm marketing program that includes regional food and seasonality guides.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|--|---|---|
| Identify and assess existing sub-regional guides; letter of introduction to regional organizations and businesses; convene meeting; promote annual guide via website and other | Ministry of Agriculture’s Strengthening Farming Program, regional farm and food security organizations, regionally-based print publications, Investment Agriculture Foundation, BC Association of Farmers’ Markets, BC Agri-Tourism Alliance, Buy BC program of the BC Agricultural Research and Development Corporation. | RDCK role is to initiate collaboration for the creation of a pan-regional Guide; the relevant organizations will then undertake the work of developing a business model to sustain an annual production (web and print) which the RDCK can promote through its communications vehicles. |

Desired Outcomes: Annually updated print and internet publication that will guide area residents and visitors to local product and provide market information to farmers looking to expand or begin operations.

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #9

It is recommended that the RDCK encourage its member municipalities to incorporate policies and programs supportive of urban agriculture, food production and food systems.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners & funding | Comments |
|--|--------------------|--|
| Consider developing standard reply to bylaw referrals from member municipalities encouraging policies supportive of urban agriculture, food systems and food production. | | Metropolitan areas like Seattle and Vancouver have a well-developed suite of policy and programs that support urban food production. |

Desired Outcome: Food production potential within urban agriculture is realized and protected.

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #10

It is recommended that the RDCK explicitly incorporate agriculture and food systems into community planning.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners & funding | Comments |
|--|--|---|
| Consider Agriculture Plan recommendations when reviewing or adopting OCPs or the Zoning Bylaw. | Electoral Area communities and Directors | Consider revising Zoning Bylaw to permit agriculture as a primary use in the Forest Resource (FR) zone. |

Desired outcomes: Policies supportive of agriculture in all OCPs and the Zoning Bylaw.

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #11

It is recommended that the RDCK explore a collaboration with, for example, Selkirk College, the College of the Rockies and Interior Health to develop a research project to determine core dietary needs for current and projected populations versus the carrying capacity of the land base and water systems of the Region.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|---|--|---|
| Develop project rationale; send letter of introduction / inquiry to potential partners. | Interior Health, Colleges, Columbia Basin Trust. | This is a long term project whose utility may become more evident should world food prices continue to rise, reflecting global shortages. |

Desired Outcomes: Data to guide future land use and farm production planning to better match the carrying capacity of the Region with the dietary needs of its residents.

Goal 4: To **implement** the Agriculture Plan.

Implementation Recommendation #1

It is recommended that the RDCK establish a regional Agricultural Advisory Committee to oversee the implementation of the Agriculture Plan.

| Steps to Implementation | Partners / Funding | Comments |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Solicit interest from the Agriculture Plan Project Steering Committee members, agricultural and food security organizations in the Region; draw up a Committee Terms of Reference; determine budgetary and staffing considerations.</p> | <p>Investment Agriculture Foundation, Industry</p> | <p>The Ministry of Agriculture has a Committee Terms of Reference template. The Committee will create a review and monitoring schedule for the Plan, to evaluate implementation progress and to adjust the Plan over time to reflect changes in circumstances within the industry and the RDCK. An RDCK representatives sitting on the Committee can function as the liaison between the Committee and the RDCK, providing progress reports to the Board of Directors.</p> |

Desired Outcome: A suitably experienced and representative group overseeing the implementation of the Plan.