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BOARD		

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dale Lindsay
Manager, Current Planning

DATE: April 4, 2011

FROM: Lainya Rowett
Planner

FILE: 0360 20 AAC

SUBJECT: Area Agriculture Plan Update

PURPOSE

To update the Board on the development of an Area Agricultural Plan and seek the Board's direction on the appointment of a project steering committee.

BACKGROUND

In response to the Board's direction to staff to initiate the development of an Area Agricultural Plan staff submitted an application, in December 2010, to the Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) for project funding. The following report provides an update to the Board on the status of this project, funding opportunities and the next steps in the project work plan.

DISCUSSION

The completion of an Agricultural Area Plan (AAP) will be instrumental in identifying the issues and needs to achieve a sustainable and vibrant agricultural industry in the Region, as identified in the Regional Growth Strategy and Board Strategic Plan.

As previously reported to the Board, staff anticipate the cost of completing the Plan will be \$90,000.00, including \$10,000.00 of in-kind contributions. The Board has allocated \$40,000.00 in its 2011 budget for this project. In addition, the Investment Agriculture Foundation has confirmed that it will contribute \$40,000.00 or 50 percent (whichever is less) of the total cost of completing an AAP.

Staff are currently preparing a Terms of Reference for the Area Agricultural Plan and are recommending that the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) act as the steering committee for this plan. If authorized by the Board, the Committee will consider the Terms of Reference at its meeting on April 29, 2011.

ALTERNATIVES

1. To receive this report as information and appoint the Agriculture Advisory Committee as the steering committee for the Area Agricultural Plan.
2. To receive this information and not appoint the Agriculture Advisory Committee as the steering committee, and provide further direction to staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Board has allocated \$40,000 in its 2011 budget for this project. This funding has been matched through a grant from the Investment Agriculture Foundation. No additional financial implications will result from the inclusion of this project in the Agricultural Advisory Committee's mandate.

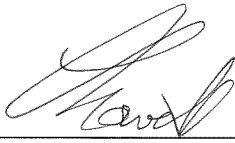
SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

In response to the Board's direction to staff to initiate the development of an Area Agricultural Plan staff made application to the Investment Agriculture Foundation for funding and received confirmation of financial support. This funding is in addition to the Board's budgeted financial contribution and in-kind donations.

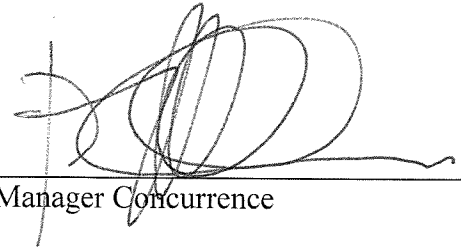
Staff are currently preparing a Terms of Reference and are seeking the Board's direction with respect to the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) serving as the steering committee for this plan. The selection process for the consultant is anticipated to commence in Spring 2011, with an estimated completion of the plan by Fall 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

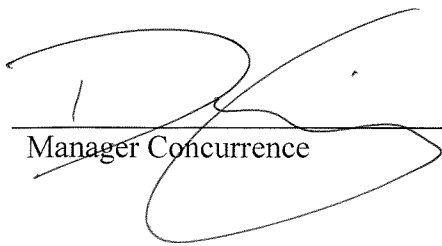
That the Board appoint the Agricultural Advisory Committee as the steering committee for the Area Agricultural Plan.



Report Writer



General Manager Concurrency



Manager Concurrency



CAO Concurrency