



REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: ACRD Board of Directors

From: Alex Dyer, MCIP, RPP, Planner

Meeting Date: May 27, 2020

Subject: Meat Slaughter Licensing Update

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Directors receive the letter from the Ministry of Agriculture and direct staff to respond.

Summary:

The ACRD received a letter on May 25, 2020 from Gavin Last, Executive Director from the Food Safety and Inspection Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture (attached as Appendix 'A'). The letter is in response to the Ministry of Agriculture Discussion Paper soliciting feedback from local governments about Class 'D' licenses to which the ACRD submitted a request for designation in September 2019.

The letter asks if the ACRD has taken into consideration Class 'E' licenses, which are now available upon application in the ACRD but are more restrictive than the Class 'D' licenses that local producers have sought. The letter also requests confirmation that the request for designation encompasses the entire Regional District and not just the Alberni Valley.

On April 22, 2020, the Board directed staff to prepare a letter to the Minister of Agriculture reiterating our request for Class 'D' licensing noting increased urgency during the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter to the Minister has now been amended, reflecting the feedback received from Gavin Last on May 25, 2020, to clarify the intention that Class 'D' licensing be available across the Regional District with the restrictions noted by the Ministry. The amended letter will be sent this week.

Background:

Class 'D' licenses allow on-farm slaughter of up to 25 animal units annually for direct sale to consumers or retail sales to secondary food establishments (for example, restaurants and meat

shops) within the Regional District boundaries where the meat was produced. Class 'D' licensees may slaughter their own, or other producers' animals. Class 'D' licenses are currently available in ten provincially designated regions; the ACRD has requested to be included within the list of designated regions.

Class 'E' licenses allow on-farm slaughter of up to 10 animal units annually for direct sale to consumers. Sales are also restricted to the Regional District in which the meat was produced but licensees are only permitted to slaughter their own animals. The Ministry of Agriculture reduced the travel time restriction associated with Class 'E' licenses from 2 hours to 1 hour, which effectively permits this as an option within the ACRD. However, the Class 'E' license is more restrictive to the operator than the Class 'D' license; it does not allow for collaboration on slaughter services between farmers, it is more limited in the number of animal units and retail sale to secondary food establishments is not permitted. Local producers have consistently lobbied for access to Class 'D' licenses as a solution to slaughter limitations within the region.

Time Requirements – Staff & Elected Officials:

Minimal staff time to respond to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Policy or Legislation:

The Meat Inspection Regulation of the *Food Safety Act* was established in 2004 to provide a provincial meat inspection and licensing system.

The Alberni Valley Agricultural Plan was adopted in 2011 which sets out goals and objectives to support agriculture and increase food security in the region. Improved access to local meat slaughter services has been identified as a priority by local producers.

Financial:

The Agricultural Plan initiatives project is managed by the Planning Department through the Regional Planning service.

Submitted by: 

Alex Dyer MCIP, RPP, Planner

Reviewed by: 

Mike Irg MCIP, RPP, General Manager of Planning and Development

Approved by: 

Douglas Holmes BBA, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer



May 25, 2020

File: 0280-30

Ref: 191183

John Jack, Chair
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
Email: jjack@acrd.bc.ca

Dear Chairperson Jack:

Thank you for Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District's (ACRD) submission to the Class D consultation. I appreciate your input and would like to follow up regarding the request for designation:

“While regional designation for red meat slaughter would tremendously support agricultural producers within the Alberni Valley, fledgling producers within the ACRD's coastal communities – Tofino, Ucluelet, Area “A” Bamfield, Area “C” Long Beach, four Maa-Nulth Treaty First Nations and four non-treaty First Nations – would also benefit from Class D/E poultry facilities. As such, a solution under the current regulatory framework is to consider granting regional designation to the ACRD as a whole.”

Class E licences are currently available in the ACRD, subject to a feasibility study that examines a variety of factors including proximity to licensed Class A and B establishments. The Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry) recently relaxed the rules to make Class E licences more available by allowing this type of facility to be located within one hour travel time from a Class A or B, rather than 2 hours as was the case before June 3, 2019.

Class D licences support local food production and food security in areas of B.C. that have a low population density, low animal production levels and where it is unlikely that a Class A or B facility will open. Class D licence holders may slaughter up to 11,340 kilograms per year (25,000 pounds) of their own or other people's animals, for direct sales to consumers or to food businesses such as restaurants and meat shops in the designated area in which the meat was produced.

We would like to confirm that ACRD's request takes into consideration the recent changes to Class E licensing that make this type of licence more available. We would also like to confirm that ACRD is requesting designation for the entire regional district and that Class D licences issued in ACRD would be subject to conditions including:

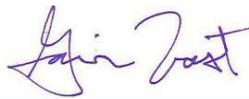
- 25 animal unit annual production limit;
- prescribed labelling requirements; and,
- meat products from Class D establishments can only be sold within ACRD.

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While the need for red meat slaughter capacity is apparent, considering the current Class A poultry slaughter capacity in the ACRD, it is unlikely that a Class D licence would be approved for poultry in the ACRD.

I know that ACRD is interested in pursuing designation and would like to confirm your understanding of the conditions that would be placed on any Class D licenses should they be issued in the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Gavin Last". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gavin Last
Executive Director