

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25 2016 at 2:00 PM
IN THE RDN BOARD ROOM**

Present:

H. Houle	Chairperson
J. Fell	Electoral Area F
C. Haime	District of Lantzville
M. Ryn	Regional Agricultural Organization
J. Thony	Regional Agricultural Organization
K. Reid	Shellfish Aquaculture Organizations
K. Wilson	Representative District 68
G. Laird	Representative District 68
R. Thompson	Representative District 69
C. Watson	Representative District 69

Regrets

Also in Attendance:

M. Young	Director, Electoral Area C
P. Thompson	Mgr. Long Range Planning
J. Holm	Mgr. Current Planning
J. Schile	Senior Planner, Long Range Planning
P. Sherman	Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Chair Houle requested that the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on August 26, 2016 be corrected to reflect that J. Thony is a member of the Coombs Farmers Institute and also that the District A Farmers' Institute has a seat on the Board of the Coastal Invasive Species Committee.

MOVED Director J. Fell, SECONDED K. Wilson, that the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on Friday, August 26, 2016, be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

J. Holm noted that the report, PL2016-151 - ALR Exclusion Application – Island Highway West – Electoral Area H, was incorrectly indicated as a Non-Farm Use Application on the agenda cover however the correct application type is on the report as an Exclusion Application.

REPORTS

PL2016-155 - ALR Non-Farm Use - 2575 Maxey Road – Electoral Area C

The applicant spoke about why he has applied to the Agriculture Land Commission for a non-farm use.

MOVED Director J. Fell, SECONDED K. Wilson, that application No PL2016-155, Kauwell/Rudischer, 2575 Maxey Road – Electoral Area 'C' be forwarded to the Agricultural Land Commission with a recommendation to approve the non-farm use within the ALR.

CARRIED

A recorded vote was requested.

The motion was CARRIED with Director Houle, Director Fell, Director Haime, M. Ryn, J. Thony, K. Reid, K. Wilson, G. Laird and R. Thompson voting in favour, and C. Watson opposed.

Recorded Vote: In favour – 9, Opposed - 1

PL2016-158 - ALR Non-Farm Use Application - 395 and 403 Lowry's Road – Electoral Area G

MOVED Director J. Fell. SECONDED R. Thompson that the application No PL2016-158, Morningstar Springs Farm Ltd., 395 and 403 Lowry's Road – Electoral Area 'G' be forwarded to the Agricultural Land Commission with a recommendation to approve the non-farm use within the ALR.

CARRIED

K. Reid left the meeting citing a potential perceived conflict of interest with the next agenda item, PL2016-151 - ALR Exclusion Application – Island Highway West – Electoral Area H.

PL2016-151 - ALR Exclusion Application – Island Highway West – Electoral Area H

M. Ryn requested to abstain from the vote on PL2016-151 - ALR Exclusion Application – Island Highway West – Electoral Area H and left the meeting before the motion.

The applicant spoke about why he has applied to the Agriculture Land Commission for an exclusion from the ALR.

MOVED Director J. Fell. SECONDED R. Thompson that the application No PL2016-151, Ezra Cook Holdings Ltd., Island Highway West – Electoral Area 'H' be forwarded to the Agricultural Land Commission with a recommendation to approve the ALR exclusion application.

CARRIED

K. Reid and M. Ryn returned to the meeting.

RDN Area 'H' ALR Boundary Preliminary Analysis – Draft Report on Existing Conditions

Andrea Shaw of Upland Consulting presented the draft report regarding the RDN Electoral Area 'H' ALR Preliminary Boundary Analysis.

Response to Changes to the Agriculture Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation – Gathering for Events

Discussion on the changes to the Agriculture Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation – Gathering for Events and RDN zoning bylaw amendments needed to address this matter.

The committee would like to have further input on the draft bylaw amendments.

A brochure on Gathering for Events in the ALR with an emphasis on 'respecting your neighbour' was supported by the committee.

ALC Final Decisions - Verbal Report from RDN staff

J. Holm provided an update on the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission decisions for previous applications that have been considered by the AAC.

Increasing Public Awareness of the Agricultural Area Plan and its Merits - Verbal Report from RDN staff

P. Thompson provided the committee with an update on the Agricultural Area Plan public awareness plans for 2017, including plans to attend the Islands Agriculture Show in February.

Provincial AAC Workshop – Verbal Report from RDN staff

J. Holm provided an update that the Ministry of Agriculture has advised they anticipate hosting a Provincial AAC Workshop in 2017. Details regarding the workshop will be provided to AAC members, when available, so they can consider attending. The Regional District of Nanaimo AAC Budget has dedicated funding for one member to attend. If more than one member plans to attend, this can be split among multiple members as members can share costs, such as travel.

AAC Membership Expiring at the End of this Year – Verbal Report from RDN staff

J. Holm noted that some committee member appointments would be expiring and that the applications for re-appointment/new appointment will be determined at the next RDN Board meeting.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS

Jill Hatfield, Regional Agrologist for Vancouver Island North was introduced to the members.

NEW BUSINESS

J. Thony noted that the Coombs Farmers Institute has applied for a Provincial grant, Grow Local BC, a pilot project to provide a deeper connection between BC food, BC communities and the people who live in them.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED Director J. Fell, SECONDED C. Watson, that this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Time: 3:45 pm

CHAIRPERSON