

CITY OF SALMON ARM

Minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting held in Room 100 of City Hall, 500 – 2 Avenue NE, Salmon Arm, BC, on **September 13, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. (GoTo Meeting and in-person)**

Present

Councillor David Gonella, Chair
Sarah Nicholls
Barrie Voth (online)
Melanie Bennett (online)

Melinda Smyrl, Planner/Recorder - staff (non-voting)
Gary Buxton, Director of Planning and Community Services (non-voting)
Lindsay Benbow, Ministry of Agriculture – staff (non-voting) (online)

Regrets:

James Hanna
Ken Jamieson

The meeting was called to order at 3:31pm

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory**
3. **Approval of Agenda**

The Chair requested to add item 7.2 Local Wildfire Update to the Agenda.

Moved: Melanie Bennett
Seconded: Barrie Voth

THAT: the Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda of September 13, 2023 be approved, as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Approval of Minutes March 8, 2023**

Moved: Melanie Bennett
Seconded: Barrie Voth

THAT: the Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2023 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Disclosure of Interest

None noted.

6. Committee Introduction

6.1 Terms of Reference (staff)

Staff provided a brief summary of the Committee Terms of Reference (TOR).

6.2 Code of Conduct Forms

All volunteers for Council committees must complete a Code of Conduct form. Staff requested that members that have not already completed a form to please do so by October 15. The forms can be returned by email, mail or in person.

6.3 Agenda: Standing Items – ALC Application Update, Committee Updates

Staff provided a brief overview of the Agenda and an introduction to the standing items.

6.4 ALC Application Process & AAC role

Staff provided a summary of the ALC application process and the role of the AAC in providing Council with recommendations on ALC applications. Three pages from an ALC presentation to the AAC in 2022 will be circulated with the minutes.

7. New Business

7.1 Correspondence to Council – Bee Keeping & Backyard Chicken, Bylaw Amendment Proposals (Bonnie Castle)

Council referred the letter to the AAC and Environmental Advisory Committee. It was unclear if Council wanted the committees to receive the letter for information or a recommendation.

The committee discussed the letter and process. The Chair requested staff to provide a summary of how neighbouring communities have addressed urban agriculture (backyard chickens, bee, etc.) by bylaw. Ministry of Agriculture staff also provided some web links to work done in the North Okanagan Regional District and literature on avian flu. Staff will provide more information at the next meeting in order to further discussion and provide some feedback to Council.

7.2 Local Wildfire Update (*Late item*)

The group discussed recent events. At the April AAC meeting the Shuswap Emergency Program (SEP) attended and presented to the group how Emergency Operations Command, the province, and land owners work together during

emergency events, including – coordinating transport during evacuation events. SEP also advocate the ‘buddy farm’ system. Each farm should have their own emergency plan and resources are available in the event that the owners plan cannot happen.

There are funding opportunities to host workshops on Emergency Management and Planning through the Ministry of Agriculture. Staff will look into organizing another SEP presentation in late 2023 or early 2024.

8. Updates

8.2 Ministry of Agriculture – Projects and Grants (staff)

Staff provided a summary of recent grant opportunities and surveys. In addition to these opportunities, details on the Pitch & Plate program were presented. Pitch & Plate provides producers with the opportunity to ‘pitch’ their product to post-secondary and government institutions for wider distribution. Ministry of Agriculture staff also provided links to the following funding opportunities:

- Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program - <https://iafbc.ca/agricultural-water-infrastructure-program/>
- BMP Program – Certain BMP’s are still open for applications - <https://iafbc.ca/beneficial-management-practices/>
- Indigenous Food Systems & Agriculture Skills & Training Program - <https://iafbc.ca/isat/>
- Food Security Emergency Planning & Preparedness Fund - <https://iafbc.ca/food-security-emergency-planning-and-preparedness-fund/>
- Food Storage, Distribution and Retail Program - <https://iafbc.ca/food-storage-distribution-and-retail-program/>
- Small Food Processor Scale-Up Program - <https://iafbc.ca/small-food-processor-scale-up-program/>
- Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program (open until September 30, 2023) - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/knowledge-transfer-events>

8.3 ALC Application Update (staff)

Staff provided the group with an update on applications received over the summer and the progress of other application in the ALC que since the last meeting.

8.4 Committee Updates (committee members)

The Food Action Society is working on plans to create a large community/education garden. More details

9. Next Meeting - October 11, 2023 3:30pm to 5:00pm

The meeting will be a hybrid meeting with online and in-person options for members of the group and public to attend. Counsellor Gonella will be unable to attend.

10. Adjournment

Moved: Barrie Voth

Seconded: Sarah Nicholls

THAT: The Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting of September 13, 2023 be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33pm

“D. GONELLA”
Councillor D. Gonella, Chair

Received for information by Council on the 10th day of October, 2023.

Applications – AAC Role

Provide local farming knowledge to ALC, including:

- Assessment of agricultural potential
- Limitations to agricultural development
- History of agriculture on the property
- Impact of the proposal on farm activity on the property and surrounding area



Ways AACs Can Be Involved

- Advising local government on land use **bylaws and policies**
- Providing local knowledge and assessing potential impact of **applications**
- Contributing to the development and monitoring implementation of **agricultural area plans** (*City's plan last updated in 2004)



Applications – Council/Board Role

- Pass a resolution to either forward or not forward application to the ALC
- Have the ability to refuse proposals inconsistent with local land use bylaws
- Can provide additional input or information in resolution as needed



Applications – ALC Role

- Review and make decisions on applications in accordance with s. 6 mandate:
 - To preserve agricultural land
 - To encourage farming
 - To encourage local governments, first nations, etc. to enable and accommodate farm use
- **Must give priority to protecting and enhancing:**
 - Size, integrity, and continuity of the ALR
 - Use of the ALR for farm use
- Prescribe conditions of approval, if applicable

