

Disclaimer: These minutes were prepared as a reasonable summary of the essential content of this meeting, not as a transcription.



Minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

September 8, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Video Conference

Voting Members: J. Bachmann
L. Kemper
D. Kosicki
M. Manion
T. Hopcott
S. Howkins
W. Wisselink

Council Liaisons: Councillor MacDonald
Councillor Simpson

Non-Voting Members: D. Bondar, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Staff: C. O'Byrne, Manager of Planning
A. Lucas, Director of Planning & Development
A. Dominelli, Development Services Technician

Regrets: H. Bitter
P. Robinson
T. Vader
W. Jack

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** THAT the Agenda for the September 8, 2022 Agricultural Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** THAT the Minutes of the June 9, 2022 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Economic Development Strategic Plan

J. Vann Struth, Vann Struth Consulting Group Inc., provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Economic Development Strategic Plan, which is included in the minutes as Attachment 1.

The Committee participated in a roundtable of discussions, including the following key points being made:

- Discussions were held around the need for public engagement to encourage support;
- Concerns were raised around the loss of BC farmland (12%) since 2016 and urban encroachment on agricultural land could raise challenges;
- Concerns were raised surrounding the need to look at land and housing affordability to allow flexibility for farmers;
- Need irrigation, ditch cleaning, weed control, traffic control and labour.

**M. Manion joined the meeting at 10:08 a.m.*

5.2 Agricultural Land Commission ["ALC"] Application - 13634 Harris Road

Councillor MacDonald provided a verbal overview of Mayor Dingwall's letter requesting review of the ALC application for 13634 Harris Road.

5.3 AAC Application Tracker

C. O'Byrne, Manager of Planning, provided an update on the AAC Application Tracker.

The Committee did not engage in further comments or discussions.

5.4 AAC Action Items

C. O'Byrne, Manager of Planning, provided an update on the AAC Action Item Tracker.

The Committee requested that the Canadian Transportation Agency/CP Logistics Park Proposal item remains on the action tracker.

6. ROUNDTABLE

The Committee participated in a roundtable of discussions where some of the comments from the Committee included:

- The concern of Japanese Beetles, an invasive species, entering the Pitt Meadows Agricultural land.
- It was suggested that Pitt Meadows duplicate Delta's Farmland Day at the Farm to see what a day in the life of a local farmer is all about.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

*The next **Agricultural Advisory Committee** Meeting is scheduled for **November 10, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** held though video conference.*

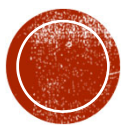
Certified as correct:

Rachel Costa, Legislative Services Clerk

PITT MEADOWS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

Agricultural Advisory Committee

September 8, 2022



#1 WHAT IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT?



INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The main goal of economic development is improving the economic well being of a community through efforts that entail **job creation**, **job retention**, **tax base** enhancements and **quality of life**.



Economic Development Strategic Plan

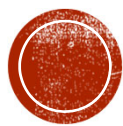


2008 STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS AREAS

1. Economic Development
2. Business Climate
3. Industrial/Commercial
4. Agriculture
5. Marketing
6. Partnerships

AGRICULTURE STRATEGIES (2008 PLAN)

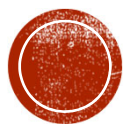
- Enhance community support for the agriculture industry
 - Public awareness
 - Agri-tourism
- Ensure agriculture is represented at the Corporation's Board Level
 - Representation on new Economic Development Corporation (since disbanded)
- Target the agri-food sector to locate and expand within Pitt Meadows
- Work with the agriculture industry to address issues impacting growth and retention
- Identify and encourage the use of underutilized agriculture land
 - Create inventory / Katzie partnership for under-utilized lands



#2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

PHASES

PHASE/DELIVERABLE	Timeline
Research / Consultation / Visioning	Summer to Early Fall
Interim Summary of Priority Initiatives	Presentation to Council Oct 4 (to be confirmed)
Full Economic Development Master Plan	By end of year
Census employment addendum	Early 2023



#3 CONSULTATION

CONSULTATION

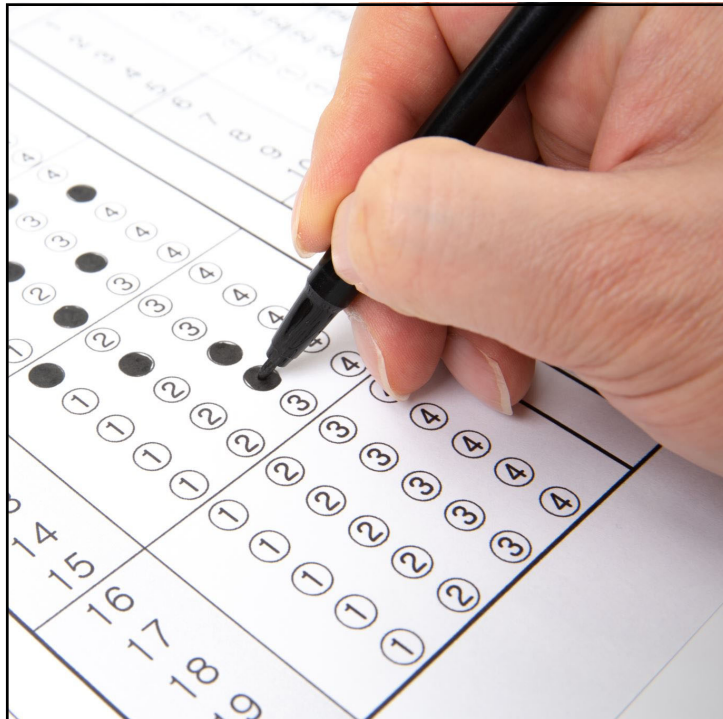
Resident and business survey – July 18 to August 12

Now doing interviews, small group discussions

- Aiming for cross-section by industry sector, business size, type of land use, location within Pitt Meadows, etc.

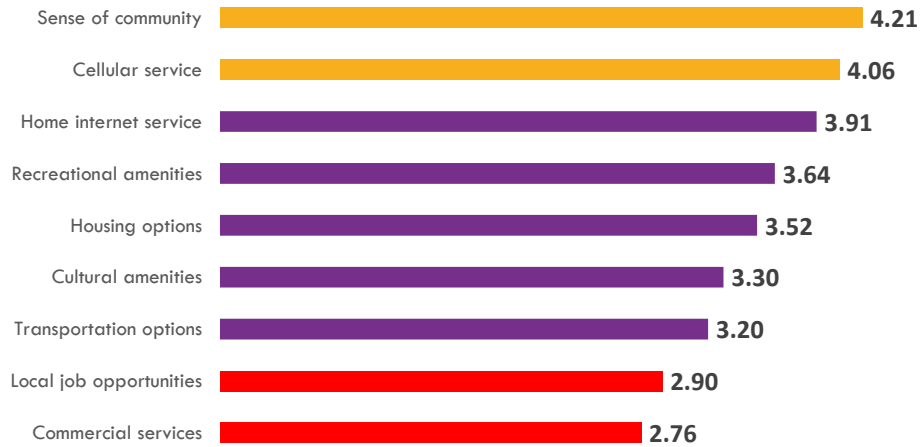
Topics include

- History in Pitt Meadows (why located here?)
- Labour force (availability, location of staff, transport, COVID impacts)
- Business outlook (growth-focused, holding steady, or?)
- Availability of space (commercial, industrial, developable land)
- City permitting, regulations, taxes/fees
- Other issues (infrastructure, telecom, transit, etc.)
- Opportunities for growth in Pitt Meadows



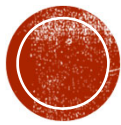
**FROM THE
SURVEY...**

SATISFACTION WITH LIFESTYLE FACTORS (1=VERY DISSATISFIED, 5=VERY SATISFIED)



BUSINESS SURVEY - SATISFACTION





#4 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR AAC



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (TO START...)

1. Most important challenges facing the sector?
2. Best way for the City to support the agriculture sector?
3. Opportunities for growth? (Increased land utilization, higher volume/value of production, increased secondary processing?)



OTHER POSSIBLE TOPICS (TIME PERMITTING)

- Best way to **educate the general public** on agriculture?
- **Impacts from other growth areas** in Pitt Meadows? (Industrial parks, Airport, Intensification within current built area, North Lougheed)
- Opportunity to **leverage emerging agri-tech innovations** in Pitt Meadows? Barriers to doing so? (Invest Vancouver identifies agri-tech as one of its target sectors, with specific mention of vertical farming, ag robotics, ag genomics, cellular agriculture, food processing technologies & waste reduction technologies).
- **Future of farming?** Demographics of farm operators? Succession planning? Impact of the separation of land ownership from farm operations? (The financialization of farmland)

