

***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**

**April 25, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**

**Meadows Room**

**12007 Harris Road, Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 2B5**

**Voting Members:**

J. Bachmann  
H. Bitter  
S. Howkins  
L. Kemper  
D. Kosicki  
P. Robinson\*  
T. Vader

**Council Liaison:**

Councillor M. Manion

**Guests:**

T. Kimoto, Survey Biologist, Canadian Food Inspection Agency\*  
S./Sgt. Luca – Ridge Meadows RCMP\*  
C. Neufeld – Manager of Parks, Planning & Development – City of Maple Ridge\*  
A. Rieu – Planner – City of Maple Ridge AAC Staff Representative\*

**Regrets:**

A. Aquilini  
Drew Bondar, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Non-Voting Member)  
T. Hopcott  
W. Jack  
Councillor B. Meachen (Alternate)  
J. Parmar

Staff: M. Baski, Project Manager, Agriculture & Environment (Chair)  
A. Seed, Engineering Technologist  
P. Ward, Director of Planning & Development

Recording Clerk: T. McCaw, Committee Clerk II

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

M. Baski, Project Manager, Planning, acknowledged that the meeting was held on the traditional territory of the ᑃᑖᑖᑦᑦ (Katzie) First Nation.

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM.

**2. LATE ITEMS**

None.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There was general consent amongst the committee to approve the April 25, 2024 Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

There was general consent amongst the Committee to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2024 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting as circulated.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1 Crime Reporting - Rural Areas**

S./Sgt. Luca provided a verbal presentation on the importance of reporting crime in the rural areas of Pitt Meadows.

The Committee participated in a discussion with the following main themes noted:

- The question was raised around the number of RCMP officers who work in Pitt Meadows currently (S./Sgt. Luca confirmed that there are currently 23 members who are funded by the City of Pitt Meadows);

- The suggestion was made to have more RCMP members working in Pitt Meadows (Staff confirmed that when the new Pitt Meadows detachment opens, there would be 24 members working in Pitt Meadows which should provide a noticeable increase of presence in the community);
- City budget in regard to the RCMP was discussed;
- Increase of homelessness was discussed; and
- Discussions were held around the expectations from the RCMP in the event of a flood in regards to supporting farm animals (S./Sgt. Luca noted that a command center would be set up and direction would come from the Fire Chief of Pitt Meadows and would be dependant upon resourcing, what the actual flood level is, and where RCMP would be needed which would be prioritized).

*\*S./Sgt. Luca left the meeting at 10:32 AM*

## **5.2 Canadian Food Inspection Agency Presentation on the Japanese Beetle**

T. Kimoto, Survey Biologist, Canadian Food Inspection Agency provided a presentation on the Japanese Beetle forming a part of the minutes as **Attachment 1**. Some of the highlights included:

- The history of the Japanese Beetle and its origin;
- Efforts used to locate the Japanese Beetle;
- Various trapping techniques used;
- The migration of the Japanese Beetle in the Lower Mainland;
- The efforts made to reduce the overall population; and
- The efforts made to reduce the opportunity of the migration of the Japanese Beetle into other communities.

The Committee participated in a discussion with the following main themes noted:

- The question was raised when an area would change its title and be deemed unregulated (T. Kimoto confirmed this would happen after two years of negative trapping);
- Discussions were held around the impacts of purchasing products from areas that are known to house the Japanese Beetle;

- Different types of traps were discussed as well as which government agencies were responsible for each; and
- The question was raised around what the total percentage of beetles found in Port Coquitlam was in relation to the overall number of Japanese Beetles in the Province (T. Kimoto confirmed this would be too difficult to determine as the traps work well but placement is also critical to have accurate numbers and statistics).

*\*P. Robinson left the meeting at 11:11 AM*

*\*C. Neufeld & A. Rieu left the meeting at 11:16 AM*

### **5.3 Fill Deposit Application-Lot 39- McNeil Road**

A. Seed, Engineering Technologist, provided a presentation on an application received for the import of structural and preload fill for the construction of a Single Family Dwelling and Farm Structure at Lot 39 of McNeil Road forming a part of the minutes as **Attachment 2**.

The Committee participated in a discussion with the following main themes noted:

- There were no concerns raised around this application as the parcel and the footprints were within the allowable parameters;
- the question was raised whether the home size met the requirements - staff to look into this (not typically on the Geotechnical report);
- Discussions were held around the changes to the historical features of Pitt Meadows with addition of many estate homes being built on the north side of Lougheed Highway on smaller parcels.

*\*H. Bitter left the meeting at 11:28 AM*

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee:

- A. Supports the fill deposit application to import structural and preload fill for the construction of a Single Family Dwelling and Farm Structure at Lot 39 of McNeil Road.

**CARRIED**

#### 5.4 Annual Agricultural Survey Questions & Outreach Methods

M. Baski, Project Manager, Agriculture & Environment, led a discussion on the Agricultural Survey questions and outreach methods for local farmers. Staff was looking for direction in the following areas:

- Best form and time to send out communication; and
- Whether incentives (other than monetary) would encourage responses.

The Committee participated in a discussion with the following main themes noted:

- The recommendation was made to use all types of communication from your standard letter in the mail, to digital surveys through email, emails, and door knocking to all farmers; and
- A suggestion was made for Staff to either send correspondence out in January or in the fall, and to include a cover letter indicating the importance of the information.

*\*H. Bitter rejoined the meeting at 11:33 AM*

#### 5.5 Irrigation Study Update

M. Baski, Project Manager, Agriculture & Environment, provided a verbal update on the progress of the City's recent Irrigation Study. Some of the highlights included:

- Irrigation study is currently underway;
- Set-points have been raised to the summer set-points;
- Staff is currently looking into short term licencing with the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship; and
- Staff will be reaching out to the Committee asking questions around specific irrigation needs, best practices and typical requirements, calendar demands per month in order to determine different needs.

*There were no further discussions or comments made by the Committee on this topic.*

### **5.6 AAC Application Tracker**

M. Baski, Project Manager, Agriculture & Environment, provided an update on the AAC Application Tracker.

*There were no further discussions or comments made by the Committee on this topic.*

### **5.7 AAC Action Items**

M. Baski, Project Manager, Agriculture & Environment, provided an update on the AAC Action Item Tracker.

*There were no further discussions or comments made by the Committee on this topic.*

### **5.8 Annual Committee Presentation to the Engagement & Priorities Committee (EPC)**

M. Baski, Project Manager, Agriculture & Environment, sought out a committee volunteer to provide a presentation on behalf of the AAC to the Engagement & Priorities Committee scheduled July 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

There were no volunteers who stepped forward; however, committee members put forward Travis Hopcott's name to present again.

### **5.9 Representation on the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)**

M. Baski, Project Manager, Agriculture & Environment, acknowledged a current vacancy on the Economic Development Advisory Committee which is currently seeking representation from one member of the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

*There were no further discussions or comments made by the Committee on this topic.*

### **5.10 May 2024 Committee Meeting**

M. Baski, Project Manager, Agriculture & Environment, discussed alternative options for the scheduled May Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting with a recommendation made to cancel the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting adding either May 23 or 30 depending on agenda topics.

6. **ROUNDTABLE**

The Committee participated in a roundtable discussion; no motions or recommendations were put forward.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM

The next ***Agricultural Advisory Committee*** Meeting is scheduled for ***May 9, 2024*** at ***10:00 AM.***

**Certified as correct:**

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Tatiana McCaw, Committee Clerk II