

***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**

**June 27, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**

**Meadows Room**

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

Voting Members: J. Bachmann  
S. Howkins  
W. Jack  
L. Kemper  
D. Kosicki  
P. Robinson  
T. Vader  
A. Aquilini\*

Non-Voting Member: Drew Bondar, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Council Liaison: Councillor Manion

Guests: Applicant 2 – 19731 Richardson Road  
J. Oaten, Deputy Director, Emergency Management Branch, Ministry of Agriculture & Food,

Regrets: H. Bitter  
T. Hopcott  
Councillor Meachen (Alternate)  
J. Parmar

Staff: M. Baski, Project Manager, Agriculture & Environment (Chair)  
A. Dominelli, Sr. Development Services Technician

Recording Clerk: T. McCaw, Committee Clerk II

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

M. Baski, Project Manager, Agriculture & Environment, acknowledged with respect and gratitude that the City of Pitt Meadows is located on the traditional, unceded territory of ᑕᐱᑖᐱᑦ (Katzie) First Nation who were stewards of this land since time immemorial.

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 June 27, 2024 Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

There was general consent amongst the Committee to approve the minutes from the May 30, 2024 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting as circulated.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 **Emergency Response**

J. Oaten, Deputy Director, Emergency Management Branch, Ministry of Agriculture & Food, provided a presentation on the Province's plans for emergency response, emergency preparedness, and support for the agricultural community should a disaster take place forming a part of the minutes as **Attachment 1**. Some of the highlights included:

- BC Emergency Management Legislation & Regulations & BC Emergency Response;
- Agricultural Emergency Management in BC, Evacuation orders & BC Premises ID program for registration of all livestock were all discussed; and
- BC Agriculture Council currently undertaking a project in an effort to allow temporary access to disaster zones during an order in an effort to support livestock removal

The Committee participated in a discussion, which included the following main themes:

- Discussions were held around the historical flooding event in Abbotsford and the concerns around farmers not having access to move livestock out of danger;
- The suggestion was made to allow farmers to provide support to their livestock in the event of an emergency;
- Discussions were held around the loss of the facility where farmers were able to dispose of deceased livestock; and
- Discussions were held around what the Evacuation Plan is for temporary migrant farm workers and livestock in the event of an emergency.

## **5.2 City Emergency Planning Presentation**

J. Kloosterboer, Emergency Program Manager, provided a verbal update on the City's Emergency Plan in the event of a disaster or emergency. The following items were discussed:

- Emergency Operation Centre activations;
- Duties and responsibilities of the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) in the City; and
- Evacuation Alert Order communication and delivery of instructions.

The Committee participated in a discussion, which included the following main theme:

- Questions were raised around the City's evacuation plans for livestock and migrant farm workers in the event of an emergency or a natural disaster.

It was suggested that a working group would be helpful to determine the issues and how to address them. M. Baski to send out an invitation to the AAC for expression of interest in participating on the working group, and then J. Kloosterboer to organize a meeting.

### 5.3 ALC Non-farm Use Application for 17607 and 17890 Ford Rd Detour

A. Dominelli, Planner, provided a presentation on a Non-Farm Use Application at 17607 and 17890 Ford Rd Detour to permit the continued operation of a soil mixing and screening business forming a part of the minutes as **Attachment 2**.

The Committee participated in a discussion which included the following main themes:

- A question was raised around whether there were any recent changes made to the location since the last application;
- The question was raised around whether there were any concerns to the surrounding properties being close to the site which has concerns with cross-contamination;
- Support was given for this application as this property supports many smaller operations in the community; and
- Questions were raised around succession planning for the operation with the ALC approval linking only to the current owner.

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

- A. Recommends that Council forwards to the Agricultural Land Commission with a recommendation of support, the Non-Farm Use Application for 17607 and 17890 Ford Rd Detour to use the site for a soil mixing and screening operation.

**CARRIED**

### 5.4 Non-Adhering Residential Use Application for 19731 Richardson Rd

A. Dominelli, Planner, provided a presentation on a Non-Adhering Residential Use Application for 19731 Richardson Rd, which is seeking additional housing for temporary farm workers, forming a part of the minutes as **Attachment 3**.

The Committee participated in a discussion which included the following main themes:

- The suggestion was made around streamlining the application process for agricultural operations needing to increase housing for temporary

migrant farm worker as seasonal workers are critical in the farming operation;

- There was general support given for the application; and
- Questions were raised around the application timeline and the approval processes for the applicant.

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

- A. Recommends that Council forwards to the Agricultural Land Commission the Non-Adhering Residential Use application for additional farm worker housing at 19731 Richardson Rd, with a recommendation of support;  
AND
- B. Recommends that Council supports an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw to permit greater than 40 workers at 19731 Richardson Rd, if the Non-Adhering Residential Use application is approved by the Agricultural Land Commission for additional farm worker housing.

**CARRIED**

#### 5.5 AAC Application Tracker

M. Baski, Project Manager, Agriculture & Environment, provided update on the AAC Application Tracker attached in today's agenda.

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

#### 5.6 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.*

\* A. Aquilini left the meeting at 11:36 AM

#### 6. ROUNDTABLE

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

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 AM

The next ***Agricultural Advisory Committee*** Meeting is scheduled for ***September 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM.***

**Certified as correct:**

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Tatiana McCaw, Committee Clerk II

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