

**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**

**March 12, 2026, 10:00 a.m.**

**Meadows Room**

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

Voting Members: J. Bachmann  
H. Bitter  
D. Captein  
T. Hopcott  
S. Howkins  
W. Jack

Council Liaisons: Councillor Manion

Regrets: J. Johal  
L. Kemper  
D. Kosicki  
R. Liu, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Non-Voting Member)  
Councillor Meachen (Alternate)  
T. Vader

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

Recording Clerk: T. McCaw, Administrative Services Supervisor

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

**2. LATE ITEMS**

None.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By unanimous consent, the agenda of the March 12, 2026 meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee was approved.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

By unanimous consent, the minutes of the February 12, 2026 meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee were approved.

**5. NEW BUSINESS****5.1 Riparian Area Protection Regulations/WSA Regulations**

M. Baski, Manager of Agriculture & Environment and M. Pym, Environmental Planner, presented an overview of the Riparian Area Protection Regulations/WSA Regulations.

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

- Riparian regulations and mapping were discussed;
- Questions were raised around the blue hatched areas representing the Riparian Development Permit areas;
- Standard 30 m setbacks from the centre of a watercourse regulations were discussed;
- A question was raised around whether the slough is considered a stream (*Staff confirmed yes, the sloughs are considered streams*);
- Questions were raised around the city accessing properties to allow for cleaning the slough;
- Discussions were held around maximizing farmland for food security amid ongoing development pressures;
- The extent of riparian work required across the City was discussed and recognized as a large undertaking;

- Clarifying questions were asked around ditch maintenance responsibilities on private property and Provincial processes requiring advance notification for maintenance;
- Comments were made noting local ditches and sloughs have not supported fish habitat as the waters are warm therefore unsuitable;
- The amount of invasive species in the local ditches were discussed;
- Comments were made suggesting the City's waterways have the same profile as Richmond and Delta and should be reclassified to reflect that they do not function as fish habitat (Staff confirmed these are provincial requirements applied broadly to connected watercourses);
- Decrease of farmland and food production was discussed as tree planting along the watercourses would reduce farmable land which supports food security;
- A suggestion was made for Council to advocate for changes at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities [UBCM] convention;
- Questions were raised about whether the classification of sloughs in Pitt Meadows has remained consistent over the past 30 years (*Staff noted they are unsure if a formal classification has always been in place, but explained that the current requirement for QEP monitoring was introduced after a process review identified a regulatory gap*); and
- Ditch cleaning practices and invasive species management was discussed.

*\*Cllr. Manion exited the meeting 11:02 AM*

- Questions were raised around how City staff will access watercourses for cleaning if we are planting trees along the watercourse.

## **5.2 AAC Application Tracker**

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

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

**5.3 AAC Action Items**

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

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

**6. ROUNDTABLE**

The Committee participated in a roundtable discussion; there were no formal motions or recommendations put forward. Items regarding staff action and takeaways have been added to the Action Item Tracker.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 AM

The next **Agricultural Advisory Committee** meeting is scheduled for **April 9, 2026** at **10:00 AM.**

**Certified as correct:**

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Tatiana McCaw,

Administrative Services Supervisor