Staff Report to Council

Planning and Development - Agriculture and Environment Division

FILE: 01-0450-01/26

REPORT DATE:	November 01, 2026	**MEETING DATE:**	November 23, 2026
TO:	Mayor and Council		
FROM:	Michelle Baski, Manager of Agriculture and Environment		
SUBJECT:	**2027 Draft Business Plan - Agriculture and Environment**		

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW/APPROVAL: M. Roberts / November 9, 2026

RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT Council:

A. Receive for information the Agriculture and Environment Division 2027 Draft Business Plan and Staff Report as presented at the November 23, 2026 Council Meeting; OR

B. Other.

PURPOSE

To present the 2027 Draft Business Plan for the Agriculture and Environment Division.

☒ Information Report ☐ Decision Report ☐ Direction Report

DISCUSSION

DIVISION OVERVIEW

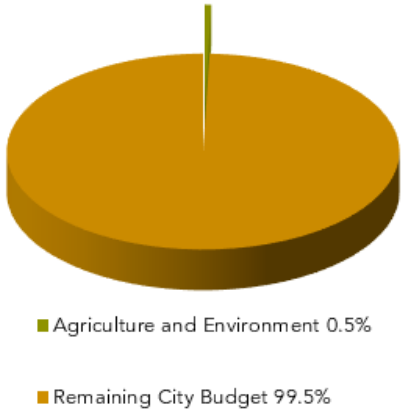
The Agriculture and Environment Division is responsible for providing a range of services relating to sustainable community development, in alignment with the City's Strategic Plan, Official Community Plan, and other guiding documents. This Division is specifically responsible for agricultural and environmental planning and initiatives, as outlined in the Agricultural Viability Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy, Environmental Inventory and Management Strategy, and Climate Action Strategy. This Division also supports the Planning, Engineering, Operations, and

Parks departments/divisions in ongoing initiatives, as they relate to agricultural and/or environmental activities.

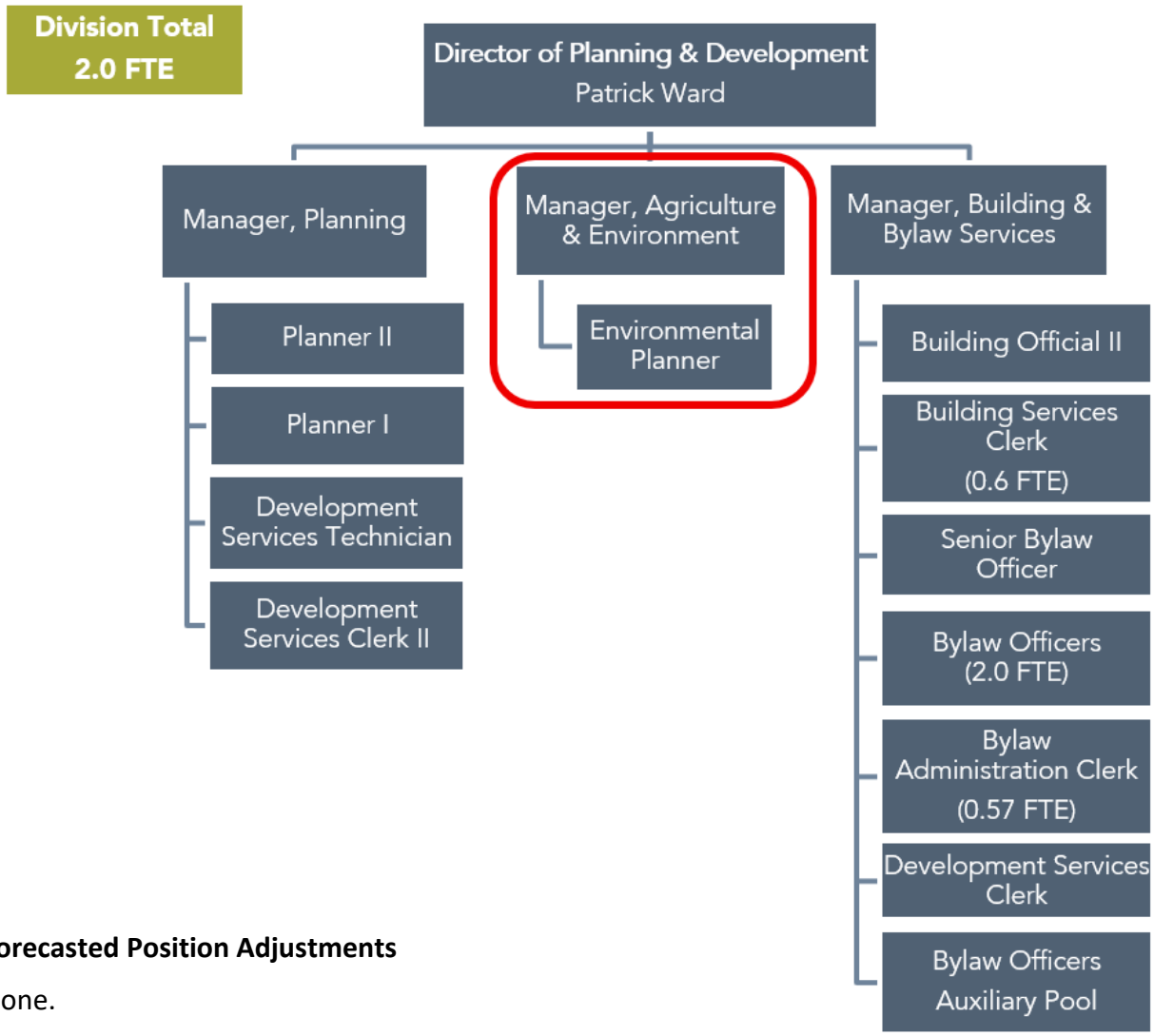
Operating Budget: $209,800

Capital Budget: $54,000

% Share of overall City Budget: 0.5%



Staff Complement:



Forecasted Position Adjustments

None.

Key Performance Measures

The following table highlights key divisional statistics:

Performance Measure *[Strategic Priority]*	**2025 Actual**	**2026 Forecast**	**2027 Forecast**
Tree Management Permit applications *[Environmental/Climate Stewardship, Natural Environment]*	NA	25	35

Deferred Projects

None.

2026 Achievements (Top 3)

- **TREE MANAGEMENT BYLAW.** The Tree Management Bylaw No. 3035,2026 was adopted on September 22, 2026. This bylaw supports the protection and growth of the community's urban forest and long-term tree canopy goals. The bylaw establishes requirements for tree removal, protection, replacement and management associated with property maintenance, construction and development, while recognizing the needs of property owners and the community. *[Principled Governance - Environmental/Climate Stewardship; Community Spirit and Wellbeing – Natural Environment]*

- **INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN.** Substantial progress has been made on the Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) to establish a coordinated approach to invasive species management, grounded in the principles of prevention, early detection, and rapid response. The ISMP sets out clear objectives to reduce the economic, environmental, and social impacts of invasive species in Pitt Meadows; establish consistent monitoring and control practices; and increase awareness of invasive species and the importance of timely management. It is anticipated that the ISMP will be presented to Council by the end of 2026 or early 2027. *[Community Spirit and Wellbeing – Natural Environment]*

- **GRANT FUNDING.** The City was successful in leveraging allocated budget funds to apply for and receive $225,000 in grant funding towards the Urban Forest Operational Plan and Green Fleet Transition Plan for next year's key initiatives. *[Principled Governance – Fiscal Stewardship and Accountability]*

Key Challenges for 2027

- **CLIMATE CHANGE.** Climate change is a key challenge for the Agriculture and Environment Division as it presents many different competing needs for action. For example, extreme

heat and drought can negatively impact agricultural operation for irrigation and water flow levels for fish habitat. The Climate Action Strategy identifies actions for adaptation and mitigation for climate change which will continue to be actioned in 2027.

- **FUNDING AND STAFF RESOURCES.** Many initiatives being led by the Agriculture and Environment Division require input from other departments/divisions, which already have full work plans. Some initiatives, such as increasing the tree canopy cover and transitioning to a green fleet, are anticipated to require additional funding in the future. It may be possible for the City to apply for grants to fund priority projects but the grants are not guaranteed and implementation of the strategies may be delayed due to resource constraints. The current Environmental Planner position is funded through a Provincial funding program which has not been confirmed to continue beyond 2028.

- **AGRICULTURAL CHALLENGES.** Agricultural producers in Pitt Meadows face challenges due to overlapping risks of climate change (including water shortages), an aging farmer population, high inflation, land speculation, and increasing input costs associated with disrupted supply chains. Addressing the various needs of producers will require collaboration amongst various levels of government and different organizations.

Key Initiatives 2027

Strategic Priority	Initiative
Principled Governance – Environmental/Climate Stewardship	**CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION**. Continue to coordinate the implementation of the Climate Action Strategy, and lead the: • development of a climate lens in decision-making; • completion of a Green Fleet Transition Plan; and • coordination of the in-progress energy assessment and prioritization.
Community Spirit and Wellbeing – Natural Environment	**INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN.** Coordinate the implementation of the Invasive Species Management Plan, including: • updating the Pesticide Use Control Bylaw; and • supporting the development of the recommended work plans and operational procedures.
Balanced Economic Prosperity – Agriculture	**AGRICULTURAL VIABILITY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION**. Continue to coordinate the implementation of the Agricultural Viability Strategy, and lead: • advocacy for increased provincial ALR enforcement capacity; • distributing an agricultural survey, including exploring the needs for agricultural processing and storage;

Strategic Priority	Initiative
	• supporting emergency planning for the agricultural sector; • implementing educational signage; and • enhancing agri-tourism opportunities.
Community Spirit and Wellbeing – Natural Environment	**URBAN FOREST STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION**. Continue to coordinate the implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy, and lead: • refining application guidelines for the newly adopted Tree Management Bylaw; • preparing development permit guidelines for appropriate planting plans and species; and • developing an operational and funding strategy to increase and maintain the urban forest canopy on public lands.
Community Spirit and Wellbeing – Natural Environment	**ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION**. Continue to coordinate the implementation of the Environmental Inventory and Management Strategy, and lead: • updating guidelines for development related to biodiversity and wildlife connectivity; and • identifying priority areas for potential conservation and recreation opportunities.

PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

	2026 Adopted Budget	2027 Proposed Budget	Proposed Changes for 2027		2028 Proposed Budget	2029 Proposed Budget	2030 Proposed Budget	2031 Proposed Budget
Expenses								
Agriculture and Environment	207,500	209,800	2,300	1.1%	217,100	224,800	232,600	240,600
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Net Operating Expenses	**$ 207,500**	**$ 209,800**	**$ 2,300**	**1.1%**	**$ 217,100**	**$ 224,800**	**$ 232,600**	**$ 240,600**
Key Budget Changes for 2027:								
Revenue			(2,500)					
Salary and Benefits			7,200					
Other			(2,400)					
Change in Net Operating Expenses			**$ 2,300**					

PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET

Division	Project	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
DV552 - AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES							
	230014 - CLIMATE ACTION PLAN	$ 54,000	$ 54,000	$ 54,000	$ 54,000	$ 54,000	$ 270,000
DV552 - AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES Total		**$ 54,000**	**$ 54,000**	**$ 54,000**	**$ 54,000**	**$ 54,000**	**$ 270,000**

The capital budget for the Climate Action Plan implementation was approved as part of the 2026 budget.

DECISION PACKAGE(S)

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

☒ Inform ☐ Consult ☐ Involve ☐ Collaborate ☐ Empower

KATZIE FIRST NATION CONSIDERATIONS

Referral ☐ Yes ☒ No

SIGN-OFFS

Written by:	**Reviewed by:**
Michelle Baski, Manager of Agriculture and Environment	Patrick Ward, Director of Planning and Development

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ATTACHMENT(S):

None.