

## **PITT MEADOWS AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of the Agricultural Advisory Committee held at 10:00 a.m. on February 8, 2018 in the Meadows Room of the Pitt Meadows City Hall, 12007 Harris Road, Pitt Meadows, British Columbia

### **PRESENT:-**

Committee Members:- Joe Bachmann, Co-chair  
Macky Banns  
Janis Elkerton, Alternate Council Liaison  
Bob Hopcott  
Dan Kosicki  
Mike Manion  
Bill Park  
Scott Pelton  
Mike Stark, Acting Council Liaison  
Wayne Wisselink

Guests:- Councillor Bill Dingwall  
Patricia Gordon  
Jamie Hoy  
Steven Robinson  
Matthew Robinson  
William Wild

Staff:- Lisa Grant, Manager of Community Development, Meeting Chair  
Allison Dominelli, Development Services Technician  
Randy Evans, Operations Superintendent  
Forrest Smith, Director of Engineering and Operations  
Elaine Harrison, Recorder

### **REGRETS:-**

Bruce Bell, Council Liaison  
Leo Captein, Co-chair  
Hank Bitter  
Dieter Geesing, Ministry of Agriculture

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

### **1. LATE ITEMS**

No late items were submitted.

### **2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED** by Joe Bachmann and **SECONDED** by Wayne Wisselink, **THAT** the minutes of the December 14th, 2017 committee meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### **3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Terms of Reference require the appointment of the Chair at the first meeting of every year.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**MOVED** by Bill Park and **SECONDED** by Dan Kosicki THAT Joe Bachmann be re-appointed as Chair.  
**CARRIED**

**MOVED** by Dan Kosicki and **SECONDED** by Scott Pelton THAT the appointment of a Co-Chair be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.  
**CARRIED**

**ACTION:** at the next meeting of the Committee Leo Captein be asked whether he wishes to be considered for re-appointment as Co-Chair.

## **4. DRAFT LAND USE PLAN FOR PITT MEADOWS AIRPORT**

Allison Dominelli, Development Services Technician gave details of the Draft Land Use Plan for the Pitt Meadows Airport and asked the Committee for comments

The Committee discussed the following items:-

- taxes that are paid by the businesses leasing property at the airport
- the leasing and sub-letting of properties
- jurisdiction and governance at the airport
- the logistics and constraints of farming ALR land at the airport
- the long term plans for the fill site
- the City can now enforce Bylaws and Regulations and look at uses, compliance and zoning

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**MOVED** by Joe Bachmann and **SECONDED** by Bill Park THAT the Committee recommend that Council ask the Airport Society to do their utmost to support farming, with no constraints, on the areas of airport land zoned ALR.  
**CARRIED**

**ACTION:** the new General Manager of the Airport be asked to contact Mr. Wisselink to discuss the future of farming land at the airport.

## **5. SUSTAINABILITY OF FARMING**

At the request of the Committee a comprehensive list of items which are causing concern for the sustainability of farming was discussed and members decided which items should be forwarded to Council. It was hoped that Council could bring these matters to the attention of higher levels of Government or be raised at UBCM. The Committee agreed that many of the concerns affect all businesses not just farming and that some are the responsibility of Federal and Provincial Government.

Regarding the protection and classification of ditches, staff advised that they were working within the Riparian Areas Regulations and they had requested a meeting with the Ministry to discuss the concerns that had been expressed particularly the 30m setback rule and land within the flood-plain.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**MOVED** by Joe Bachmann and **SECONDED** by Mike Manion **THAT** the Committee recommend that Council consider the following items of concern:-

- 1) Fish set-backs/diking, drainage and irrigation/water levels in the ditches.
- 2) Water restrictions on potable water and river water with the prices being punitive for farmers.
- 3) The loss of farm land to non-farmers who build mansions.
- 4) Farmers being unable to afford to buy out family members and the excessive death and succession taxes.

**CARRIED**

**ACTION:** Mike Manion to raise at the next Metro Vancouver AAC meeting the punitive costs of potable water, the restrictions on spraying crops and the GVRD emissions tax.

**ACTION:** An awareness campaign be considered including signage and social media posts to remind drivers that farm machinery is travelling on the roads.

## **6. RECYCLED CONCRETE AS ROAD BASE**

Dan Kosicki asked for a discussion about the use of recycled concrete by farmers for road base. He felt that farmers were helping the environment by re-using concrete and they were not doing it with reckless abandon. He said that it was unacceptable and irresponsible to landfill a resource like concrete rubble and a common sense approach was required.

The Committee felt that contamination levels of recycled concrete were very low and that farmers care about what they put on their land. They said that concrete bases can help reduce dust on crops and are used in areas where cattle congregate. The problem of dealing with concrete slabs when buildings are re-purposed was also mentioned.

Staff advised that the Soil Removal and Fill Deposit Regulations state that recycled concrete is considered a banned item and land owners should use virgin aggregates for road base. However, staff advised that if the Committee felt the Regulations should be amended this could be forwarded to Council for consideration.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**MOVED** by Dan Kosicki and **SECONDED** by Bill Park **THAT** the Committee recommend that Council be informed that the AAC supports the correct use of recycled concrete, with a maximum 1% contamination rate, for roads and parking on agricultural zoned land and the Soil Removal and Fill Deposit Regulations be amended to reflect this.

**CARRIED**

## **7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **B.C. Ministry of Agriculture AAC Workshop – February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

The Members were asked if they would like to attend an AAC Workshop being hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture in Langley on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Lisa Grant, Mike Manion, Leo Captein and Bruce Bell all expressed an interest in attending.

**ACTION:** The Ministry of Agriculture be informed of the names of the AAC Members who wish to attend the Workshop and feedback from the Workshop be provided to the Committee.

Roundtable:-

Mike Manion – said that a representative from the Delta Farming and Wildlife Trust would be willing to make a presentation at the next meeting of the Committee.

Bill Park – asked how the pumps had handled the large amount of rainfall we had recently had. Mr. Evans said that he had been tracking them for several years to see what they could withstand and this year had seen the highest levels to date. He said the pumps had coped with the increased capacity and the 2 new stations were working well. However, 2 stations had experienced problems and had needed repairs and new parts.

Macky Banns – said that he would support an overpass over the rain lines at Allen Way. He also asked for an update on the non-farm use application at 14111 Neaves Road. Staff advised that they were waiting for the fines to be paid and the application would not move forward until this happened.

Joe Bachmann – had noticed how much better the pump was working at McKechnie Station. Randy said that the improvements at McKechnie had been very successful and he thought that the screens had really helped.

Joe also said that he had received an email containing a survey about the future of the ALR and encouraged all Committee members to complete it.

Dan Kosicki – said that the cleaning of the ditches had greatly improved flow but felt it was important not to plant trees so that access remains clear for the equipment.

He also asked about the process for including extra Committee members. Staff advised that some terms of office would be coming up for renewal in April 2018 but Council could also be asked to amend the Terms of Reference to include extra members.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**MOVED** by Dan Kosicki and **SECONDED** by Bill Park **THAT** the Committee recommend that Council amend the Terms of Reference of the AAC to add an extra member from the agricultural sector.

**CARRIED**

Mike Stark – asked how the City of Maple Ridge was dealing with parrot feather in their ditches.

Staff said they had noticed that they were not being diligent so some of it was migrating into the City's ditches.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The next Committee meeting will be held on March 8th, 2018 at 10:00a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 am.