

**SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**April 23, 2019**

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MINUTES FROM THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE CEDAR ROOM AT THE SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT OFFICES, 1975 FIELD ROAD, SECHELT, BC

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**PRESENT:** Chair David Morgan  
Members Paul Nash  
Gretchen Bozak  
Jon Bell  
Barbara Seed

**ALSO PRESENT:** Director, Electoral Area F Mark Hiltz  
Director, Electoral Area E Donna McMahon  
Manager, Planning & Community Development Andrew Allen  
Water & Energy Projects Coordinator Raph Shay  
Recorder Tracy Ohlson  
Public 1

**REGRETS:** Member Faye Kiewitz  
Erin Dutton  
Raquel Kolof  
Gerald Rainville

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**CALL TO ORDER** 3:32 p.m.

**AGENDA** The agenda was amended to include the following:

- Agricultural Land Commission Meeting
- New Business: Drought Management Plan Amendments

**MINUTES**

**Recommendation No. 1** *AAC Meeting Minutes for March 26, 2019*

The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommended that the meeting minutes of March 26, 2019 be received and approved.

## REPORTS

### Agricultural Water Use Study

Key points of discussion:

- Can SCR D provide bulk-purchasing opportunities for irrigation equipment, rainwater collection systems for farmers? SCR D has rainwater harvesting rebate program. Group purchasing for farmers can possibly be implemented through the Southern Sunshine Coast Farmers Institute (SSCFI).
- Irrigation Course offered by IIABC was cancelled, only one applicant. SSCFI may run a similar course.
- Commercial Water rate system already in place for farmers.
- Concern of impact of commercial rate structure on commercial farmers.
- How are water meters read?
- Clarification discussion on rate structure.
- 80% of Sunshine Coast farms have chickens, is that indoor water use? Livestock watering is not regulated.
- Discussion on sufficiency of well supply on farmers.
- Do we know the number of farms on own well system on the Sunshine Coast?

### **Recommendation No. 2**     *Agricultural Water Use Study*

The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommended that an updated Agricultural Water Use Study be completed in 2020 or once all commercial farms are metered;

AND THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee be involved in the Terms of Reference for the updated Agricultural Water Use Study.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Agricultural Land Commission Meeting

- Director Hiltz provided highlights on attendance at recent Agricultural Land Commission presentation at a conference.
- Discussion on size of parcels for farming and ALC legislation.

### **Recommendation No. 3**     *Agricultural Land Commission*

The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommended that a formal request for the SCR D Board to invite MLA, Nicholas Simmons as a member of the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food to speak to the Agricultural Advisory Committee and SCR D Board about the future of agriculture on the Sunshine Coast.

## Drought Management Plan Amendments

Key points of discussion:

- New category for commercial farm watering.
- Types of water use.
- Products – food and non-food.
- Sprinkling and micro-drip irrigation.
- Registration of farms to switch to commercial metered water rate.
- Livestock and processing.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee suggested that the Drought Management Plan Summary Table – Commercial Farm Watering section consider the following changes, to be discussed further next meeting:

- Remove the words (food for sale).
- In Stage 4 include the words – only for livestock and processing.
- Remove sprinkler use in Stage 2 & 3, allowing sprinkler use during Stage 1 only with the exception of sprinkler use inside greenhouses which is permitted during Stages 1, 2 and 3.
- With respect to drip and micro-drip irrigation, remove the <25 psi or less (pressure component) and focus on amount <x m<sup>3</sup>/day instead.

## How Farmers Can Provide Their Own Water Source

- Non Chapman water sources
  - District of Sechelt reclaimed water (non-potable) – not available to farmers.
  - Ask District of Sechelt to open source to farmers.
  - No Bulk Water Agreement to enable farmers to drive to Pender Harbour and access water.
  - Use of wells.
  - Water licences on creeks.
- May agenda item: Public participation at Agricultural Advisory Committee

**NEXT MEETING**      Tuesday, May 28, 2019

**ADJOURNMENT**      5:12 p.m.