

**SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

June 11, 2019

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

PRESENT:	Chair Members	David Morgan Faye Kiewitz Raquel Kolof Jon Bell Gerald Rainville
ALSO PRESENT:	Director, Electoral Area F Director, Electoral Area E General Manager, Planning & Development General Manager, Infrastructure Services Manager, Planning & Community Development Recorder Public	Mark Hiltz Donna McMahon Ian Hall (part) Remko Rosenboom (part) Andrew Allen Genevieve Dixon 1
REGRETS:	Members	Paul Nash Erin Dutton Barbara Seed Gretchen Bozak
ABSENT:	Members	

CALL TO ORDER 3:31 p.m.

AGENDA The agenda was adopted as presented.

MINUTES

Recommendation No. 1 *AAC Meeting Minutes for April 23, 2019*

The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommended that the meeting minutes of April 23, 2019 be amended as read as follows:

Under Agricultural Water Use Study Pg.2

Irrigation Course offered by Irrigation Industry Association of BC was cancelled, only one applicant. AAC requests the SSCFI look into running the course.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES AND UNFINISHED BUSINESSAgricultural Land Commission Forum

- Manager, Planning and Development gave a briefing on highlights from the forum.
- Mobile home for farm use is no longer a permitted use.
- Bill 15 will declassify farmers from making an exclusion application, local government would have to carry application on their behalf.
- ALC their preference that cannabis may be grown in ALR that is soil bound, inside a greenhouse, a greenhouse cover or in a field.
- Ministry of Agriculture will allow the large industrial licensed producers. ALC won't object.
- Ag zone regulates on the southern part of the Coast.

REPORTSAgricultural Land Use Inventory and Water Demand Model (Ministry of Agriculture)

Key points of discussion:

- General Manager, Planning and Development gave an introduction on the report presented to the SCRD Infrastructure Services Committee and SCRD Board.
- SCRD and Ministry of Agriculture will partner on this.
- A preliminary date of July 9th for a community awareness participation session involving the AAC, more information to follow.
- How can the AAC assist the Ministry as this proceeds to best engage with the community?
- How best can the Ministry reach out to agricultural producers on the coast to invite participation and involvement in the project?
- Land use survey is used mainly with mapping and driving around.
- Recommended to include farmers and ask what type of crops are being grown?
- SCRD assists the Ministry of AG in review of local farms, and a data sharing agreement to share with the community.
- Sunshine Coast Golf and Country Club, can there be an accurate water metering process, data validation?
- The Sunshine Coast Farmers Institute (SSCFI) can help with the data validation study for all ALR land with permission from members.
- The SSCFI would be interested in attending the July 9th participation session.
- Ways to capture non ALR agricultural activity that have a farm class designation?
- Farm status is low around 20% and 50-60% are in the ALR.
- What is the completion date for the study? By the end of the summer.

NEW BUSINESSNotice of Motion

Key points of discussion:

- Cannabis may likely take over farm land instead of industrial land.

- Water usage for industrial non-soil cannabis production, is it mainly recycled?
- Export market for consumables CBD oil etc., how will it affect us?
- More land mass in the ALR than in industrial land.
- How many ALR parcels consisting of eight hectares are producing cannabis?
- What's the ETA on new Bylaw 310? Likely 2020 Board adoption.
- Ministry of Agriculture will make higher level decisions.

Recommendation No. 2 *Notice of Motion*

The Agricultural Advisory Committee requests that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Land Commission consider a moratorium to consider a moratorium on all non-soil bound licensed dark site cannabis producer in the ALR until such time as local governments can create or amend local bylaws and regulations.

For additional information please refer to UBCM President Arjun Singh's letter dated May 22, 2019: <https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Policy/Community~Safety/Marijuana~Regulation/2019-05-22%20UBCM%20Letter%20to%20Minister%20Donaldson%20-%20Cannabis%20Production%20FINAL.pdf>

Public Participation at Agricultural Advisory Committee

Key points of discussion:

- Public are welcome to sit and observe, participation in the meeting is at discretion of the members and chair.
- Open meetings

- June agenda item: BC Chamber of Commerce letter to the Ministry of Agriculture.

- District Aid Farmers Institute is hosting a meeting on Bill 15 & 52 and have invited all Agricultural Advisory Committees to attend. In Nanaimo June 17, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. Information will be shared from attendees at next AAC meeting.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday, June 25, 2019

ADJOURNMENT 5:03 p.m.