

**SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**June 25, 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 Faye Kiewitz  
Raquel Kolof  
Gerald Rainville  
Paul Nash  
Erin Dutton  
Gretchen Bozak

**ALSO PRESENT:** Director, Electoral Area F Mark Hiltz  
Director, Electoral Area E Donna McMahon  
Manager, Planning & Community Development Andrew Allen  
Planner Julie Clark  
Recorder Genevieve Dixon  
Public 1

**REGRETS:** Members Barbara Seed  
Jon Bell

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

**AGENDA** The agenda was adopted as presented.

**MINUTES**

**Recommendation No. 1** AAC Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2019

The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommended that the meeting minutes of June 11, 2019 be adopted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**BC Chamber of Commerce Letter to Ministry of Agriculture**

Key points of discussion:

- Farmers shouldn't provide an avenue to remove ALR land.
- Concern about landowners not defined as persons in the act.
- Local governments can only apply for exclusion and appeal to the ALC on behalf of property owners.
- Centralized authority regulations are approved in the City of Victoria not by Regional Boards as before.
- It appears that the preliminary review of applications has been downloaded to the local

governments. If this is true, would the SCRD be in a position to determine which applications proceed to ALC and which do not? At the moment SCRD is an application portal for ALC and referral agency.

- Grounds for appeal procedures in the courts.

### **Recommendation No. 2**     *Agricultural Land Commission Legislation Changes to Bill 15*

The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Land Commission recognize and include landowners, as defined persons under all ALC and ALR legislation;

AND THAT owners of ALR land be provided the ability to apply for an appeal process for rejected applications from the ALC.

### **District “A” Farmers Institute Meeting Regarding Bill 15 & Bill 52**

Key points of discussion:

- June 9, 2019 at Nanaimo’s “Rusted Rake” farm. 50 farmers attended the meeting.
- Primary concern over the non-approval of a secondary dwelling on farm land.
- Temporary non-permanent secondary dwellings can be approved but not for family.
- Landowners can’t sell food that is grown on farms, apart from alcohol producers that can.
- 5300 sq. ft. rule on a single/second family dwelling combined.
- 50 hectares required to approve second dwelling.
- Taxation on alcohol production/sales on farms.
- Long term farm/family help are no longer acceptable to approve secondary dwelling to accommodate help.
- What is the status on cannabis facilities in the ALR with in the SCRD?
- Foreseeable restriction within the Ag and industrial zones for non-soil based cannabis production facilities.
- SCRD to provide the draft Bylaw 310 in the fall of 2019.
- Ability to provide farm staff accommodations.
- Housing shortage.

### **Recommendation No. 3**     *Agricultural Land Commission Legislation Changes to Bill 52*

The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommended that, in order to promote economic viability of farm operations, a maximum two dwellings should be permitted on a parcel, not to exceed the current 500m<sup>2</sup> floor area limit.

### **Agricultural Land Use Inventory & Workshop Invitation to Members**

- Ministry of Agriculture argrologists will be on the Sunshine Coast from July 8 – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- Collection of information will include: crop information, irrigation, livestock and land use for farming.
- Tuesday, July 9, 2019 from 4 – 6:30 p.m. at the Roberts Creek Community Hall.
- Invitation to farmers, landowners and producers.

July agenda item – emergency planning for farmers and people with livestock.

**NEXT MEETING**     Tuesday, July 23, 2019

**ADJOURNMENT**     4:45 p.m.