

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 26, 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 Paul Nash Gretchen Bozak Gerald Rainville Barbara Seed Erin Dutton
ALSO PRESENT:	Director, Electoral Area F Director, Electoral Area E General Manager, Planning and Development General Manager, Infrastructure Services Senior Planner Planner Water & Energy Projects Coordinator Recorder Public	Mark Hiltz Donna McMahon Ian Hall Remko Rosenboom (part) Yuli Siao (part) Julie Clark Raph Shay (part) Genevieve Dixon 7
REGRETS:	Member	Faye Kiewitz Jon Bell

CALL TO ORDER 3:32 p.m.

AGENDA The agenda was adopted as presented.

DELEGATION

Remko Rosenboom, General Manager, Infrastructure Services and Raphaël Shay, Water and Energy Projects Coordinator, provided a presentation regarding the SCRD Drought Management Plan.

Key points of discussion:

- Concern over new lawn permits issued in the summer.
- When will the District of Sechelt install water meters?
- General Manager, Infrastructure Services noted funding needs to be in place before water meter installation in the District of Sechelt proceeds.
- When will water usage notices be sent out for those on water meters?
- How much water is the District of Sechelt using without water meters versus those on water meters?

- Currently residents interested in their water meter usage have been contacting the Water and Energy Projects Coordinator for data.
- Long-time goal is to have an online data portal for water meter use for residents.
- Online data portal is tied in with the final water meter installations, won't happen in 2019.
- A meter rate won't be reviewed until all the meters have been installed.
- Lawn permits are only issued in Stage 1 water restrictions and are only active for 21 days or when Stage 3 restrictions is declared.
- The SCRD should consider a low cost rain barrel incentive program for residential property owners. Usage 2-3 days during a drought.
- 1000 gallon rain barrels might be worth looking into.
- Education campaign for SCRD farmers putting ponds on property for water use.
- Drought Management Plan only regulates outdoor use and not indoor use.
- Is SCRD water being used to make concrete on the Sunshine Coast? Yes and through private wells.

MINUTES

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

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

REPORTS

Application for Land Exclusion from and Inclusion into the Agricultural Land Reserve for Morgan Property (ALC Application 58605)

Key points of discussion:

- AAC Chair (ALC Applicant) will recuse himself from this discussion and the Vice Chair will proceed.
- Senior Planner gave a brief overview on the ALC application.
- Eight letters and a petition with 30 signatures received from area residents around the applicant's property.
- Concerns from neighbouring properties include, agriculture capability that will be taken out of the ALR, future increased density and non-agricultural developments.
- The letters were not included in the AAC agenda due to late receipt, a report to the Board will entail further details.
- SCRD staff recommendation to the Board will take into account the letters and petition received.
- Local residents are concerned that the land being applied for inclusion has no agricultural capabilities.
- No information is included in the application regarding reports or soil testing on the two sections of land.
- The applicant previously indicated to staff that testing done in the 1980's shows that the area for exclusion is underlain with bedrock and the triangle area could be used for agriculture purposes.
- The property is zoned AG and will remain as is if the inclusion exclusion/inclusion is approved.

Recommendation No. 2 *Application for Land Exclusion from and Inclusion into the Agricultural Land Reserve for Morgan Property (ALC Application 58605)* The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that the report titled Application for Land Exclusion from and Inclusion into the Agricultural Land reserve for Morgan Property (ALC Application 58605) be received and supported.

Zoning Bylaw No. 310 Questionnaire March 25 – April 15, 2019 was received.

Key points of discussion:

- Planner, gave a brief introduction on the Bylaw 310 questionnaire and mentioned it is now live on the SCRD website.
- Review is still in stage two of the public consultation process.
- Future orientation, focus groups with committees will happen once a draft of the revised bylaw is received.
- The AAC will have a chance to give feedback when the draft bylaw is ready for review.

ALC Information Bulletin No. 5 Residences in the ALR – February 26, 2019

- No comments, just information as requested from the previous meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Further discussion would be appreciated for water exemption for farm status.
- April agenda item: How farmers can provide their own water for use?

Recommendation No. 3 *Chapman Water Study*

The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that the results from the Farm Water Use study in the SCRD AG plan be provided to the AAC.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday, April 23, 2019

ADJOURNMENT 5:18 p.m.