Township of Langley

Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 7:00pm
Langley Regional Airport
#300, 5385-216 Street
Langley, BC

M I N U T E S

Present:
J. Caldarella, Community Co-Chair
Councillor D. Davis, Council Co-Chair

C. Allison, M. Mann, T. Meyers, A. Smith, and T. Townsley

Guests:
C. Stewart, Senior Planner, Agriculture and Food Security, Metro Vancouver
J. Stiver, Division Manager, Regional Land Use Policy, Metro Vancouver
C. Keyes, Regional Agrologist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Staff:
V. Gafka, Senior Manager, Economic Investment and Development
M. Gunn, Planner, Community and Policy Planning
R. Nelson, Senior Planner, Community and Policy Planning
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - May 25, 2022

Moved by T. Townsley,
Seconded by A. Smith,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the May 25, 2022 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - April 27, 2022

Moved by T. Townsley,
Seconded by T. Meyers,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Metro Vancouver Climate 2050 Agriculture Roadmap

C. Stewart provided a presentation on the draft Climate 2050 Agriculture Roadmap, a 30-year strategy to a carbon neutral, resilient to the impacts of climate change agriculture sector.

Changes and impacts affecting agriculture:
Climate Change:

- Extreme weather;
- Water shortages;
- Fewer pollinators;
- Drought damage;
- Soil degradation; and
- GHG Emissions.

Urban Uses:

- High land values;
- Invasive species;
- Movement restrictions;
- Illegal dumping;
- Stormwater runoff; and
- Non-farm uses.

What is the Agriculture Roadmap?

- Carries on from Discussion paper
- Identifies issues and solutions
- Reflects current knowledge
- Not a Food System Strategy
- Guides future work plans
- Identifies key players.

Vision and Goals:
Net-zero, resilient agriculture by 2050

- Contribute to low-carbon future;
- Clean renewable energy
- Sustainable, adaptive and resilient; and
- Long-term food production.

Strategies for Action:

1. Protect Agricultural Land
    a. Collective effort
2. Support Farmers as Climate Action leaders
    a. Greenhouses
    b. Soil health
    c. Environmental farm plans
    d. Incentives and pilot studies
3. Support long-term farm health and resilience
    a. Ecosystems services
    b. Regenerative agriculture

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

c. Innovations and technology

4. Enable long-term investment in agriculture
    a. Financial
    b. Leadership
    c. Support Services
    d. All Government and Industry

Metro Vancouver is requesting feedback on the following questions to help shape the final roadmap content:

Questions:

- What is the most effective means of protecting Agriculture land?
- How do Ecosystem Services get supported? Expanded? Paid for?
- How can government contribute to a healthy, sustainable Agriculture sector?
- Is anything missing?

D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Farm Policy and Regulatory Review

The Farm Policy and Regulatory Review working group reported that they further discussed getting the relevant information out to farmers regarding zoning bylaws, farm uses, the tree bylaw etc.

MOTION
Moved by T. Townsley,
Seconded by C. Allison
That the Farm Policy and Regulatory Review working group~~s~~ of the AAEEC recommends that the 2023 Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee consider adding to the workplan community engagement for the farming community to address issues identified as per the ongoing work of the AAEEC and the Future of Farming Task Force.
CARRIED

2. Communications

The Communications working group reported that they spent time discussing the most important content to have on the farming/agriculture landing page on the website. Some of the suggestions include:

F. WORK PROGRAM

- Bylaws/regulations
- Business License
- Circle farm tour
- Farm gate
- Water restrictions
- Community gardens
- Farmers markets
- Horses
- Tree Bylaw
- Wells
- New to Farming
- Helpful links
- Agricultural Viability Strategy

3. Farm Tour

M. Gunn reported that 50 people have registered for the Farm Tour on Wednesday, June 8 at the Derek Doubleday Arboretum from 12:30 – 3:30pm.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Chamber of Commerce Update

No report.

2. Farmer's Institute Update

No report.

3. BC Government partnership with the Netherlands

V. Gafka reported that the Province of BC and the Netherlands have signed an agreement to help further secure British Columbia's food supply by developing agricultural technology opportunities in both jurisdictions.

4. Canada's Agricultural Hub – An Economic Impact Analysis of Agriculture in Abbotsford

V. Gafka reported that the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce has released its 2022 report regarding the economic impact of agriculture in Abbotsford.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2022
Location: Langley Regional Airport
#300, 5385-216 Street
Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by M. Mann,
That the meeting terminate at 8:56pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair