Township of Langley

Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 7:00pm
Nicomekl Meeting Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

A G E N D A

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE COAST SALISH PEOPLES

Page

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - December 20, 2023

Recommendation that the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the December 20, 2023 meeting.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1-6 **1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - November 22, 2023**

Recommendation that the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the November 22, 2023 meeting.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

Page

F. WORK PROGRAM

7-10 **1. 2023 AAEEC Year End Report**

Recommendation that the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee receive and endorse the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee 2023 Annual report and ask staff to forward it to Council for information.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Chamber of Commerce Update

2. Farmer's Institute Update

I. NEXT MEETING

J. TERMINATE

Township of Langley

Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 7:00pm
Nicomekl Meeting Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

M I N U T E S

Present:
J. Caldarella, Community Co-Chair
Councillor M. Pratt, Council Co-Chair

B. Holmes, A. Smith, U. Tayyab, and T. Taylor

Guests:
C. Stewart, Metro Vancouver, Agriculture and Food Security
D. Wakelin, Metro Vancouver, Environmental Control Officer

Staff:
M. Gunn, Planner, Community and Policy Planning
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

The agenda order was varied.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Regional Agriculture Update

C. Stewart, Metro Vancouver, Senior Planner (Agriculture and Food Security), provided a presentation on the Regional Agriculture Update. She commented that in the Metro 2050 plan, agriculture lands are a priority. She provided updates on the following Metro Vancouver documents:

Ecosystem Services on Agricultural Land Report:

- The baseline study completed in January 2023 and focuses on ecosystem locations, types, and service benefits. The report will provide policies, regulations, and financial options to support long-term agricultural use.

Climate 2050 Agriculture Roadmap:

- Endorsed by the Metro Vancouver Board in September 2023.
- Key Actions include:
    - Protect agricultural land
    - Transition to lower emissions
    - Support anerobic digestions
    - Support ecosystem services
    - Adapt to climate change
    - Long-term financial investment
    - Support innovation

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Regional Food System Strategy:

- Endorsed by the Board in 2011
- Key Projects in the strategy include:
    - Food system action plans
    - Food flows
    - Farm tax research
    - Ecosystems services on agriculture land
    - Will be updated in 2024

Agriculture Land Use Inventory:

- Resource tool on agriculture land use in the region.
- Inventory is conducted every 5 years.
- Provides key information on loss of land, crops grown, and development

Agriculture and Food Data Book:

- Still in the early stages of this work.
- Phasing the information in as it is completed

D. Wakelin, Environmental Control Officer, provided the following update on Open Burning permits:

- Metro Vancouver regulates most open burning in the region
- Open Burning Emission Regulation Bylaw 1355 establishes:
    - Clear requirements for the majority of open burns in the region
    - A simpler method to authorize open burning
    - Any property planning to do open burning in Metro Vancouver is required to obtain a permit
    - Encourages alternative disposal methods and cleaner technologies for burning
- Site specific approval are still an option if Bylaw 1355 requirements cannot be met
- Alternative to Open Burning Best Practices Guide now available.
- Two permits for the Township of Langley area were issued by Metro Vancouver for 2023

How to find the Bylaw Registration System:

1. Visit www.metrovancouver.org
2. Search and select “Open Burning Vegetative Debris”

Upcoming work to include:

- Metro 2050 Climate Enhancements
- Climate 2050 Roadmaps
- Ecosystem Services White Paper
- Soil Movement Tracking
- Agriculture Protection and Viability Strategy

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Incentives required for farmers not to burn such as free disposal of green waste at the Langley Transfer Station or easier access to chippers or air curtain incinerators
- Permit process should be streamlined instead of Township residents having to obtain a permit through Metro Vancouver and Township of Langley separately.
- The permit fees should be used to educate landowners on burning alternatives such as chipping and/or purchasing equipment to set up a rental program

The agenda order then resumed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE COAST SALISH PEOPLES

J. Caldarella acknowledged the Traditional Territories of the Coast Salish Peoples.

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - November 22, 2023

Moved by B. Holmes,
Seconded by T. Taylor,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the November 22, 2023 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - October 25, 2023

Moved by U. Tayyab,
Seconded by A. Smith,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the October 25, 2023 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2. Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS)

A. Smith provided an update on the Outdoor Education Programs with LEPS. The following information was provided:

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Natures' Classroom - Grade 3-7:

- Started in 2011, offered in community spaces or school gardens.
- Helps youth connect with the natural world by discovering where food really comes from.
- Learn how to grow their own food.
- Develop awareness about environmental issues and social responsibility.
- Math, science, geography are themes within the program and fits within the district's rubrics.

Langley Learning Farm – Grades 9-12:

- A facility to demonstrate community-based food skills, an educational space for farm education and contributes to local food security.
- Located at the Derek Doubleday Arboretum.
- In partnership with Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation and Langley Secondary School.
- Environmental Science and Foods students participate in all aspects of farm activities, as well as environmental awareness.

WAVE Program – Grade 10-12:

- A credited class in school – students gain skills to obtain a job.
- LEPS acts as an "employer".
- 50 to 70 hours of volunteer time and offer a reference.
- Students participate in farm and garden related works, with elements of science themes.
- LEPS can sometimes provide students with paid summer job opportunities.

Nicomekl Elementary School Garden:

- In 2020, LEPS approached Nicomekl Elementary after hearing that the City of Langley was planning on removing the garden on city land that is attached to the schoolyard.
- Now a PAC/Administration/LEPS project to maintain the garden for use by teachers and students.
- Provides outdoor learning experiences and contributes to food security of students.

Future ideas:

- District Agriculture Academy
    - Credited elective courses and coached by teachers and industry professionals. Provide expanded education choices for secondary students and allow them to engage in their passions right in the middle of the school day.
- Future opportunities to expand offerings throughout SD35.

D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Building Agricultural/Rural Connections Task Force Update

J. Caldarella presented the final report from the Building Agricultural/Rural Connections Task Force with recommendations for the Committee to consider. (See Attachment A).

MOTION
Moved by J. Caldarella,
Seconded by U. Tayyab,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee receive and endorse the Building Agricultural/Rural Connections Task Force report and recommendations as follows:

1. Develop an agricultural outreach campaign to include:
    a. Building connections with agricultural organizations such as BC Agriculture Council, various commodity groups (such as poultry, dairy), 4H, established Langley farms and agritourism operations, the equestrian community, gardening clubs, vet offices, feed stores, real-estate community, etc. to provide an informational about agriculture in the Township of Langley in their newsletter or bulletin, social media and/or website.
    b. Creating an awareness campaign to be posted on the Township's social media and website, with the goal to connect with the rural and agricultural community and create opportunities for these groups to share the content on their social media accounts.
    c. Organizing an 'Ask an Agriculture Planner' campaign with support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food with the purpose to:
        i. Give farmers and rural landowners a targeted opportunity to meet with the Township's Agricultural Planner and a Ministry of Agriculture and Food Regional Agrologist during an in-person meeting, phone call or on-farm visit to answers questions and hear concerns.
        ii. Engage and create connections with the new, future, or current farmers and rural landowners.
    d. Creating a survey, open to all in the agriculture industry (consumers, farmers, rural community members), with a goal to understand agriculture operations and rural living in the Township.
2. Continue to work with partner organizations, such as the Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation, Young Agrarians, Langley Farmers Market, and 4H, to facilitate outreach and educational workshops.

CARRIED

F. WORK PROGRAM

COUNCIL
Moved by B. Holmes,
Seconded by J. Caldarella,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee recommends that Council directs Staff to include an agricultural/rural community outreach campaign as part of the Agricultural Advisory Committee's 2024 work program considering the recommendations from the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee's Building Agricultural/Rural Connections Task Force.
CARRIED

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Chamber of Commerce Update

No report.

2. Farmers' Institute Update

A. Smith reported that the Institute will be presenting their comments to the Mayor regarding the Bylaw work they have been working on, and that they will be recruiting new members in January 2024.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2023
Location: TBD
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by U. Tayyab,
That the metering terminate at 8:47pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

December 20, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND STAFF SUPPORT

- C. Allison
- J. Caldarella, Community Co-Chair
- A. Cheema
- B. Holmes
- T. Taylor
- U. Tayyab
- A. Smith, Farmers' Institute Representative
- C. Redekop, Chamber of Commerce Representative
- Councillor M. Pratt, Councillor Co-Chair
- Councillor R. Rindt, Councillor Co-Chair
- M. Gunn, Agricultural Planner
- R. Nelson, Senior Planner
- K. Stepto, Council and Committee Clerk

Section 17 of Council Advisory Committee Establishment Bylaw 2008 No. 4700, as amended, requires all Advisory Committees to prepare an annual report. In addition, sections 3.15 and 3.16 of the Terms of Reference for the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee (AAEEC) specify the requirements for an annual report and work program. This annual report fulfills these requirements for the AAEEC by including a summary of the activities undertaken in 2023.

In 2023, the AAEEC held seven (7) meetings and the annual Farm Tour. The Committee continued to meet its mandate by considering and providing advice to Township Council and staff regarding plans, policies, programs, and strategies that that are focused on maintaining and enhancing the Township's overall economy including, but not limited to, its agricultural sector.

The AAEEC was able to advance several key activities that are summarized as follows:

<u>February 22, 2023 - AAEEC Meeting</u>

- Welcome from Council Representative Co-Chair M. Pratt.
- Roundtable introductions took place.
- Reviewed the AAEEC Terms of Reference.
- Members signed the *"Code of Ethics, Confidentiality, and Conflict of Interest for Council Members and Appointees".*

- Discussed possible projects and initiatives for the 2023 Work Program and agreed upon a proposed list of work items for Council's consideration.
- Received and endorsed the 2023 Work Plan and approved a motion that the AAEEC recommends that Council approve the AAEEC 2023 Work Program.
- Received a presentation from BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation.
- Received the 2023 Membership List and Meeting Schedule.

March 22, 2023 - AAEEC Meeting

- Conducted an election: J. Caldarella elected as Community Representative Co-Chair, by acclamation.
- Received a presentation from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's (MAF) Regional Agrologist for the Central Fraser Valley and Sea to Sky Resource Development Agrologist Extension and Support Services Branch.
    - Brief update on AgriService BC and the types of complaints and inquiries that were received in 2022.
- Received an update on the over 100 inquiries processed in 2022 including: cannabis/hemp, land use, how to start a farm/winery, regulations, permitting and housing allowances.
- Discussed the annual AAEEC hosted Farm Tour. Members volunteered to be on a working group to organize the 2023 Farm Tour.
- Discussed one of the recommendations from the Future of Farming Task Force, "Building relationships with the Township farming community to expand the promotion of agriculture."

April 26, 2023 – AAEEC Meeting

- Received a presentation from the Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (LSAF). The presentation provided a brief overview of LSAF past and future projects including the Langley Learning Farm, grants, and scholarships program for 2023 and the upcoming Fall Workshop.
- Received a presentation on the Agriculture Inventory and Capabilities Review project.
- Received an update on the June Farm Tour including the theme, equestrian, and the general schedule.
- Received a presentation on the draft Terms of Reference for the Building Agricultural/Rural Connections Task Force (Task Force) and recommended Council approve the establishment of the Task Force for a duration of 180 days.

May 24, 2023 – AAEEC Meetings

- Received a presentation from Langley 4-H.
- Received a presentation from Young Agrarians BC.
- Received a brief overview presentation from the Langley Farmers' Institute (LFI).

June 20, 2021 – AAEEC Farm Tour

- Hosted the annual farm tour, an action item in the Agricultural Viability Strategy, showcasing the businesses and services built around the horse industry.
- Met at the Aldergrove field house for a networking mixer and opening remarks by Mayor Woodward and Councillor Pratt.

- Visited two locations: Valley Therapeutic Equestrian Association (VTEA) and Windsor Stables (Windsor). VTEA, is a non-profit volunteered-based charity offering medically approved therapeutic horseback riding to children and adults. At Windsor, an equestrian who operates a business out of Windsor, demonstrated the various equestrian disciplines: stadium jumping, dressage, western pleasure, and Pony Club Prince Phillip Games.
- Toured Thunderbird Show Park and lunch catered by Taste of Heaven. Guest speakers from the Langley Equestrian Society Academy at Brookswood High School, VTEA and the Langley Horse and Farm Federation provided insight on current and future perspectives of the equestrian industry.

September 27, 2021 – AAEEC Meeting

- Received a presentation from MAF's Land Use Planner which provided an overview of the Minister Bylaw standards and regulated communities.
- Received a report on the Farm Tour.
- Deferred the Migrant Agricultural Workers Accommodation (MAWA) Bylaw Reform referral from Council due to lack of quorum.
- Received an update from the Building Agricultural/Rural Connections Task Force and considered a motion to co-host a workshop with the Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation. The motion was deferred to October meeting due to lack of quorum.

October 25, 2023 – AAEEC Meeting

- Received presentation from the Fraser Delta Farmland Stewardship Working Group.
- Received a presentation on the Aldergrove Food System Project
- Received a presentation from the Task Force on co-hosting a workshop with LSAF. Received and endorsed a motion for the Task Force to co-host the workshop.
- Received the Agricultural MAWA Bylaw reform referral from Council. Approved a motion to extend the date to update the MAWA bylaw and/or policy amendments until after the MAF had concluded their consultation and update of the Minister Bylaw Standards and requested the MAF include an engagement event in the Township.

November 22, 2023 – AAEEC Meeting

- Received a Regional Agriculture Update presentation from Metro Vancouver.
- Received and endorsed the Task Force final report with recommendations. Approved a motion that recommended Council to direct Staff to consider the recommendations of the Task Force in the new Agricultural Advisory Committee's 2024 work program.

Building Agricultural/Rural Connections Task Force

The purpose of the Task Force was to understand and create a strategy to build more connections between the agricultural/rural community. The Task Force met five times outside of the regular AAEEC meetings and developed the following recommendations:

1. Develop an agricultural outreach campaign to include:

a. Building connections with agricultural organizations such as BC Agriculture Council, various commodity groups (such as poultry, dairy), 4H, established Langley farms and agritourism operations, the equestrian community, gardening clubs, vet offices, feed stores, real-estate community, etc. to provide an informational about agriculture in the Township of Langley in their newsletter or bulletin, social media and/or website.
b. Creating an awareness campaign to be posted on the Township's social media and website, with the goal to connect with the rural and agricultural community and create opportunities for these groups to share the content on their social media accounts.
c. Organizing an 'Ask an Agriculture Planner' campaign with support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food with the purpose to:
    i. Give farmers and rural landowners a targeted opportunity to meet with the Township's Agricultural Planner and a Ministry of Agriculture and Food Regional Agrologist during an in-person meeting, phone call or on-farm visit to answers questions and hear concerns.
    ii. Engage and create connections with the new, future, or current farmers and rural landowners.
d. Creating a survey, open to all in the agriculture industry (consumers, farmers, rural community members), with a goal to understand agriculture operations and rural living in the Township.

2. Continue to work with partner organizations, such as the Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation, Young Agrarians, Langley Farmers Market, and 4H, to facilitate outreach and educational workshops.

Summary

The AAEEC completed a successful year by focusing on key projects in the Agricultural Viability Strategy and recommendations from the past Future of Farming Task Force. The AAEEC feels that it has fulfilled its mandate to provide advice to Council and staff on issues related to the agricultural sector and the overall economy.