Township of Langley
Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 7:00pm
Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

M I N U T E S

Present:
J. Caldarella, Community Co-Chair

A. Hamer, R. Ross, O. Smid, B. Venechuk, and J. Walker

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

Guest:
C. Keys, Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Welcome
Roundtable introductions took place.

Code of Ethics Signing
Members signed the *"Code of Ethics, Confidentiality, and Conflict of Interest for Council Members and Appointees".*

Election of Co-Chair
A. Hamer nominated J. Caldarella to be the Community Co-Chair for 2025.
O. Smid seconded the nomination.

J. Caldarella was appointed the Community Co-Chair for 2025, by acclamation, and assumed the position of Chair.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE COAST SALISH PEOPLES

M. Gunn acknowledged the Traditional Territories of the Coast Salish Peoples.

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee – January 29, 2025

Moved by R. Ross,
Seconded by B. Venechuk,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the January 29, 2025 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee – December 18, 2024

Moved by O. Smid,
Seconded by R. Ross,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the December 18, 2024 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

1. Council Co-Chair Report

No report.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Review Terms of Reference

M. Gunn provided an overview of the AAC Terms of Reference, including:

Purpose:

- Strengthen the agricultural economy.
- Recognize the rural character as an essential community feature.
- Protect views, characteristic landscapes, and rural roads.
- Preserve the agricultural land base for food production.

Mandate:

- Communication between rural / agricultural community, and Council, re: rural issues.
- Advise Council on rural / agricultural issues.
- Advocate for the rural / agricultural perspective.
- Make recommendations on all aspects of the rural community – land use, services, infrastructure, and environmental.
- Assist in developing and implementing a strategy to sustain the agricultural community, improve agricultural viability, encourage the advancement of agriculture while respecting rural lifestyles, and enhance “good neighbour” communications.
- Review and comment on the issues, plans, and specific development applications referred by Council or staff.
- Promote education and awareness of rural issues in Langley.

F. WORK PROGRAM

- Promote tourism and economic development initiatives with a rural or agricultural theme, including promotion of farm products.

2. 2025 Work Program

M. Gunn reviewed the Agricultural Viability Strategy Vision:

The Township of Langley supports agriculture while fostering and encouraging sustainable and viability production. Farmers are respected and appreciated for their contributions to the community and its citizens.

She further reviewed the recommendations from the Future of Farming Task Force and the Building Agriculture/Rural Connections Task Force.

Discussion ensued and the following suggestions/topics were provided for the 2025 Work Plan:

- Presentations from:
  - Langley 4-H
  - TOL Permits and Licensing regarding Sign Bylaw and agricultural signs on TOL roads
  - TOL Transportation
  - Buy BC
  - Ministry of Agriculture and Food regarding land use plans, regulated communities, and IAF grants
  - TOL regarding flood mitigation
- Communication with farmers
- TOL potential to lease agricultural lands to farmers
- Agricultural Profile Update
- Townhall event for farmers
- TOL representation at Agriculture Trade Shows
- Farm Tour potential joint tour with the Heritage Advisory Committee to showcase rural heritage

Action: staff to compile the suggestions and prepare a draft work plan for discussion and approval at the next meeting.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Farmers' Institute Update

J. Caldarella reported that the Institute will be hosting a Meet and Greet on February 24, 2025 at 7:00pm.

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

2. 2025 Membership List

Provided on table for information.

3. 2025 Meeting Schedule

Provided in package for information.

4. AAC Photo

Deferred to next month.

5. Canadian Agriculture Day

February 11, 2025

www.agriculturemorethanever.ca

6. Agriservice BC

A monthly e-bulletin is available on the Agriservice BC website. A groundwater license application workshop will take place on February 11, 2025.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by O. Smid,
That the meeting terminate at 9:02pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair