Township of Langley

Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 22, 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
Councillor M. Pratt, Council Co-Chair

C. Alison, A. Hamer, R. Ross, O. Smid, A. Smith, and B. Venechuk.

In Attendance:
E. Bradbury, Woodlands 4-H Club, Vice President
A. De Santos, Woodlands 4-H Club, Past President
J. Ramirez, Permitting and Enforcement Officer, Metro Vancouver
D. Wakelin, Environmental Control Officer, Metro Vancouver

Staff:
M. Gunn, Planner, Community and Policy Planning
C. Longhi, Recording Secretary

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 Committee – October 22, 2025

Moved by C. Alison,
Seconded by B. Venechuk,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the October 22, 2025 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee – September 24, 2025

Moved by B. Venechuk,
Seconded by C. Alison,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the September 24, 2025 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Metro Vancouver Environmental Regulation and Enforcement, Air Quality Regulation

J. Ramirez, Permitting and Enforcement Officer
D. Wakelin, Environmental Control Officer

J. Ramirez and D. Wakelin provided a presentation on open burning regulations within Metro Vancouver. They explained that there are two ways to obtain authorization for open or outdoor burning: (1) through online registration for smaller, more frequent burns; or (2) by applying for an open burning approval, which requires manual processing and a director's decision. The latter process can take several months and is typically obtained for larger burns such as land clearing.

They further explained that the types of burns eligible for registration include:

- A single burn pile which has a maximum size of two metres high by three metres wide, no stumps and burning must be completed within one day.
- Two burn pileswhich may be larger,include stumps and must be completed within two days.

They noted that Metro Vancouver authorizations do not replace municipal permissions and that burning is limited to a maximum of six days per month and 12 days per year. They also noted that the Metro Vancouver Ventilation Index must be checked on the day of burning, either through the Metro Vancouver website or by calling 604-436-6777.

Discussion ensued and the following points were made:

- Campfires at campsites are exempt from Metro Vancouver's open burning bylaw, as they are considered small fires, maximum 0.5 metres high by 0.5 metres wide, although Township bylaws still apply.
- Penalties for non-compliance with Metro Vancouver burning bylaws currently range from $500 to $1,000, and may increase to as much as $3,000 in the future. The presenters emphasize that Metro Vancouver's goal is to educate rather than penalize the public.
- It was confirmed that the authorization process cannot currently be streamlined to eliminate the need for two separate permits. However, it was suggested that a link to the Metro Vancouver website be added to the Township of Langley's website to help direct residents to the appropriate application process.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2. Woodlands 4-H Club

E. Bradbury, Vice President
A. De Santos, Past President

E. Bradbury and A. De Santos, presented on the Woodlands 4-H Club, stating that it is a youth organization focused on teaching youth about agriculture and related skills.

They stated that members participate in meetings, elections, and executive roles, and engage in community events at fairs, which include Country Fest in Maple Ridge, Pacific National Exhibition, Chilliwack Fair, and Agassiz Fall Fair. Members compete at fairs and often operate booths to educate the public and showcase their projects. 4-H provides youth with skills in public speaking, leadership, self-confidence, and responsibility, and offers a wide variety of topics such as traditional animal projects as well as dogs, cooking, gardening, and photography.

They further stated that the program relies heavily on volunteers and leaders. In Canada, there are over 900 4-H clubs, and alumni frequently return as volunteers or judges.

Woodlands 4-H has 36 members who range in age from six to 21 years old. Members aged 13 and older have access to provincial, national, and international travel opportunities, with a trip to Ireland planned for next year. The program also offers a variety of scholarships, which are often less competitive than public scholarships. Approximately 44% of 4-H alumni work in agriculture, demonstrating that the organization plays a vital role in producing leaders in Canada's agriculture sector.

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chair Reports

J. Caldarella reported that A. Smith appeared as a delegation to Council on behalf of the Langley Farmers' Institute at the October 20, 2025 Regular Council Meeting regarding updating the Rural Plan, which was well received.

Councillor Pratt noted that a possible update of the Rural Plan is to be discussed at the November 3, 2025 Regular Council meeting.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. 2026 Work Program

M. Gunn provided an update on the 2025 Work Program and requested input for the 2026 Work Program.

Discussion ensued, and the following suggestions were made:

- Reviewing Township of Langley agriculture policies and documents
- Hosting an educational day for real estate agents
- Advocating to the Province regarding non-farm use taxes and penalties
- Exploring drip line and open-air irrigation practices
- Addressing water consumption concerns such as wells running dry due to large-scale farming and considering agricultural zoning closer to the Fraser River
- Requesting a presentation from Metro Vancouver about extending water lines
- Organizing the farm tour
- Installing heritage signage to highlight the Township of Langley's agriculture history

It was stated that the 2026 Work Program should include a mix of both long-term and short-term projects, with the goal of having the plan finalized by January.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Farmers' Institute Update

A. Smith reported that she made a presentation to Council regarding updating the Rural Plan, and it will be discussed at the upcoming November 3, 2025 Council Meeting.

She further stated that she has invited BC Minister of Agriculture, Lana Popham, to the Township of Langley for a tour.

She further noted that the Farmers' Institute is working with the Provincial government on updating legislation related to dangerous dogs attacking livestock, with an anticipated timeline of one to three years for potential changes.

2. Committee Application Process 2026

Members of the Agriculture Advisory Committee whose term is expiring in December 2025 are welcome to re-apply at www.tol.ca/committee. Application deadline is October 24, 2025.

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

3. Staff Update

M. Gunn reported that B.C.'s Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program will begin accepting funding applications on November 18, 2025 through the Investment Agriculture Foundation. Burning permits will open on October 27, 2025.

She further noted that Canada's Agriculture Day will take place on February 10, 2026. Discussion took place regarding how the Township could recognize the event, including potential highlights for social media, placing an announcement in the newspaper, and exploring opportunities for collaboration with Tourism Langley.

I. NEXT MEETING

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

J. TERMINATE

Moved by O. Smid,
Seconded by B. Venechuk,
That the meeting terminate at 8:50pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair