Township of Langley

Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 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 Whitmarsh, Council Co-Chair
Councillor Pratt, Council Co-Chair

C. Alison, J. Green, A. Hamer, S. Janzen, R. Ross, O. Smid, A. Smith, B. Venechuk, and K. Zhu

Staff:
M. Gunn, Planner, Community and Policy Planning
V. Burnett, Council and Committee Clerk
K. Stepto, Deputy Township Clerk

Welcome

Councillor Pratt welcomed everyone and roundtable introductions took place.

Code of Ethics Signing

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

Election of Co-Chair

O. Smid nominated J. Caldarella to be the Community Co-Chair for 2026.
B. Venechuk seconded the nomination.

J. Caldarella was appointed the Community Co-Chair for 2026, by acclamation, and assumed the position of Chair.

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 – January 28, 2026

Moved by O. Smid,
Seconded by B. Venechuk,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the January 28, 2026 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee – December 17, 2025

Moved by C. Allison,
Seconded by R. Ross,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the December 17, 2025 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

1. Council Co-Chair Report

Councillor Pratt reported that there is a soil deposit application for property located at 4262 - 244 Street. An Open House is taking place on January 29, 2026 at the Murrayville Library from 4:00 – 7:00pm.

The subject application proposes the importing of 61,020 m^3 of fill over approximately 20 acres to improve drainage for agricultural use.

A comment was made that this proposal may affect surrounding properties.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Overview of the AAC Committee

M. Gunn provided an overview of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for new members. This included the following:

- History of the Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Terms of Reference
- Agricultural Advisory Committee Mandate
- Agricultural Viability Strategy
- Township of Langley Farm Bylaws

2. 2026 Work Program

M. Gunn provided a draft 2026 Work Program that was prepared with input from the committee at the November and December 2025 meetings. The committee will focus on the Agricultural Viability Strategy, Farm Tour, partnerships with other organizations, a review of agricultural use in the Zoning Bylaw, and Rural Plan update.

MOTION
Moved by B. Venechuk,
Seconded by J. Green,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee endorse the Draft 2026 Workplan.
CARRIED

COUNCIL
Moved by B. Venechuk,
Seconded by J. Green,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council approve the Agricultural Advisory Committee draft 2026 Work Program, presented as Attachment A.
CARRIED

Discussion ensued regarding the 2026 Farm Tour. M. Gunn provided a document and slides with information regarding past farm tours for review. The following ideas were discussed:

- A location with a market to help promote local farm businesses as a stop on the tour
- Fish farms/hatcheries
- Honey farms
- A portion with educational information about agricultural preservation
- Flower farms

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Farmers' Institute Update

A. Smith reported that the Farmers' Institute is hosting a Langley Water Symposium on February 5, 2026 at salishan Place by the River. To register, email agriculture@leps.bc.ca.

She further noted that they will be hosting a Farmer Meet and Greet on February 23, 2026 at Locality Brewing.

2. Ministry of Agriculture and Food Update

J. Liu reported that work plans have begun in accordance with the new Agricultural Task Force put in place by the Provincial Government.

She further provided a funding and programming update which included lists of potential grants and bursaries.

3. 2026 Membership List

Provided for information.

4. 2026 Meeting Schedule

Provided for information.

5. Soil Deposit Application 4262 - 244 Street

MOTION
Moved by B. Venechuk,
Seconded by J. Green,
That a member of the Agricultural Advisory Committee appears as a Delegation to Council regarding the Soil Deposit Application at 4262 - 244 Street when the application is presented to Council.
CARRIED

6. AAC Photo

A photo was taken for the Township website.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026
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 8:53pm
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair