AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 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 M. Pratt, Council Co-Chair

C. Allison, J. Green, A. Hamer, S. Janzen, R. Ross, O. Smid, A. Smith, B. Venechuk, and J. Walker

Ministry of Agriculture and Food:
R. Liu, Regional Agrologist, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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

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 28, 2026

Moved by J. Green,
Seconded by O. Smid,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the October 28, 2026 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee – May 27, 2026

Moved by B. Venechuk,
Seconded by J. Walker,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the May 27, 2026 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

1. Council Co-Chair Report

Councillor Pratt welcomed the committee back from their break.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Agricultural Bylaw Review Task Force

The Task Force gave a summary of its work to date, including bylaws that had been identified for review.

It was noted that the Task Force may need more time due to the volume of work needing to be done. This includes looking at bylaws to ensure the language lines up with what is needed for farmers and having these updates done in a timely manner.

The role of the Task Force and the framework it operates within were considered. The Task Force works within the current Provincial acts and regulations. When recommending changes to bylaw, it is important to use language that supports future changes to Provincial acts and regulations. The identified role of the Task Force is to provide guidance, to represent what is important to farmers in the community, and to identify how rural plans and bylaws can add value.

Discussion included size of farm parcels, and permitted farm and non-farm uses. There is a need for both big and small farms, but larger parcels have a higher likelihood of being farmed. The Township has a high number of small parcels, so this needs to be considered within the Rural Plan and Zoning Bylaw. It was noted that there appears to be significant non-farm use in the ALR including truck parking. Also, there is farmable land within the Township that is not being farmed, and this is also an issue throughout the province. Subdivision was discussed in regard to the Rural Plan update.

The Township should look at ways to prioritize farm building applications, including the review of applications by individuals with more experience with agriculture. The Board of Variance was discussed, including the value of having a member with experience in agricultural land regulations participate in discussions involving agricultural matters.

F. WORK PROGRAM

COUNCIL
Moved by B. Venechuk,
Seconded by R. Ross,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee requests that Council extend the term of the Agricultural Bylaw Review Task Force (expiring November 30, 2026) to March 31, 2027 to allow a review of existing bylaws and policies that regulate farming, and recommend policy and regulatory changes to support the agricultural industry.
CARRIED

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Farmers' Institute Update

A. Smith reported that the Farmers' Institute's All-Candidates meeting was held. The Board of Variance, the Agricultural Advisory Committee, truck parking, and water were discussed at the meeting. She thanked the AAC members that attended.

The issue of truck parking and the challenges it presents was discussed. She reported that she will be making a delegation to Council at an upcoming meeting.

The next Farmers' Institute Meet and Greet will be in February 2027.

2. Ministry of Agriculture and Food Update

R. Liu provided an update on various programs and events.

- The Lower Mainland Horticulture Conference will be held on January 21 – 23, 2027. Sessions will be held for the public, with local speakers presenting.

- The Enhanced Replant Program is currently available. More information can be found online at iafbc.ca.

- The BC e-Bulletin South Coast Edition is available online, it will also be distributed to the committee.

- AgriService BC has a phone number for public complaints related to agriculture 1-888-221-7141 or email at AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca

- Documents from the Ministry regarding updated Minister's Bylaw Standards and Farm Bylaw Standards will be available online soon.

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- The land use planning team is working on presentations.Events and workshops are being discussed, possibly in the Township if there is high enough demand.

3. AAC Meetings – Improving Communications and Accountability

S. Janzen provided a document regarding the Agricultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference. The document focused on Sections 3.4 and 3.6. There was interest in obtaining information about how many agricultural permitapplications are in process, what the wait time is, and what the permits are requesting.

He felt that the committee could provide better advice if it was provided with more information. . The information requested included permits, year to date approvals, year over year comparisons, purpose of permits, approval timelines, and flagged or delayed applications.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- Agriculture permits can be viewed on the Township of Langley website.

- There was discussion about receiving referrals from Council and the expectation when something is referred.

4. Let's Talk Farming Event

B. Venechuk reported that the Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation's "Let's Talk Farming" event was held on October 27, 2026, and it was a success. There were many people from different areas and age demographics. It served as an opportunity to transfer knowledge between generations and to collaborate.

5. Farm Tour 2026

Feedback on the 2026 Farm Tour was requested. The committee was appreciative of the tour and the recognition it brought to floral farmers. It served as an opportunity to hear from farmers about the difficulties they face. The food and hospitality provided was also appreciated.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2026
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by S. Janzen,
Seconded by R. Ross,
That the meeting terminate at 8:50pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair