Central Saanich Fire Hall
1512 Keating Cross Road, Saanichton
Minutes of the Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission
Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	Chair	R. Tunnicliffe
		L. Geggie
		K. Underwood
		D. Williamson
ABSENT:		J. Michell
		T. Michell
		L. Sluggett
ATTENDING:	Ministry of Agriculture & Food	R. Bailey (Zoom)
	Council Liaison, District of Saanich	Z. de Vries
	Deputy Chief Administrative Office, District of North Saanich	R. Dumas
	CRD Representative, Goose Management Coordinator	S. Hammond (Zoom)
	Council Liaison, District of Central Saanich	N. Paltiel
	Planner, District of Saanich	M. Rose
	Council Liaison, District of North Saanich	S. Shrivastava

1 CALL TO ORDER

a) The Chair, R. Tunnicliffe called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2 FIRST NATIONS TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

a) The Chair recognized and acknowledged the W̱SÁNEĆ people on whose traditional territory we live, we learn, and we do our work.

3 INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

a) The following late items were presented to the Commission:
Pertaining to:

- Item No. 7(a) UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Terms of Reference review for the Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission for membership input
    - Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission Terms of Reference. Notes March 9

Add as:

- Item No. 6(d) REPORTS - South Island Farmers Institute
    - Verbal Update – S. Macdonald
- Item No. 8(e) MOTIONS AND NEW BUSINESS - UBCM Farm Tour
    - Verbal Update – K. Underwood
- Item No. 8(f) MOTIONS AND NEW BUSINESS - Letter received from District A to MoAF
- Item No. 8(g) MOTIONS AND NEW BUSINESS - Request for $1,000.00 to support the implementation of the Metchosin Agriculture Plan
- Item No. 8(h) MOTIONS AND NEW BUSINESS - Food & Agriculture - Potential Tariff Event

4 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

a) The March 13, 2025 Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission agenda was approved with the inclusion of 6 late items and renumbered accordingly.

5 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a) Draft minutes of the Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission meeting held Thursday November 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

MOVED BY: D. Williamson
SECONDED BY: K. Underwood

1 That the draft minutes of the Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission meeting held Thursday, November 14, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b) Draft minutes of the Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission meeting held Thursday February 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

MOVED BY: K. Underwood
SECONDED BY: D. Williamson

2 That the draft minutes of the Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission meeting held Thursday, February 13, 2025, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6 REPORTS

a) Chair's Report

- Verbal Update - R. Tunnicliffe

The Chair, R. Tunnicliffe gave an update that addressed the following:

- Seeing a strong uptick in buy-Canadian sales however there is a possibility that is a fleeting interest
- Seeing a widespread distaste for regulations and rule following
- Attended a meeting of the Metchosin Agriculture Select Committee regarding violations on farmland but got zero support. She noted how much of a challenge it must be to enforce ALR regulations when the public ceases to support the rules
- The push for more vertical farms and industrial uses on farmland poses an insidious threat to eroding our ALR
- The possibility of PAAC hosting an ALR 101 course for municipal staff and Councillors

b) Treasurer's Report

- Verbal Update - J. Michell

D. Williamson, on behalf of J. Michell, reported that the accounts are in good standing.

c) Council Liaison Report

Z. de Vries, Councillor at the District of Saanich did not have any updates.

S. Shrivastava, Councillor at the District of North Saanich gave the following update:

- Council approved the CRD goose management program
- Council along with the Agriculture & Food Security Advisory Committee are looking at greenhouses on district land to promote incubated projects for new farmers

N. Paltiel, Councillor at the District of Central Saanich gave the following update:

- The Engineering department is meeting with the Mitchell family and the Ministry of Agriculture to discuss drainage issues on March 20, 2025
- Coffee is being scheduled for the district staff, Ministry of Agriculture, ALC and members of the agriculture committee. PAAC will get notification of this in the future for more information
- The districts November 2024 open house was well attended, and they hope to host another in November 2025
- With respect to planning and GIS, staff attended the session held by the Ministry of Agriculture on Wednesday March 12, 2025
- The district, in aligning with the ALC regulations, is permitting additional dwelling units and adopting a new land use bylaw for properties over 1 hectare to have a single-family home with a suite and a detached accessory building. Properties under 1 hectare would either have a secondary suite or an accessory building.
- The district recently developed the Farm Protection Development Permit Area. At this time, it is only applicable to detached accessory dwelling units however they plan to review all DP guidelines in 2025 which would mean hopefully extending it to all agricultural properties
- In 2026, the district will be undertaking an update to their Agriculture Area Plan

d) South Island Farmers Institute

- Verbal Update - S. Macdonald

K. Underwood, on behalf of S. Macdonald, provided a brief update regarding the South Island Farmers Institute including the following:

- Sustainers meeting occurred this month. Phil Christie came to speak which brought a lot of people in to discuss the topic of bulk buying which is an initiative the South Island Farmers Institute is taking on
- Need to report back and apply for KTTP grants

7 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Terms of Reference review for the Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission for membership input

- Verbal update - R. Dumas, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, District of North Saanich

The Commission along with R. Dumas, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer at the District of North Saanich, went through each section of the updated Terms of Reference and discussed all their comments, concerns and changes. R. Dumas and the Council liaisons answered questions the Commission members had. R. Dumas made all final adjustments and noted that the final copy will be sent out to all the Corporate Officers at each municipality for their Council's to review and endorse.

8 MOTIONS AND NEW BUSINESS

a) Referral from District of Saanich - Application for non farm use to use as parking and use of existing house for temporary marshalling point

Applicant: Capital Regional District
Site Address: 5920 Patricia Bay Hwy
Legal: Section 55 Lake District
Folder No.: ALR00043

District of Saanich planner M. Rose gave a brief overview to the application stating that the Capital Regional District is looking to use the Foodland Access Project site as a bylaw marshalling site on a temporary basis until

the Foodland Access Project is underway. The Commission members and liaisons discussed if approving the application would set a bad precedence for parking on farmland.

MOVED BY: D. Williamson
SECONDED BY: R. Tunnicliffe

3 That while the Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission normally does not support non-farm use, in this case as a temporary measure we will not oppose as long as it is temporary and does not impact negatively the agricultural land, arability or water quality in relation to the water reservoir and with the assurance that remediation would occur at the end of the occupancy period in relation to any impacts that were realized due to the parking there.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b) Resolution from District of North Saanich Council re: Regional Canada Goose Management Programs

- For review and discussion

At the February 24, 2025 Regular meeting of Council, the following motion was passed:
"That Council:
1. receive the letter dated January 23, 2025, from the Capital Regional District, with subject line Regional Canada Goose Management Programs;
2. refer the correspondence to the Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission for review and dsicussion; and further
3. refer the correspondence to the District's Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee for review and discussion."

The Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission reviewed the resolution from District of North Saanich Council re: Regional Canada Goose Management Programs and accepted for information. The Commission members noted that they had all already received this letter from the Capital Regional District.

c) Appoint a secretary

- Verbal overview - R. Dumas, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, District of North Saanich

R. Dumas noted this was already addressed in item 7(a) Terms of Reference review for the Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission.

d) UBCM Farm Tour

- Verbal Update – K. Underwood

R. Tunnicliffe noted that she has been in contact with R. Bailey from the Ministry of Agriculture & Food and he confirmed that UBCM would like to have a Farm Tour. She noted that he will be in touch with her again about it in about 2 weeks. The Commission decided to bring this forward to the April agenda.

e) Letter received from District A to MoAF

K. Underwood gave a brief update regarding the letter that was sent out to the Ministry of Agriculture & Food stating that she received a letter back from A. Boss, superintendent of Farmers Institutes. She noted that we don't have an agrologist and when they do reach out to the superintendent, they don't get support for administration.

f) Request for $1,000.00 to support the implementation of the Metchosin Agriculture Plan

The Commission decided to move this item forward to the April agenda.

g) Food & Agriculture - Potential Tariffs Event

L. Geggie provided a brief verbal overview stating that in Port Coquitlam there was a meeting that the farmers organized on responding to the tariffs in a way that supports farmers. She wanted to see if there was any interest in doing something similar as now is the time to support and promote local agriculture. Council liaison Z. de Vries responded to questions and stated the best thing PAAC can do is continue to share information about impacts they foresee or experience. The Commission decided to add this item to the April agenda to discuss any impacts from the tariffs.

h) Action List

The Commission did not discuss this item.

9 ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: D. Williamson
SECONDED BY: K. Underwood

4 That the March 13, 2025, Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission meeting be adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CERTIFIED CORRECT

_____
Rachel Dumas
Corporate Officer

APPROVED AND CONFIRMED

_____
R. Tunnicliffe
Chair