

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Agricultural Advisory Select Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

---

**Present:** Robin Tunnicliffe (Chair), Brent Donaldson, Shelly Donaldson (Council Liaison), Alex Fletcher, Sasha Kubicek (Recorder), and Candace Lecompte via telephone.

**Regrets:** Peter Chettleburgh and Andrew Penn

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1. Agenda, Additions and Approval**

**Moved and Seconded** by Sasha and Brent that the Committee approve the agenda as presented.

**Carried**

**2. Presentations**

None.

**3. Public Participation**

Heather Ramsey, of Umi Nami Farm, gave a background on produce donations by local farms to local families in need. Umi Nami Farm made connection and started donations. Wind Whipped Farm and Sea Bluff Farm joined in. Wind Whipped Farm had solidarity funds raised through its customers that have been used to pay farms for produce. These funds have run out and looking to District if Ag Committee can help maybe via Ag Plan get funds to continue program. Scope right now is 7 to 12 families, weekly if possible, costing \$6K. This is a great example of local food security.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved and Seconded** by Brent and Alex that the Committee approve the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Select Committee meeting held on May 15, 2024.

**Carried**

**5. Receipt of Minutes**

The following minutes were received:

- a) Finance Committee Meeting, June 3, 2024
- b) Special Finance Committee Meeting, July 9, 2024
- c) Special Finance Committee Meeting, September 9, 2024

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) Livestock/Wildlife Conflict**

Matt provided an update that there have been no kills of livestock since the summer cougar issues. Bears are active right now with lots of sightings but no livestock conflicts.

The group discussed a messaging tool between farmers that could give heads up when carnivores have been sighted. Matt will investigate selecting and setting up a messaging tool.

## 7. New Business

### a) Goose Update

Robin presented at the Capital Regional District Board Meeting representing Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission and advocated for a full cull in 2025. Discussion had about Royal Bay's success on culling geese, can District reach out to them and ask how process was carried, out, costs, logistics, etc. Can the District write a letter to the CRD asking/supporting a cull of geese in 2025?

### b) Metchosin Agricultural Area Plan

A copy of the Agriculture Plan was provided. Council approved the plan which has been posted on the District website. Robin updated the group on discussions with Reimagine Westshore and how they could be supportive of the plan. Initial leads were them helping with Metchosin Grown Map, setting up a virtual online market for Metchosin producers or some kind of local food event. More to come.

### c) Metchosin Grown Society and Funding Opportunities

Shelly reported that the Society is registered and has an executive. More administrative tasks to complete including District of Metchosin occupancy lease. Bramble excavation is complete. Next steps – soil amendments and fencing.

### d) Metchosin Grown Brand Building

The group brainstormed ideas. Stickers have been printed and could be sold at farmstands as fundraiser. Need for a bank account, who/how? Discussion on a Metchosin Grown Day in April 2025 as a major fundraiser for the initiative.

## 8. Reports

- Metchosin Producers' Association follow up meeting scheduled for Oct 30/31<sup>st</sup>. No one volunteered to join Shelly and Peter at the meeting.
- Shelly attended UBCM and reported on agriculture related items:
  - Pitt Meadows presented a resolution for the threshold for farms to increase from \$2.5K to \$7K. Province will now review.
  - Farmland tax brought forward also for Province to review.
  - Inventory review planned by BC Assessment. No actual dates/timelines
  - Human wildlife conflict presentation attended; no new material presented from what we already know/have seen at similar presentation.
- Rabbit update – Shelly has an information article coming out in the November Muse. Budget for control is still available with trapper coming out again. No dates/timeline given.

**9. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date**

**Moved and Seconded** by Alex and Sasha that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

**Carried**

No next meeting date selected.