

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Agricultural Advisory Select Committee Meeting

February 26, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Metchosin Council Chamber

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Robin Tunnicliffe (Chair), Councillor Shelly Donaldson (Council Liaison), Andrew Penn, Brent Donaldson, Candace LeCompte, Matt Ashton (recorder), Peter Chettleburgh, Sasha Kubicek

Regrets: Alex Fletcher

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions, Approval

The agenda was approved with the motion made by Peter and seconded by Candace.

2. Presentations

None.

3. Public Participation

Two members from the MPA answered questions about the MPA throughout the meeting.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Agricultural Advisory Select Committee, December 10, 2024

Correction to the Agricultural Advisory Select Committee meeting held on December 10, 2024:
Update section 9(c) of the December 10, 2024 to clarify that the key rule for building size should be 1,000 square meters per building rather than 1,000 square meters total.

Moved and Seconded by Brent and Sasha to approve the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Select Committee meeting held on December 10, 2024 as amended.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

- a) Committee of the Whole, January 13, 2025
- b) Committee of the Whole, February 10, 2025

The minutes of the Committee of the Whole meetings held on January 13 and February 10, 2025 were received for information.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Farm Solidarity Fund Update

Funding intended to provide food to local families, has not yet received donations. AASC will request an update from Alex Fletcher and Heather Ramsey regarding the current status and next steps.

b) Update on Communication for Livestock Farmers

Matt created a Google Group as a platform for local farmers to communicate predator-related updates. The Google Group email address is predatoralert@googlegroups.com. The group allows users to join or leave at their discretion and operates as a group email network. The Google Group admin (Matt) manages who is accepted and removed from the Google Group.

c) Metchosin Producers' Association, MUSE Article

Shelly wrote an article for the February edition of the *Metchosin MUSE* to promote interest from local growers in becoming vendors for a full season or participating short term in the Community Tent at the Metchosin Farmers Market. MPA contact shared.

7. Reports

a) Councillor Liaison Update

Shelly reported that a local citizen, affiliated with an environmental watershed group and experienced in securing federal grants, shared insights on partnering with First Nations for an Indigenous-led federal grant. This grant aims to benefit all growers and strengthen the foundation for economic viability within our agricultural community. Input opportunities are scheduled for winter and fall.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Other Business

a) Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Brent volunteered to serve as Vice-Chair. No new candidates stepped forward for Chair, so Robin agreed to continue in the role for another year. The election will be revisited next year.

b) Bylaw and Policy Material for Annual Review

- i. District of Metchosin Respectful Workplace Policy
Shelly summarized the policy, which was updated last year. AASC directors are responsible for understanding its content.
- ii. District of Metchosin Advisory Select Committee Bylaw
Candace pointed out inconsistencies between the policy documents, e.g., the terms of reference for continuity of governance, the calendar year references. Shelly confirmed that staff is reviewing all terms of reference for continuity of governance, i.e., same number of appointees on each committee.
- iii. Agricultural Advisory Select Committee (AASC) Terms of Reference
As AASC Chair, Robin was invited to meet with Mayor Little to review the AASC Terms of Reference, with no major changes needed. Shelly provided a summary of the committee's terms and governance expectations, highlighting its reporting structure to Council through the Council Liaison.

- iv. District of Metchosin Council Procedure Bylaw
Shelly provided a summary. Robin reminded committee members to ensure that any public statements, media interactions, or social media posts that could be interpreted as representing AASC are first reviewed and approved by the committee and shared with Council.

c) Agriculture Plan Implementation, Grant Application Support

The Metchosin Foundation reviewed the Metchosin Agricultural Plan and expressed interest in supporting its implementation. Robin suggested drafting a job description for an individual to oversee plan execution, which will also be publicly posted. Shelly will follow up with Geoffrey regarding a \$5,000 donation from the Metchosin Foundation and clarify future donation procedures.

d) Metchosin Grown

- i. Survey Results
Peter created metchosingrown@gmail.com and sent out a survey with seven questions to 48 recipients. The committee received 15 responses, and Peter provided a summary of the findings.
- ii. Event Planning and Branding
Matt presented an overview of the Metchosin Grown Society's vision, branding, and logo.

e) Destination Victoria, Getting Metchosin Farmers on Board

No updates currently. Plans for a future presentation to be organized by Andrew Penn.

f) Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) – Resolution and next steps, Goose Management

- i. Council Resolution, January 20, 2025
Robin moved a motion for Mayor Little to draft a letter urging the provincial government to support a goose cull as related to the AVICC Goose Resolution and Backgrounder documents. The motion was passed.
- ii. Capital Regional District (CRD) Environmental Services Report
The CRD has confirmed plans for two goose culls in 2025. The exact locations have not been disclosed, but AASC hopes that Metchosin will be included. The CRD has also requested assistance with goose egg addling. Residents who locate goose nests are encouraged to report them to Samantha Hammond at goose@CRD.bc.ca

g) ALR Land Use

Sasha provided an update on retail stores operating on ALR land. The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) clarified that 50% of retail floor space must be dedicated to selling crops grown on the farm or by an association to which the farm is a member. The intention of this rule is to allow farmers to carry a variety of products to attract customers while maintaining agricultural integrity.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. The next meeting date will be scheduled and confirmed via email at the call of the Chair.