

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Agricultural Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Robin Tunnicliffe (Chair), Shelly Donaldson (Council Liaison), Andrew Penn, Alex Fletcher, Brent Donaldson, Peter Chettleburgh, Matt Ashton, Sasha Kubicek (Recorder)

Regrets: Candace Lecompte

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Councillor Donaldson requested addition to agenda 9.e) Farming success in ALR.

Moved and Seconded by Brent and Sasha that the Committee approve the agenda with the one addition.

Carried

2. Presentations

None.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Agricultural Advisory Select Committee, October 16, 2024

Moved and Seconded by Matt and Alex that the Committee adopt the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Select Committee meeting held on October 16, 2024.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

a) Finance Committee Meeting, October 7, 2024

Moved and Seconded by Matt and Alex that the Committee receive the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on October 7, 2024.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Farm Solidarity Fund Update

The MUSE article was well received, delivery intercepted due to postal strike. Sasha will forward a photo for Shelly to post on FB for more exposure. Some interest in funding sources; updates are expected at the next meeting.

b) Update on communication App for Livestock Farmers

To be looked into by Matt. He weighed risk and reward of creating an app and felt private Facebook Group would be best, will put together and implement for 2025 livestock season.

c) Metchosin Grown Society Update

Final documents being completed.

d) Metchosin Grown Day Update / Next Steps

A discussion took place regarding the timing—spring versus summer/fall. It was decided to form a subcommittee with Shelly, Andrew, Peter, and Sasha. A meeting is planned for January to define the scope, goals, and next steps.

e) October 31, 2024 Metchosin Producers' Association (MPA) Meeting Update

Shelly and Peter reported meeting with MPA to discuss farmer vendors and use of community tent for seasonal producers. Shelly will compose an article as a “call out” to potential farmer vendors for the 2025 Farmers Market season as well as promote the community tent.

7. Reports

None.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Other Business

a) Geese Update

Robin and Shelly met with the Deputy Corporate Officer, Tina Hansen, to discuss the situation of geese destroying crops across the region. Robin to draft a letter to the Mayor to raise the topic at the Capital Regional District board to pre-empt crop destruction by geese.

Moved and Seconded by Alex and Brent that the Agricultural Advisory Select Committee submit a letter to Mayor for the District of Metchosin supporting the Capital Regional District culling Canada Geese in 2025.

Carried

Moved and Seconded by Alex and Brent that the Agricultural Advisory Select Committee recommend Council send a resolution to present at the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) Convention to support a Goose Cull and seek support from Peninsula & Area Agricultural Committee (PAAC) municipalities for the resolution.

Carried

b) Fill Dumping on ALR Land

Robin informed group of very successful Soil Dumping Workshop that occurred at Saanich Fairgrounds on Nov 13th put on by PAAC. Workshop was very well attended with a great cross section of participants. Information was presented that could improve Metchosin's bylaws. Some very easy changes could be incorporated now. Robin to send group summary PDF of workshop. Discussion resulted in the following motion.

Moved and Seconded by Sasha and Alex that the Agricultural Advisory Select Committee recommends Council to incorporate Agricultural Land Commission regulations for soil removal (for properties within the Agricultural Land Reserve) into the *Metchosin Soil Removal and Deposit Bylaw, No. 402*.

Carried

c) Agricultural Area Plan Next Steps

- Shelly mentioned the home plate issue is still be looked at by Council. Sasha explained the ALR regulation for home plates and suggested Council refer to the 1,000 square meters per building key rule in ALR regulations *Section 11(3)*.
- Improving soil deposit and building bylaws with ALR regulations and other soil dumping workshop suggestions.
- More networking and social events for Metchosin farmers - getting word out about Farmer-To-Farmer coming in January 2025 and other events. Set up a key email list for this type of info sharing to build farming community.
- Andrew gave an update on Agri Tourism and potential presenter. Andrew to contact presenter and find a date they could present to the AASC at a future meeting.

d) Working with Reimagine West Shore

Robin reported that the group is doing great work but is very Langford focussed. Potentially still interested in producer map next steps. The online market idea is not possible because nutrition coupons are not accepted online at this time. Overall, organization may not be the best fit for getting grants and moving Agricultural Area Plan forward.

e) Farming Success in the ALR

The committee discussed key factors for successful farming within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Two primary areas were identified:

1. Retail Sales Rules:

Ensuring compliance with regulations that require at least 50% of the retail sales area to be dedicated to farm products produced on the property by the farm owner.

2. Home and Building Footprint Rules:

Adhering to restrictions that prohibit soil removal without ALC approval for areas exceeding 1,000m². This includes soil disturbances for driveways, parking, auxiliary buildings, and the principal residence.

Recommendation: The committee recommends that the District make these ALR rules readily available and easy to access for farm owners within the ALR.

10. Adjournment

Moved and Seconded by Robin and Matt that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Carried

The next meeting date will be at the call of the Chair.