

**SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**January 28, 2020**

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MINUTES FROM THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE CEDAR ROOM AT THE SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT OFFICES, 1975 FIELD ROAD, SECHELT, BC

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<b>PRESENT:</b>	Chair	Paul Nash
	Members	Gretchen Bozak Raquel Kolof Jon Bell Gerald Rainville Erin Dutton Faye Kiewitz
<b>ALSO PRESENT:</b>	Electoral Area F Director	Mark Hiltz (Non-Voting Board Liaison)
	Electoral Area E Director	Donna McMahon (Non-Voting Board Liaison)
	GM, Infrastructure Services Manager, Planning & Development Water & Energy Projects Coordinator Water Conservation Assistant Planner Recording Secretary Public	Remko Rosenboom Dave Pady Raphaël Shay (part) Jen Callaghan Julie Clark Genevieve Dixon 2
<b>REGRETS:</b>	Members	David Morgan Barbara Seed

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**CALL TO ORDER** 3:30 p.m.

**AGENDA** The agenda was amended and adopted as follows:  
  
Delegation Nicholas Simons to be the first delegation.

**DELEGATION**

Nicholas Simons, Members of the Legislative Assembly for Powell River – Sunshine Coast provided an introduction and answered questions regarding agriculture on the Sunshine Coast.

Key points of discussion:

- Updates to ALC policy, changes under way.
- Can take agricultural concerns issues to the Provincial government’s attention.

- A standing committee member for agriculture.
- Supports local food, production and consumption.
- Geographical challenges on the Sunshine Coast compared to other locations in B.C. are Accessibility issues, transportation, the size of farms, access to markets and facilities, abattoirs, feed costs, organic farming and everything else to do with farming.
- Transportation is a major issue i.e. livestock transportation, priority boarding. Not a lot of control working with BC Ferries.
- Future policy changes pertaining to the return of the secondary residence allowance.
- What happened to Bill 52 and changing the thresholds regarding farm status.
- Farmers markets are always a work in progress.
- AAC members thanked Nicholas Simons and suggested an invitation be sent for him to join a AAC committee meeting in the fall.

Raphaël Shay, Water & Energy Projects Coordinator, Infrastructure Services provided an introduction regarding rain water harvest rebates.

Key points of discussion:

- Expansion of water harvest rebates.
- Add another stream for a \$1,000 rebate if 9,000 litres of storage are installed.
- Budget rebate proposal is for \$40,000. Approx. 500-1000 available units.
- No storage restrictions just that the volume is met.
- Ponds are discouraged due to mosquito borne illnesses by the health authorities.
- Launch will be happening the next couple months.
- Only one rebate per utility account.
- Farmers should be able to have multiple rebates.
- The rebate is a partial payment towards rain water investments, owner responsible for other costs associated.
- Possibility for educational engagements.
- Aquaculture is a great system for ponds.
- Quality of the harvested water should be the land owner's discretion.
- First come first serve for rebate program.
- Ground water is unable to be used for the rebate program at this time.
- There's a catchment requirement. Looking at different systems.
- Residential customers are only eligible, not commercial.
- Education outreach sessions would be beneficial specific to different farm uses.
- Farm status should be considered exempt.
- Rate structure in place for farmers for water use.
- Staff to provide the November 21, 2019 Infrastructure services committee report titled water rebate options to the AAC for information.
- SCR D to clarify the commercial rules on what is eligible for rebate and why?
- Water use study results are being presented to the SCR D Board in the spring. Information to be sent to the AAC.

## MINUTES

### **Recommendation No. 1**     *AAC Meeting Minutes of November 26, 2019*

The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommended that the meeting minutes of November 26, 2019 be received and adopted as presented.

**NEXT MEETING**      Tuesday, February 25, 2020

**ADJOURNMENT**      4:42 p.m.