

**SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

February 23, 2021

MINUTES FROM THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
ONLINE ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:	Chair	Faye Kiewitz
	Members	Raquel Kolof Barbara Seed Gretchen Bozak Jon Bell David Morgan Erin Dutton
ALSO PRESENT:	Electoral Area F Director	Mark Hiltz (Non-Voting Board Liaison)
	Electoral Area E Director	Donna McMahon (Non-Voting Board Liaison)
	Planner 1/Senior Planner	Julie Clark
	Recording Secretary	Genevieve Dixon
	Public	0
REGRETS	Members	Paul Nash Gerald Rainville

CALL TO ORDER 3:33 p.m.

AGENDA The agenda was amended and adopted with the following:
Industrial Cannabis

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

David Morgan was elected Vice-Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee by acclamation.

MINUTES

Recommendation No. 1 *AAC Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2020*

The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommended that the meeting minutes of September 22, 2020 be received and adopted as presented.

REPORTS

Sunshine Coast Food Charter, Draft July 24, 2020

Key points of discussion:

- Staff introduced report to the committee.
- Director's concern about the Right to Food language, specifically the words "must and shall" when referring to government responsibilities. Clarification that language comes from the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, Canada has signed on to it.
- Big AG wouldn't be an issue on the Coast.
- Non-binding, no issues. Bias against agriculture and minimal processing on a global level.
- Visionary document.
- Providing "fresh food" as the Charter states is a much higher financial burden for farmers. Most people are reliant on non-fresh products.
- Health and wellbeing, all residents have the power and wellness to engage. How is the local government going to ensure this will happen?
- Local bylaws, to have more people engaged in the food system and how it grows. We are very separated from the food system.
- Does the food charter have enough to make an endorsement in the future?
- Are the definitions inter rolled into the charter? Is this a requirement to the charter?
- What will the SCRD use this food charter for?
- The food charter could be used as a tool to inform OCP or Zoning Bylaw Development.
- Not realistic.
- Frustrated to be spending time on this as a farmer, while watching Coast farm land disappearing.
- It's a good motherhood statement.
- Good document to have, and more to move on for implementation.
- Food sourcing is in the AG Plan.
- This will make very little difference to local agriculture.
- Environmental stewardship, how will that impact the growing of food.
- Community plans, different organizations have signed onto this.
- The word fresh should be removed.
- The AG plan does state as an action item to create a local food charter.

Recommendation No. 2

Sunshine Coast Food Charter, Draft July 24, 2020

The Agricultural Advisory Committee supports the report Sunshine Coast Food Charter, Draft July 24, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

Industrial Cannabis

Key points of discussion:

- Two ALR properties in Area E have had recent activities involving movement of soil/fill.
- Various municipalities have strengthened their bylaws on this.
- ALC warned there would be a run on cannabis production on farm land.
- How can the SCRD urgently move on this, so farmers don't lose valuable farm land?
- Issues with concrete pads and contaminated soil being placed on farm land.
- Can the SCRD advocate with ALC on the responsiveness to violations?

- SCRD Bylaw Officers are not able to enforce ALC regulations, the ALC would have to enforce.
- ALC regulations for soil applications in place, applicants should be going that route.
- SCRD could coordinate with the ALR for site inspections. Does the SCRD have a duty to report to ALC observations from Building and Bylaw site visits?
- Can the SCRD have soil application/removal in Bylaws, similar to the ALC?

Recommendation No. 3 *Non-Soil Based Industrial Cannabis Production in the ALR*

The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that the SCRD urgently strengthen zoning bylaws regarding regulation of non-soil based dark site cannabis production in the ALR.

AND THAT the SCRD substantially increase the bylaw infraction fines for non-soil based dark site cannabis production so as to effectively prevent further bylaw infractions and destruction of farmland in the ALR.

AND FURTHER THAT the SCRD look at District of Sechelt and Squamish Lillooet Regional District as examples.

Recommendation No. 4 *Non-Soil Based Industrial Cannabis Production in the ALR*

The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that the SCRD approach the ALC for better enforcement of ALR regulations on the Sunshine Coast particularly removal and placement of soil.

Recommendation No. 5 *Non-Soil Based Industrial Cannabis Production in the ALR*

The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that the SCRD investigate and or implement a regulation regarding the soil removal or addition on ALR properties on the Sunshine Coast.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday, March 23, 2021

ADJOURNMENT 5:07 p.m.