

# Report to Council



**Date:** December 11, 2017  
**File:** 1200-10  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Agricultural Advisory Committee  
**Subject:** Agricultural Advisory Committee – Annual Report to Council  
**Prepared by:** Community Planning (MS)

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Agricultural Advisory Committee dated December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, with respect to an annual report to Council.

## **Purpose:**

To update Council on the activities of the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

## **Background:**

The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) is pleased to report its activities of this Council term to date. Per Council's direction, the AAC was formed in the spring of 2015 and on June 11, 2015 had its initial meeting where the Chair and Vice Chair were appointed. Committee members include:

**Chair:** Dr. Johannus Janmaat  
**Vice Chair:** Yvonne Herbison  
**Members:** Dr. Edward Schiller  
Pete Spencer  
Keith Duhaime  
Domenic Rampone  
Tarsem Singh Goraya  
Jeff Ricketts (Alternate)  
Jill Worboys – Interior Health (Non-Voting)

The AAC has provided an agricultural lens on the many applications, plans and changes to agricultural policy since their appointment in June, 2015. The Committee undertook to further advance Council's priority to 'Preserve Agricultural Land' specified by Council in 2016. They formally meet once a month to review development files and projects.

A summary of activities included below:

1. Agricultural Plan (2017)

The AAC acted as a touchstone throughout the planning process, providing guidance and advice at key junctures. The AAC provided input on vision, goals, and priorities, identified approaches to help engage the community, as well as reviewed the draft before it was presented to the public.

The AAC met with staff on seven occasions to review and provide input into the Agricultural Plan. This included four workshops, including:

- i. April 14, 2016 Stakeholder mapping and project scoping
- ii. May 11, 2016 Vision and Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Analysis
- iii. Oct. 13, 2016 Key themes and recommendations
- iv. March 13, 2016 Draft policy and recommendations

The Committee reviewed draft iterations of the plan following public engagement and input from stakeholders. In addition, the AAC helped communicate the public engagement opportunities through their networks, including the online survey and public open house opportunities.

2. Agri-tourist Accommodation – Removal of Use from Bylaw

The AAC provided comment and expertise on the removal of agri-tourist accommodation use A1t – Agriculture 1 with Agri-tourist Accommodation 1 from Bylaw No. 8000, which was adopted by Council on September 13, 2016.

3. Temporary Farm Worker Housing Amendments

The AAC reviewed and provided comments into the Temporary Farm Worker Housing Amendments, for two revisions, which were adopted by Council on September 18th, 2017.

4. Agricultural Compliance and Enforcement Strategy

The AAC provided comments into the Agricultural Compliance and Enforcement Strategy, which was supported by Council in 2015.

5. Development Applications

The AAC reviewed and provided comments into development applications, including:

- 17 Non-Farm Use Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Applications
- 3 Subdivision ALC Applications
- 3 Exclusion ALC Applications
- 4 Farm Help Applications
- 2 Development Permit Applications
- 4 Rezoning Applications
- 3 Agri-tourist Accommodation Applications
- 1 Heritage Alteration Permit
- 1 Area Structure Plan adjacent the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)
- 1 Liquor License

Of note, five of the above applications were withdrawn by the applicants after receiving recommendations from the committee. Several of these applications were then revised, with new applications submitted based on feedback and response from the AAC.

6. City initiated projects that were reviewed by the AAC include:

- Airport Master Plan
- Community Agricultural Water Rate Design Engagement Process

7. Documents Reviewed for Comment:

Provincial documents that were reviewed for comment included:

- i. Regulating Agri-tourism and Farm Retail Sales in the Agricultural Land Reserve – Ministry of Agriculture (2015)
- ii. Agricultural Land Inventory Data – Ministry of Agriculture (2016)
- iii. Agricultural Land Reserve – New and Amended Policies (2016)

8. Members participated in the following

- Okanagan Agricultural Adaptation Strategy Workshops # 1 and #2 (2016)
- Planning Institute of BC Conference and Agricultural Mobile Tour (2016)

9. Information – Other Events

The following events and programs were shared by the committee and further extended to their individual networks:

- Invitation to Domestic Marketing Workshops (2015)
- Fall 2015 Export Marketing Events
- Agri-food Business Planning Program (2016)
- BC Food Works Program – Value Added Production (2016)
- Farm Succession Seminar Series (2016)
- Young Agrarians events (varied)
- Bioregional Food Systems Presentation – Okanagan College (2017)
- Agriculture in Action Tour (2017)
- Electrical Fencing Workshops – Upcoming for 2018

**Internal Circulation:**

Policy and Planning

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Personnel Implications:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Alternate Recommendation:

**Prepared by:** M. Steppuhn, Planner  
**Reviewed by:** Todd Cashin, Suburban and Rural Planning Department Manager  
**Approved for Inclusion:** Doug Gilchrist, Divisional Director, Community Planning & Strategic Investments

cc: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members  
Tracy Guidi – Policy and Planning