

Report to Council



Date: June 12, 2017
File: 1210-22
To: City Manager
From: Community Planning & Strategic Investments (Tracy Guidi)
Subject: Draft Agriculture Plan 2017

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Sustainability Coordinator dated June 12, 2017, with respect to the 2017 Draft Agriculture Plan.

Purpose:

To obtain Council's feedback on the 2017 Draft Agriculture Plan.

Background:

The existing 1998 Agriculture Plan has served the City well over the past 2 decades, but many local and provincial policies and legislation have evolved in addition to multiple updates to the City's Official Community Plan that necessitate an update to the Plan. The 2017 *Agriculture Plan* will provide direction for 55 per cent of the land base zoned for agriculture in the City of Kelowna and will allow the following goals to be integrated into a current and responsive policy document:

1. Develop clear policies that serve to protect and promote agriculture;
2. Identify opportunities to strengthen farming as an economic driver;
3. Increase the amount of, and access to locally grown and produced food;
4. Promote and celebrate the agricultural character of Kelowna;
5. Build resilience in communities against rising costs of food and risks from climate change.

Initiated last spring, the update to the Agriculture Plan adhered to the following timeline:



a denotes Council workshop, b denotes Agricultural Advisory Committee workshop, c denotes public engagement

Through a year-long public and stakeholder engagement process, a vision statement was crafted and key theme areas were identified. The vision for the 2017 *Agriculture Plan* is:

Kelowna is a resilient, diverse, and innovative agricultural community that celebrates farming and values farmland and food producers as integral to our healthy food system, economy and culture.

The Plan presents 51 recommended actions that the City can take a lead role in implementing, under four themes:

1. **Strengthening local policies and regulations to protect agriculture.** This theme recommends 33 actions including updates to the Official Community Plan, Farm Development Permit Guidelines, Zoning Bylaw, and other key policies and bylaws. Collectively, these policy recommendations express a commitment to the preservation and strengthening of farmland and will help to limit non-agricultural development, minimize conflicts between producers and non-producers, and proactively use and manage farmland for agriculture.
2. **Stewarding natural resources and the environment for food production.** The nine actions in this theme involve integrating the agricultural sector's needs into existing and/or future environmental initiatives to address concerns over water, climate and buffers.
3. **Improving awareness of local agriculture and access to local food.** Eight actions have been identified to increase the visibility of, and access to, local food products as well as to raise the level of understanding about agriculture.
4. **Fostering and sustaining farm business and farmland.** One action has been identified to investigate and support alternative ownership for farmland to ensure it is farmed to its fullest capacity over the long term.

Although developed for the City of Kelowna, the 2017 draft *Agriculture Plan* acknowledges that the participation of local governments, senior levels of government, agricultural businesses, community organizations, and the public is essential to realize a resilient agricultural sector. As such, an additional nine actions have been identified that the City can support but cannot lead due to jurisdictional or capacity constraints.

An Implementation Plan is included to guide the City on the timing and priority level associated with each of the recommendations. The Implementation Plan separates the 51 actions the City can take leadership on into "actions that can be undertaken using existing staff resources" (Table 9) and "actions that require additional staff resources" (Table 10). In addition, some actions may require additional budget beyond staff resourcing. For these actions, funding options will be investigated and/or budget requests will be made as part of the annual budget cycle.

Actions to be taken with existing staff resources that are ongoing or will be completed during the next 2 years (2018 and 2019) are outlined in the table below:

Action IDs	Timeline	Description
1.4 a, b	Ongoing	Maintain the agricultural compliance and enforcement strategy.
1.4 i	Ongoing	Investigate opportunities to minimize impacts, where possible, to agriculture during expansion of YLW as outlined in the 2045 Airport Master Plan.
2 a	Ongoing	Evaluate and monitor water pricing with the goal of sustaining agriculture.
2 b	Ongoing	Include agriculture in municipal climate change strategies and plans.
2 c	Ongoing	Implement the actions of the 2015 Central Okanagan Clean Air Strategy to reduce smoke from burning.
2 f	Ongoing	Continue to work with the RDCO to enforce the Noxious Insect Control Bylaw and Noxious Weeds & Grass Control Bylaw. Consider informing residents seasonally through a press release.
3 a	Ongoing	Expand programs such as Farm to Flight at YLW to highlight local food and beverage products.
3 f	Ongoing	Encourage opportunities to meet with community groups, including real estate groups, to communicate existing land use policies and the impacts of non-farm use on farm land.
1.1 a, b, c, d, e	Years 1 & 2	Amend the OCP to include new policies that protect and enhance farmland.
1.2 a, b, c, d, e, f	Years 1 & 2	Update the Farm Protection DP Guidelines to include regulations regarding residential footprints on farmland and update the requirements for statutory covenants.
1.4 c	Years 1 & 2	Update the Development Applications Procedures Bylaw to allow for the Community Planning Manager to request an Agricultural Impact Assessment.

After receiving Council input on the draft *Plan*, staff will consult the public in a final round of engagement hosting the following sessions:

- Stakeholder session
- Small to medium sized 'farmer conversation'
- Agricultural industry session
- Public Open House

It is anticipated that the final Agriculture Plan will be presented to Council for endorsement in early July. The endorsement of this Plan will provide direction on the Official Community Plan update, 20-year Servicing Plan, infrastructure decisions as well as direction for city owned assets. The 2017 draft *Agriculture Plan* is expected to be a robust document that will serve the community for at least the next ten years.

Internal Circulation:

Divisional Director, Community Planning and Strategic Investments

Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services

Director Strategic Investments

Director, Business and Entrepreneurial Development

Suburban and Rural Planning Manager

Community Planning Department Manager

Infrastructure Operations Department Manager

Utility Planning Manager

Integrated Water Project Manager

Senior Airport Finance and Corporate Services Manager
Planner Specialist
Communications Advisor

Existing Policy:

One of the goals of the Official Community Plan is to Enable Healthy and Productive Agriculture by promoting healthy and productive agriculture through diverse strategies that protect farmlands and food production. Policies in the OCP that support this goal include:

- OCP Objective 5.33 Protect and enhance local agriculture. (and all associated policies);
- OCP Objective 5.34 Preserve productive agricultural land. (and all associated policies);
- OCP Policy 7.20.1 Water Availability for Agriculture. Work with stakeholders to ensure the continued delivery of sufficient quantities of water as per best practices for water conservation to ensure continued agricultural productivity; and
- OCP Chapter 15 Farm Protection DP Guidelines.

Agriculture Policy is also currently guided by the 1998 Agriculture Plan.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

The cost to complete the 2017 *Agricultural Plan* is \$60,000. The City of Kelowna acknowledges the support of the Real Estate Foundation of BC who granted \$20,000 towards this project. A grant of \$18,590 was also received by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture through programs delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC. The remainder of the funds are funded by existing Policy & Planning budget.

Personnel Implications:

The Implementation Strategy outlined in the 2017 draft *Agriculture Plan* identifies a series of recommended actions that would require additional staff resources (Table 10). It is anticipated that the amount of work identified for those actions for 2018 and beyond will require:

- 1.0 FTE (full time equivalent) planning staff – With existing staff resources and workloads, an additional planning staff would be required to implement the *Agriculture Plan* in the timeline required. A staff-based approach will result in more focused attention on the implementation strategy and provide direct staffing resources over a number of years. The staff person will provide a central point of contact for the projects.
- 0.5 FTE bylaw officer – Several of the policies and actions have bylaw implications. Due to the current staff resourcing and workloads, an additional 0.5 FTE bylaw officer dedicated to agriculture will help ensure success of the implemented policies and actions.

External Agency/Public Comments:

Below is a summary of the engagement to date that has helped inform the 2017 draft Agriculture Plan:

Agricultural Advisory Committee Meetings:

- April 14, 2016 Strengths, weakness, opportunities, threats, (SWOT) analysis
- May 11, 2016 Vision workshop
- October 13, 2016 Policies, recommendations and themes
- December 8, 2016 Engagement summary and recommended actions
- March 13, 2017 Draft policy and recommendations
- April 13, 2017 Implementation strategy

Round 1 Engagement

- June 2016 Online Survey (563 completed responses)
- June 8, 2016 Stakeholder Session
- June 8, 2016 Open House
- June 11, 2016 Open House
- June 22, 2016 Agriculture Industry Group session
- June 2016 Meeting via phone with Young Agrarians
- June 2016 Meeting via phone with Central Okanagan Food Policy Council

Round 2 Engagement

- November 22 Meeting with YLW
- November 22 Meeting with South East Kelowna Irrigation District
- November 22 Meeting with Okanagan Basin Water Board and the BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative
- November 22 Small to medium sized farmer conversation
- November 23 Agriculture Industry Group session
- November 23 Stakeholder session
- November 23 Meeting with Tourism Kelowna

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Communications Comments:

Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:

T. Guidi, Sustainability Coordinator

Approved for inclusion:



Danielle Noble-Brandt, Dept. Manager, Policy & Planning

cc:

Divisional Director, Community Planning and Strategic Investments

Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services

Director Strategic Investments

Director, Business and Entrepreneurial Development

Suburban and Rural Planning Manager

Community Planning Department Manager

Utility Planning Manager

Utility Services Manager

Integrated Water Project Manager

Senior Airport Finance and Corporate Services Manager

Planner Specialist

Communications Advisor