

Report to Council



Date: January 11th, 2016
File: 1210-20
To: City Manager
From: M. Steppuhn, Planner Specialist
Subject: Agriculture Workshop
Report Prepared by: T. Cashin

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Planner Specialist dated January 11th, 2016 regarding the Workshop on City of Kelowna Agriculture land policies, practices, challenges and opportunities.

Purpose:

To update Council on the City of Kelowna's agricultural policies/practices and Provincial regulations. To discuss global and local trends facing the agri-business community and to advise Council of the planned initiatives to manage the forecasted challenges.

Background:

Agricultural land is woven throughout the City of Kelowna's urban fabric; adding beauty and value to our community, as well as creating ongoing pressures and challenges that must be met as we grow, evolve and diversify our City.

The impact of agriculture to our community is reinforced by the fact that over 57% of the City's 21,700 hectare land base is zoned A1 - Agriculture with approximately 40% in the Agricultural Land Reserve.

In order to manage these unique circumstances and related challenges the City, over many years, has developed a set of tools (regulations, policies and guidelines) to ensure agricultural viability remains in our City and can operate successfully and harmoniously alongside our densifying industrial, residential and commercial land base.

City of Kelowna Council has a fairly broad scope of authority related to agriculture land use and agri-business operations, including:

- consideration of Agricultural Land Commission applications;
- applications to amend the Official Community Plan
- the zoning agricultural parcels and land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR);
- approving policies and plans as they relate to the City’s agriculture and agri-business matters; and,
- influencing other levels of government on agricultural land use and regulation issues.

Relative to many BC municipalities, the City of Kelowna considers a high volume of agricultural applications each year. Application types often include:

- inclusion, exclusion, and subdivision in the ALR
- non-farm uses in the ALR
- rezoning and OCP amendments affecting agricultural land
- temporary farm worker housing

Internal Circulation: N/A

Legal/Statutory Authority: N/A

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements: N/A

Existing Policy: N/A

Financial/Budgetary Considerations: N/A

Personnel Implications: N/A

External Agency/Public Comments: N/A

Communications Comments: N/A

Alternate Recommendation: N/A

Considerations not applicable to this report: N/A

Submitted by:

M. Steppuhn, Planner Specialist

Approved for inclusion:



D. Gilchrist

cc: D. Noble, Policy & Planning Department Manager
G. Wise, Bylaw Services Manager