

**Municipality of North Cowichan
Agricultural Advisory Committee
MINUTES**

**April 23, 2024, 1:30 p.m.
Large Committee Room**

Members Present	Councillor Christopher Justice (Chair) DeLisa Lewis Don Maroc Derek Masselink Jennifer Woike Jenny Horn Judy Stafford Nick Neisingh Zachary Brown
Staff Present	Chris Osborne, Manager, Planning Dave Preikshot, Senior Environmental Specialist Heather Power, Legislative Coordinator Tricia Mayea, Corporate Officer
Guests Present	Bejay Mills, Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Jeffrey Weightman, Director, Strengthening Farming Program, Ministry of Agriculture and Foods Reed Bailey, Team Lead Land Use Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Food

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee approve the agenda as circulated. CARRIED

3. BUSINESS

3.1 Member Introduction

The committee members and staff gave brief introductions.

Zachary Brown arrived at 1:48 p.m.

3.2 Legislative Services - Meeting Procedure Overview

Tricia Mayea, Deputy Corporate Officer, provided an overview of procedural rules that relate to committees.

3.3 Items for Information

The following documents were shared with the Committee as information: Agricultural Advisory Committee Procedural Guide, Agricultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and Council's Standards of Conduct Policy.

3.4 Ministry of Agriculture and Food - Agricultural Advisory Committees 101

Reed Bailey, Team Lead Land Use Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Food provided the committee with supporting information about Agricultural Advisory Committees across the province, their progress and the province's role.

3.5 2024 Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee establish the 2024 regular schedule of meetings, to be held by Electronic Means, as follows:

- Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. CARRIED

3.6 Richards Creek Ecological Accounting Process

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee extend the meeting to 3:45 p.m. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee extend the meeting to 3:50 p.m. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to write a letter to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for an Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI) to be carried out in the North Cowichan region as soon as possible. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee provide the following feedback for Council's consideration on the Richards Creek Ecological Accounting Process report:

- (1) Consider individual site-specific circumstances, such as soil types, in the methodology.
- (2) Utilize the methods such as those prescribed in the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation to determine appropriate setbacks.
- (3) Request outreach efforts specifically outline ecosystem services. CARRIED

Zachary Brown left the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

3.7 Official Community Plan - Agricultural Chapter

The Agricultural Advisory Committee, by unanimous consent, deferred this item to their next meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 3:48 p.m.

Signed by Chair or Member Presiding

Certified by Recording Secretary

DRAFT