

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

June 27, 2024, 4:30 p.m.

Municipal Hall - Council Chambers & Electronically

Members Present	Councillor Christopher Justice, Chair DeLisa Lewis Don MarocCC Derek Masselink Jennifer Woike Jenny Horn Judy Stafford Nick Neisingh
Members Absent	Zachary Brown
Staff Present	Chris Osborne, Manager, Planning Andrea Hainrich, Deputy Corporate Officer Jennifer Aldcroft, Climate Change Specialist Tricia Mayea, Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The committee added "Roundtable Updates from the Committee Members" under New Business.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

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

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee adopt the minutes of the meeting held April 23, 2024. CARRIED

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Project Update

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee supports proactive measures to include agricultural land in climate adaptation measures and endorses the Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment; and

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee provides the following feedback for Council's consideration:

1. Communicate to CVRD's Emergency Planning function a desire for Agriculture to be represented within Emergency Management Planning, including development of an emergency food plan and assisting local farmers in developing livestock evacuation plans.
2. Highlight in the Strategy the importance of the agricultural sector and impact greater climatic variability has upon agricultural productivity and consider how the Municipality can help mobilize responses, including a focus on soil quality.
3. Ensure that all opportunities for expanding infrastructure for agricultural water access, usage, storage and management are prioritized. CARRIED

4.2 Official Community Plan - Agricultural Chapter

Chris Osborne, Manager of Planning, reviewed the Official Community Plan (OCP) with the Committee, highlighting the sections that pertain to the Agricultural sector.

Barry O'Riordan, Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), spoke to the Committee about the current CVRD initiatives, as well as the past and current work they are involved in, region-wide including the Strategic Agricultural Plan.

4.3 Agricultural Advisory Committee – Draft Workplan

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee look at inviting a member of the Agricultural Land Commission to give an overview of the applications the committee will receive for review, as well as reference materials. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee extend the meeting by 30 minutes at 6:30 p.m. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee endorses the draft 2024 workplan as amended by

1. Including all non-farm use applications for review by the AgAC.
2. Including all residential non-adhering applications for review by the AgAC.
3. Defining opportunities for short-term agricultural action, including investigating partnership with interested individuals and relevant organizations for use or lease of municipally owned land for agricultural purposes.

AND requests Council's approval of the workplan as amended. CARRIED

4.4 Regional Newsletters from Ministry of Agriculture and Food

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee receives for information the June 21, 2024 email from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. CARRIED

4.5 Agricultural Advisory Committee Meetings

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the October 29, 2024 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting be held at 1:30 p.m.

(Opposed: Masselink)

CARRIED

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Roundtable Updates from the Committee

The Committee members provided updates on projects, collaborations, committees, and initiatives that they participate in for information.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 7:00 p.m.

Signed by Chair or Member Presiding

Certified by Recording Secretary