

*SUBJECT TO ADOPTION*  
**Minutes of the meeting of  
DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Held Thursday, March 06, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.**

**PRESENT:**

Chair	A. Finall
Members	B. Brennan
	H. Crawford
	B. Dunic
	B. Hughes
	I. Mishchenko
	N. Schafer
Co-Council Liaison	S. Fea
Co-Council Liaison	A. Scoones
Staff Liaison	S. Bowden
Recording Secretary	V. Stefani

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**INTRODUCTIONS AND CALL TO ORDER**

S. Bowden called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Introductions were made.

**ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2008**

S. Bowden called for nominations for the position of Chair.

MOVED BY: B. Dunic  
SECONDED: B. Brennan

1. That Alice Finall be nominated Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Commission.

CARRIED

S. Bowden called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

MOVED BY: B. Brennan  
SECONDED: A. Finall

2. That Ivan Mishchenko be nominated Vice Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Commission.

CARRIED

A. Finall assumed the Chair, and gave a brief overview of the orientation package provided to members and the legislative background for this commission.

The following documents were requested to be added to the orientation package:

- ALC Regulations
- CRD Regional Growth Strategy - report dated August, 2003
- CRD Regional Growth Strategy – report dated January, 2005
- British Columbia Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act

S. Bowden noted that only Council can refer items for consideration to this commission. Any issues identified by members must be brought to the attention of Council liaison members to bring forward for Council's consideration.

A. Scoones inquired whether Council had referred assessment refinement issues to the Commission. S. Bowden to confirm.

H. Crawford informed the Commission that two items identified by the Agricultural Task Force should be given priority: an Agricultural Area Plan, and a review of any bylaws pertinent to agriculture. He noted that the communities of North Cowichan, Pitt Meadows, Strathcona and Spillimacheen provide good examples of agricultural area plans and encouraged committee members to familiarize themselves with these documents. A. Scoones added that Council has budgeted some monies in the 2008 budget for an Agricultural Plan. Rob Kline of the provincial Ministry of Agriculture will provide assistance in the preparation of a plan for the District. A. Scoones will ask Council to refer this item. A. Finall requested copies of the aforementioned agricultural area plans for members, and suggested that Mr. Kline be invited to an early meeting of this commission.

MOVED BY: B. Brennan  
SECONDED: H. Crawford

THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated, with the addition of the Agricultural Area Plan.

CARRIED

## REFERRALS

### a. **Cage Free Eggs**

Letter from Director of Corporate Services dated June 14, 2007

In 2007 Council adopted a draft resolution, and has asked the Commission for comments. A discussion arose as to the classification of "Cage Free Eggs". Members agreed that the "Cage Free" classification does not ensure the humane treatment of chickens. The Commission agreed to support the letter, and requested that the matter be considered further upon receipt of additional information pertaining to animal husbandry regulations regarding chickens. B. Hughes offered to investigate animal rights regulations, and A. Scoones offered to provide SPCA recommendations for chickens to inform and assist with phrasing a recommendation to Council.

MOVED BY: B. Brennan  
SECONDED: B. Hughes

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Commission table the item regarding Cage Free Eggs pending consideration of further information at its next meeting.

CARRIED

**b. Heritage Conservation Act**

Letter from City of Pitt Meadows Agricultural Advisory Committee

A. Finall introduced the correspondence between Pitt Meadows and the Province on the issue of legislation governing archaeological remains on agricultural land. The group discussed the correspondence, noting that to the best of their knowledge there have not been any issues of archaeological discoveries on agricultural land in North Saanich. A. Scoones advised that archaeological concerns are a looming issue, and S. Fea noted that although the legislation is at the provincial level, costs are borne by either the municipality or individual property owners. The District incurred large costs during sewer construction and has approached the Union of British Columbia Municipalities requesting assistance in dealing with the province. The Commission decided to receive the correspondence for information and support any initiatives that Council is prepared to undertake to protect private individuals from financial effects of this legislation.

**c. Agricultural Issues in North Saanich**

Resolution from February 18, 2008 Council meeting

A. Finall read the February 18, 2008 Council resolution requesting the Agricultural Advisory Commission to prepare a list of issues relevant to agriculture in North Saanich that it wishes the Peninsula Agricultural Commission (PAC) to address. A. Scoones read a letter from the PAC, and discussion ensued on the role of the PAC on the Saanich Peninsula and in relation to this commission, and the various topics that could be shared. Two Commission members also serve on the PAC. N. Schafer pointed out that the PAC had presented a list of issues and suggested that members review the list for discussion at the next meeting.

The group requested an exchange of minutes between the Peninsula Agricultural Commission North Saanich Agricultural Advisory Commission. Although the Commission cannot formulate a list at this time, it will seek the assistance of the PAC when required.

H. Crawford distributed copies of the Province of B.C. publication "Growing Together" provided by Rob Kline. He suggested that commission members access the government website at [www.al.gov.bc.ca/resmgmg/sf](http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/resmgmg/sf) for further information.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

- Letter from Peninsula Agricultural Commission re Soil and Fill Deposited in the ALR land on other sensitive lands in the CRD

Members discussed concerns around the various origins of soil and fill that is used in North Saanich, and the possibility that some of it may be contaminated or contain refuse.

A. Finall suggested inviting Rob Kline to the next meeting to do a presentation on agricultural area plans and strategies. H. Crawford suggested also inviting Jim LeMaistre when the two are available together, for a joint presentation on edge planning and buffer zones.

On a question from N. Schafer on whether there is a directory of North Saanich agricultural producers, a discussion arose on the absence of such a list. S. Bowden agreed to investigate

farm status assessments and email the information to members. Commission members also asked whether there is information available from Stats Canada on farm revenue.

H. Crawford asked staff to obtain copies of the Capital Regional District report "Putting Food and Food Policy on the Table" dated September 27, 2006. The CRD is actively promoting a Food Round Table, and the group felt it would be beneficial to request a speaker from the CRD, possibly on Cage Free Eggs.

Members considered aligning regulations and bylaws, as the various jurisdictions and regulations can be confusing and conflicting. A. Scoones felt this topic could be added to the PAC list.

H. Crawford requested that members be given a contact list of PAC members and provided a sample. He also inquired whether the Spirit Committee would be organizing a repeat of the 2007 North Saanich Flavour Trail. A. Scoones to add this to the Spirit Committee agenda.

### **DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS**

A meeting time of 4:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month was chosen. Staff will confirm the time.

The next Agricultural Advisory Commission meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on April 3, 2008.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.