



Minutes

Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

December 9, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
Carr's Landing Room, Municipal Hall
10150 Bottom Wood Lake Road
Lake Country, British Columbia V4V 2M1

Council: Councillor Tricia Brett

Staff Present: Brian Zurek, Manager of Long Range Planning
Jason Tran, Planner
Starla Weigel, Planning Clerk
Carie Liefke, Manager of Current Planning

Committee Members Present: David Grabavac, Chair
Dave McClure
Mike Budd
Sandra Follack

Guests: Kellie Garcia, Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project
Chris Zabek, Ministry of Agriculture

1. Call to Order

We acknowledge that we are conducting our business today on the unceded territory of squilx"/syilx (Okanagan) peoples. As a Committee, we recognize the importance of doing our best to build respectful relationships that contribute to stewarding the land and waters in the community with integrity and consideration for future generations.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved and seconded.

THAT the Agriculture Advisory Committee Agenda of December 9, 2024 be adopted with the following addition:

- 7.4 (b) BC Government News Article.

Carried.

3. Adoption of Minutes

It was moved and seconded.

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2024 be adopted.

Carried.

4. Zoning Bylaw Amendment | Z0000341 | District of Lake Country

Proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendment to Authorize the Keeping of Backyard Chickens.

The AAC are not in support of the Zoning Bylaw Amendment Z0000341 to authorize the keeping of backyard chickens and had some concerns.

Concerns:

1. The lot size of .125 acre (1/8) seems too small.
2. The amount of 5 hens allowed seems to be too many as there is a potential of over producing eggs and prohibited selling of eggs
3. Possible pest issue such as rat infestation.
4. Avian Influenza; quarantine limitations; what happens to chickens when they can no longer lay as there is a time period?; affects to local poultry producers; improper disposal.
5. The Premise ID system is Provincial and not enforced.
6. Concern about bylaw being followed and amount of staff resources to enforce (selling eggs, uncontrolled disposal of dead birds, neighborhood conflict, etc.)

Possible Considerations:

1. Should a larger lot size be considered?
2. Could proof of proper disposal of dead birds be included in the bylaw to keep owners accountable?
3. Could the Premise ID requirement be added to the bylaw?
4. Should a chicken permit fee be required for owners?
5. Could there be a buffer between existing poultry farms and backyard hens? Could there be a requirement that they register with the producers board (license to produce, paperwork required annually)?

It was moved and seconded.

THAT Zoning Amendment (Z0000341) Bylaw 1246, 2024 to authorize the keeping of Backyard Chickens not be supported for the following reasons:

- lot size being too small
- avian influenza (AI) transfer to farms impact to producers
- enforcement/requirement of premise ID
- disposal of birds; and
- and pest issues (rats).

Carried.

5. Agricultural Land Reserve | ALR00192 | 12820 Trewitt Road

To permit Tourism Accommodation for a short-term RV Campground on a property in the Agricultural Land Reserve.

Jason Tran, Planner, distributed a hard copy of a letter written by Nathan Cooney, property agent as it was a late submittal which is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

It was moved and seconded.

THAT Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR00192) for property at 12820 Trewitt Road, not be supported.

Carried.

OPPOSED: Sandra Follack

6. Zoning within ALR | ALR00194, Z0000335 | 14198 Middle Bench Road

To consider agri-tourism accommodation at 14198 Middle Bench Road, within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

The Applicant provided a summary of their application as well as a brochure regarding their farm, sprays, and coordination of spray.

It was moved and seconded.

THAT agri-tourism accommodation on the property at 14198 Middle Bench Road, be supported subject to an appropriate vegetation buffer being placed around the agri-tourism accommodation building.

Carried.

7. Other

The Chair called for a recess at 7:50pm and the meeting readjourned at 8:00pm.

7.1 ALC Decision - 4551 Chase Road

Jason Tran provided overview. ALC granted a home-site severance subject to conditions.

7.2 Agri-tours update

Kellie Garcia, Guest, presented a PowerPoint presentation to provide an overview of the agri-tour that occurred earlier this year.

Key points to summarize Ms. Garcia's presentation were noted as follows:

- Engage adjacent farms when conducting infrastructure upgrades to ensure their needs are met
- Cost effective agriculture waste management
- Aim for proactive and productive dialogue
- Celebrate agriculture in the community
- Educate residents about agriculture
- Another tour is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2025

7.3 Draft 2025 AAC Meeting Schedule

The draft 2025 schedule was unanimously agreed upon and accepted.

7.4 General Agricultural Information

- a. New funding supports Indigenous food sovereignty, security

Indigenous farmers, communities and governments can access new funding to help strengthen food security and sovereignty, and increase Indigenous participation in B.C.'s agriculture and food sectors.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

- b. BC Government News Article

A copy of this article was distributed at the meeting which is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

8. Next Meeting

January 13, 2025

9. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:46pm.

David Grabavac, Chair

Starla Weigel, Recording Secretary

Nathan Cooney
Ascension Professional Services
Lake Country, BC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dec 3, 2024

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to provide further relevant information and logic behind the rezoning and non-farm use application for the below property:

12820 Trew hitt Road
Lake Country, BC
V4V 2A4
Lot 31, Section 25, Township 20
PID 011-888-261

1. The property is currently zoned 'A1' and a rezoning request has been submitted to the District of Lake Country to update to 'A1-ta' to allow for the addition of a small (7 site maximum) short term RV Campground.
2. The property is included in the ALR and this non-farm use will be subject to the approval of the district of Lake Country and the ALC as well.
3. The property is 10.25 acres in size and has a single-family dwelling where the family/owner resides. There are no other outbuildings on the property.
4. The property is an active farm operation (peach orchard) with active farm status from BC Assessment. The desire to establish an RV Campground operation on the property is in order to help offset the significant volatility of the orchard industry and provide some further economic stability for the property owner.
5. The conceptual design/layout of the campground has been created in a way that no significant changes to the property are required.
 - a. There will be zero impact to the existing farming operation.
 - b. There will be zero impact to the existing environment (no tree removals required, no changes to existing boundary fencing)
 - c. Current/existing roadways will remain in place and be used for access to the campsites.
 - d. Current access/egress for the property will remain as is. The current access from Trew hitt road is approximately 30 feet wide and gated.

- e. The non-farm use approval and district re-zoning would allow for up to 7 campsites based on the property size.
- f. There will be no permanent structures added or required as a result of this development and no paving or additional gravel roadways added to the site.
- 6. Current status of the property
 - a. The property has active farm status and is being run as a peach and apple orchard by Connor Orchards Ltd. (corporation is solely owned and operated by the registered property owner, Pat Galacher.
- 7. Agri-Tourism activity
 - a. The owner/operator will not be marketing the operation as an Agri-Tourism business but rather as additional/supplemental tourism accommodation within the Lake Country region.
 - b. There will be communication done with all guests to explain the nature of the farming operation with the potential to allow for 'you pick' experiences for guests depending on the time of year.
- 8. Mitigation of farming activity on accommodation operation
 - a. The accommodation operation will be located/managed on an existing portion of the property that is not usable for farming operations.
 - b. There will be no access to any active farming operation areas, equipment, or other potential hazards that exist with the farming operation
 - c. There is fencing as well as a natural barrier (existing trees) in place to create separation between the accommodation area and the adjacent land used for farming operations.
 - d. There will be signage in place to inform guests regarding the farming operation and to ensure guests do not access the land used for farming operations.
 - e. If necessary additional trees* will be planted to create further separation
 - i. This natural barrier will also mitigate the risk of any drift from spraying** being done in the adjacent farming operations.

**Prune plum trees would be chosen, if necessary, as they do not require spraying of herbicides or pesticides yet will yield supplementary fruit to the farm.*

***Any spraying of the farm's existing trees that are relatively near to the accommodation area will be done using small, manual equipment (handheld or backpack) to further reduce the likelihood of any drift.*

If there are any questions or further clarifications needed, please advise.

Sincerely,

Nathan Cooney
Ascension Professional Services
[REDACTED] Middle Bench Road
Lake Country, BC

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British Columbia News

New funding supports Indigenous food sovereignty, security

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/31798>

Indigenous farmers, communities and governments can access new funding to help strengthen food security and sovereignty, and increase Indigenous participation in B.C.'s agriculture and food sectors.

“The new Indigenous Food Pathways program will help ensure that Indigenous Peoples, entrepreneurs and communities in British Columbia have the resources they need to succeed and grow in the sector,” said Lawrence MacAulay, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. “Our government is so pleased to partner with the Government of British Columbia, through our Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement, to deliver this important program.”

The new Indigenous Food Pathways program is supporting new projects, enhancing existing programs and improving Indigenous-led operations in the agriculture and food sector. Projects can receive as much as \$200,000 from the governments of Canada and British Columbia.

“Supporting Indigenous communities as they work toward food security, food sovereignty and economic development goals is important, and we will continue to work together to get the support and tools they require to be successful,” said Lana Popham, B.C. Minister of Agriculture and Food. “This program will help build more resilient food systems in Indigenous communities and support growing Indigenous entrepreneurs, businesses and economies around B.C.”

The program could support food and agriculture through projects such as micro-grants to Indigenous applicants interested in developing food and agriculture businesses, expanding successful Indigenous-led training programs and other initiatives to address gaps affecting Indigenous participation in the food and agriculture sectors.

The Province is also launching a free service to support Indigenous farmers, communities and governments in finding information and resources to start or expand work toward food security, food sovereignty and participation in the food and agriculture sectors. The B.C. Indigenous Pathfinder Service will connect people to existing programs, services and funding opportunities to help Indigenous-led businesses and projects meet their goals for success with food sovereignty and food security.

with goals for success with food sovereignty and food security.

Funding for the Indigenous Food Pathways program and B.C. Indigenous Pathfinder Service is provided through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year (April 1, 2023, until March 31, 2028), \$3.5-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen the competitiveness, innovation and resilience of the agriculture, agri-food and agriculture-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60% federally and 40% provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

Learn More:

Indigenous Food Pathways program:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/indigenous-food-pathways-program>

B.C. Indigenous Pathfinder Service:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/bc-indigenous-pathfinder-service>

Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership Program:

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership>

Robert Boelens

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The B.C. Public Service acknowledges the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out our work on these lands. We acknowledge the rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of all Indigenous Peoples - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit - respecting and acknowledging their distinct cultures, histories, rights, laws, and governments.