



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To PLN - JAN 8, 2013

To: Planning Committee

Date: November 28, 2012

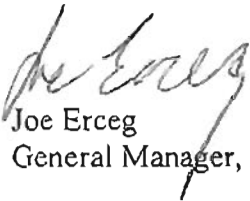
From: Joe Erceg
General Manager, Planning and Development

File: 01-0100-20-AADV1-
01/2012-Vol 01

Re: Agricultural Advisory Committee 2012 Annual Report and 2013 Work
Program

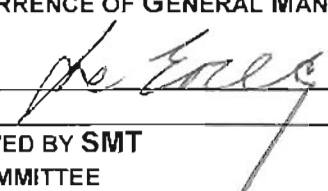


Staff Recommendation

That the 2013 Agricultural Advisory Committee work program be approved.



Joe Erceg
General Manager, Planning and Development

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
	
REVIEWED BY SMT SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 
REVIEWED BY CAO	INITIALS: 

Staff Report

Origin

The Richmond Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) was established in 2003 upon completion and Council approval of the Richmond Agricultural Viability Strategy (RAVS). A primary role of the AAC is to provide advice from an agricultural perspective to Council, City staff and other stakeholders on a wide-range of issues and projects that impact agricultural activities in Richmond and to help implement the recommendations contained in the RAVS.

In accordance with the terms of reference for the AAC, this report summarizes the activities of the Committee in 2012 and recommends a 2013 work plan for consideration and approval by Council.

AAC members had the opportunity to provide feedback into the annual report and develop the proposed work plan at a Committee meeting held on November 22, 2012.

Summary of 2012 Annual Report

The detailed 2012 annual report is contained in **Attachment 1**. The following is a brief overview of highlights of the AAC's activities and initiatives for 2012:

- Reviewed a total of 6 development proposals in and adjacent to agricultural areas for the establishment of appropriate buffers, soil fill activities, subdivision and non-farm uses. AAC review of proposals is based upon the overall impact to agricultural viability.
- Organized and hosted a Farm Tour on September 20, 2012. This agricultural awareness event involved invited agricultural stakeholders from across the region, local politicians and City staff. Tour stops included Richmond Terra Nova Rural Park, Rabbit River Farms (organic egg producer) and the new Ocean Spray cranberry processing facility. 37 people attended and participated in the event.
- Received regular updates and provided comments on various City policies and initiatives (e.g., 2041 Official Community Plan; Environmentally Sensitive Area Management Strategy).
- Received regular updates and presentations from Transportation and Engineering staff on works and projects within the Agricultural Land Reserve (e.g., East Richmond agricultural drainage and irrigation works completed for 2012; Upcoming Westminster Highway and Nelson Road widening works).
- Reviewed and updated the 2003 Richmond Agricultural Viability Strategy to assist in preparing the 2041 Official Community Plan.

Summary of Proposed 2013 Work Program

The detailed 2013 work program is contained in **Attachment 2**. The following is a summary of highlights for the proposed 2013 work program:

- Implement and support the implementation of the 2012 RAVS and 2041 Official Community Plan agricultural policies.

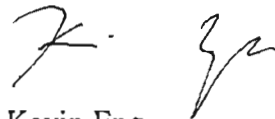
- Review development proposals forwarded to the AAC by staff and Council for review and comment from an agricultural perspective so that the Committee's comments can be considered in Council's review and consideration of specific proposals.
- Continue to receive regular updates on projects and works in or adjacent to agricultural areas so that the Committee is aware of and can comment early in the design process so that appropriate responses and changes can be made.
- Look at different options to help promote agricultural awareness and education amongst City staff, agricultural stakeholders, decision-makers (Municipal, Provincial and Federal) and the general public.
- Continue to monitor and implement the RAVS and recommend improvements as necessary.

Conclusion

The 2012 annual report for the AAC is submitted for information purposes and a work program for 2013 is recommended for Council approval.



Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning



Kevin Eng
Planner I

**2012 ANNUAL REPORT
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Agricultural Advisory Committee 2012 Accomplishments

Projects	Results Expected	Accomplishments and Comments
Development Proposals	Agricultural perspective and advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and provided comments on a total of 6 development proposals forwarded by staff. Projects covered issues related to development of agricultural landscape buffers to screen projects in and adjacent to the ALR; non-farm use proposals to enable new assembly facilities to replace old facilities; and various subdivision and soil fill (forwarded from Community Bylaws) proposals.
Richmond Policy Initiatives	Agricultural perspective and advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received regular updates and commented on the 2041 Official Community Plan update. This included reviewing and updating the 2003 RAVS. Reviewed and commented on the updated 2012 Environmentally Sensitive Area Management Strategy to be incorporated into the 2041 Official Community Plan. Discussed issues related to genetically engineered food and products as it relates to agricultural viability in Richmond with Environmental Sustainability staff to assist with a related Council referral on this matter. Received information from Environmental Sustainability staff on Provincial Riparian Area Regulations and related City Riparian Management Areas. Provided comments to City staff on accessory residential building heights in the Agriculture (AG1) zoning district.
External Agency Policy Initiatives Requests for Feedback	Provide agricultural comments and perspectives to the agency (through council) when requested.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received information on Initiatives, funding programs and farming advisory information sheets (e.g., farm practices sheets; manure spreading advisories) from Ministry of Agriculture staff.
Drainage/Irrigation Program for Agricultural Areas	Provide comments from an agricultural perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received regular updates from Engineering staff on 2012 works associated with the East Richmond Agricultural Water Supply Study. Works completed in 2012 are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of a new culvert crossing across Sidaway Road at the Francis Road allowance. Completion of the design for a lift-station along No. 8 Road with construction and installation to commence in 2013.
Major Transportation Projects	Provide comments and feedback from an agricultural perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received regular updates from the City project team on upcoming road widening planned for Westminster Highway (from Nelson Road to McMillan Way) and Nelson Road (from Westminster Highway to Blundell Road). Review and comments from AAC members focussed on ensuring that works associated with the road widening took into account existing agricultural irrigation and drainage infrastructure that are located in close proximity to road widening works.

Projects	Results Expected	Accomplishments and Comments
Public Awareness and Local Food Initiatives	Improved awareness and understanding of agriculture and its role in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized and hosted a Farm Tour on September 20, 2012 that involved elected officials, local and regional agricultural stakeholders, City staff and community groups. The Farm Tour focussed on 3 itinerary stops that highlighted agricultural viability on multiple scales, which was the theme of this year's event. There was a total of 37 attendees at the event. Received information on local food awareness events. Received information on a Richmond Food Security Society project to conduct a food land inventory for Richmond to identify potential food production sites within the City.
General Agricultural Related Issues	Identify specific projects and initiatives that impact agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received updates from the Metro Vancouver AAC pertaining to projects that have received grant funding from Metro Vancouver and other agricultural initiatives and projects being undertaken by the region. Reviewed and provided comments on a new research project proposal by Kwantlen Institute of Sustainable Horticulture.

List of Development Proposals Reviewed in 2011

Application No.	Address of property	Proposed use
AG 11-566932	11014 Westminster Highway	Non-farm use proposal to develop a new congregation hall to replace the old facility on the same property that has existing Assembly (ASY) zoning.
RZ 11-582929	7471 and 7451 No. 4 Road	Low-density residential proposal adjacent to the ALR. Review of ALR landscape buffer provisions to be incorporated into the development.
DP 11-566011	Ecowaste industrial lands (East Richmond)	General updates and refinements made to the proposed ALR landscape buffer to be incorporated into the proposed industrial development.
N/A	12871 Steveston Highway	Non-farm use proposal to place fill on the subject site to facilitate farming (blueberry production) on the subject site.
AG 12-613731	9811/9771 No. 6 Road	Non-farm use application to realign existing lots. Proposed subdivision does not result in any creation of new lots in the ALR.
AG 12-613731	19000 River Road	Non-farm use application to subdivide a small parcel (located on the foreshore of the north arm of the Fraser River) from the larger upland parcel.

**2013 WORK PROGRAM
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

AAC Role in the Work Program

- Assist in implementing the 2041 Official Community Plan and 2012 Richmond Agricultural Viability Strategy (RAVS).
- Provide comments and feedback, from an agricultural perspective, to Richmond City Council and staff on works and services, development and major projects being undertaken in and adjacent to the ALR.
- Receive for information, reports and materials forwarded from external agencies (Ministry of Agriculture, Metro Vancouver, ALC, NGO's). Provide comments and feedback (through Council) when requested.
- Participate in public meetings and consult on work program projects.
- Continue to improve local agricultural awareness and education initiatives and take the lead role in organizing agricultural showcase events.
- Receive regular updates on projects and works related to agriculture.
- Ensure that all City Divisions liaise with the AAC as early as possible on works deemed to have an impact on farming so that the Committee can be consulted. These proactive initiatives will help to inform agricultural stakeholders of forthcoming works and enable comments and feedback to be given where appropriate.

AAC Proposed 2013 Work Program

Projects	Results Expected	Objectives and Deliverables
Major Development Projects	Agricultural perspective and advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review proposals forwarded to the AAC from staff or Council. • Provide comments and work with proponents to modify development proposals to address Committee comments when needed.
Transportation Works and Projects	Agricultural perspective and input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to receive updates and provide comments on transportation works in and adjacent to ALR land that may impact agriculture. • Work to engage the AAC early and with regularly scheduled updates to ensure that potential agricultural impacts are known and addressed. • Receive information from Transportation and Community Bylaws staff based on monitoring of truck traffic activity along Westminster Highway (between No. 6 Road and Nelson Road) since the completion of the Nelson Road Interchange project. • Receive regular updates on the Westminster Highway and Nelson Road planned widening relating to detailed design and construction activity. • Review and comment on non-farm use soil fill applications forwarded to the AAC by Community Bylaws staff.

Projects	Results Expected	Objectives and Deliverables
Transportation Works and Projects (continued)	Agricultural perspective and input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> George Massey Tunnel replacement project – continue to receive updates on the project, upcoming consultation and requested stakeholder feedback from the Ministry of Transportation project team.
Richmond Agricultural Viability Strategy Policy Updates and Initiatives	Agricultural perspective and input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and update the recommendations of the RAVS based on the progress and work completed in the proposed 2013 work program. Provide feedback on agricultural related policy initiatives.
Drainage and Irrigation	Agricultural perspective and input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive regular updates from Engineering staff on available funding and the proposed design and construction of drainage and irrigation works. Additional modelling is planned for East Richmond agricultural areas to update the overall East Richmond Agricultural Water Supply Study based on works completed since 2006. Findings will be communicated to the AAC, which will help guide future drainage and irrigation works.
Public Awareness and Local Food Initiatives	Improved awareness and understanding of agriculture and its role in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AAC to examine options to look at promoting local agricultural and food awareness. Implementation of agricultural signage (no trespassing; no crop theft) in the Gilmore agricultural area in partnership with the Parks Department.
Agricultural Data System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update agriculture related statistics based on current data figures. Identify latest trends related to agriculture and how they impact the Richmond Agricultural Viability Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City staff to obtain updated statistics and data on agriculture and report findings and trends to the AAC as needed. Receive for information the Agricultural Land Use Inventory Map and accompanying report from the Ministry of Agriculture. Update the City's website as appropriate.
AAC Action Items Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tool used by the Committee to monitor specific initiatives and projects of importance to the AAC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to utilize the AAC Action Items Table to report progress on initiatives and projects.