

1. Role of the Committee

The **Agriculture Advisory Committee** will advise the City of Penticton Council on agricultural issues within the community including:

- Applications initiated under the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and *Soil Conservation Act*;
- Applications to amend the City's Official Community Plan (OCP) and bylaws where the subject property is zoned Agriculture or has a direct impact on agriculturally zoned parcels;
- Assisting with comprehensive reviews or development of agricultural area plans, farm 'edge' policies;
- Provide comment on irrigation, drainage and other water management issues impacting agricultural lands;
- Report on the impacts of park and recreation proposals on agriculture;
- Provide comment on the effectiveness of noxious insect and weed control regulations and programs;
- Raise awareness of agriculture and enhance an understanding of agriculture's role in the local economy.

In reviewing of applications and bylaws, the Committee shall comment on the following:

- The effect of the proposal on the agricultural potential of the subject property;
- The effect of the proposal on the adjacent ALR properties and surrounding agricultural production;
- The effect of the proposal on water resources and transportation issues;
- The impact of the application on the maintenance of the ALR;
- The identification of issues relating to the protection of the ALR lands specific to the application, including the use of appropriate buffering techniques aimed at enhancing land use compatibility.

The Committee will not participate in operational matters respecting the City of Penticton.

2. Membership

The Committee shall consist of up to **NINE (9)** volunteer voting members appointed by the City of Penticton Council representing the agricultural community in areas such as, but not limited to, greenhouse and nursery products, tree fruits, wine/grapes, livestock and agricultural processing or distribution or from the community at large.

3. Qualifications

The following are considered minimum qualifications to serve on the Committee:

- Available to attend most Committee meetings (electronic or in-person);
- Ability to objectively review complex applications and planning considerations;
- Understanding of the agriculture planning framework and planning instruments including but not limited to the City of Penticton's Official Community Plan, Zoning and other bylaws;
- Access to a computer and an e-mail address in order to participate electronically in meetings and to receive and respond to communications and information including committee meeting agenda packages.

4. Appointment and Term

The Committee will run concurrent with the four-year term of Council. Members will be appointed by Council. A majority of appointed voting members shall constitute a quorum. Members must make a reasonable effort to notify staff at least two days before the meeting if they are unable to attend.

Council shall appoint one (1) non-voting Council representative to the Committee. The Council representative will be the liaison to the rest of Council and will report on the work of the Committee. The Mayor or Deputy Mayor will act as alternate Council representative.

The Committee members shall appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair.

5. Meeting Procedures

The Committee will recognize that each meeting requires a significant commitment of staff resources and meeting should therefore be held when there are clear items of business to address. The Committee shall meet quarterly, or as required when Council refers a new piece of business to the Committee requiring immediate action. For certainty, the rules and procedures of Council Procedure Bylaw and all amendments thereto shall be observed as far as may be applicable.

The Development Services Department will provide the staff liaison and technical support for the Committee. The Legislative Services Department will provide meeting management and recording support for the Committee.

6. Conflict of Interest

All Committee members are expected to review and sign a Conflict of Interest Declaration and adhere to the requirements set out in the declaration.

If a Committee member attending a meeting considers that he or she is not entitled to participate in the discussion of a matter or to vote on a question in respect of a matter because the member has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the matter, or for any other reason, the member must declare this and state the general nature of why he or she considers this to be the case and immediately leave the meeting or the part of the meeting during which the matter is under consideration.

The member's declaration must be recorded in the minutes, and the Committee member must not attempt in any way, whether before, during or after the meeting to influence the voting on any question in respect to the matter.

7. Removal of a Member from Committee

Council may remove a Committee member from a Committee for good and sufficient reason, which may include any of the following, without limitation:

- (a) the absence of a Committee member from three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled Committee meetings, unless the absence is because of illness or is with leave of the Committee;
- (b) a finding by Council that the Committee member has engaged in misconduct, such as bullying or harassment of another Committee member or a City employee; or
- (c) participation by a Committee member in circumstances where the Committee member has a conflict of interest.

In any case where Council proposes to remove a member from a Committee, the member will be provided with notice and an opportunity to be heard by Council prior to Council voting on the matter.

8. Resignation

Any member may resign upon sending written notice to the Corporate Officer.

In the event of a vacancy occurring during a regular term, the vacancy may be filled for the remainder of that term in the same way the initial appointments were made.

9. Confidentiality and Closed Meeting

All Committee members are expected to review and sign a Confidentiality Declaration and adhere to the requirements set out in the declaration.

No meeting or part thereof shall be closed to the public except in accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*. Should a Closed meeting be held by the Committee, members must keep in confidence, any information considered in any part of said meeting until such time as the information is released to the public as lawfully authorized or required. Should the municipality suffer loss or damage due to contravention of confidentiality, the municipality may recover damages from the person(s) for the loss or damage.