



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

TERMS OF REFERENCE – Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee

A SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN ESTABLISHED UNDER s. 218 OF THE *LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT*

ENDORSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON:

December 12, 2018

CONDUCT AND APPLICATION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE:

The conduct and application of rules and procedure for the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee shall be in accordance with Regional District of North Okanagan Procedures Bylaw and all Regional District policies.

PURPOSE:

The Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee ('RAAC') is a volunteer advisory committee that is being established to assist the Board of Directors in protecting, enhancing and promoting agriculture within the Regional District of North Okanagan ('Regional District'). The Committee's role is to advise the Board of Directors on land use, economic development with respect to agriculture, and other agricultural matters. The Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee has been established by the Board of Directors in accordance with these adopted Terms of Reference. Committee members are bound by these Terms of Reference and the Committee recommendations are non-binding and intended to be advisory in nature.

The provisions of the *Regional District of North Okanagan Procedure Bylaw No. 2750, 2016* govern the proceedings of the RAAC.

DEFINED RESPONSIBILITIES/ SCOPE:

The RAAC is established to, at the direction of the Board of Directors, engage in but not be limited to any of the following possible roles:

- (a) To review and provide recommendations to the Board of Directors on land use applications, plans or policies that affect the ALR or agricultural operations;
- (b) Advise and assist the Board of Directors on regional agricultural and food system related issues;
- (c) Review from an agricultural perspective, issues, plans and specific development proposals;
- (d) Liaison with local agricultural advisory committees, British Columbia Agriculture Council, and the Ministry of Agriculture, and
- (e) Promote public awareness and education on agricultural issues in the North Okanagan;

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| | <p>(f) Provide recommendations to the Board of Directors on ways to preserve, protect and support agriculture within the Regional District of North Okanagan; and,</p> <p>(g) To identify priority projects for the implementation of the Regional Agricultural Plan.</p> <p>The RAAC consider the following when reviewing applications or agricultural related issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the effect of the proposal on the agricultural potential of the subject property; (b) the effect of the proposal on adjoining ALR properties and surrounding agricultural operations; (c) possible acceptable alternatives to the proposal, where deemed appropriate; and, (d) the identification of issues relating to the protection of ALR lands specific to the application. <p>The RAAC may also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) propose to the Board of Directors educational and public awareness programs related to agriculture in the Regional District; (b) recommend to the Board of Directors support for projects that promote or encourage local agriculture; and (c) make recommendations on agricultural policies and advise the Board of Directors on policy issues relating to agricultural land and appropriate land uses in agricultural areas. |
| <p>COMPOSITION:</p> | <p>The Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee will be comprised of 23 voting members as follows:</p> <p>Elected officials (one year terms):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Three (3) Electoral Area Directors of the Board of Directors; – Three (3) Municipal Directors of the Board of Directors (City of Armstrong, City of Enderby, Village of Lumby, City of Vernon); – one (1) representative from the District of Coldstream and one (1) from the Township of Spallumcheen as these municipalities have a large agricultural land base; <p>Members of the Community (two year terms):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a maximum of nine (9) agricultural producer representatives that reflect the agricultural diversity of the North Okanagan; – a maximum of one (1) person representing agricultural fair boards or farmers’ market associations; – a maximum of one (1) person representing agricultural commodity processing, distribution and/or retailing; – a maximum of two (2) members-at-large appointed by the Board of Directors with priority given to those who are knowledgeable about agriculture in its’ various forms; and, – a maximum of two (2) person representing young farmers. |

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| | <p>The Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee may also include non-voting members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a representative from the Ministry of Agriculture; - a representative from the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission; - Regional District of North Okanagan Board Chair; - Electoral Area Directors; - planning staff from the Regional District of North Okanagan; and - Others as required |
| APPOINTMENTS: | Appointments shall be by resolution of the Board. |
| APPOINTMENTS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residency- Members should reside in the Regional District of North Okanagan; • Agricultural Expertise and Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrated knowledge of agricultural and related rural land use issues; ○ Relevant farm experience; ○ Involvement with activities of the agricultural community; ○ Technical training in an agriculture-based field; and/or ○ Knowledge of properties and farm operations within the North Okanagan. • Rural Experience- For applicant from the non-farm community consideration will be given to the individual’s level of knowledge of agricultural and related rural issues. The relevance of their interests to the mandate of RAAC will also be an important consideration • Availability- It is important that an applicant be able to attend as many RAAC meetings as possible and undertake work outside of the regular monthly meetings. An applicant should be able to be contacted or reached during the day in order for meetings to be arranged. |
| CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR: | The Committee shall, at its first meeting elect a Chair and Vice Chair from amongst its members who shall serve until the end of that calendar year. In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Committee members present may elect, from among themselves, an Acting Chair for that meeting. |
| TERM: | Members of the RAAC shall be appointed for a two year term, in the month of September to commence their term of office on January 1st of the following year. Staff will recommend new RAAC members upon completion of exiting member’s terms; new membership is to be ratified by the Board. If there are no new interested individuals who have put their names forward existing members whose terms have expired can continue on for additional terms if interested. |
| REPORTING: | The Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee is an advisory Committee to the Board of Directors and recommendations from the |

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| | Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee shall be forwarded to the following Board of Directors meeting for consideration. |
| REMUNERATION: | No member of the RAAC shall receive any remuneration for services, however, a member shall be reimbursed for any reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred on behalf of and previously approved by the Board of Directors, including mileage costs to and from RAAC meetings. |
| OTHER: | For clarity, these Terms of Reference do not delegate any authority or corporate powers to the Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee. |