
DRAFT

Electoral Area A & Town of Osoyoos Agricultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

The Agricultural Area Plan Project:

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in partnership with the Town of Osoyoos is initiating the preparation of an Agricultural Area Plan (AAP) for the area covered by Electoral Area 'A' and the Town of Osoyoos. The AAP will provide a framework for decision-making over the next ten to twenty years. The plan will be a flexible, working document, based upon community aspirations, that readily adapts to changing circumstances.

To accomplish this planning project, the RDOS and the Town of Osoyoos, will undertake a community based assessment of local agricultural needs and priorities. The process will include a range of local government decision-makers, staff, community leaders, agricultural groups, and the public in determining the needs and establishing agricultural strategies specific to the study area.

Through a community based process, a land based plan will be established with strategies intended to support and enhance the position of the agricultural sector within the rural Osoyoos area.

Context

In 2009, the Regional Board determined a number of strategic priority projects to be initiated for 2010. One of these priorities included developing an Agricultural Plan for Electoral Area 'A'. Coincidental to the RDOS establishing priorities, the Town of Osoyoos also determined that a review of agricultural lands within the Town's boundaries was required. Working in partnership the RDOS and the Town of Osoyoos are undertaking the development of an Agricultural Area Plan, the preparation of which will be guided by a locally appointed Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC).

The Agricultural Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) is two-fold. First, the AAC will guide the preparation of Agricultural Area Plan (AAP) by working with the consultant and staff to provide a series of land based recommendations and strategies intended to support and enhance the agricultural sector within Area A and Osoyoos. And second, the AAC will play a role in monitoring the implementation of the Agricultural Area Plan and by advising the RDOS and the Town of Osoyoos on an ongoing basis regarding issues specific to completing the AAP.

Terms of Reference – Phase One

The primary purpose of the AAC during Phase 1, the development of the AAP, is to lead the process of drafting the AAP. The Committee should reflect the diverse agricultural community of the Rural and Town of Osoyoos region. To that end, the composition of the committee should give consideration to location of residence, commodity types, age, gender and interests. The Committee should be seen to be a 'committee of the community' seeking input, comments and feedback in a regular and timely manner.

The primary objective of the AAC during Phase 1 is to deliver to the Regional District's Board of Directors and Town of Osoyoos's councillors, a draft Agricultural Area Plan that has been vetted through a thorough public process.

The draft AAP will be developed by the consultant and staff with direction provided by the AAC and will be presented to the RDOS Board and the Town of Osoyoos for endorsement. Reviewing and possibly developing a revised timeline should be the second objective for the AAC. The public process should be seen to be open, thorough, welcoming, engaging, imaginative, inclusive and substantive.

Composition of the AAC

Membership on the AAC will be determined by the RDOS Board. The committee will consist of the chosen with the following criteria, in addition to others that the Board may wish to consider:

- A ratio of regional members and town members with the regional members forming a majority
- Political representation from the Town and the RDOS
- Members from a range of commodity producers, geographic areas, ages, and genders, who are able to attend regular scheduled meetings

Ideally the number of committee members should range from 8 to 12.

Terms of Reference- Phase 2

The AAC is intended also to play a role in monitoring the implementation of the AAP and by advising the RDOS on an ongoing basis regarding issues specific to the enhancement of the agricultural sector subsequent to the AAP being completed. The detailed terms of reference for the AAC for this ongoing role will be developed as part of the process of drafting the AAP with the consultant. The draft terms of reference for phase 2 will be presented as part of the draft AAP to the RDOS Board and Town of Osoyoos for consideration.