



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Todd Cashin
Director of Community Services

DATE: February 24, 2020

SUBJECT: Advisory Commission Appointments – File: 0540-20

Voting Entitlement: All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority – LGA 208.1

Purpose: To consider the appointment of a member to the Agricultural Advisory Commission as well as the re-appointment of two existing members.

Executive Summary:

The Agricultural Advisory Commission (AAC) functions as an Advisory Planning Commission to the Regional Board. All members are volunteers and appointed by the Regional Board.

In accord with the AAC Terms of Reference, membership shall consist of three to eight voting members. Appointing one new member and re-appointing two existing members would bring the total membership to seven, which is in accordance with the AAC Terms of Reference (as amended January 28, 2019). Furthermore, the re-appointment of existing AAC members would allow for continuity throughout the membership with an overlap of various terms.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

THAT the Regional Board approve the appointment of Megan Ludwig as a member of the Agricultural Advisory Commission for a three-year term (February 2020 – February 2023).

RECOMMENDATION #2:

THAT the Regional Board approve the re-appointment of Andreas Wins-Purdy and Leo Gebert to three-year terms as members of the Agricultural Advisory Commission (February 2020 – February 2023).

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Cashin".

Todd Cashin
Director of Community Services

Approved for Board's Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Reardon".

Brian Reardon, CAO

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	Appointing a member to the AAC and reappointing two members meets the 2019-2022 Strategic Priorities Plan.
Policy:	Appointing a member to the AAC and reappointing two members complies with policies and objectives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official Community Plans and Joe Rich Rural Land Use Bylaw,• Agricultural Plan, and• Agricultural Advisory Commission Terms of Reference (as amended January 2019).
Legal/Statutory Authority:	Appointing a member to the AAC and reappointing two members is in compliance with <i>Local Government Act</i> , Section 461.

Background:

The AAC is an Advisory Planning Commission of the Regional Board. The Commission was established in 1994 and provides advice to the Board and staff regarding agricultural issues and the potential impact of planning decisions on agriculture. The primary objective of the AAC is to provide local perspective and expertise to advise the Regional Board on the protection and enhancement of agricultural lands within the RDCO.

The Terms of Reference outlines that the AAC membership shall be comprised of not less than three or more than eight volunteer individuals who reside within the RDCO. The membership will reflect a diversity of agricultural professions, practices, sectors and commodity groups. Appointments are for a three-year term; a member may be re-appointed to serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms.

Current:

There are currently eight volunteer members on the AAC; four members' first terms have either recently expired or are set to expire. Two existing members have requested to be considered for re-appointment and one new applicant is requesting to be considered for appointment.

To ensure the Commission remains in compliance with the membership criteria identified in the Terms of Reference, Planning staff is recommending that one person be appointed and two people be re-appointed as Commission members. These appointments will ensure that there is overlap of new and experienced members. The following proposed appointments will bring expertise and knowledge that will be of great value to the AAC:

- Leo Gebert, of Kelowna, owns and operates St. Hubertus Vineyard and possesses an in depth knowledge of how agriculture functions in the Okanagan. Leo has previously volunteered with the City of Kelowna's Agriculture Advisory Commission and the BC Wine and Grape Council.
- Andreas Wins-Purdy, of Kelowna, holds the position of Integrated Pest Management Section Head for the Ministry of Environment, is an Professional Agrologist and has a Master's of Science degree (entomology) from the University of Alberta. Andreas has worked on a number of files relating to agriculture, majority of which were precipitated by complaints from the public about pesticide spraying at the agriculture-urban interface.

- Megan Ludwig, of Kelowna, is a Water Resources Scientist for a local consulting firm. Some of her experience includes completing agricultural impact assessments, agricultural capability assessments, soil studies, and water quality monitoring. Her volunteer experience includes the Shuswap Water Council Advisory Committee and local mountain bike clubs.

Both Mr. Gebert and Mr. Wins-Purdy have been valuable assets to the AAC over the last few years and have expressed a desire to remain on the AAC for additional three-year terms. Ms. Ludwig has recently applied to become an AAC member and her contributions will benefit the Commission.

Alternative Recommendation #1:

THAT the Regional Board not appoint new Agricultural Advisory Commission members at this time.

Alternative Recommendation #2:

THAT the Regional Board not re-appoint Agricultural Advisory Commission members at this time.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

- *General*
- *Organizational*
- *Financial*
- *External Implications*

Attachment(s): N/A