



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Todd Cashin
Director of Community Services

DATE: October 14, 2021

SUBJECT: Advisory Planning Commission Appointments (File: 0540-20)

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority – LGA 208*

Purpose: To consider appointing new members and re-appointing existing members to the Regional Board's Advisory Planning Commissions.

Executive Summary:

The Regional District has three advisory commissions to advise the Regional Board on matters referred to them respecting land use, bylaw amendments, permit applications, referrals or specific planning projects. Applications for volunteer members are always welcome and on an annual basis RDCO staff actively recruit to fill vacancies on each of the commissions. All commissions would benefit from additional members, reflecting a diverse set of background and interests. As such, several new commission member appointments and re-appointments are being proposed.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

THAT the Regional Board approve the appointment of David Thomas as a member of the Central Okanagan West Advisory Planning Commission for a four-year term (October 2021 – October 2025).

RECOMMENDATION #2:

THAT the Regional Board approve the appointment of Aaron Godin, Gary Schnierer, Jonathan Blais, and John Nurkowski as members of the Agricultural Advisory Commission for three-year terms (October 2021 – October 2024).

RECOMMENDATION #3:

THAT the Regional Board approve the appointment of Susan Ames as a member of the Environmental Advisory Commission for a three-year term (October 2021 – October 2024).

RECOMMENDATION #4:

THAT the Regional Board approve the re-appointment of Les Gyug and Robert Bonnell as members of the Environmental Advisory Commission for a second three-year term (October 2021 – October 2024).

Respectfully Submitted:



Todd Cashin
Director of Community Services

Approved for Board's Consideration



Corie Griffiths,
Director of Corporate Services/
Acting CAO

Prepared by: Brittany Lange, Environmental Planner

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	Appointing members to Advisory Planning Commissions supports the 2019-2022 Strategic Priorities Plan with respect to Sustainable Communities and Environment.
Policy:	Appointing members to Advisory Planning Commissions complies with policies and objectives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advisory Planning Commission Bylaw No. 1229;• Agricultural Advisory Commission Terms of Reference; and,• Environmental Advisory Commission Terms of Reference.
Legal/Statutory Authority:	Appointing members to Advisory Planning Commissions is subject to the provisions found in Section 461 of the <i>Local Government Act</i> .

Background:

The Regional Board appoints citizens to several advisory groups that review and provide comments relating to different environmental, agricultural, and land use planning issues in the electoral areas. As part of the public consultation process, applications and bylaw amendments are referred to the appropriate advisory group for review. Those comments are then included in reports to the Regional Board for consideration in the decision-making process.

Central Okanagan West Advisory Planning Commission (APC):

The mandate of the APC is to provide the Board and staff advice on local and regional policy changes with an emphasis on how those issues might impact the community. The APC advises on land use issues, the preparation and adoption of official community plans, and proposed bylaws or permits. There are currently five volunteer members on the Central Okanagan West APC. The Electoral Area Director has indicated support for the proposed member, whose appointment would bring the Commission to six volunteers in accordance with Advisory

Planning Commission Bylaw No. 1229. Planning staff is recommending the appointment of one additional Commission member:

- David Thomas, of Kelowna, has experience in land use applications and is familiar with local government and public processes.

Agricultural Advisory Commission (AAC):

The AAC provides advice to the Board and staff regarding agricultural issues and the potential impact of planning decisions on agriculture. The Terms of Reference outlines that membership of the AAC shall be comprised of not less than three or more than eight volunteer individuals who reside within the Regional District of Central Okanagan. Furthermore, the membership will reflect a diversity of agricultural professions, practices, sectors, and commodity groups and will include a designated representative of the provincial Ministry of Agriculture. Appointments are for a three-year term; a member may be re-appointed to serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms.

There are currently four volunteer members on the AAC. To ensure the Commission remains in compliance with the Terms of Reference, Planning staff is recommending four new appointments. The following proposed appointments will bring expertise and knowledge that will be of great value to the AAC:

- Aaron Godin, has experience related to the extraction and refinement of cannabis processing and specializes in the cannabis production process and soil biochemistry.
- Gary Schrier has 35 years of experience in the agriculture sector. Gary spent several years on City of Kelowna's AAC in the 1990s and was the winner of the Golden Apple award from the BC Tree Fruits Growers' Association in 2018.
- Jonathan Blais specialized in agro-economics and financial analysis.
- John Nurkowski is a professional geologist with over 30 years of experience working in oil and gas for both industry and government.

Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC):

The EAC provides advice to the Board and staff regarding environmental matters including the protection, enhancement, restoration, management, and appreciation of our common natural heritage. Further, the Commission supports and promotes Regional District environmental initiatives.

The Terms of Reference outlines that membership of the EAC shall be comprised of not less than eight or more than thirteen volunteer individuals who reside within the Regional District of Central Okanagan. Appointments are for a three-year term; a member may be re-appointed to serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms. Furthermore, the membership will reflect a diversity of environmental professions and professionals, with academic or technical qualifications or demonstrated interest and participation in environmental and community matters. There are currently eleven volunteer members on the EAC and Planning staff is recommending one new appointment:

- Susan Ames has a broad understanding of the environment and has participated in reviewing the Official Community Plan for the City of Kelowna and provided a technical review of the biosolids program.

The following two members are recommended for re-appointment to serve for a second three-year term:

- Les Gyug, of West Kelowna, is the current Chair of the EAC, and has served two previous terms on the Commission since his initial involvement in 1995.
- Robert Bonnell, of Kelowna, has extensive knowledge on integrated watershed management and irrigation/drainage. Robert was previously a member of the municipal environmental consulting committee with the town of St. Donat du Montcalm, Quebec which played a major role in developing shoreline regulations when the local lake experienced cyanobacteria outbreaks.

Financial Considerations:

The members of an advisory planning commission must serve without remuneration but may be paid reasonable and necessary expenses that arise directly out of the performance of their duties.

Alternative Recommendation #1:

THAT the Regional Board not appoint a new Central Okanagan West Advisory Planning Commission member at this time.

Alternative Recommendation #2:

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

Alternative Recommendation #3:

THAT the Regional Board not appoint a new Regional District Environmental Advisory Commission member at this time.

Alternative Recommendation #4:

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

Considerations not applicable to this report:

- *Organizational*
- *External*

Attachment(s):

- N/A