



# DISTRICT OF COLDSTREAM MEMORANDUM

TO Mayor and Council

FILE NO. 0360-21  
6500-03 (2007)  
1850-01-09(2007)

FROM Craig Broderick, MCIP  
Director of Development Services

DATE October 17, 2007

SUBJECT **AGRICULTURAL AREA PLAN –  
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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## 1. Purpose

To obtain Council approval for the establishment of an ad hoc Agriculture Advisory Committee whose term will terminate upon completion of the District of Coldstream's Agricultural Area Plan.

## 2. Origin

Verbal request from the Investment Agriculture Foundation.

## 3. Background/Discussion

At their Regular Meeting held December 4, 2006, Council adopted the following Resolution No. REG2006-0630:

*THAT staff investigate the possibility of grant funding to assist in the development of an Agricultural Land Reserve Policy that could be included in the Official Community Plan, similar to the District of Summerland.*

The primary thrust of the Agricultural Area Plan is to establish clear policies that serve to protect and promote agriculture while preserving the rural character of Coldstream. The intent is to amend the Official Community Plan to support the Agricultural Area Plan so that both plans are consistent and mutually supportive. Subsequent zoning, subdivision or other bylaw amendments would follow OCP adoption.

In August 2007, staff submitted two grant applications for funding to prepare an Agricultural Area Plan:

- Grant request to the Investment Agriculture Foundation for \$13,500
- Grant request to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands for \$10,000

Total costs for completion of the Plan are projected to be \$43,500 (including \$5,000 in-kind support from the District), to begin January 2008 and be completed by December 2008.

The Investment Agriculture Foundation has verbally confirmed approval of the \$13,500 grant, contingent upon two conditions: (1) confirmation of other funding, i.e. \$10,000 from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and (2) the names of members comprising an Agriculture Advisory Committee, i.e., "a local agricultural organization that is directly involved in the development and management of the proposal". Eligible expenditures incurred by the District towards development of the Agricultural Area Plan can be claimed beginning October 12, 2007, which is the date of the Foundation's decision to grant the District's Plan.

In the grant applications submitted by the District, we advised that the Agricultural Area Plan will be managed by a specifically created Committee of Council. This Agriculture Advisory Committee is anticipated to consist of:

- One representative of Council
- One representative of the Advisory Planning Commission
- Two representatives from the farming/agriculture community
- One representative from the residential community at large
- One representative of Coldstream Ranch
- Director of Development Services (non-voting)
- Consultant (non-voting)

The Ministry subsequently requested that Ministry staff be added as a non-voting technical resource. They also suggested the District may wish to invite the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission staff to participate, to address matters related to the ALR.

The project design for the Agricultural Area plan has yet to be finalized, as the study steering committee and consultant will need to provide input as to how the project will be structured. A preliminary description is as follows:

- Establish steering committee and select principal consultant(s).
- Start-up meeting with steering committee and consultants to finalize objectives, establish process and review major issues to be addressed.
- Prepare background report and related mapping to document the current status of agriculture in the community. The comprehensive community survey completed during the 2005 OCP will be reviewed to help identify issues to be addressed.
- Agricultural Area Plan – Draft #1.
- Review with steering committee.

- Review with Ministry of Agriculture and Lands staff.
- Review with Provincial Agricultural Land Commission staff.
- Public workshop.
- Agricultural Area Plan – Draft #2.
- Review with Council.
- Preparation of OCP and Zoning Bylaw amendments as required.
- Public Hearing.
- Adoption of bylaws.
- Creation of public educational materials highlighting results of the study.  
This information will be available in print and on-line.

#### **4. Conclusion**

In order to enter into a contract with the Investment Agriculture Foundation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands for funding of the District's Agricultural Area Plan, the District is required to provide the names of members comprising an Agriculture Advisory Committee. Council approval is required for the establishment of this Committee and subsequently for approval of Committee members.

#### **5. Recommendation**

THAT the report from the Director of Development Services, dated October 17, 2007, regarding Agricultural Area Plan – Establishment of an Agriculture Advisory Committee, be received;

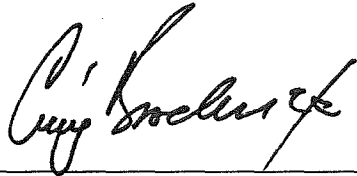
AND THAT Council strike an Agriculture Advisory Committee to manage the creation of an Agricultural Area Plan for the District, comprised of:

- One representative of Council
- One representative of the Advisory Planning Commission
- Two representatives from the farming/agriculture community
- One representative from the residential community at large
- One representative of Coldstream Ranch
- One representative from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (non-voting)
- Director of Development Services (non-voting)
- Consultant (non-voting)

AND THAT Councillor Jim Garlick be appointed as the District's representative on the Agriculture Advisory Committee;

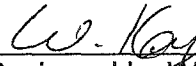
AND THAT staff be requested to bring forward a report for Council's consideration, listing the names of potential representatives and consultant who would be interested in sitting on the Committee;

AND FURTHER THAT the Agriculture Advisory Committee will terminate upon completion of the Agricultural Area Plan.



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Submitted by Craig Broderick  
Director of Development Services



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Reviewed by Wendy Kay  
Chief Administrative Officer

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