



**THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH  
Minutes of the Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission**

**March 12, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**

**FH1 Boardroom**

**1512 Keating Cross Road**

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**Present:** Mike Doehnel (Chair), Katie Underwood (Vice-Chair), Paul Bains, Emily Harris, Larry Sluggett, Diane Williamson, Councillor Donaldson (Metchosin), Councillor Thompson (Central Saanich)

**Absent:** Jeni Michell, Councillor De Vries (Saanich), Councillor Stock (North Saanich)

**Government Representatives Present:** Noah Brotman, CRD (Farmlands Trust); Megan Halstead, Ministry of Agriculture & Food; Samantha Hammond, CRD (Geese)

**Staff Present:** Emilie Gorman, Director of Corporate Services/Corporate Officer (Central Saanich); Kerri Clark, Manager of Planning (Central Saanich); Molly Rose, Planner (Saanich)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair respectfully acknowledged that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the W̱SÁNEĆ people which includes W̱JOLEŁP (Tsartlip) and S̱ÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nations.

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**3.1 Agenda of the March 12, 2026 Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission Meeting**

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

*That the agenda of the March 12, 2026 Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission meeting be approved as circulated.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

##### 4.1 Minutes of the February 3, 2026 Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission Meeting MOVED AND SECONDED

*That the minutes of the February 3, 2026 Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission meeting be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 5. REPORTS

##### 5.1 Chair's Report

The Chair provided an update on recent agricultural and food-security-related engagement within the community, including:

- CRD Environment Committee: Eight local farmers presented concerns regarding geese impacts on agricultural lands. Commissioners were encouraged to review the meeting.
- Central Saanich Farmers Meeting: Attendance included speakers from the CRD, the Ministry of Agriculture, municipal staff, and community members. Topics discussed included water availability, drainage challenges, geese management, and regulations related to on-farm food processing and consumption.
- North Saanich Agriculture & Food Security Advisory Committee: The Chair attended as a public observer and noted significant discussion regarding the complexity and ambiguity of ALC regulations; inconsistencies in local Terms of Reference for Agricultural Advisory Committees; and concerns about committee roles, timing, and the effectiveness of input to local governments.

The Chair encouraged members bring forward action items for consideration under New Business, with the goal of identifying focused priorities for the coming year.

The Chair advised that territorial acknowledgements will now be provided by different Commissioners on a rotating basis to encourage meaningful and personal reflection.

##### 5.2 Treasurer's Report

The District of Central Saanich's Corporate Officer provided an update of the four municipality's draft budgets and responded to questions from the Committee. The Budgets are for administration and educational events, with the following numbers:

- District of Central Saanich: \$6,000
- District of North Saanich: \$5,500 (current year) and \$2,600 (remaining from previous year)
- District of Metchosin: \$2,000
- District of Saanich: \$2,000 (for educational events, funding has been confirmed for administration)

5.3 Appointment (Recruitment) Update - District of Metchosin (Verbal)

The District of Metchosin's Council Liaison, Councillor Donaldson, provided a verbal update on their continued work to seek appointments to the Committee.

5.4 Ministry of Agriculture and Food - AAC Event (Verbal)

The District of Central Saanich's Council Liaison, Councillor Thompson, and the Chair provided an update on the AAC Event, including:

- Agricultural tourism accommodation;
- Equestrian concerns;
- How local Council's should take a definitive stand;
- Dumping rules in Central Saanich;
- Changes for applications; and
- The need for clearer, more prescriptive ALC regulations to reduce interpretive ambiguity and improve consistency in application assessments.

5.5 Capital Regional District - Goose Update (Verbal)

The CRD representative, Ms. Hammond, provided a verbal update including:

- Update on a 2025 goose management survey;
- Regional addling;
- Partnerships with two First Nations;
- 2026 harvests that are planned for Sooke and Metchosin; and
- The CRD's Environmental Services Committee presented to the Board on February 18, 2026 who approved to extend financing and resourcing.

The Committee discussed writing senior government to request more support through a sub committee with the PAAC Chair as representative.

5.6 Central Saanich Agricultural Breakfast (Verbal)

The Chair provided a summary of the event. The Committee discussed their interest in the integrated stormwater management plan and Wallace Drive farm-land future plans and its connections to the previously ALC approved subdivision at 7210 Wallace Drive, including associated conditions. References to overall area planning considerations, adjacent First Nations lands drainage issues, and potential effects on surrounding agricultural lands and the Saanich Inlet.

## 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Referrals from the District of Central Saanich

6.1.1 8165 Derrinberg Road – Temporary Use Permit

The District of Central Saanich's Manager of Planning provided an introduction of the application.

The Committee discussed the following:

- How enforcement of trailers on farms is based on complaints received by the Bylaw Officer.
- Emergency services the building permit does not apply.

MOVED AND SECONDED

*That the Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission does not support the Temporary Use Permit application for 8165 Derrinberg Road as it does not adhere to Central Saanich's bylaws for farming.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOVED AND SECONDED

*The Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission requests that the Central Saanich Council look into the wording of the bylaw for Temporary Use permit for farms and what constitutes farm accommodations, to not include trailers and RVs that do not meet standards of buildings.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 6.2 Referrals from the District of Saanich

### 6.2.1 4313 Blenkinsop Rd - REZ00802

The applicants provided an introduction of the application.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Keeping buildings together to reduce fragmentation.
- The new zone for the site.
- The type of septic treatment.
- Recent examples in Central Saanich.

MOVED AND SECONDED

*That the Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission has no position on the application for 4313 Blenkinsop Road - REZ00802.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 7. **MOTIONS AND NEW BUSINESS**

### 7.1 Referrals from the District of Saanich

#### 7.1.1 0 Watkiss Way - ALR00047

The District of Saanich's Planner provided an introduction of the application. The Commission discussed that the original Hospital site was also taken out of the in the ALR in View Royal while the remaining portion still in the ALR is in Saanich.

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

*That the Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission does not generally support the exclusion of any land in the ALR including the property located at 0 Watkiss Way from the ALR, however if the application proceeds:*

1. *Supports the application providing an agricultural amenity contribution to the municipality of Saanich which would in turn forward the funds towards agricultural be received for \$100,000 for each of the GOOSE and SIFI organizations. That Saanich consider asking the applicant to:*
  - a. *explore other opportunities for parking within the existing property, such as the area west of the arrival to ER; or*
  - b. *vertical parking options to offset amount of land covered by asphalt/concrete; or*
  - c. *addition of an alternative parcel into the ALR in lieu; or*
  - d. *including a rehabilitation/"therapeutic garden" in the agricultural portion of the property.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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Chair