



metrovancouver

Agriculture Committee

Terms of Reference

The Agriculture Committee is a standing committee of the Board which provides advice and recommendations to the Board on agricultural issues.

The Agriculture Committee's scope of work includes: a review of the previous output of the Agricultural Advisory Committee (which reports to this committee) and the SRI Task Force on Agriculture; the development of an inventory of issues affecting the viability of agriculture in Metro Vancouver and its interface with other land uses, utilities and infrastructure; an assessment of the seriousness and the urgency of finding a resolution to those issues leading to a recommendation on work priorities; and ultimately recommendations to the Board on specific strategies and actions to sustain viable agriculture within and close to the Metro Vancouver and enable agriculture to make its appropriate contribution to the livability and sustainability of the region.

The Agriculture Committee will:

- Review and monitor the work program assigned to the committee and make recommendations to the Board, as necessary, on any changes in program scope and priorities;
- Consider staff reports on policies, projects and programs and make recommendations to the Board on the appropriate actions;
- Hear and consider public delegations on matters within the scope of the committee's purview and, where appropriate, make recommendations to the Board arising out of such delegations;
- Pursue matters referred to the committee by the Board and report back to that Board expeditiously, as required.

In carrying out these responsibilities, the committee may provide advice, guidance or direction to staff as to the scope and priority of work to be carried out, including new tasks to be undertaken. However, where such direction represents a sufficiently significant change in the previously approved work program, or a significant expenditure of funds, or runs contrary to the advice of professional staff, the committee shall refer the matter to the Board, with appropriate recommendations, for decision by the Board.

The Committee Chair, or in the absence of the Committee Chair, the Committee Vice-Chair will usually be the chief spokesperson on matters of public interest within the Committee's purview. Some issues may be of such public profile that it will be appropriate for the Board Chair or Vice Chair to be the chief spokesperson; on technical matters or where the status is still at the staff proposal level, the CAO or senior staff may be the appropriate chief spokesperson. Where necessary and practical, the Board Chair, the Committee Chair and the CAO (or vice-chairs and deputy) will confer to determine the most appropriate course of action.

The CAO will assign a 'duty manager' to the committee. The duty manager will be responsible for coordinating agendas and be the principal point of contact for committee members.

Committee Meetings

The committee will meet at intervals it determines to be appropriate, in consultation with the duty manager and Corporate Secretary. A quorum of 50% plus one of the Committee membership is required to conduct Committee business.

Relationship with Other Board Committees

Matters considered by the Agriculture Committee may involve projects or programs which affect or could benefit from the considerations of other committees, most notably the Land Use and Transportation Committee, Parks Committee and the Environment Committee. Similarly matters considered by other committees may have relevance for the Agriculture Committee.

The duty manager will attempt to keep the committee apprised of reports or initiatives with such implications. Every effort should be made to maintain a streamlined and efficient process, but where it is appropriate for the Committee and a committee to make joint or parallel recommendations to Boards, the duty managers, in consultation with the two chairs, will so arrange.

Committee Membership

The Chair, Vice Chair, and members are appointed by the Chair of the Board of Directors and membership will be reviewed annually as long as the committee continues.