



Agricultural Land Commission
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October 28, 2008

Reply to the attention of Jennifer Carson
ALC File: Q-38207

Iris Sorensen
1760 Highway 33
Rock Creek, BC V0X1Y0

Dear Mrs. Sorensen:

Re: Application to Subdivide land in the Agricultural Land Reserve

Please find attached the Minutes of Resolution # 655/2008 outlining the Commission's decision as it relates to the above noted application.

Yours truly,

PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION

Per:


Erik Karlsen, Chair

Enclosure: Minutes

cc: Regional District of Kootenay-Boundary (E-375-02718-000)

JC/
i/38207d1



MINUTES OF THE PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION

A meeting was held by the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission on October 2, 2008 in Rock Creek, B.C.

PRESENT:	Roger Mayer	Commissioner
	Carmen Purdy	Commissioner
	D. Grant Griffin	Commissioner
	Jennifer Carson	Staff

For Consideration

Application: # Q- 38207
 Applicant: Iris Sorensen
 Proposal: To subdivide the 9.2 ha subject property to create a southerly lot of 3.2 ha, a middle lot of 4 ha and a northern remainder of 2 ha.
 Legal: PID: 014-713-560
 That part of District Lot 375, Similkameen Division Yale District, Except Plans 8838, H17323, KAP58389, KAP58390 and KAP59809 and KAP59809
 Location: Highway 33, north of Rock Creek

Site Inspection

A site inspection was conducted on October 2, 2008. Those in attendance were:

- Roger Mayer Commissioner
- Carmen Purdy Commissioner
- D. Grant Griffin Commissioner
- Jennifer Carson Staff
- Iris Sorenson Applicant
- Tony Sorenson Applicant's husband

The Commission met with the applicants at the subject property to discuss the subdivision application. The applicants explained that they are proposing the subdivision as they would like to give a parcel to each of their daughters and retain one property for themselves. The applicants also mentioned that they have dug a well on the property. Mr. Sorenson also explained that there was usually flooding on the property. The Commission noted that the land was comprised of a relatively flat field with a small dwelling and a heritage barn.

Context

The proposal was weighed against the purposes of the Commission as stipulated in section 6 of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (the "Act"). They are:

1. to preserve agricultural land
2. to encourage farming on agricultural land in collaboration with other communities of interest, and
3. to encourage local governments, first nations, the government and its agents to enable and accommodate farm use of agricultural land and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws and policies.

Discussion

Assessment of Agricultural Capability

In assessing agricultural capability, the Commission refers in part to agricultural capability mapping and ratings. The ratings are interpreted using the Canada Land Inventory (CLI), 'Soil Capability Classification for Agriculture' system, or the BC Land Inventory (BCLI), 'Land Capability Classification for Agriculture in B.C.' system.

The agricultural capability of the soil of the subject property is

Class 3 – Land in this class has limitations that require moderately intensive management practices or moderately restrict the range of crops, or both.

Subclasses

M soil moisture deficiency W excess water

From the site visit the Commission noted that the property reflected its agricultural capability rating.

Assessment of Agricultural Suitability

The Commission assessed whether external factors such as encroaching non-farm development have caused or will cause the land to become unsuitable for agriculture. The Commission does not believe there are external factors that render the land unsuitable for agricultural use.

Assessment of Impact on Agriculture

The Commission also assessed the impact of the proposal against the long term goal of preserving agricultural land. In the Commission's view, reduction of parcel size generally reduces the available options for agricultural use. The Commission believed that the subject parcel had more agricultural potential as a single unit and that subdivision would negatively impact the agricultural opportunities available to the subject property in the long-term.

Further, the Commission believed that subdivision of the subject parcel would encourage further parcelization of properties within agricultural areas and may impact future agricultural use of surrounding lands. The Commission was concerned that if this subdivision were permitted it would heighten the expectations of other property owners in the area to be able to do the same.

The intent of the Act is to preserve and protect agricultural lands and farm communities in the long-term and the Commission felt that subdivision of the subject property as proposed was not in keeping with that mandate.

Conclusions

1. That the land under application has agricultural capability and is appropriately designated as ALR.

2. That the land under application is suitable for agricultural use.
3. That the proposal will impact agriculture.
4. That the proposal is inconsistent with the objective of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* to preserve agricultural land.

IT WAS

MOVED BY: Commissioner Griffin

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Purdy

THAT the application be refused.

AND THAT the applicant be advised of the provisions of Section 33 of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* which provides an applicant with the opportunity to submit a request for reconsideration.

- S.33 (1) On the written request of a person affected or on the commission's own initiative, the commission may reconsider a decision of the commission under this Act and may confirm, reverse or vary it if the commission determines that*
- (a) evidence not available at the time of the original decision has become available,*
 - (b) all or part of the original decision was based on evidence that was in error or was false.*
- (2) The commission must give notice of its intention to reconsider a decision under subsection (1) to any person that the commission considers is affected by the reconsideration.*

AND THAT the applicant be advised that a revised proposal does not constitute new information and will not be considered as a basis for reconsideration and the time limit for submitting a request for reconsideration is one (1) year from the date of the decision letter.

CARRIED

Resolution # 655/2008