



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023, 9:30 AM

Via Zoom

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Ann Siddall, Chairperson; Fall Fair
Fred Boyko, Director, Electoral Area "B" (Beaufort)
Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm
Anna Lewis, Alberni Valley Food Security Society
Lisa Aylard, Stonehaven Farm
Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni
Helen Zanette, SD70 Trustee
Heather Shobe, ACRD Agriculture Support Coordinator
Erika Goldt, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, Coastal Agricultural Roundtable,
Eat West Coast
Helen Dufour, Island Health

REGRETS:

Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority
Alex Taylor, Shelter Farm
Thom O'Dell, Ministry of Agriculture
Tanya Shannon, The Cabins
Janette Cormier, Happy Hollow Farm
Jen Cody, NTC
Cathy Burkosky, Avalon Farm
Victoria Lake, Effingham Oyster
Representative, Spirit Square Farmers Market

STAFF PRESENT:

Amy Needham, Planner
Heather Zenner, Manager of Administrative Services
Kristin Kerr-Donahue, Administrative Assistant

The meeting can be viewed on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District website at:

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/18-7-2023/>

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

The Chairperson recognized this meeting is being held throughout the Nuu-chah-nulth territories.

The Chairperson reported this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District website.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: F. Boyko
SECONDED: L. Aylard

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

a. Draft Agricultural Development Committee Meeting held May 30, 2023

MOVED: B. Collins
SECONDED: H. Zanette

THAT the draft minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on May 30, 2023 be received.

CARRIED

4. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

a. Randy Thoen, FireSmart Coordinator, ACRD re: Extreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture Program

The FireSmart Coordinator delivered a PowerPoint presentation. FireSmart Farm Building Retrofits Grant. Funding available to Farms. Available to do free FireSmart Home Assessments. Curbside pick up program available (free) to pick up two loads of yard waste. \$1000 rebate program available to those who have the Home Assessment completed and complete the FireSmart recommendations.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

a. FARMLAND ADVANTAGE

First Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Program in BC and What It Means

b. REGENERATIVE FARMING PROGRAM

A Fully Funded Program for Qualified Participants

c. TOFINO COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVE

2022 Impact Report

MOVED: F. Boyko
SECONDED: H. Zanette

THAT correspondence a-c be received for information.

CARRIED

6. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

- a. **Request for Decision regarding Agricultural Water Infrastructure Funding Opportunity – Irrigation District Feasibility Study.**

MOVED: B. Collins

SECONDED: L. Aylard

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee recommend that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors direct staff to apply to Stream 3 of the Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program for funding to conduct a feasibility study on creation of an Alberni Valley irrigation district.

CARRIED

7. REPORTS

STAFF REPORTS

- a. Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program – A. Needham
b. Terms of Reference Review – A. Needham/H. Zenner

P. Deakin left at 10:26 am.

B. Collins left at 10:33 am.

MEMBER REPORTS

- a. **City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin.**
Meeting with a Newfoundland based company this week to explore added value seafood waste to the valley.
- b. **School District # 70 – H. Zanette.**
Tessa Stiven Central Island Community Animator for Farm to Schools, Alberni-Clayoquot School Food Systems Workshop, provided a presentation to the SD 70 Board. Farm school program. Desire to get funding from Ministry of Education to support food education. Desire to form a School Food Committee.
- c. **Alberni Farmers' Institute – L. Aylard.**
Directors will be having a meeting July 19th to get organized for the Fall Fair.
- d. **Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall.**
Updating "Cultivating Our Community: Guide to Farm Stands in the Alberni Valley". Printed 1000 copies. Will get distributed to the community shortly. Will be sending formal invites to participate in a booth at the Fall Fair.
- e. **Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis**
- i. **Family Farm Day**
Outreach to previous participants and potential new ones. Currently 10 confirmed, plus the Food Hub and awaiting feedback from one more.

- Amy will be looking at insurance options for farms.
- ii. **Gleaning Program**
Is underway – first pick happened on July 7th. Email gleaning@avfood.ca to connect.
 - iii. **Farmland Advantage Program**
Will be expanding to include the Alberni Valley, Anna is the regional advisor. Have 8 farm interested in participating Wayne Haddow is doing Riparian Assessments and he will be training Melanie Dyson to conduct the assessments in the future. Lots of funding for these assessments.
 - iv. **NIC Meat Processing Program**
Regarding the meat from the North Island College (NIC) that is stored at the Doc & Food Processing Hub. Labelling is required to follow the Federal labelling process. Not currently labelled in a way that can be distributed through the coupon program as per the Environmental Health Officer. Distributing to local organizations, and potentially making up packets for the people who Island Health has identified and given coupons to. If the meat processing NIC program is run again the labelling aspect needs to be addressed to ensure that the meat can be distributed the community. Amy Needham to check with Cecilia Addy to determine if the labelling equipment is at the Hub or is that a need.
- f. **East West Coast – E. Goldt. No report.**
 - g. **Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council – J. Cody. No report.**
 - h. **Dock + Food Processing Hub – C. Addy. No report.**
 - k. **Primary Agricultural Producers**
 - Shannon Farms – T. Shannon (verbal)
 - i. Meal event at The Cabin is sold out and all ingredients were locally sourced.
 - ii. Market at The Cabin on August 29 from 5-8 pm. Looking for more food and agriculture vendors. Email: thecabin@shannonfarms.ca if interested.

MOVED: H. Zanette

SECONDED: F. Boyko

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee receive the above reports for Information.

CARRIED

9. **QUESTION PERIOD**

Questions/Comments from the public. The Manager of Administration advised there were no questions or comments respecting an agenda topic from public:

- Participating in the Zoom webinar
- Submissions received by email at responses@acrd.bc.ca.

10. ADJOURN

MOVED: H. Shobe

SECONDED: L. Aylard

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 11:09 am.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Ann Siddall

Ann Siddall,
Chairperson

Heather Zenner

Heather Zenner
Manager of Administrative Services