



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON April 16, 2024, 9:30 am

Via Zoom

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Heather Shobe, Chairperson, Eden Tree Farm
Fred Boyko, Director, Electoral Area "B" (Beaufort)
Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni
Kaley Ruel, Island Health
Helen Zanette, SD70
Thom O'Dell, Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Erika Goldt, Coastal Agricultural Roundtable, Eat West Coast
Anna Lewis, Alberni Valley Food Security Society
Lisa Aylard, Alberni Farmers' Institute, Stonehaven Farm
Patty Radcliffe, 4H

REGRETS:

Ann Siddall, Alberni District Fall Fair Association
Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority
Jen Cody, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm
Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms
Victoria Lake, Effingham Oyster
Alex Taylor, Shelter Farm
Claire Boudreau, Spirit Square Farmers Market

STAFF PRESENT:

Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner
Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant

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

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/16-4-2024/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:31 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.

Introductions - Committee Members, Delegation, and Staff via Zoom.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: H. Zanette

SECONDED: L. Aylard

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS

4. MINUTES

a. Agricultural Development Committee Minutes – March 19, 2024

MOVED: F. Boyko

SECONDED: H. Zanette

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on March 19, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

E. Goldt joined at 9:42 am

5. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

a. Colin Koszman, Mosaic Forest Management, Land Use Forester & David Belezny, Mosaic Forest Management, Director of Climate and Watersheds, regarding Forestry Practices and Safeguarding Agricultural Land and Watercourses.

The representatives from Mosaic Forest Management (Mosaic) presented to the committee an overview of Mosaic and its environmental practices, specifically watershed management and protection and adapting forestry practices to a changing climate. [View the presentation here.](#)

For more information go to www.bigcoastforest.com, e-mail Colin Koszman at colin.koszman@mosaicforests.com, or David Belezny at david.belezny@mosaicforests.com.

K. Ruel left at 10:04 am

Committee question and answer period followed. Topics discussed:

- emergency access to gated areas
- water conductivity and temperature studies
- food security and sovereignty in relation to current forestry practices and traditional food gathering in Mosaic sites

- agricultural water supply protective legislation and upstream logging effects
- policies to help protect snowpacks and understanding hydrological impacts

Suggestion from A. Lewis to create a map of timber licensees in the Regional District, particularly those adjacent to agricultural land. This would help to clear up any confusion with the public as to which cut blocks belong to which company, and would potentially help with perception and communication.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. **ALBERNI VALLEY NEWS**
Funding for food security
- b. **BC GOVERNMENT NEWS**
Province strengthens flood defenses, protecting people, communities.
 - The Ministry of Water Lands and Resource Stewardship is authoring three large water-related strategies, [Flood Strategy](#), [Watershed Security Strategy](#), and the [Coastal Marine Strategy](#).
 - Province of BC has an engagement website, engage.gov.bc.ca, every opportunity for public consultation is posted to this website. A. Needham recommends subscribing to this website, notifications will be e-mailed for all public consultation projects.
- c. **AGSAFE BC**
Dirt on Ag – March 2024
- d. **INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL OF BC**
March 2024 Newsletter

T. O'Dell left 10:29 am

MOVED: H. Zanette

SECONDED: F. Boyko

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee receives items a-d for information.

CARRIED

7. **REQUEST FOR DECISIONS**

- a. **REQUEST FOR DECISION**
Coastal Foods Roundtable Terms of Reference Update

MOVED: H. Zanette

SECONDED: F. Boyko

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee adopt the Coastal Foods Roundtable Terms of Reference as updated.

CARRIED

8. REPORTS

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham
- Meat Processing Fundamentals course through North Island College was successful, eight students enrolled and completed the program in Port Alberni. 29 boxes of meat were processed and are ready to be distributed among various foods programs, in partnership with the Alberni Valley Food Security Society.
 - During this program there was discussion regarding a greenhouse growing class. The preliminary proposal from North Island College is to hold a four-week program, focused on greenhouse growing. This program set up would be similar to the Meat Processing Fundamentals Program and set up to have students able to access grant funding through the Canadian Workforce Response Grant.
 - Committee discussed potential locations for the greenhouse growing program and program set-up to make as accessible as possible for those who live in more remote areas. Include greenhouse overwintering in the curriculum to allow extended growing seasons.
 - Alberni Valley Food Security Society is hosting a series of gardening workshops that are open to the public, for more information [click here](#).
 - ACRD is awaiting a grant decision from the Real Estate Foundation of BC. The ACRD applied to provide the balance of funds to conduct an agricultural water infrastructure review project. The response has been delayed several weeks. Staff will update the committee as soon as possible.
 - A Watershed Security Strategy presentation, by the Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship, will be given at the next meeting. Please submit questions to A. Needham prior to the meeting.
 - Participating in Food Security Society and Farm to School BC District Pro-Day on Friday, April 19, hoping to forge connections with teachers and to help support school garden programs.
 - A discussion will occur at the next committee meeting regarding the need for a July Agricultural Development Committee meeting.
 - Update to a question that came up at the last meeting regarding adding a section to the reports for F. Boyko to provide an update from the Board of Directors. Direction from administration is that reports to the committee are to come from staff, however if there is anything to be

added that wasn't included in the staff report section, that F. Boyko may relay to the committee.

F. Boyko left at 10:44 am

- b. City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin
- Suggestion regarding training programs and what training allowances the city has been able to get included within the grant funding to help support students and make programs more accessible. Supports the idea of being able to move courses to have students attend in their home communities.
 - The Port Alberni Port Authority (PAPA) and Dock+ are doing a lot to help advance the aquaculture side of food security, will reach out to PAPA to ensure that we have a representative at meetings more regularly.

P. Deakin left at 10:54 am

- c. School District # 70 – H. Zanette
- Environmental Stewardship Policy has been adopted, along with the corresponding administrative procedure. Both will be available on the School District 70 website shortly.
 - Next School Board meeting scheduled for April 23rd from 5:30-6:30 pm at EJ Dunn Elementary School
 - Federal Government has announced a new National Food Program, will be interesting to see how it works with the Provincial programs.
 - Mel Burton, manages the Breakfast Program at ADSS, has started a new lunch program for students in need.
- d. Ministry of Agriculture & Food - T. O'Dell
- The Province of BC is marking another \$83 million for Agricultural Water projects. This is managed through Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC. Upcoming extension workshops (not yet scheduled) will include water storage, irrigation efficiency and soil sampling, analysis, management. More information to come.
 - Also Decoding Drought Management Engagement Session in Cowichan, scheduled for Thursday, April 18th , 2:00 – 4:30 [Click here for more details](#), or e-mail thom.odell@gov.bc.ca

F. Boyko rejoined at 10:58 am

- e. Farmers' Institute – L. Aylard
- April 28th Farmer's Institute Potluck
 - Beaver Creek Community Club is hosting a homestead market in June at the Beaver Creek Community Hall

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- Busy season now, Farmer's Institute Members are all working hard on their fences and planting.
- f. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis
- Working on the Growers Guide and continuing to host [Gardening 101 Workshops](#), next topic is surrounding irrigation.
 - Hosted a community garden cleanup at [Dry Creek Community Garden](#), was well attended and productive. There are a couple of beds still available, but it is anticipated that they will be filled by the end of April.
 - Getting the [Gleaning Program](#) ready to start their season. Wednesday, April 24th is the Gleaning Launch event, will be a presentation on fruit tree maintenance, and other information about the program.
- g. Eat West Coast – E. Goldt
- Coastal Agricultural Roundtable met on April 3rd. Is a great group with many members having experience and jobs relating to agriculture and food security and sovereignty.
 - Clayoquot Biosphere Trust is engaged in Federal Biodiversity Goals and work around protected and conserved areas, including working to establish other affected protected areas and Indigenous protected and conserved areas and stewardship corridor projects.
 - Clayoquot Biosphere Trust is campaigning for a new Biosphere Centre building in Tofino, which will include a teaching and processing kitchen. Will be hosting an information session in late May, date to be determined.
 - Clayoquot Biosphere Trust is hosting an event April 21-23, 2024, [The Art of Hosting Course Clayoquot Biosphere Trust \(westcoastnest.org\)](#)
- h. Spirit Square Farmers' Market – H. Shobe on behalf of C. Boudreau
- Seedling sale starting last week of April and first 2 weeks of May
- i. 4-H – P. Radcliffe
- Hosting a judging rally this weekend at Cherry Creek Hall to teach children about 4-H judging and how it works, part of the leadership development program.
 - Saturday, May 11 at Spirit Square Farmers' Market will be hosting a bake-sale and manure-sale. Manure is being pre-sold, \$15.00/50lb bags of horse and rabbit manure. Information is on the [Facebook Page](#).
- j. Primary Agricultural Producers
- L. Aylard – everyone is busy, prices are very high at auctions, might start seeing people holding on to heifers as prices will potentially go up further.
 - A. Needham for T. Shannon
 - i. Gather and Graze event tickets are out, information on [their social media](#).
 - ii. Sunday May 5th at The Cabin 8865 Beaver Creek Rd. – will be many vendors, Rages Farm will be there with some new, diversified products. Parking is limited, please carpool if possible, and cash is preferred.

- A. Lewis relayed to the committee that Rages Farm will be hosting a monthly market, the third Thursday of every month, starting May 16th.

- k. Directors Update - F. Boyko
 - The ACRD Directors attended the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Conference over the weekend, items that came from this conference will be discussed at the upcoming Town Hall meeting scheduled for this Sunday, April 21st at 2pm at Beaver Creek Community Hall.

MOVED: H. Zanette

SECONDED: E. Goldt

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee accept these reports a-k for information.

CARRIED

9. QUESTION PERIOD

Questions/Comments from the public. The Administrative Assistant 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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 am

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Heather Shobe

Heather Shobe,
Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue

Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant