



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024, 9:30 AM

Via Zoom

MEMBERS

Fred Boyko, Director, Electoral Area "B" (Beaufort)

PRESENT:

Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni

Thom O'Dell, Ministry of Agriculture & Food

Erika Goldt, Coastal Food Roundtable, Eat West Coast

Anna Lewis, Alberni Valley Food Security Society

Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms

Lisa Aylard, Alberni Farmers' Institute, Stonehaven Farm

REGRETS:

Heather Shobe, Chairperson, Eden Tree Farm

Ann Siddall, Alberni District Fall Fair Association

Helen Zanette, SD70 Trustee

Patty Radcliffe, 4H

Kaley Ruel, Island Health

Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority

Jen Cody, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm

Victoria Lake, Effingham Oyster

Alex Taylor, Shelter Farm

Claire Boudreau, Spirit Square Farmers Market, Shelter Farm

STAFF PRESENT:

Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner

Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant

Note: Quorum was not achieved for this committee meeting; therefore meeting was held for information purposes.

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

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/20-8-2024/>

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 and Staff via Zoom.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

3. **DECLARATIONS**

4. **MINUTES**

5. **PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

- a. **Ione Smith, Project Manager, Upland Agricultural Consulting introducing the ACRD Food Security Emergency Planning and Agricultural Water Plan Projects.**

The Consultant highlighted the consulting team working on the projects, provided an overview of the two projects, and what they will focus on during each phase.

The consulting team will be engaging with local governments, agricultural producers and food system organizations on several occasions, for both projects, between September 2024 and February 2025.

The presentation can be found on the ACRD webpage here:
https://www.acrd.bc.ca/dms/documents/2024-agendas/presentation_upland_agricultural_consulting.pdf

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. **BC GOVERNMENT NEWS**
Automation, Robotics Help Farmers Strengthen Food Security
- b. **INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL OF BC**
Invasive Species Strategy for British Columbia 2024-2028
- c. **AGRISERVICE BC**
Islands Edition – Regional Newsletter – August 2024
- d. **TOFINO COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVE**
Impact Report 2023
- e. **CARIBOO CARBON SOLUTIONS**
Vancouver Island Private Land Restoration

P. Deakin joined at 9:48 am.

7. **REPORTS**

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham
- Fall Fair Agriculture Table Volunteering
A. Needham requested committee members reach out to her if they are interested in volunteering at the ACRD Agricultural Table at the Fall Fair between Sept 5-8. A. Lewis is the general contact for the Agriculture Building.
 - Met with Hupacasath First Nation for potential to use farm on Beaver Creek Rd for a greenhouse growers' program through North Island College. Awaiting further information to clarify student eligibility requirements to take the program, as well as funding sources available.
 - Met with BC Centre for Agritech Innovation group regarding engagement at events on Vancouver Island. Potentially later in the Fall. Also requested they present to the ADC as a delegation in October.
 - Island Health has a Climate Change and Health Department. Focus is on how climate adaptation relates to the public's health. Met with consultant, Savannah Barrett, who is currently mapping out social assets that exist for climate security. Request for members to reach out with any climate initiatives Savannah might be interested in. Contact A. Needham for more information.
- b. City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin
- Joining with A. Needham to meet with BC Centre for Agritech Innovation and TerraForma Systems who have a smart and scalable composter for organic waste. Will be discussing processing of organic seafood waste at the Dock+.

T. O'Dell left the meeting at 9:56 am.

- c. Ministry of Agriculture & Food - T. O'Dell via Zoom Chat
- Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program
Registration opens September 9 and is now first come, first served. Up to \$7,500 per activity, intended for hands-on learning activities such as (but not limited to) field days, community farm tours and short courses. Up to \$1,500 per activity intended for Subject Matter Expert for (SME) activities such as (but not limited to) industry expert presentations, conferences, community gatherings and annual general meetings.
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/knowledge-transfer-events>
 - Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program
Assessments, Engineering Studies or Plans (Stream 3) has launched. More information can be found here:
<https://iafbc.ca/agriculture-water-infrastructure-program/stream3/>
 - B.C. On-Farm Technology Adoption Program:
<https://www.innovatebc.ca/programs/bc-on-farm>

This program provides a 65% cost-share reimbursement from a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$100,000 to farms who adopt innovative technology that can improve labour efficiency.

- Upcoming irrigation workshops dates to be determined, will be held in Duncan and Courtenay.
 - Island Agriculture Show will be held February 2 & 3, 2025
Planning for presentations happening now. Ideas for talks or workshops can be sent to Thom.odell@gov.bc.ca
- d. Alberni Farmers' Institute – L. Aylard
- No meetings over the summer. Will be arranging a meeting with members to discuss volunteering at the Fall Fair.
- e. Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall
- A. Lewis is overseeing the Agricultural Education portion. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteering, reach out to A. Lewis for more information.
 - Old MacDonald's Farmyard is being renamed to Old Farmer Bill's Farmyard and will be relocated next to the 4-H Barn. 4-H will be overseeing the farmyard.
 - There will be a kid zone and Yukon Dan Gold Panning next to the Agricultural Building with a clear path into the building this year.
 - Mount Klitsa Garden Club will be situated at the entrance to the building.
- f. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis
- Gleaning is well underway with over 2000lbs of produce gleaned. Always looking for more homeowners to host a pick.
 - Anna is coordinating the Fall Fair agriculture building and volunteer bracelets. Connect with her if you are wanting to volunteer for a shift. ACRD, Spirit Square Farmers' Market, Fiber Guild, Klitsa Garden Club, and Alberni Valley Food Security Society (AVFSS) will all be in the building.
 - Family Farms Day scheduled for Sept 15, 2024. Seven sites participating this year. Information will be going up on AVFSS and ACRD websites as it comes available.
- g. Spirit Square Farmers' Market
- Members commented that the Children's Market held on August 17 was well attended. Lots of different products being sold and will become a more regular event.
- h. 4-H – P. Radcliffe
- Project meetings have continued over the summer where members learn about their specific projects and work with their animals.
 - Beef project members have been very active, two members attended and showed their project animals at the Coombs Fair and did very well considering this was their first show. Two other members showed at the Coombs Fair with Poultry and Cavy (guinea pig) projects.
 - Cloverbuds (6-8 year olds) learned about home safety, biosecurity on farms, beef cattle and toured the Coombs Fair.
 - Plans are underway for all members to show at Alberni District Fall Fair and hopefully have the Dairy Bar open and possibly run a petting farm area.

- Active recruitment campaign this fall for 4-H for 2025 to attract more new members.
- i. Primary Agricultural Producers
 - L. Aylard - Stonehaven Farm has been very busy and beef is selling faster than they can process it.
 - T. Shannon – Shannon Farms held their Gather and Graze event again this year with a second night added. Hosted 187 people over the two nights with majority of produce locally sourced. 2025 tickets are mostly pre-sold already from attendees of 2024 event. On-farm market being held on August 20. Hosting a less formal, appetizer night, Heifers & Hors D’oeuvres, on September 7.
 - A. Lewis – Sproat Starts Farm has sold out of everything, including fall starters. Seeing an increase in interest from people looking to extend their growing season.

8. **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.

9. **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 am.

Certified Correct:

Tanya Shannon

Tanya Shannon,
Vice-Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue

Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant