



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024, 9:30 AM

Via Zoom

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Heather Shobe, Eden Tree Farm, Chairperson
Fred Boyko, Director, Electoral Area "B" (Beaufort)
Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni
Helen Zanette, SD70 Trustee
Anna Lewis, Alberni Valley Food Security Society
Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms
Lisa Aylard, Alberni Farmers' Institute, Stonehaven Farm
Patty Radcliffe, 4-H

REGRETS:

Ann Siddall, Alberni District Fall Fair Association
Representative, Island Health
Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority
Jen Cody, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
Thom O'Dell, Ministry of Agriculture & Food
Erika Goldt, Coastal Agricultural Roundtable, Eat West Coast
Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm
Victoria Lake, Effingham Oyster
Alex Taylor, Shelter Farm
Teresa O'Neil, Spirit Square Farmers Market
Melody Francoeur,

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/23-1-2024/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Sustainability Planner called the meeting to order at 9:31am.

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

The Sustainability Planner reported this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District website, and that closed captions are now available on Zoom, and provided instruction to enable. She also directed attendees how to ask questions of the committee.

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff via Zoom.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE

The Sustainability Planner conducted the election for Chairperson of the Agricultural Development Committee for 2024. The Sustainability Planner requested nominations three times.

The Sustainability Planner declared Heather Shobe as Chairperson and Tanya Shannon as Alternate Chair for 2024.

L. Aylard joined 9:45am.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: A. Lewis
SECONDED: H. Zanette

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. MINUTES

a. Agricultural Development Committee Minutes – November 21, 2023

MOVED: L. Aylard
SECONDED: T. Shannon

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED

Committee discussion followed on adoption of minute procedures, if there are adjustments, timeframe of uploading to website, etc.

5. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

a. Request for Volunteers for Islands Agriculture Show

General request from A. Needham, if committee members are planning to attend the Island Agriculture Show, please consider spending an hour or two at the ACRD booth.

b. Beneficial Management Practices Program

Highlighting this as it is producer focused. www.iafbc.ca for more information. Program runs ongoing annually, is a very large and varied program.

c. **Agriservice BC – Island Edition**
January 2024

d. **Agriservice BC**
January 2024 - eBulletin

MOVED: F. Boyko

SECONDED: T. Shannon

THAT this correspondence a-d be received.

CARRIED

6. REPORTS

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham
- Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) Grant Application
 - Agricultural Water Infrastructure Planning Project was funded partially through Investment Agriculture Foundation Grant. REFBC Grant has been applied for to cover the remainder. Two stage application process, we should know by March if moving on to 2nd round.
 - Council for Agricultural Water Supply - On-Farm Meeting
 - Hosted by Shannon Dairy. Good example of work done on riparian restoration, fish habitat. DFO and Mosaic were also in attendance.
 - Discussed potential to have Mosaic attend future ADC meeting as a delegation to discuss water practices. Committee agrees that they would like to request Mosaic attend.
 - Meat Processing Fundamentals Course – Feb 20-March 28
 - North Island College is offering the Meat Processing Fundamental Course again, received Canada Workforce Response Grant for a second time. Leanne Moore (Leanne.moore@nic.bc.ca) is contact to speak to about funding for students.
 - College has developed a Level II course, eligible for participants who have completed the Level I. Unsure if the Canada Workforce Grant will apply to the Level II.
 - Islands Agriculture Show – Feb 2-3
 - Committee Members/AV Residents can contribute items for gift basket/door prize. Reach out to A. Needham if interested.
 - Food Security Emergency Planning & Preparedness grant application update
 - Two stream grant has been applied for. Province is really focusing on both food security and emergency preparedness. Phase A was focused on the Alberni Valley, with more traditional

agriculture/livestock emergency plans, muster points, needs for fencing/pens infrastructure in the Alberni Valley. Phase B is focused on food security on the West Coast, which differs greatly from AV, there is no ALR land. If approved, funding will be used to approach WC communities to define what food security looks like to them and what steps can be supported to help secure their food supplies in case of emergency.

- Coastal Agricultural Roundtable Update
 - Meeting set for April 3, 2024. West Coast based working group, focuses on agriculture, marine, and First Nations food initiatives.
- Farm to School BC update
 - Working with A. Lewis on this program to have more consistent/reliable school garden programs. Figuring out what infrastructure exists and what is needed to have these come back into production. Hoping to present something during a Pro-Day in April.
 - H. Shobe – biggest issues in the past were maintenance, who is responsible for upkeep, and Union issues with who can work on the school property.
- Planning/OCP update
 - ACRD BOD meeting tomorrow, there is a report going to the board to request direction on Official Community Plan (OCP) updates. Each Electoral Area (EA) has its own OCP, these are the broad vision and the overview for each EA to focus on their individual needs and identity. We are a large district, quite a few differences between EAs. Agriculture and food security have a part of each OCP and depending on direction from the board tomorrow there may be more engagement coming for the ADC.
 - T. Shannon – Posed a question regarding the adoption timeline for the updated zoning bylaw.
 - F. Boyko – Town hall meetings have shown that EAs want individual zoning bylaws. The ACRD Planning Dept advised the BOD that would be a prohibitively expensive endeavor and we could instead make amendments to Section 3 of the bylaws to apply to individual EA's needs. Update tomorrow at the BOD meeting. Current timeline is OCP review timeline will be set the next 2-3 months.

- b. City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin
City is interested in agriculture, one of the goals that council has in 2023-2027 Corporate Strategic Plan is to source and secure more sources of food. On Thursday, January 25, representatives from the BC Government are coming to Port Alberni to lead an exercise with ACRD, City of Port Alberni, Chamber of Commerce, and Community Futures about our region and economic resiliency. Focus of the group will be Business Continuity Planning. Wondering if there's been a summary of lessons learned from the agriculture community through the wildfire/road closure.

- A. Needham – there were both producer and supply chain issues, many could not get animals to slaughter. Animals stress when being transported, alternate route was not a viable/humane option.
- A. Lewis - Many letters of support have been written, can forward to the City from the Food Security Society.
- L. Aylard - issues with tractor tubes, and other mechanical parts necessary to farm work not coming in, detour route was not an option for many producers, eggs broke, fruit and veg bruised, milk truck wouldn't come for a while.
- H. Shobe – found that impacts were very similar to during the pandemic, will forward a letter written to the province by ACRD back then.
- c. School District # 70 – H. Zanette
Learning on the Land Program Update – organized by Dave Maher. Looking to have program starting in September 2024.
Funding announcements coming out during SD70 Board meeting tonight, January 23, at 5pm.
Notice in paper, SD70 considering selling property on Anderson Avenue, seeking input for land use until Jan 31.
New approved board authorized course, ADSS Indigenous Leadership Course.
School Food System Working Group - food program review at last Board Meeting. Working on getting a list of volunteers involved in this program.
Long range facility plan, 10 year review, will be posted on website for input.
- d. Alberni Farmers' Institute – L. Aylard
Lisa is staying on as President for 1 year to train new members to take over.
Reviewing bylaws to ensure compliance and are up to date. Looking to get new logo out in the community, possibly on reusable grocery bags. Concerns about Emergency Management Legislation released in November. Local governments have until the end of the month to give feedback. Hoping to host some social events, will be sending out invitations shortly.
- e. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis
Initial launch of Community Food Offerings Brochure at the Nourish Fair. This is a snapshot of which local organizations are offering food services to the community at a subsidized or free scale. This will be reviewed annually and available online.
Next month is the Seedy Saturday event, in the Cedar Room at Echo Center, 4255 Wallace St. from 10am-2pm. There are 19 vendors, 28 tables booked.
New this year will be three talks with subjects on urban garden design, water conservation, and a bean protein research project undertaken in the Alberni Valley.
Lots of planning happening right now, working on the gleaning project to expand the months of operation, going later in the fall when there is more being produced. Impact report complete for the gleaning program, impressed to see what the program has done so far in the community. Will forward the report to the Committee.
- f. Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council – H. Shobe
Systems Change Project – There is going to be a Traditional Foods Gathering in Port Alberni at the Maht Mahs gym March 21/22. Was initially seeded with

grant funding through the Systems Change Project. Speakers lined up, very exciting event for Nuu-chah-nulth nations.

- g. 4-H – P. Radcliffe
Organization suffered during the pandemic, weren't able to attend in person, many set-backs. Last year there were no clubs or members in the Alberni Valley. This year, 8+ adults have stepped up to participate, they have experience with 4H and are willing to take on the leadership roles needed. 20+ members in the process of registration at this time. Confirmed projects, Clover Buds (age 6-8), horse, rabbit, beef, poultry, cavy, and dog, and possibly foods projects. Can register through the website or reach out to Patty or Charlene Holden directly. No Facebook for this chapter at this time.
- h. Primary Agricultural Producers
T. Shannon – hosted farm-to-table dinner last year, looked to support local agriculture, with information on the producers for attendees. Feedback was good, so are planning to do another July 27, 2024. Going to send menu plan out shortly to the committee and producers to see what can be supplied/purchased locally. If this event is popular, there is potential to host a Friday night as well, or a “small bites” event. Will have something out for the menu by the next ADC meeting.

MOVED: F. Boyko
SECONDED: H. Zanette

THAT the verbal reports a-h be received.

CARRIED

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

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:56am

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Heather Shobe

Heather Shobe,
Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue

Kristin Kerr-Donohue
Administrative Assistant