



# Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

## MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024, 9:30 AM

Via Zoom

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### MEMBERS

#### PRESENT:

Heather Shobe, Chairperson, Eden Tree Farm  
Ann Siddall, Alberni District Fall Fair Association  
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  
Victoria Lake, Effingham Oyster

#### REGRETS:

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  
Alex Taylor, Shelter Farm  
Claire Boudreau, Spirit Square Farmers Market  
Patty Radcliffe, 4H

#### 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/19-3-2024/>

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:32am.

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

*MOVED: A. Siddall*  
*SECONDED: H. Zanette*

*THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

**3. DECLARATIONS**

**4. MINUTES**

A. Lewis joined at 9:36 am.

**a. Agricultural Development Committee Minutes – February 20, 2024**

*MOVED: H. Zanette*  
*SECONDED: A. Siddall*

*THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on February 20, 2024 be adopted.*

**CARRIED**

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

**a. Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner, ACRD  
Presenting video of Janel van Dongen’s speech at the Canadian  
Federation of Agriculture’s 2024 AGM “A Future Painted With Light”**

Technical difficulties did not allow for the sharing of this video during the meeting. The link to this was provided in the agenda package and the committee was encouraged to watch at their convenience.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

**a. POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP CANADA  
2023 Annual Report**

**b. WATERSHED SECURITY STRATEGY  
Intentions Paper – March 2023**

*MOVED: H. Zanette*  
*SECONDED: A. Siddall*

*THAT the Agricultural Development Committee receive correspondence a-b for information.*

**CARRIED**

## **7. REPORTS**

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham
- **Organics Tipping Fees Clarification**  
Questions were raised at the last meeting regarding fees to drop off organics at the landfill and Earth Land and Sea. Amy provided a report with fees, an explanation behind the fees, and comparisons from other communities.
  - **Food Security Emergency Planning & Preparedness Grant Decision**  
Big announcement! The ACRD was awarded \$223,000 for the Food Security Emergency Planning & Preparedness Fund. This will be a huge collaborative project - two phases and two years to complete.
    - Alberni Valley phase will focus on continuing the emergency planning work done by Mel Francoeur and Heather/Anna, with the end goal of having an agriculture/livestock emergency plan drafted. Will have lots of engagement with the AFI, ADC, etc. on that.
    - The [RDN](#) and [RDBN](#) both have livestock emergency plans if members wish to see what they entail.
    - This document is required now with wording added to the new *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* that includes ‘animals’ in the requirement for local governments to have an Emergency Management Plan (Section 52(3a)). The definition for animals includes all livestock designated under the *Livestock Act* so this document is now a requirement.
    - We’ll also be looking at food security in the Alberni Valley on a broader level with the City of Port Alberni – how much food is here in case of another major supply chain disruption, what true food security looks like, what is needed in the Valley to provide food locally for a majority (or all) of the population.
    - West Coast phase will focus on defining food security needs for West Coast electoral areas, municipalities and interested First Nations.
    - The documents forged by this grant can be used in future grant applications for infrastructure, equipment and training so it’s important to get realistic data and consult with food producers across the Valley.
    - Currently drafting the RFP for consultant services
  - **Delegation for April 16<sup>th</sup> and call for questions**  
Mosaic Forest Management will be attending the April meeting.
    - Committee can contact Amy directly, [aneedham@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:aneedham@acrd.bc.ca), via with any questions or topics they would like the rep from Mosaic to cover.
  - **Council for Agricultural Water Supply Meeting Recap**  
Met on March 6. This meeting covered selected sections from the Watershed Security Strategy - Intentions Paper. This Intentions Paper gives

a good indication on the direction that the province will be going for their policies and watershed related items. A. Needham reached out to the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) and they will attend the May 14 ADC meeting as a delegation. Request to the committee to read the report and think of any questions they would like posed to the representative at the meeting. Discussion followed regarding the Government of BC recent announcement of boost of funding to Water Infrastructure Fund. The ACRD received grant funds for the first portion, A. Needham is applying for a top-up from the new funding to do a study on Alberni Valley Agricultural Water. Fund has increased from \$20 million to \$80 million with the top-up. Suggestion to invite the Council for Ag Water Supply to the May 14 meeting to participate in the discussion with the Ministry.

- Meeting date shift for May ADC meeting. Changed from May 21, 2024 to May 14, 2024. No concerns from the committee on this change.

b. City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin

- Reminder to Committee members - Invitation to Provincial Decoding Drought Management Engagement Session. April 4 @ 6:30pm.
- Looking forward to working with ACRD on increasing aquaculture side of food supply chain. City is putting a lot of effort to work to either expand the Dock+ and/or introduce new processing facilities. Working with the Port Alberni Port Authority, several companies in the aquaculture industry, and local First Nations who are looking for support in ensuring the processing capabilities are there for food security/supply/safety purposes.
- OCP is getting geared up, so any opportunity that you see to continue to provide input and ask that OCP supports the Agricultural and Aquacultural communities is appreciated.
- A. Needham has meeting with the City of Port Alberni to provide input to the OCP on the Agriculture side.

c. School District # 70 – H. Zanette

- Two Public school board meetings since last ADC meeting.
- 2023/2024 amended budget has been passed.
- Learning on the Land program was passed and will begin in Sept 2024.
- Co-Government meetings are moving forward, collaboration with the different Nations in the region.
- Environmental section might be related to Agriculture and food production – Policy is vague, administrative procedures will be more concise.
- Updated 2024/2025 school calendar is now available on the SD70 website.
- Budget 2024/2025 preliminary budget is being worked on currently.
- Trustees attended the Vancouver Island School Trustee Association Conference. Interesting to learn what other districts are doing.
- Qualicum School District is hosting Mid-Island Youth Climate Action Symposium on April 24, 2024. All are welcome to attend. [Home | Youth Symposium \(youthsymposium2024.wixsite.com\)](https://youthsymposium2024.wixsite.com)
- The Big Crunch – hosted by Farm to School at ADSS.

- Follow-up regarding question raised at the last meeting regarding bringing farm food to the schools. This is not a policy currently; the district will be following up with the school administration.

d. Alberni Farmers' Institute – L. Aylard

- A. Needham hosted meeting with Alberni Farmers' Institute (AFI) members and directors to review committees. Some AFI members are interested in joining the Agricultural Advisory Committee.
- AFI Brunch April 28th for members
- New project between AFI and five member sponsors, shopping bags at the market with the five sponsors' info on the bags.



e. Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall

- 2024 theme is Family Fun for Everyone. Slogan is “The Gathering place to Celebrate and Educate”
- Agricultural portion will be held in the same building, hoping to get in early to do some maintenance work.
- Seeking a coordinator for the building, have a new pool of volunteers to select from.
- Many new volunteers, have a Facebook group for coordination and job posting. Click [here](#) to sign up for volunteering.
- Three special events coming up. All funds will be going to rebuild the horse barn that burned down in 2021.
  - Spring Market March 23 11am-3pm
  - Summer Market July 12
  - Christmas Market planned for late Nov/early Dec

f. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis

- Heading to Tofino for strategic planning session between all the Food Hubs.
- Growers Guide deadline coming at the end of April, will put info in next agenda.

- Met with the new editor at AV News. They will be adding eight pages to the newspaper to include the Growers Guide in the paper.
- g. Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council – H. Shobe on behalf of J. Cody
  - Nuuchahnulth Traditional Foods Gathering coming up soon. Enjoying working with the committee to help get organized. Dawn Morrison, keynote speaker, will be hosting a panel on Indigenous food sovereignty and emergency planning, also publishing a tool kit for communities.
  - Different sessions on traditional food, health, storytelling, seed projects, emergency climate action, gardening workshop, Indigenous chef, grant writing.
  - First gathering like this in many years, people are very excited.
  - Attendees must register, priority will be given to Indigenous participants. Not really a public event, due to space limitations.
- h. Marine Stakeholders – V. Lake
  - Expanding – have rented a second processing space, the old Cod Fathers Market. Have run out of space at the Dock+. Will be moving shellfish processing to the new space, and hopefully opening a new seafood market. Will allow for the Salmon Filleting Line to be installed in the Dock+. Have also purchased equipment from another processing facility.
  - Were successful with the Emergency Preparedness Grant, will be purchasing SeaCans and building a little compound down at the Dock+ to expand on cold storage space. Partnered up with Nuuchahnulth Seafood on this project.
  - Two new oyster farms started up in Barkley Sound, seed provided, growers produce own and then take product back for processing.
  - Looking to hire 40+ people for the summer season. There is a student program where if they work 500+ hours, they receive a \$3000 bonus.
- i. 4-H – A. Needham on behalf of P. Radcliffe
  - Registration is ongoing, online registration is not going smoothly for many.
  - Programs are starting in April for age nine and up has 20 members.
  - Clovers age 6-8 has six members.
  - Manure sale in May, and a bake sale as well. These will be hosted at the local Farmers' Market.
- j. Primary Agricultural Producers
  - T. Shannon – First market was on March 3, focus on Maple Syrup, sold out of all product, 14 vendors attended. Next market, First Sunday in May, Spring Market. Other markets are being planned. Approx six percent sold for Gather & Graze 2024 event without even having tickets on-hand yet. Aug 10 will be an appy night, working on details for this. Still working on pricing for all events, rate will be increased from last year, to account for increases in the market.
  - L. Aylard – Farm has over 50 lambs this year, finally finished the birthing season. Almost finished calving. Black Angus beef sales are going fast, they are currently 3 behind what is needed for orders.

*MOVED: T. Shannon*  
*SECONDED: A. Siddall*

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

**CARRIED**

**9. LATE BUSINESS**

- a. Request from Alberni Farmer's Institute to receive ACRD Agriculture related reports and information that may be of interest.
- b. F. Boyko provided an update from recent ACRD Board of Directors Meetings. Still trying to set up a water study and investigate potential to Re-activate the Stamp River Water System, for agricultural or residential use.

**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](mailto:responses@acrd.bc.ca).

**9. ADJOURN**

*THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:45 am.*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:

*Heather Shobe*

Heather Shobe,  
Chairperson

*Kristin Kerr-Donohue*

Kristin Kerr-Donohue,  
Administrative Assistant