



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 15, 2024, 9:30 AM

Via Zoom

MEMBERS

Heather Shobe, Chairperson, Eden Tree Farm

PRESENT:

Ann Siddall, Alberni District Fall Fair Association

Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni

Helen Zanette, SD70 Trustee

Thom O'Dell, Ministry of Agriculture & Food

Anna Lewis, Alberni Valley Food Security Society

Lisa Aylard, Alberni Farmers' Institute, Stonehaven Farm

REGRETS:

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

Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority

Jen Cody, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

Erika Goldt, Eat West Coast

Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm

Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms

Victoria Lake, Effingham Oyster

Alex Taylor, Shelter Farm

Claire Boudreau, Spirit Square Farmers Market

Patty Radcliffe, 4H

Amber Lamb, Feathers be Found

Katie Miles, Coastal Foods Roundtable, Tofino Community Food Initiative

STAFF PRESENT:

Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner

Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Kirsten Nesbitt, SD70 Healthy Schools Manager

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

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/15-10-2024/>

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:32 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**

The agenda be approved with the addition of information regarding Winter Cutworms under Section 6(b).

3. **DECLARATIONS**

4. **MINUTES**

- a. **Agricultural Development Committee Minutes – September 17, 2024**

5. **PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

- a. **Christopher Duffin, Associate Director, Agritech Partnerships & Growth, BC Centre for Agritech Innovation (BCCAI) with an overview of BCCAI.**

The presenter from BCCAI gave a history of why and how the centre was created, an overview of their current programs and projects the organization is currently focused on to assist agriculture and promote Agritech in the province of BC.

The presentation is available on the ACRD website:

https://www.acrd.bc.ca/dms/documents/2024-agendas/presentation_adc_bccai.pdf

Discussion followed regarding public engagement and workshop options for communities and BCCAI's customized approach to ensure they provide the relevant information to the area.

Discussed how BCCAI works to develop innovative technology to meet producer's needs, the requirements involved, and collaborations that may work to pursue projects.

T. O'Dell provided this link in the chat to review the stages of technology development and what supports are available at each stage.

[Technology readiness levels \(canada.ca\)](#)

6. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

- a. **ALBERNI VALLEY FOOD SECURITY SOCIETY**
Autumn 2024 Newsletter

b. **WINTER CUTWORM INFORMATION**

Oregon State University Cutworm Information Document
Committee discussion followed regarding the historical Army Worm infestation of the summer of 2017, and comparison to reports of increased numbers of Winter Cutworms in the Albemarle Valley. L. Aylard is seeing record numbers of this insect on their property and would like for information to be released to the public. A. Needham will get a positive identification first and then discuss options to send a release to the public through the ACRD social media pages.

T. O'Dell left at 10:24 am.

7. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

a. **REQUEST FOR DECISION**

Meeting Quorum and Options for the ADC

Committee discussed the current Terms of Reference and changes that could be made to improve attendance and function of the committee. The Committee will discuss this item at the November ADC meeting.

8. REPORTS

8.1 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

a. **Expanding the Influence of Regional Agricultural Support, Final Report for the ACRD's Systems Change Project, Report & Presentation – H. Shobe, Systems Change Project Coordinator**

H. Shobe presented the final systems change report, reviewing the reasons behind this project and broke down the different steps of the program and the main suggestions that have come out of this.

A. Siddall left at 10:58 am.

b. **Change to Allowable Poultry Numbers in the Draft Zoning Bylaw Report – A. Needham, Sustainability Planner**

A. Needham reviewed the history behind the ACRD Poultry Bylaws, specific to the Beaufort and Beaver Creek Electoral Areas. The proposed changes to allowable poultry numbers are in the Draft Zoning Bylaw, however, the ACRD Board gave direction in December 2023 that the Official Community Plans for all Electoral Areas need to be updated before discussing adoption of a new zoning bylaw.

Committee discussion followed regarding agricultural designations on properties and how Local Government legislation works with Agricultural Land Reserve

regulations. Request for more information on this be brought to the next ADC meeting.

P. Deakin left at 11:17 am.

8.2 **MEMBER REPORTS**

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham
- There will be a discussion at the October 16th Electoral Area Directors Meeting regarding changes to the zoning bylaw regarding agriculture in the ACRD.
 - Agricultural related resolutions, proposed by the City of Pitt Meadows, which were discussed at the June 18, 2024, ADC meeting, were voted on at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention (UBCM). Unfarmed Land Tax was endorsed, School Tax Exemption was endorsed, and the Farm Status Limit Increase was referred to the UBCM Executive. These motions are sent to the province and should the province pursue the proposed changes, consultation would follow.
 - Attending Agricultural Liaison Training - for Emergency Operations Centers in Coombs on November 19th.
 - Next ADC meeting will be held at the ACRD Office, lunch at 12:00 PM, meeting will begin at 12:45 PM, a Zoom link will be provided for those who cannot attend in person.

Committee discussion followed regarding UBCM attendance and voting procedures. Request from the committee for staff to bring UBCM resolution deadlines to the ADC for review prior to the convention to be able to potentially send a resolution through the Board in time for the decision to be made.

- b. School District # 70 – H. Zanette & K. Nesbitt
- Board of Education sent an advocacy letter in support of a National Food Program to the federal government via our MP, Gord Johns.
 - Five-year Capital Plan and Minor Capital Plan have been passed; more information available on the SD70 website.
[sd70-pacific-rim-lrfg-april-2024.4c6fd68166.pdf](https://www.sd70-pacific-rim-lrfg-2024-4c6fd68166.pdf)
 - K. Nesbitt is making changes to the school food program, looking to collaborate with local suppliers, will be reviewing the Systems Change Report in more detail, and looking forward to potentially working with the ADC and the ACRD on this project.
 - Currently upgrading school kitchens and planning to make positive changes to the program.
- c. Ministry of Agriculture & Food - T. O'Dell (provided in the Zoom chat)
- Upcoming Soils Basics Workshops
 - [Saanich October 17](#)
 - [Cowichan October 24](#)
 - Courtenay October 25 (no link)

- Funding Opportunities
 - [Ag Canada Small Food Processing Grants](#)
 - [Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program Funding](#)
- Potential support, on farm demonstrations for 2025 growing season: dry farming & warm season forage. Contact T. O'Dell for more information, thom.odell@gov.bc.ca or 1-778-225-0960.
- Island Agricultural Show in Duncan January 31 & February 1, 2025
- Pacific Agricultural Show in Abbotsford January 23-25, 2025
- d. Alberni Farmers' Institute – L. Aylard
 - AGM coming up on November 14 at 6:30 PM at Beaver Creek Hall
 - Several new members, some interest in organizing workshops.
 - Working on updating the structure within the Famers' Institute.
- e. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis
 - Gleaning program is now complete. Picked at total of 9680lbs of fruit. This shows the need for cold storage and other processing options.
 - Apple Juice is now for sale in the five-liter jugs.
 - AGM & Square Dance is planned for November 9 at 7pm at the Beaver Creek Hall.
 - Farm-to-School Program received TD Friends of the Environment Grant. Next week meeting with EJ Dunn and Eighth Avenue Learning Centre to make plans for their gardens. Working with Bamfield School as well to add plants to their garden.
- f. Primary Agricultural Producers
 - L. Aylard, Stonehaven Farms – Sales have been very strong, there is a waitlist for all their products and more and more local support from the public and businesses.

9. LATE BUSINESS

10. 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.

11. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am.

Certified Correct:

Heather Shobe

Heather Shobe,
Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue

Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant