



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024, 9:30 AM

Via Zoom

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Tanya Shannon, Vice-Chairperson, Shannon Farms
Ann Siddall, Alberni District Fall Fair Association
Fred Boyko, Director, Electoral Area "B" (Beaufort)
Helen Zanette, SD70 Trustee
Thom O'Dell, Ministry of Agriculture & Food
Erika Goldt, Eat West Coast
Anna Lewis, Alberni Valley Food Security Society
Lisa Aylard, Alberni Farmers' Institute, Stonehaven Farm
Amber Lamb, Feathers be Found
Katie Miles, Coastal Foods Roundtable, Tofino Community Food Initiative

REGRETS:

Heather Shobe, Chairperson, Eden Tree Farm
Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni
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
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/17-9-2024/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:34 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

MOVED: H. Zanette

SECONDED: A. Siddall

THAT the agenda be approved with the addition of item 5.C - Correspondence for Information.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS

4. MINUTES

a. Agricultural Development Committee Minutes – June 18, 2024

MOVED: H. Zanette

SECONDED: A. Siddall

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on June 18, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

b. Agricultural Development Committee Minutes – August 20, 2024

MOVED: A. Siddall

SECONDED: F. Boyko

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

CARRIED

5. CORRESPONDENCE

a. BC Agri-Business Planning Program
Growing your Farm or Food Processing Business

b. BC Provincial Agricultural Land Commission
Annual Report 2023-2024

c. Dr. Theresa Burns, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Animal Health Act – General Order AIV2024-01 re: Avian Influenza Virus

MOVED: H. Zanette

SECONDED: A. Lamb

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee receive items a-c for information.

CARRIED

6. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

7. REPORTS

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham
- The BC Centre for Agritech Innovation will be a delegation at the October 15, 2024 ADC meeting.
 - Heather Shobe will be presenting the conclusion of the Systems Change Project at the October 15, 2024, meeting.
 - Upland Agricultural Consulting was in town for two days during the Fall Fair and met with six different farmers/local governments/organizations to introduce the Food Security Emergency Planning and Agricultural Water Plan projects. These were preliminary introductory meetings and the consultant, Ione Smith, will return in November for in-depth workshops with agricultural organizations such as the Farmers’ Institute.
 - ACRD Agriculture table at the Fall Fair had 440 entries for the locally sourced gift basket over the weekend with close to 200 entries on Saturday alone. Lots of engagement and positive atmosphere.
 - Attending the Island Agriculture Show on January 31 & February 1, 2025, will be putting together another gift basket for that event to showcase our local farms and products. Please reach out to Amy directly if there are any products the committee would like included.
 - Equinox Garlic Festival, Saturday, September 21st, 2024.
 - World Rivers Day, Sunday, September 22nd, 2024.
- b. School District # 70 – H. Zanette
- School District has produced a [resource guide](#) for mental health supports in the ACRD, available on the SD70 website.
 - Next School Board meeting scheduled for September 24, 2024 in Bamfield.
 - Learning on the Land program has started in School District 70. Two cohorts of 16, one based out of 8th Ave Learning Centre, the other on the West Coast. Focused on outdoor, land-based learning, environmental stewardship, and food and local foraging.
 - New school lunch program has launched, combined with Nourish Cowichan, a non-profit society that prepares healthy meals for students.
 - Approached by a local teacher at the Fall Fair with interest in having students attend and help on a local farm.
 - Committee discussed options and opportunities in Port Alberni for student education.
 - [Farm to School Fall Newsletter](#) came out, multiple grant opportunities mentioned in the funding section of the newsletter.

- c. Ministry of Agriculture & Food – T. O’Dell
- 2024 fall intake for [Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program](#) is open now – opportunity to get funding to bring in experts and organize agricultural education.
 - [Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program – Phase Three](#) engineering design and planning is now open for larger projects, \$200,000+.
 - Agricultural Show dates have been set for 2025
 - Lower Mainland Horticultural Conference January 23-25, 2025.
 - Islands Agriculture Show January 31 - February 1, 2025 Cowichan Exhibition Park, Duncan.
 - Southern Interior Horticultural Show February 12-13, 2025 Penticton.
- d. Alberni Farmers’ Institute – L. Aylard
- Fall Fair went well, many entries in their t-shirt draw.
 - Good engagement, lots of questions about local produce and how to access.
 - Next AFI meeting/harvest potluck Sunday, September 22 @ 5:30pm at the Beaver Creek Hall.
 - AGM coming up in November, date TBD.
 - New ruling from Saltspring Island regarding a rooster crowing & being removed from a farm due to complaints from neighbors. Concern from the agriculture sector on how this may affect other areas.
 - Committee discussion followed regarding poultry regulations in the ACRD.
- A. Needham to follow-up and determine if new regulations were passed for Beaufort and Beaver Creek Districts regarding limits of poultry allowed on a property.
- e. Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall
- Over 20,000 visitors to the September 5-8, 2024 Fall Fair.
 - 110 new exhibitors in the home arts section, all had recently moved to the Alberni Valley.
 - The revamp of the Barnyard by Bill Thompson and the 4-H club was very well received by attendees.
- f. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis
- Family Farm Day was a huge success, long-time participants said was busiest year.
 - \$880 worth of coupons, given out at Fall Fair, were used this year.
 - Three new urban farms have approached to participate in 2025.
 - Received funds from the Community Prosperity Fund to go towards food literacy and to create shelf-stable products from the Gleaning Program and have administrative support for the program.
 - Gleaning Program summer student has finished her term, Anna has taken on the program now. They picked over 4000lbs over the past week.
 - Pumpkin Fest planned for Sunday, October 20 at Dry Creek Community Garden

- AGM and Square Dance Fundraiser set for November 9, 2024 at 5:00 pm.
 - Involved in Food First - Type 2 Diabetes Working Group, a program through the Rural Coordination Centre of BC. Planning to reach out to farmers for coordination with the group in November. Trying to utilize a food first approach to prevent or reverse Type 2 Diabetes.
 - Participated in the Smoothie Friday event at ADSS and found out that the Breakfast Program at ADSS is not currently running.
 - Committee discussion followed regarding the program and options and opportunities to get the program running again.
- g. Eat West Coast – E. Goldt
- Finding a lack of support on the West Coast for programs, the organizations are starting to fizzle out, volunteers are burning out and struggling for resources. Looking into the potential to join smaller groups into a larger group to share resources and volunteers.
 - Land opportunities identified in Coastal Addendum to the ACRD Agriculture Plan are no longer options, aside from Long Beach Farms.
 - Looking at new options for transporting and distributing food to residents and those in need. Hoping to bring together others who are involved in food distribution to work together. Goal is to have something in place for the Christmas Food Program.
 - Getting a lot of interest in the Tree Canada - Edible Tree Program. Committee discussed this program and other grant opportunities from Tree Canada. Should also be connected with WildSafe BC in regard to wildlife attractants.
 - Food Bank on the Edge received land from the District of Ucluelet to support their program. They should be up and running in time for Christmas Hampers.
 - Clayoquot Biosphere Trust is aiming to start building a new Biosphere Centre. Will have a community kitchen for public use and emergency access.
 - Meals on Wheels Pilot program this spring was very successful. Working on having a stable model with new grant funds. Have funding to run the program for another two years.
- h. Port Alberni Port Authority, Dock + Food Processing Hub – A. Needham for C. Addy
- C. Addy provided a detailed overview of the [Dock+ facility](#), current tenants, funding updates, expansion projects & updates to the facility, and future opportunities for tours & events.

L. Aylard left 10:43 am

The meeting no longer had quorum and so remainder of meeting was held for information purposes only.

- i. 4-H – A. Needham for P. Radcliffe

- Project meetings have continued – these are the meetings where members learn about their specific projects and work with their animals.
 - Members showed beef, rabbit, cavy (guinea pig), dog, and Cloverbud projects at the Alberni District Fall Fair.
 - 4-H was able to run the Dairy Bar and a small Petting Farm at the Fall Fair and raised substantial funds for the 4-H District, which will go a long way to helping provide more programming for the coming year.
 - Hoping to have an active recruitment campaign this fall for the 2025 registration.
 - Club year end activities to celebrate member’s achievements are being planned, dates TBD.
- j. Tofino Community Food Initiative – Katie Miles
- Initiative runs a lot of programs to try to promote growing in Tofino.
 - Received funding to run the Growing West Coast Gardeners Program again, will be led by local growers and focused on growing in the coastal region specifically. Funding will help to subsidize registration costs and other barriers to participants.
 - Follow on Facebook and Instagram for up-to-date information.
 - Awarded the contract to facilitate the Coastal Foods Roundtable, will be looking at booking the next meeting in November.
- k. Primary Agricultural Producers
- A. Lewis
 - Attended the Cherry Creek Farmers’ Market recently as vendor with the Growers Collective. The Market seems busier than ever. Market coupon program is back up and running.
 - T. Shannon
 - Shannon Dairy – Cows are still outside, slowly starting to transition to indoors.
 - The Cabin was booked at 100% capacity for the whole summer, did many tours of the farm for guests. Two culinary events held on the farm this summer. Gather & Graze event went very well and are already almost sold-out for 2025. Appy night Heifers & Hors D’oeuvres was also very successful and will be planning another one for 2025.
 - Will be hosting kids workshops at the farm this fall, scheduled for school pro-days. Candyse Roberts, from Dry Creek Community Garden, will be involved in these workshops.

8. LATE BUSINESS

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 10:59 am.

Certified Correct:

Tanya Shannon

Tanya Shannon,
Vice - Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue

Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant