



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 15, 2025, 12:45 PM

Zoom/Board Room (Hybrid) – 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Heather Shobe, Chairperson, Eden Tree Farm
Ann Siddall, Alberni District Fall Fair Association
Fred Boyko, Director, Electoral Area “B” (Beaufort)
Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority
Erika Goldt, Eat West Coast
Anna Lewis, Alberni Valley Food Security Society
Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms
Sarah Rymer, Spirit Square Farmers’ Market
Wayne Smith, Alberni Farmers’ Institute
Patty Palmer, 4H
Amber Lamb, Feathers be Found

Ex-Officio Members

Katie Miles, Coastal Roundtable Facilitator, Tofino Community Food Initiative
Russell Dyson, Agriculture Advisory Committee
Penny Cote, Director, ACRD, Agricultural Advisory Committee

REGRETS:

Helen Zanette, SD70 Trustee
Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm
Lisa Aylard, Alberni Farmers’ Institute, Stonehaven Farm
Kirsten Nesbitt, SD Healthy Schools Manager
Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni
Jen Cody, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Dietician
Thom O’Dell, Ministry of Agriculture & Food – Regional Agrologist
Kaley Ruel, Island Health Dietician
Larry McMahon, Agriculture Advisory Committee
Robert Haynes, Agriculture Advisory Committee
Star Miklashek, Agriculture Advisory Committee
Ray Dol, Agricultural Advisory Committee

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/15-4-2025/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:50 pm.

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: A. Lewis

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS

4. MINUTES

a. Agricultural Development Committee Minutes – February 18, 2025

MOVED: C. Addy

SECONDED: W. Smith

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on February 18, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a. PACIFIC CLIMATE IMPACTS CONSORTIUM

- Alberni Valley Community Climate Summary
- West Coast Community Climate Summary

b. ALBERNI VALLEY FOOD SECURITY SOCIETY

2024 Impact Report

c. INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL OF BC

Spring News and Updates

d. FARM TO SCHOOL BC

March Update – Island Region

e. AGRISERVICE BC

April Islands Regional E-Bulletin

MOVED: T. Shannon
SECONDED: A. Lewis

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

CARRIED

7. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

8. REPORTS

a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham

- The committee discussed how to submit resolutions to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

Moved: S. Rymer
Seconded: A. Siddall

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee request that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors to submit a resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities requesting priority boarding for agricultural producers on BC Ferries to ensure the health and safety of their livestock and agricultural products and direct ACRD staff to work with Provincial Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Agriculture, and BC Ferries Corporation in advance of UBCM on this issue.

CARRIED

The committee discussed inviting the General Manager of Administrative Services to a future meeting to describe the processes and timeline of requesting resolutions of the ACRD Board to AVICC and UBCM.

b. Alberni Farmers' Institute – W. Smith

- Held a recent meeting to discuss the Emergency Livestock Management Plan.
- Annual Homesteaders Day will be held out at the Beaver Creek Community Hall on April 27th from 10 am-2 pm and will include interesting presenters and mini workshops.

c. Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall

- Jake Van Kotten Memorial Pumpkin Contest has been added to the Fall Fair's Horticulture and Floriculture section. Pumpkin seeds are available at the Spirit Square Farmers' Market.

d. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis

- Reminder that deadline for the Growers Guide is approaching.

e. Eat West Coast – E. Goldt

- Working on food costing projections as the global market is making food security a big topic. Food on the west coast can be as much as 20% more than in Port Alberni.

- Three Community Gardens active this year, up from one last year.
 - Working on reestablishing the Farmers' Market Table, could be a shared table for producers in the area.
 - Two new additions to infrastructure on the West Coast.
 - Ucluelet Food Bank, hoping to be more of a connection hub than just the standard food bank. Being leased from the District of Ucluelet for \$1.00/year.
 - Clayoquot Biosphere Centre.
- f. Spirit Square Farmers' Market – S. Rymer
- Received funding for the Farmers' Market Coupon Program. Anticipating modifications to the program from the Ministry of Health. Program will begin around the end of June.
 - Will be applying for an ACRD Grant-in-Aid to support the Music at the Market program that runs from June – August. Discussion followed regarding how the ADC can support this program.
 - City of Port Alberni did not increase rent this year. No Community Investment Funding has been received for the Market in the past three years.
- g. Port Alberni Port Authority, Dock + Food Processing Hub – C. Addy
- Dock + has been very busy, expansion is underway.
 - Ice House will be open for the season on May 31st. Working to increase offloading capacity.
 - Food hub is very busy, everyone is looking for more space. Working to help to accommodate everyone's needs.
 - Looking to grow membership in the kitchen and increase workshops and classes at the Dock+ site.
 - Will be painting a large mural on the building, partnering with the Community Arts Council.
 - Three-year business plan has been created.
- h. Coastal Foods Roundtable, Tofino Community Food Initiative – Katie Miles
- Spring meeting held last week. Main focus is the Food Security Emergency Plan which will be reviewed at the Fall meeting.
 - Working to see how all the supported agricultural organizations on the west coast can work together to better support producers.
 - Land and foreshore lease cost increases for producers will be an issue going forward. Rates are based off property assessments, and many producers have seen a huge increase this year.
 - Tofino Community Food Initiative hosting a Learn to Grow course. Looking to increase greenhouse space at the Wickaninnish Community School's Garden.
 - Seedy scheduled for Sunday April 27.
- i. 4-H – P. Radcliffe
- Increase to 34 members, group is capped for the year.

- Reinstated the Regional 4H Camp, includes all Vancouver Island and Powell River Clubs, located on Thetis Island.
 - Working on educational display boards in lieu of public speaking this year. Top three will be entered in the regional competition.
 - Manure & Seaweed sale over the next few weeks, details still to be finalized. Information will be on the Facebook page [Alberni Valley 4-H Cloverpatch | Port Alberni BC | Facebook](#).
- j. Primary Agricultural Producers
- Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms
 - In addition to written report - Have started hosting weddings, have two booked for summer 2025, may increase this next year.
 - Amber Lamb, Feathers be Found
 - Attended the recent Greenhouse Growers Program through North Island College. First Aid, Foodsafe, and Market Safe certifications were all provided. Onsite learning was held at Hupacasath Community Garden. Overall, was a good program, good connections made.
 - Russell Dyson, Coleman Meadows
 - Currently have 2 applications in for a water license at the farm, has been a five-year process waiting for this approval.
 - Heather Shobe, Eden Tree Farm
 - Lots of plants growing, opened the farm stand at home, noticed 3-4 other farm stands in the area.
 - Have received meat chickens, they were quite hard to source this year.

MOVED: A. Siddall

SECONDED: W. Smith

THAT the verbal reports a-j be received.

CARRIED

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 Person in the ACRD Board Room
- Participating in the Zoom webinar
- Submissions received by email at responses@acrd.bc.ca.

11. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 pm.

Certified Correct:

Heather Shobe

Heather Shobe,
Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue

Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant