



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 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)
Helen Zanette, SD70 Trustee
Erika Goldt, Eat West Coast
Anna Lewis, Alberni Valley Food Security Society
Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm
Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms
Lisa Aylard, Alberni Farmers’ Institute, Stonehaven Farm
Sarah Rymer, Spirit Square Farmers’ Market
Wayne Smith, Alberni Farmers’ Institute
Patty Palmer, 4H
Ex-Officio Members
Thom O’Dell, Ministry of Agriculture & Food – Regional Agrologist
Russell Dyson, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Star Miklashek, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Penny Cote, Director, ACRD, Agricultural Advisory Committee

REGRETS:

Kaley Ruel, Island Health Dietician
Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni
Amber Lamb, Feathers be Found
Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority
Ex-Officio Members
Kirsten Nesbitt, SD Healthy Schools Manager
Katie Miles, Coastal Roundtable Facilitator, Tofino Community Food Initiative
Larry McMahon, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Robert Haynes, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Ray Dol, Agricultural Advisory Committee

STAFF PRESENT:

Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner
Alex Dyer, General Manager of Planning & Development
Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant

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

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/18-11-2025/7676/?catid=0>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:45 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: T. Shannon

SECONDED: S. Rymer

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS

4. MINUTES

a. Agricultural Development Committee Minutes – July 15, 2025

MOVED: A. Lewis

SECONDED: T. Shannon

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on July 15, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

a. Ione Smith, Agrologist, Upland Agricultural Consulting presenting the final versions of the Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan and the Alberni Valley Agricultural Water Plan

b. Victor Martinez, Faculty, Kwantlen Polytechnic University & Kent Mullinix, Researcher, Kwantlen Polytechnic University presenting research project: Resilient & Thriving, Vancouver Island's Food Future

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a. HONOURABLE JOSIE OSBORNE, MINISTER OF HEALTH

- Famers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program Letter
- Farm to School BC Letter to SD70
- b. **AGRISERVICE BC**
Islands Edition Regional Newsletter – October 2025
- c. **AGSAFE BC**
Dirt on Ag – September 2025
- d. **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD**
 - New Plant and Animal Health Centre
 - Notice of Avian Influenza in Coombs area
- e. **TOFINO COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVE**
Annual Report 2024

MOVED: S. Rymer

SECONDED: T. Shannon

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
 - Staff Update Report
 - 2026 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Resolutions Notice and Request for Submissions
- b. Ministry of Agriculture & Food - T. O'Dell
 - Many Provincial Agriculture related programs are open year-round. Currently funding for large scale producers water infrastructure and farm FireSmart assessments
- c. Alberni Farmers' Institute – W. Smith
 - Annual General Meeting held on November 12, 2025.
 - Donated funds to the Alberni Valley Search and Rescue team to thank them for their support during the 2024 windstorm and to show them that their services are appreciated.
- d. Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall
 - The 2025 fair was another success with over 22,000 people in attendance over four days. The Saturday was by far the busiest day seen in many years with 10,000 people coming through the gates.
 - Congestion outside the ag building is a recognized issue that the association will continue to work on.
 - Farm Gate Brochure is being distributed with the Neighbourhood Welcome packages, thanks to the Dock+, ACRD, and AV Food Security for their support to make this happen.

- e. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis
 - In addition to agenda report:
 - Dry Creek Community Garden lease has been approved for another 4 years
 - Received funding for an online directory comprised of primary producers, called Farmers, Fisheries, Foragers. Found at www.avfood.ca/ffsubmit
- f. Eat West Coast – E. Goldt
 - Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Grant stream opening in January.
- g. Spirit Square Farmers’ Market – S. Rymer
 - Dock+ sponsorship of the Music at the Market was a great addition to the atmosphere.
 - Community Futures Alberni-Clayoquot sponsored the “Spirited Kids Market”. Was a popular event and will be held again in 2026.
 - Annual General Meeting scheduled for Dec 2, 2025
 - Looking for a Market Manager and investigating funding sources for this to be a paid position.
- h. 4-H – P. Radcliffe
 - In addition to the agenda report, community support for the program has been overwhelmingly positive.
- i. Primary Agricultural Producers
 - VI Grain, Wayne Smith – Overabundance of hay, lack of animals/livestock, land needs to be utilized effectively, strong market for grain, rye specifically.
 - Stonehaven Farm, Lisa Aylard – Excellent continued support for the farm. They are currently sold out of beef for this year, next set is spoken for, next potential for sales is February.

MOVED: A. Siddall

SECONDED: W. Smith

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

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

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Certified Correct:

Heather Shobe

Heather Shobe,
Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue

Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant