



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026, 12:45 PM

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

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Heather Shobe, 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, Sproat Starts
Lisa Aylard, Stonehaven Farm
Sarah Rymer, Spirit Square Farmers’ Market, No Ryme or Reason
Wayne Smith, Alberni Farmers’ Institute, Vancouver Island Grain and Milling
Patty Palmer, 4H

Ex-Officio Members

Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni
Katie Miles, Coastal Foods Roundtable Facilitator, Tofino Community Food Initiative
Thom O’Dell, Ministry of Agriculture & Food – Regional Agrologist
Larry McMahon, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Russell Dyson, Agricultural Advisory Committee, Coleman Meadow’s Farm
Penny Cote, Director (Area D), ACRD, Agricultural Advisory Committee

REGRETS:

Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority
Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm
Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms
Kirsten Nesbitt, SD Healthy Schools Manager
Kaley Ruel, Island Health Dietician
Star Miklashek, 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/17-2-2026/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Administrative Assistant (AA) called the meeting to order at 12:46 pm.

The AA recognized this meeting is being held throughout the Nuu-chah-nulth territories.

The AA reported this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District website.

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff via Zoom.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON & VICE CHAIRPERSON

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON/VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR 2026

The AA conducted the election for Chairperson of the Agricultural Development Committee for 2026.

No committee members accepted the nomination for Chairperson. Election for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, will be held at the next meeting.

H. Zanette assumed the Chair role for this meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: S. Rymer

SECONDED: A. Lewis

THAT the agenda be approved with addition of Late Items 10(a) Phishing Scam targeting Agriculture Producers and 10(b) Condolence Letter to Dufour family.

CARRIED

4. DECLARATIONS

5. MINUTES

a. Agricultural Development Committee Minutes – November 18, 2025

MOVED: H. Shobe

SECONDED: A. Siddall

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on November 18, 2025 be adopted as amended to add a summary of topics discussed by committee members.

CARRIED

Staff Note: The ACRD Procedures Bylaw guides how minutes are taken at Board and Committee meetings. Decisions are recorded; however general discussion during meetings is not recorded in the minutes. Meetings are recorded and available to watch on the ACRD website.

6. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **ALBERNI VALLEY FOOD SECURITY SOCIETY**
2025 Impact Report
- b. **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
Response to ACRD Board of Directors Letter re: Farm to School BC
- c. **PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF BC**
Farm to School BC 2025 Annual Report

MOVED: A. Siddall

SECONDED: S. Rymer

THAT this correspondence be received.

CARRIED

8. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

9. REPORTS

- 9.1 a. Verbal Report – L. Aylard
 - **CANADIAN CATTLE ASSOCIATION**
Understanding Proposed New Traceability Rules
 - **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES**
BC Premises Identification Regulation, Policy Intentions Paper
 - **CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY**
Statement on proposed amendments to livestock traceability regulations
 - **WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH**
 - [World Organisation for Animal Health - Home Page](#)
 - [World Organisation for Animal Health - One Health](#)
- 9.2 a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham (attached)
- b. Primary Agricultural Producers
 - Wayne Smith, VI Grains – Seeing fewer grain producers, equipment for sale on the island. Concern for the future of food security, grain is very important in an extended famine situation. Recently received

- information about a food security group located in Nanaimo, will look into this further and get back to the group at the next meeting.
- Russell Dyson, Coleman Meadows Farm – Discussed the dairy industry standards in Canada and how working with the government has helped the industry.
 - Tanya Shannon, The Cabin at Shannon Farms – Has set market dates for the season (four total), that will be posted on The Cabin’s website and social media soon. The culinary events are set for July 25th (Heifers & hors d'oeuvres), and August 8th (Gather & Graze). Has met with the chef this past weekend, and menu planning is underway (Chef Martin Dean of Neck of the Woods in Tofino).
- c. City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin
- Due to concerns around the Alberni Valley’s health care system and the inability to attract more doctors a working group comprised of Community Futures Alberni-Clayoquot, the Alberni Valley Healthcare Fund Society, and the Alberni Low Energy Housing Society has been formed to establish a clinic with a new model with better work/life balance to attract doctors to the area. The group is working to find a piece of property that will meet the criteria to establish the clinic. City of Port Alberni Council has established their support for the work being done by this group. There is potential to have some of the land behind the Pacific Rim Shopping Centre removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) to allow this clinic to be established. Soil testing and some preemptive works have begun. Working to find out why a previous application to have the land removed from the ALR was denied. The report will be prepared and go to council before the application to the Agricultural Land Commission is submitted. The Agricultural Advisory Committee and Agricultural Development Committee will be contacted during this phase.

MOVED: H. Shobe

SECONDED: L. Aylard

THAT the Agriculture Development Committee request that the ACRD Board of Directors ask for the City of Port Alberni to refer all Agriculture Land Commission applications to the ACRD Agriculture Advisory Committee for input.

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee request that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors direct staff to update the Agricultural Advisory Committee’s Terms of Reference to include the review of all Agricultural Land Commission applications in the Regional District, including those that fall within the boundary of the City of Port Alberni should the City of Port Alberni be supportive of receiving Agriculture Advisory Committee input.

CARRIED

- d. Ministry of Agriculture & Food - T. O'Dell
 - Many funding programs open right now included in the latest [Ministry E-bulletin newsletter](#). Any questions please reach out to Thom O'Dell.
- e. Alberni Farmers' Institute – W. Smith
 - Started holding regular open coffee meetings at Collins Farm. You do not need to be a member of the Farmers' Institute to attend. Next meeting is Sunday, February 22, 2026.
 - Looking into an AI program to summarize the information coming from the government, putting it into common speech.
- f. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis
 - 641 people attended the Seedy Saturday event held February 14, 2026
 - AGM scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 7pm in the Alberni Valley Museum
 - Deadline for being included in the Farm, Fish, Forage directory is Feb 21, 2026
 - Deadline for inclusion in the Grower's Guide is March 31, 2026
- g. Spirit Square Farmers' Market – S. Rymer
 - August Children's Market with Community Futures, date has been set, will forward to the group.
 - Heartwood Learning Centre is also interested in having a children's market in April or May, no date set.
 - Currently negotiating the lease with the City of Port Alberni
- h. Coastal Foods Roundtable, Tofino Community Food Initiative – Katie Miles
 - Tofino Community Food Initiatives updates are as follows:
 - Currently expanding elder and student after-school programming to Opitsaht, helping locals develop their own program similar to ours this spring
 - Currently weaving connections between the Maaqtusiis garden in Ahousaht and the Wickaninnish school garden.
 - Fruit tree pruning and grafting workshop with Robin and Jordan Maynard of Gibsons Farm Friday, February 13th at the school garden
 - Next Coastal Foods Roundtable is March 18th in Ucluelet and includes a workshop on bio-regionalizing the food system from KPU researchers studying Vancouver Island.
 - Seedy Sunday is May 3rd at the school garden!
 - If anyone would like to share seeds for the seed libraries we are building, that would be lovely! Contact katie@tofinocommunityfoodinitiative.com

MOVED: A. Lewis

SECONDED: H. Shobe

THAT the verbal reports a-h be received.

CARRIED

10. LATE BUSINESS

a. **Correspondence Regarding Phishing Scam Targeting Agricultural Producers**

The committee received correspondence outlining a potential phishing scam that has targeted an agricultural producer in the Alberni Valley.

[late item correspondence.pdf](#).

b. **Letter of Condolence to family of Helene Dufour**

Helene was a member of the Agricultural Development Committee for several years, in her role as a nutritionist with Island Health.

MOVED: A. Siddall

SECONDED: A. Lewis

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee extend their condolences by sending a letter to the family of Helene DuFour.

CARRIED

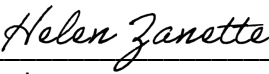
11. QUESTION PERIOD

Questions/Comments from the public. The Administrative Assistant advised there were no questions or comments respecting an agenda topic from public:

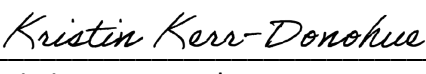
- Participating in the Zoom webinar
- Submissions received by email at responses@acrd.bc.ca.

12. ADJOURN

Certified Correct:



Helen Zanette,
Chairperson



Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant