



## ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

### MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026, 7:00 PM

Hybrid - Zoom/Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

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#### MEMBERS

##### PRESENT:

Penny Cote, Director, Electoral Area "D" (Sproat Lake), Chairperson  
Fred Boyko, Director, Electoral Area "B" (Beaufort)  
Larry McMahon  
Russell Dyson  
Lisa Aylard  
Ray Dol  
Wayne Smith

##### REGRETS:

Star Miklashek

##### STAFF PRESENT:

Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner  
Kylie Pettifer, Community Project and Engagement Manager  
Alex Dyer, General Manager of Planning and Development  
Charlene Harrison, Planning Assistant

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

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/11-5-2026/>

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 present in the Boardroom and via Zoom.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*The Motion was MOVED and SECONDED*

*THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. DECLARATIONS**

**4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

**5. DELEGATIONS (10 minute maximum)**

**6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**a. Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting – January 19, 2026**

*The Motion was MOVED and SECONDED*

*THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on January 19, 2026 be adopted.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

**9. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION**

**10. REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORTS**

**11. REPORTS**

**a. Official Community Plan (OCP) Updates – K. Pettifer – verbal report**

- Draft Sproat Lake and Area OCP
- Beaufort OCP Introduction

Planning staff introduced what an OCP is and the difference between an OCP and zoning bylaw. Planning staff explained how OCPs and ALC regulations work together for land use protection, development, and farm use requirements.

Planning staff provided an overview of the Draft Sproat Lake and Area OCP which included:

- Feedback Questionnaire available until May 24, 2026.
- Explanation of Section 5.8 Agriculture and Food Security.
- Board of Directors to receive Draft Plan on June 10 for first reading, with consideration for adoption in summer.
- Comments from open house were captured by ACRD Planners, once comments are compiled and updates are complete, ACRD staff will provide a summary of updates for public review.

- Summary of what was heard at the open house, which included development in riparian area, barriers to farming, access to water for agriculture, and drought management.

Agricultural Advisory Committee members discussed the following Sproat Lake and Area OCP items:

- Support for the OCP to promote greening of properties.
- Edible landscaping, which is installing food bearing plants, such as rhubarb, saskatoon berries, and salal, on public lands for anyone to harvest.
- Support for language in the OCP for small scale farming, such as processing local products.
- Farming can occur in estuaries, like Somass Estuary, in an environmentally protective manner.
- Draft Plan to have language in policies to support recommendations of the Alberni Valley Agricultural Water Plan.
- Five-acre minimum development parcel size should be larger when adjacent to ALR lands, as development can have impact to adjacent farmlands.
- Language in the OCP to support applying for grants for emergency access for agriculture water.

Planning staff introduced the launch of the Beaufort OCP and asked questions to the Committee members which included:

- what this plan needs to address,
- what opportunities should it support,
- what groups to engage with, and
- how to engage with farmers over the summer.

Agricultural Advisory Committee members discussed the following Beaufort OCP items:

- Support for agri-tourism and road maintenance.
- Engagement with Farmers Institute and small independent businesses, such as those working on homesteads.
- Second week in June is best for engagement with farmers.
- Townhall is scheduled for Sunday, June 14 at 2 pm.

## **12. OTHER BUSINESS (including Late Items)**

## **13. QUESTION PERIOD**

## **14. ADJOURN**

*The Motion was MOVED and SECONDED*

*THAT this meeting be adjourned at 8:49 pm.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Certified Correct:

*Penny Cote*

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Penny Cote,  
Chairperson

*Charlene Harrison*

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Charlene Harrison,  
Planning Assistant