

Agricultural Development Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday June 16, 2020
Via Zoom

Present: Penny Cote, Tanya Shannon, Heather Shobe, Anna Lewis, Rosemarie Buchanan, Guy Langlois, Meagan Curtis, Victoria Lake, Ann Siddall

Regrets: Lisa Aylard, Erica Goldt, Edward Dyson, Bob Collins, Makenna Cyr, Katelyn McDougall, Melody Francoeur, Cathy Burkosky

1. Chair, Heather Shobe welcomed everyone and did a Traditional Territory Acknowledgment

2. Approval of Agenda

- **M/S/C by Tanya Shannon and Penny Cote**

3. Approval of Minutes from May 12, 2020

- **M/S/C by Rosemarie Buchanan and Penny Cote**

4. Open Floor: Short News Items or Briefings

1. Grant Opportunities, various

- Including new Federal Local Food Infrastructure Fund Grant (\$250,000)
 - Supporting collaborations may reduce regional competition and increase impacts
 - Discussion: this grant is not for local governments, but for non-profit groups and indigenous community. A suggestion that funding is needed for such things as juicer (gleaming project) meat cutting equipment, and coolers/storage. Egg producers are looking to get a grader. The grant might be a good fit for Alberni Food Hub, Shelter Farm, or West Coast First Nations, but Agricultural Support Workers can support application/s. Heather to arrange a meeting to discuss with interested parties.

2. Sustainable Agriculture student seeking support - Heather had a request from a Home School student looking for funding by way of bursaries or scholarships to carry on with agriculture education. It was discussed, but the known 2020 opportunities have been filled (Alberni Farmers' Institute and BC Fairs bursaries)

3. Armyworm Trapping update: there has been ongoing monitoring and a number of moths have shown up, but Provincial Entomologist is not concerned with the numbers.

4. ADC's Air Quality Submission to the Burning Bylaws Response Summary: submitted to ACRD Staff

5. Response from Minister of Agriculture to ADC's Covid-19 Letter; received and acknowledged

6. Other, per Committee Members

- Meagan Curtis spoke on the need for an egg grader station (includes a wash and drying station plus 2 refrigerators) before any egg producers can legally sell to restaurants and retail outlets.

5. Meat Inspection Regulations

Now that the approval is in place, Alberni Farmers' Institute is looking into SlaughterSafe Course and connecting with Island Health about Class D Designation next steps. Guy Langlois suggests North Island College may be interested in supporting education. Heather to follow up with them re: meat slaughter/cutting courses.

6. Tseshaht Agricultural Development on Poplar Flats

Tseshaht Councillor Ken Watts reached out for support as Tseshaht is exploring opportunities to develop their lands adjacent to the Somass River flats for agriculture. He invited interested parties to a site meeting June 17th. Shelter Farm is interested in mapping the area with his students and will get in touch with Ken.

7. Summer Student Funding (4 positions for agriculture across Region)

Tofino Culinary Guild is overseeing this funding opportunity and considering having 2 students on the west coast and 2 in the Alberni Valley. Discussed need for students to have clear objectives and job descriptions. Several suggestions came forward:

- Working with the Food Processing Hub and partners/tenants to promote themselves through social media and over internet markets, developing kitchen management procedures and food safety plans, supporting development of initiatives that support product development, aggregation, and distribution.
- Working with Spirit Square Farmers Market to better help their members get onto their online sales platform. Maybe the Food Processing Hub becomes a market member in order to sell through their online shop as well?
- Working alongside Family Farm Day and Fall Fair initiatives as needed
- Support any work needed to develop Class D slaughter facilities
- Assisting with grant applications

8. Fall Events, Updates

Ann Siddall and Anna Lewis updated everyone about plans to incorporate the Local Grocery shopping Experience with what would have been Family Farm Days. The shopping event will be built into a platform similar in content to last year's event, with 10 items people can pick from. They will all have nutritional value, where to purchase, and a link to a video of a local farm that produces the product. Anna explained that Nancy Wilnot will be producing the 3 to 5-minute videos. Once the game has been completed each family puts their name in for a draw worth of \$200 worth of local products. Anna is hoping to incorporate a scavenger hunt into the videos where entrants need to find the items to win another \$200 worth of products. The draws will be held on Sunday Sept 13th at 11:30am via livestream on Facebook.

Ann stressed the success of both games will be with successful cross social media promotion and other things of interest to the public within the platform of a Virtual Fair that will draw people to the website.

9. Discussion about ADC Attendance, Schedule, and Member Participation

All those in attendance felt that, while at times there are only a few members present, anyone working in the agriculture field is busy at different times of the year and can not always make a meeting. Participants all liked the format of Zoom meetings. Zoom also reduces the time and cost of travel to meetings. The members present wanted to encourage City representatives to participate in the committee meetings, as they felt they were an important stakeholder.

10. Next Meeting Date

- **2-4pm August 18, 2020** via zoom unless otherwise notified.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:42PM