



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023, 9:30 AM

Via Zoom

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Ann Siddall, Alberni District Fall Fair, Chairperson
Fred Boyko, Director, Electoral Area "B" (Beaufort)
Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni
Helene Dufour, Island Health
Helen Zanette, SD70 Trustee
Heather Shobe, Eden Tree Farm
Anna Lewis, Alberni Valley Food Security Society
Lisa Aylard, Alberni Farmers' Institute, Stonehaven Farm
Victoria Lake, Effingham Oyster

REGRETS:

Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority
Jen Cody, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
Thom O'Dell, Ministry of Agriculture & Food
Erika Goldt, Coastal Agricultural Roundtable, Eat West Coast
Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm
Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms
Cathy Burkosky, Avalon Farm
Alex Taylor, Shelter Farm
Janette Cormier, Happy Hollow Farm
Theresa O'Neil, Spirit Square Farmers Market

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/21-11-2023/>

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:34am.

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: H. Zanette

SECONDED: F. Boyko

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **MINUTES**

a. **Agricultural Development Committee Meeting held October 24, 2023**

MOVED: H. Zanette

SECONDED: A. Lewis

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on October 24, 2023 be received.

CARRIED

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a. **BC GOVERNMENT NEWS**
Avian Influenza Cases Increasing in BC

b. **AGRISERVICE BC**
November 2023 – eBulletin

c. **AGSAFE BC**
Dirt on Agriculture – October 2023

d. **FARM TO SCHOOL BC**
November Newsletter

MOVED: H. Zanette

SECONDED: V. Lake

THAT this correspondence a-d be received.

CARRIED

5. **REQUEST FOR DECISIONS**

a. **REQUEST FOR DECISION**
Agricultural Water Planning Funding Opportunity

MOVED: F. Boyko
SECONDED: A. Lewis

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee recommend that the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors direct staff to apply to the Real Estate Foundation of BC grant program for the balance of the agricultural water project funding.

CARRIED

6. REPORTS

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham
- Agricultural Water Infrastructure Grant Funding Decision
Have been awarded \$100,000 from the fund. There will be engagement upcoming, asking the committee to be aware and convey any agriculture water concerns they have or hear of in their communities.
 - Council for Agricultural Water Supply Meeting Summary
Working group dedicated to looking at the issues with agricultural water in the ACRD. Was originally a project through grant money, which Anna Lewis worked on. Due to its success, the Board made a permanent working group so that there is an ongoing group looking at ag water issues and how to get ahead of the droughts in the district. Recent meeting, Nov 16, ToR amendment was addressed. Group was originally tied to Alberni Valley, due to grant constrictions. ToR have now been amended to include the whole ACRD.
 - NIC Meat Processing Course Update
Looking to apply for Provincial Grant to hold the course in the spring. Met with Provincial Granting Body, repeat applications are not usually approved, however letters of support from employers in the area are very important. Recanvassed potential employers for meat processing workers. Hopeful that more letters of interest will come in to show that the course is needed.
 - Regional Extension Workshop Summary
Provincial Govt looking at another slate of regional extension projects. Current projects closed with the ending of Climate Change Adaptation funding. Now holding engagement workshops with producers. Amy attended Nov 15 workshop, in Parksville. Prov Govt has a draft structure set out already, looking at specific climate issues in Agriculture:
 - Excessive rainfall/flooding
 - Extreme heat
 - Drought
 - Changing crop suitabilities
 - Changing pests and beneficialsActive survey up right now: link provided in the chat to the Committee.
[Regional Extension Program: Questionnaire Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com)

- Food Security Emergency Planning & Preparedness Grant Application and Letters of Support
Due by Dec 19, working hard on background. Came through ADC and Board a few months ago. Requests for Letters of Support already sent out to municipalities, local FN, and other agricultural organizations.
- b. City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin
Work on updating OCP beginning soon. Have started budgeting process, good time to put requests forward to the city. 20 goals set for 2023-2027 strategic plan, one is devoted to food safety and security.
H. Shobe – Reana @ Community Futures has been very helpful and recent support for producers has been great, would like to see tangible, ongoing, targeted, business supports for agricultural producers. Help with grant writing is a good example.
A. Needham – also getting requests from people throughout the food chain, not just producer end. Support through zoning and OCP for food processors and distributors. Processing and distribution often falls into a more urban environment, could be an area where the City of Port Alberni could take a more active role.
A. Lewis & H. Shobe – Discussion on events/programs that could be hosted to support the Agricultural Chain, producers to distributors.
P. Deakin – Funding through ICE T for a community based advisory, Reana and an assistant have been doing the work. Consisted of being in touch with the business community to see where could help the most, where supports were needed, and to help them understand what might be available for their businesses going forward. Happy to focus more on the processing and distribution side. Number of applications coming through city hall for food related businesses. Working with Port Authority to build more infrastructure for Dock+.
- c. School District # 70 – H. Zanette
SD70 – Dave Mar, District Principle, is working on Learning on the Land course. Indigenous focused traditional learning, k-9, includes garden, composting and caring for animals.
- d. Alberni Farmers’ Institute – L. Aylard
AGM was held, new directors will be meeting this week. Quite a few new people on board, looking forward to invigorating the AFI this year.
- e. Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall
Signed new 3-year agreement with ACRD for emergency holding of livestock. AGM last week, new board/directors, will be starting for 2024 planning next week. 125 volunteers stepped forward to help with the fair last year, overwhelming support from the community. Best way to contact FF is via Ann’s e-mail, will also be an application going up on the website shortly.
- f. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis
First AGM was held, new president elected, Byron Pugh. Seedy Saturday event is organized, need to confirm speakers and finalize number of vendors. Nourish

- Fair is 3-6, Nov 23, will be the initial distribution of Community Food Offerings pamphlet put together by AVFSS.
- g. Marine Stakeholders – Victoria Lake (Effingham Oysters)
REDIP grant has been awarded, equipment arriving in mid-January. Working with different FN fisheries managers, working on getting a larger seafood processing facility. Looking at grant for emergency preparedness. Road closure challenged seafood transport out of the valley, really affected Indigenous partners. Need more cold storage, external Seacans at The Dock+.
- h. Primary Agricultural Producers
- a. Lisa Aylard
Lot of interest from restaurants, will be out of Lamb by Christmas. Beef, some heifers shipped out this summer due to low feed. Will be a lull in beef production because of this, nothing until February.
Road closure also affected the farm, getting replacement tractor parts, feed in, livestock out. Was a big problem for producers.
- i. Island Health – Helene Dufour
Healthy Communities Program is growing, job posting that will be for ACRD region for a full-time position for a Community Developer. Role is to work between all Island Health programs and providers along with the Health Network. Working with Medical Health Officers to develop food security plan for 2024/2025, will be linked to other plans being developed by other Health Authorities.

MOVED: H. Zanette

SECONDED: L. Aylard

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

CARRIED

7. 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.

8. NEXT MEETING

Dec 19 meeting cancelled; committee agreed is not necessary. Next meeting scheduled for January 23.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Ann Siddal

Ann Siddall,
Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue

Kristin Kerr-Donohue
Administrative Assistant