

Cariboo Regional District

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee, held via Zoom on February 21, 2023, at 6:00PM

Purpose and Use of Meeting Minutes

The purpose of the meeting minutes is to summarize the discussions that occurred during the meeting and record action items. Comments summarized here represent the opinions of the individuals who made them and not of the Advisory Group as a whole. We intentionally do not associate names with the input recorded in the minutes to support a more open dialogue. A Record of Motions is kept, validating the members' votes to carry motions. Minutes will be used to plan for future meetings and to create documents supporting the Advisory Group and its processes. Advisory Group members are given the opportunity to provide feedback on the minutes. Minutes will be approved at the following meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Christa Pooley	BC Forage Council
Brianna van de Wijngaard	Horticulture and Vegetable Producers
Bill Hadden	Agroforestry
Megan Flatt	Cariboo Chilcotin Sheep Producers Association
Robin Hunt	Farmers Market
Martin Rossmann	Kersley Farmers Institute
Jennifer Roberts	Quesnel Cattleman's Association
Tyrone Johnston	Agrobusiness

DELEGATIONS

Emily Colombo	Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation Regional Economic Branch Operations
Beth Holden	CRD Economic and Community Development

LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT

CRD Vice-Chair John Massier	CRD Liaison
Nicole Pressey	Ministry of Agriculture and Food

CRD STAFF

Shivani Sajwan	Cariboo Regional District Planning Officer
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MEMBER ATTENDANCE

6:30PM – Christa Pooley left the meeting. John Massier took over as Chair. Seven members remaining in attendance.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

R/2023-04

It was moved and seconded

That ADAC approve the February 21, 2023, agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

R/2023-05

It was moved and seconded

That ADAC adopt the January 23, 2023, meeting minutes.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1. Emily Colombo, Min of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovations - REDIP Program and Funding Opportunities

- Delegate introduces the REDIP Program, which was announced in November. The first intake was through December. Funding is confirmed for three fiscals. Some of its priorities are diversifying local economies, increasing economic resilience, and helping to move forward some of their ministry's priorities in inclusive growth and clean growth. There are three streams.
- **Economic Capacity:** Percentage of project costs is 100%, maximum funding per applicant is \$100,000 over two years so \$50,000 a year (only communities less than 2,500 can apply).
- **Economic Diversification:** Broadest stream with two sub streams. One is a planning stream which can fund the development of projects up to \$100,000 and implementation projects up to \$1,000,000. It is 80% matching. Open to anyone with a population of under 25,000.
- **Forest Impact Transition:** This stream is only available to local governments and First Nations who have been impacted by changes in the forest sector. It will fund 100% up to \$500,000.
- Discussion regarding funding, what is applicable, the roadblocks in the way, and the steps that could be taken to overcome these.
- ***Chair is called away. Vice-Chair (and CRD Liaison) takes over.***
- The Vice-Chair believes the opportunity could alleviate some of the pressure we're under and a member suggests reaching out about bridging the gap between the recommendations in the AAP and the action items and how the committee might want to explore accessing REDIP funding in the future.
- A delegate suggests reviewing the action plan and prioritizing the actions laid out. What can happen sooner or faster? What is more important? What sort of long-term projects might there be? What kind of partners might we like? She suggests this fall on ADAC rather than the CRD, because the CRD will not come at it from ADAC's perspective or with their knowledge. A CRD Staff Member agrees that ADAC, having more agriculture knowledge, should become the driving force and prioritize the action plan.

4.2. Beth Holden, CRD Economic and Community Development – CRD Agriculture Area Plan

- The delegate introduces the idea of creating some different kinds of agrotourism

opportunities. If there is an opportunity in the agriculture sector for agrotourism, what would that look like? What would people want to offer that would draw people into this area? She is engaging with as many different agriculture groups as she can to understand what the agriculture sector actually wants, and if they would be interested in diversifying what they offer. She would like her information to be passed on to anyone interested in agrotourism.

- Discussion about risk management and insurance. The previous delegate says that in regard to insurance, Destination BC can help provide introductions to various insurance programs including potentially an umbrella tourism insurance program.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Liaison says the insurance challenge has been growing over the recent years due to climate change and the insurance companies' inability to quantify the impacts of it. The other part is animal rights activism and having animals on your operation and then slaughtering them on your operation. It is suggested ADAC discuss this more broadly and perhaps consider it as a resolution.
- A member suggests the Small-Scale Meat Producer's Association should be involved as they are doing a lot of survey work and have a lot of interest in it. She adds that they do agrotourism on their farm and she finds it a good added benefit. She brings up the Western Economic Tourism Grant. She applied, went through the whole process, but was told that because she wasn't incorporated, they couldn't approve it. She would like more information on that and why it was a stipulation.

5. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. ADAC Consulting with the CRD Board of Directors on Applications to the ALC

- Discussion around the controversial application discussed last meeting that was deferred for a month, for a decision regarding a piece of property in the Central Cariboo.
- A CRD Staff Member addresses this and regarding ADAC involvement in the ALC application, her understanding is that in previous Board meetings it has seemed the Board of Directors have agreed to not include one more committee for ALC, and planning applications are on a deadline besides and have a timeline that has to be met. ADAC would need to meet more often to meet those deadlines. The timeline, was the reason the Board of Directors were not interested in involving ADAC as a referral committee for ALC applications.
- The CRD Liaison acknowledges that but says the Board feels they are getting stuck between a rock and a hard place when those they work with do not feel they have the ability to comment on these applications directly to the ALC, so are coming to the CRD in the spirit of reconciliation and saying they don't want them to forward it on because they are opposed to it, leaving the CRD stuck being the arbitrator without knowing all the facts.

5.2. Regular Meeting Date Update – Three Potential Dates

- 1st Monday of the month with 8 people, 2nd Monday of the month with 8 people, and the 3rd Wednesday of the month with about 8 people, Martin and Lynda confirming by phone. A member suggests we just arbitrarily pick one of those three dates. The CRD Liaison suggests letting the ADAC Chair pick which date she wants to target, at which point the committee can be informed of the decision and we can start scheduling for then.

5.3. Election of a Treasurer for ADAC

- Discussion of the duties of a Treasurer. A member puts her name forward for Treasurer.

R/2023-03

To elect Brianna van de Wijngaard by acclamation vote to the executive role of Treasurer.

CARRIED

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. New Bylaw Review

- Tabled to the next meeting.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

7.1. N/A

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1. Sustainable Agriculture Strategy Consultation Survey

- Discussion

8.2. FLP Meeting February 15, 2023

- Discussion

8.3. Opportunities 2022 and Beyond Committee Meeting

- Discussion

8.4. Kersley Farmer's Institute February 18th Event – Did Anyone Attend?

- Very well reviewed event.

8.5. ACARN: Introduction to the BC Living Lab

- Discussion

8.6. BC Ag in the Classroom Free Offer

- Discussion.

9. ROUNDTABLE

9.1. Support for the BC Craft Cider Industry

- Discussion around the difference between land based and commercial licenses and how cider is classified different than wine in that you have to actually have an orchard. Land costs are a barrier to open farm craft ciders. They will buy 2 acres to get the license but then only put in the least amount of apple trees required to get the license, so they're using the land for business not agriculture. If the legislation was changed it could fix that problem. Ciders would like to be recognized like wine as opposed to being sidelined. Land isn't being utilized like it should be.
- Discussion regarding any orchards or vines in the Cariboo. A member mentions that haskap bushes have been planted in commercial quantities down here only hampered by a lack of farm workers. He mentions we are seeing a bit of an expansion into the berry side that we

haven't had in quite a few years. Discussion about this. A member mentions Northern Lights put a call out two years ago for 2 or 5 acres of rhubarb or an organic grower, so there is a need to support other businesses by expanding your operation.

- Cideries are in a crack and until the wording of the ALR is fixed or the interpretation is changed, they'll stay there. It was suggested to table the cidery discussion to the next meeting.

10. QUESTION PERIOD

- A member mentions that FARMED are very focused on the North, and a lot of similar things are happening in the South, so it feels everyone is doing the same thing and that more collaboration could be done.
- A liaison reminds us that Knowledge Tech Transfer Funding should open April 1st and groups like ADAC, the Kersley Farmer's Institute, and the Farmer's Market can consider putting applications in.
- A member proposes that if we haven't looked at it yet, she would love to bring the Small-Scale Meat Producer's Association in for a conversation and some info about their survey as well as their insurance, and also the new regulations. It is information she would like to see spread out to the Cariboo Region.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: TBD

Agenda Submission Deadline: TBD


C. Pooley, Chair

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