

Cariboo Regional District

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING NOTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee, held via Zoom on September 20th, 2023 at 7pm

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
Lynda Atkinson	Regional Food and Innovation Hub
Megan Flatt	Cariboo Chilcotin Sheep Producer's Association
David Zirnhelt	Cariboo Cattleman's Association
Cynthia Fell	Indigenous Governments
Tammy Briggs	Horticulture and Greenhouse Production
Brianna van de Wijngaard	Horticulture and Vegetable Producers

LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT

Nicole Pressey	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Shivani Sajwan	CRD

DELEGATIONS

Florian Bergoin	Three Rivers Community Forest
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REGRETS

Jennifer Roberts	Quesnel Cattleman's Association
Laurel-Anne Gordon	Small-Scale Meat Producers Association
John Massier	CRD

1. CALL TO ORDER

7:00PM

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

R/2023-21

Moved to Electronic Voting

That the September 20th, 2023 Cariboo Agricultural Development Advisory Committee agenda be approved as circulated.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

R/2023-22

Moved to Electronic Voting

That the minutes of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee meeting dated May 17th, 2023 be adopted.

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1. Florian Bergoin – Three Rivers Community Forest (Wood Shavings)

- Three Rivers is answering questions and providing clarification around the opportunity or lack of opportunity around this subject. It is recognized that ADAC would have been directed to small tenure holders. The challenge is that Three Rivers is only a tenure holder, not a manufacturing or processing entity. Three Rivers Community Forest holds the right to harvest the timber, but they lack the manufacturing capability so are not geared to make shavings.
- Discussion on opportunities for contracting and manufacturing agricultural bedding product, and the liabilities and concerns around that. It is mentioned that though the community forest will still be facing liabilities, it doesn't mean they can't try to innovate. Suggestions are put forth on how to get around the liability piece, what role the community forest aims to fill, what conversations can be opened and discussed, and what a working business model could look like in this regard.
- Further discussion on potential hurdles to overcome such as scaling and hauling. Further options are discussed regarding the social/charitable side of the Community Forest versus the economic side. Three Rivers is hopeful to have their license issued within the next three to six months. Once they do there will be a few more steps before they can start realizing any harvest.
- The question is brought up of any other community forests within the district. Members offer their insight on it. 100 Mile House has one that has been operating about twenty years. Williams Lake also has one in partnership with the Williams Lake First Nations. There is another one in the Chilcotin. It would be an idea to look at what those community-managed forests licenses may be doing with waste fiber and such. Discussion. A member mentions the Tatla Lake community forest and the Williams Lake community forest. Some of the research the member has done speaks not just to the use of wood chips, but to how the agriculture industry supports carbon mitigation or climate adaptation, and there is a lot of research that has come out of the United States using biochar in conjunction with wood chips to capture and latch onto nutrients. This is something that has been talked about. There are a number of logging operations that do haul chips. She will take all she has heard back to the people she speaks to.

5. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. Communication Materials

- Agreement to put the three finalist logos out in another survey for members to vote on.

5.2. Regional Ag Ed Program

- The work being done behind the scenes is that an email has been sent to Beth Holden requesting to be kept in the loop about the date she would set for her regional education roundtable. She hosts them twice a year and so will let ADAC know when the next round table is up. ADAC will be kept in the loop because it feels like that is the next place where the Ag Ed topic could gain more momentum with the invitation to educators from the central and south Cariboo.

5.3. CRD and ALC Executive Meeting Update

- The CRD has extended an invite to the ALC executive to have a longer opportunity for engagement and director's questions. A couple of dates were put forward. Those dates have come and gone and the ALC wasn't able to attend any of them. The Chair remains in contact with the contact at the CRD who is watching and waiting for another opportunity. They will let us know when that opportunity comes together.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Member Resignation – Vacant Member Seat

- The position held by the member filling the agroforestry position is vacant now. The question is put to members about how ADAC will go about filling the position. ADAC has 12 members with room for up to 15. Discussion on possible nominees.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

7.1. Record of Transactions (June 21st to September 19th)

- Moved to Electronic Voting.

7.2. PPSS to ADAC September Invoice (June 21st to September 19th)

- Moved to Electronic Voting.

R/2023-23

Moved to Electronic Voting

That ADAC accept the September Invoice and Record of Transactions.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1. Emails

- A member put forth some annual events of interests to add to ADAC documentation of such.
 - Admin will send an email to a member to see how he is feeling about attending the FLP meetings again and letting ADAC know how they've been doing.
 - A liaison sent an email about extended grazing and winter feeding strategies, which was shared with members.
 - An email from the Cariboo Region of the Invasive Species Council of BC. Hosted a herbicide calibration field day that was an invitation. Questions and answers about the herbicide calibration field day.
 - LETTER TO DIRECTOR LEBORDAIS DISCUSSION
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- ADAC has a role to play in guiding how our regional district responds to climate change and crisis. When or has a regional district ever triggered an emergency response in a drought? Do they? If they don't, is there room to advocate for drought to be recognized as another emergency situation (beyond Fire & Flood) because of how it impacts a significant and important sector in our district? Discussion. The CRD Planning Department Liaison will get in touch with emergency operations and get a better idea of drought response in the region, then bring what she learns back to ADAC at the next meeting.
- Discussion about drought, hay availability, water restrictions imposed in times of drought & irrigation systems.
- The Chair summarized that it seems there are questions around the data that is available (water mapping), and then the idea around timing is the sharing of information before we are in crisis, so helping agriculturalists to have some kind of insight into conditions, thresholds, and when these decisions would be made, would change how we have access to the resource, as well as looking at how the regional district's mandate can work with other levels and the information that will determine the response to drought.
- Further discussion on drought, water restrictions imposed, hay, irrigation, and emergency response shortcomings in such situations. A member asks a question of what is the threshold before the provincial government steps in and helps ship hay, and what it looks like. The Ministry of Ag and Food liaison mentions that in the previous two years of emergencies where the Ministry of Agriculture and the federal government came up with money to help with hay expenses, they were accused by the industry of driving prices up and were asked to do the hay matching program instead. The Ministry and Government still hasn't heard what the agro-recovery program for BC would look like. The answer may change depending on the situation, but that's the rationale for the route that has been taken this year. Discussion. A member mentions that we have to encourage producers and government to think beyond one year of crisis because things like droughts and climate change are structural and eat at the fundamentals of the agriculture industry. Mentions of the cost of production. This isn't just about producing more, it's about producing at a profitable basis.
- The Chair brings up that there are layers to this issue. Resiliency, adaptation, resources in the bank, contemplating what safe capacity is, as well as the response piece. There is room for ADAC to action items all the way through those pieces.

8.2. Electronic Voting

- Summary.

9. ROUNDTABLE

9.1. Regular Extension Community Update

- The Highway 16 North Cariboo Regional Extension Committee should have a hold the date invite for committee members for October 17. They will be planning for the open house events we will be having in the first week of November across Highway 16 and in Quesnel. At those open houses the broader agriculture community will be invited to attend and provide comment and input on the five themes the extension committee has identified. The themes will guide project idea that the regional agrologists would then develop and bounce back to
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the committee members for refining before submitting it for a funding decision. It is also brought up that the Central South Interior Regional Extension Committee will be having a workshop on November 21st probably in Kamloops that will be open to the broader agriculture community. The five themes there will be slightly different from the North Cariboo. They will be seeking input from producers on project ideas to draft as proposals and seek funding support on.

- Discussion. A CRD Planning Department liaison feels the drought response process fits in really well with one of the identified goals of the AAP, which is to continue to support the community liaison program for emergency preparedness. They can start the conversation at their end and engage ADAC simultaneously. She wonders which area ADAC is planning to focus on in this venture. The Chair identifies the Ag Education piece as a big part and that we will continue to find opportunity with that. More focus will be put on the climate piece and emergency response portion of this, however, so as to move with the momentum.
- Discussion of some field days organized by FARMED that have happened or will come up. Hydroponics was among the interests mentioned, as was emergency preparedness. A member wonders if ADAC would consider opening these opportunities to people from other parts of the Chilcotin and South Cariboo to attend, as they don't tend to hear about many of these events. There is lots of interest, but no one knows where to find these things or find the one they're going to go to that's out of town. The Chair informs members that ADAC has identified that communication and collaboration is an important role the committee can play, but until ADAC expands on that and identifies exactly how, the Ministry of Ag and Food liaison has a newsletter (ROOTS) that is jam packed with information, and most of the community groups are connected to her. Events are also posted on the Kersley Farmer's Institute Facebook page. Young Agrarians is also a good page to follow. The young agrarians also have a Northern BC page.

10. QUESTION PERIOD

11. ADJOURNMENT

8:47pm

Next Meeting: October 18th, 2023 at 7pm via zoom

Agenda Submission Deadline: October 11th, 2023


C. Pooley, Chair

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