

Cariboo Regional District

**AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, held on November 13, 2018 at 9:00am in the Community Futures Board Room, at 335A Vaughan Street, Quesnel, BC

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Martin Rossmann, Chair	Kersley Farmers Institute
Rob Borsato, Treasurer	Quesnel Farmers Market
Roy Josephy	Horticulture
Nicole Pressey	Ministry of Agriculture
John Massier	CRD Liaison

**SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lori Fogarty, Liaison	Agriculture Working Group
Adam Schaan	Facilitator
Wilma Watkins	Agriculture Working Group

**GUESTS**

Janet Knopp	Small Scale Food Producers Association
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**REGRETS**

Sheri Schweb, Secretary	BC Forage Council
Erin Durrell	Quesnel Cattleman's Association
Lynda Atkinson	Agriculture Working Group

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

R/2018-08

It was moved and seconded

**That the November 13, 2018 Agricultural Development Advisory Committee agenda be approved as circulated.**

CARRIED

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

R/2018-09

It was moved and seconded

**That the August 29, 2018 Agricultural Development Advisory Committee meeting minutes be adopted as circulated.**

CARRIED

3.1 **Review of October 17, 2018 Conference call discussion notes.**

**4. DELEGATIONS - nil**

**5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

5.1. **Quesnel Ag Centre Progress**

Discussion about the progress of the Quesnel Ag Centre Business Plan, including a review of the Alex Fraser Park project and discussion about its potential uses for the proposed Quesnel Agriculture Centre.

5.2. **Request from Nicole Pressey for ideas on specific supports that may be provided by Cariboo Agrologists (see notes from October 17, 2018 conference call discussion for update)**

Nicole Pressey provided an update on Ministry of Agriculture staff hires in the Cariboo, she mentioned that the type of work provided by the Ministry of Agriculture extension services will look different than what extension services were 20+ years ago.

Discussion about the 2-year term of new staff and expectations for these positions to remain after 2 years.

Ideas were discussed on specific supports that may be provided by the Ministry of Agriculture Cariboo region Agrologists.

Ideas included supports for the Quesnel Farmers Market, the need for easy access to past research and a tool set for setting up new research, and the need for a liaison to assist in navigating bureaucracy and to champion Agriculture needs with policy makers.

Other ideas included crown land use issues, fires have impacted crown land use for farmers, water development issues on crown land including livestock watering, accessibility for crown range and food marketing gaps.

5.3. **Reports from ADAC Member representative organization**

Kersley Farmers Institute: Discussion about an upcoming meeting including Minister Popham in February in Vancouver. The Kersley Farmers Institute will also be hosting a Speakers Workshop on February 2, 2019 at the College of New Caledonia.

Quesnel Cattlemen's Association: Members met with government to discuss impacts of forest fire events on ranching operations.

Horticulture: No report

Quesnel Farmers' Market: Discussion about the addition of new producer vendors, many being young, signing up and taking on roles within the Farmers' Market. A mentoring program has been set up to assist the new vendors.

Agrologist, Nicole Pressey: Commented that shavings for animal bedding are selling at \$70 a metric ton. There may be an option of an Agricultural shavings business in the region. Supply is shared between agriculture and the wood pellet industry. Discussion about access to fibre and legislative issues around utilizing wood waste on the forest floor (in tenures).

Discussion about industrial hemp and marijuana production potential. Hemp utilization has tremendous potential.

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**5.4. ADAC Representative from College of New Caledonia**

The ADAC representative from the College of New Caledonia – Quesnel, has resigned as Principal of the College. This opens up a seat on the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee. Contact will be made with the College to provide the opportunity to fill the position with another representative from the College.

After discussion of other possible candidates, CRD Vice-Chair, John Massier stated that CRD bylaws for ADAC can be revised if ADAC decides changes are needed within its mandate i.e. composition, having members at large. Revisions would be decided by the CRD board and it is a straightforward process.

**5.5. ADAC Agriculture Area Plan – Nicole Pressey**

Nicole provided a summary of the Agriculture Area Plan. She went over funding opportunities through the province referencing the Ministry of Agriculture website and examples of other regional plans. Work plans created by Emily Colombo would be a good reference for ADAC. Agriculture Area Plan funding could come through the Investment Agriculture Fund, with additional funding via Community Futures, NDIT, CRD, and others. Discussion about the scope of the Agriculture Area Plan using the CDI report as a reference.

**5.6. ADAC Strategic Plan 2019**

Discussion on meeting structure, in-person vs conference calling and scheduling. Conference calls are effective with one or two topics but in-person meetings are best for general discussion or multiple issue needs. Agreement that March, April, May are difficult times for ADAC members due to it being a busy season and that in-person meetings should be scheduled for January, February and early March in 2019.

**6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**6.1. ADAC Budget**

ADAC members are reminded to submit their invoices and travel expense forms to be submitted to the CRD later this month.

**6.2. ADAC Reports**

**6.2.1. Report to MP Todd Doherty**

The report to be presented to MP Todd Doherty and prepared by the sub-committee composed of ADAC and Agriculture Working Group members was reviewed. Discussion about the data sets regarding agriculture in the Cariboo. Criteria of Canada Revenue Agency designation of farmer status needs revision, in particular, the changes to the current recognition of physical size of the farm rather than revenue would be beneficial. Discussion about impacts of new federal Carbon Tax and Carbon offsets on local agriculture. Lack of consistency in agricultural policies from province to province creates an unlevel playing field for the sector.

**6.2.2. Report to Community Development Institute**

ADAC Chair Martin Rossmann, Ministry of Agriculture Agrologist ADAC representative Nicole Pressey and several Agriculture Working members met with Marleen Morris, Co-Director of the

Community Development Institute at the University of Northern British Columbia on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The purpose of the meeting was to provide input to the Northern BC Agri-foods Industry Needs Assessment to further define the opportunities, barriers, and challenges facing northern BC agri-foods producers and to identify for the Ministry targeted resources and supports that will address the needs of northern BC agriculture producers and food and beverage processors, including awareness of market potential in other areas of the province.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE – Nil

### 7.1 Upcoming Events

November 15, 2018 2-2:45 pm	MP Todd Doherty Meeting Spirit Square
November 21, 2018 9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Disruptive Ideas the Drive Innovation & Trends and Trade Opportunities in Beef Market; Legion Hall

## 8. ROUNDTABLE

Discussion about potential format, setup, and funding for a presentation to the staff of Quesnel School District on January 28, 2019 and how Ag in the Classroom can be incorporated into the school system and complement post-secondary education with a particular interest in career opportunities.

Discussion about acquiring a food testing lab via the offer from the Small-Scale Food Processors Association.

## 9. QUESTION PERIOD - nil

## 10. ADJOURNMENT – 1:00pm

## 11. NEXT MEETING

December 17, 2018, 8:00 am via conference call



M. Rossmann, Chair

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