

**Cariboo Regional District**

**AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee, held via conference call, on July 22, 2019 at 8:30 am

---

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Martin Rossmann, Chair	Kersley Farmers Institute
Tim Lofstrom	College of New Caledonia - Quesnel
CRD Director John Massier	CRD Liaison

**SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lori Fogarty, Liaison	Agriculture Working Group
Wilma Watkin	Agriculture Working Group

**GUESTS**

Amy Reid	City of Quesnel Economic Development Officer
----------	--

**REGRETS**

Rob Borsato, Treasurer	Quesnel Farmers Market
Roy Josephy	Horticulture
Erin Durrell	Quesnel Cattlemen's Association
Nicole Pressey	Ministry of Agriculture
Carey Ekelund	ADAC Administrative Assistant

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

It was noted that there was not a quorum for this conference call meeting. The meeting proceeded as discussion only.

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – April 25, 2019 meeting (as circulated via email)**

Tabled

**4. DELEGATIONS - Nil**

**5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 5.1. BC Ag Task Force; technology and innovation – comments and ideas may be submitted between July 11 and August 19, 2019. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019AGRI0082-001431>

The task force will assess and provide strategic advice on opportunities to:

- apply agri-technologies to help farmers and producers enhance productivity, increase economic competitiveness and sustainability, reduce waste and help make sure B.C.

farmers are growing the food needed to meet demand;

- expand the emerging agritech industry in B.C. as a standalone economic sector to produce technologies that will be in demand globally;
- support the objectives of CleanBC, both through the adoption of technologies and practices that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- increase access to fresh, healthy food and support local economies in communities throughout B.C.

Martin Rossmann– reviewed the news release noting the task force was proposed by the Minister of Agriculture Lana Popham. The qualifications of the task force members were also reviewed.

John Massier suggested a representative from ADAC explore the on-line link and comments.

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/foodsecuritytaskforce/>

Wilma Watkin – noted that any technology and innovation changes need to consider climate change and the impacts on labour. i.e. Saskatchewan used to have 10-20 workers on a farm but with farming and technology improvements, there is now only 2 workers. Increasing the number of farms, will help to stabilize the amount of labour.

Martin Rossmann asked if the task force was involved in the labour survey currently taking place and John Massier noted the labour survey is a local initiative.

#### 5.2. Report on SelectSeed Presentation – July 17, 2019 - Martin

Brian Barber presented to the City of Quesnel to inform them they will be putting out a Request for Proposals for sites to create a seed tree orchard to produce lodgepole pine seeds on a 32-acre site, below 600 m elevation. Using a grafting process, they plan to produce seeds with improved genetics. Those interested in participating may email [brian.barber@selectseed.ca](mailto:brian.barber@selectseed.ca)

Select Seed Co. Ltd. was incorporated under B.C.'s Company Act in April 1999. It is 100% owned by the Forest Genetics Council of BC (FGC) through the BC Forest Genetics Society, registered under the Societies Act.

SelectSeed's mandate is to produce genetically-selected tree seed to achieve FGC's goals of enhancing the productivity and resilience of BC's forests. It is also mandated to management services to FGC. <http://www.selectseed.ca/index.html>

John mentioned this may be a good opportunity for First Nations groups.

#### 5.3. Update on City of Quesnel Regional Food Hub – Amy Reid

Since the last ADAC meeting the Ministry of Agriculture has proposed to direct award a Shared Cost Arrangement (SCA) to the City of Quesnel for up to \$500,000 to operationalize a Food Hub in the North Cariboo for the Cariboo Region, as part of the Ministry's BC Food Hub Network initiative.

Since no one contested the direct award on BC Bid, the next step is to develop a contract between the City and the Ministry of Agriculture for funding and a news release should occur by end of July.

The Ministry is developing a Food Hub Network consisting of a Core Food Innovation Centre at the University of British Columbia (UBC) Vancouver Campus with multiple Regional Food Hubs to

be virtually connected across the province. These Regional Food Hubs will offer agri-food businesses access to shared infrastructure, equipment, and technical services, such as commercial kitchen space, specialized equipment, business development services, analytic services, and applied research opportunities that support food processing.

The agreement will include the following activities:

- Establishing a regional coordinator to support the development and implementation of the Regional Food Hub;
- Establishing a site(s) to facilitate operations and house equipment for the Regional Food Hub
- Delivering and/or coordinating training and business development services for the agri-food sector

Lori Fogarty asked if ADAC will be needed to support the process. Amy Reid noted that ADAC's role was to get the process going and that has now been achieved. A long-term contractor will be organizing the non-profit society and a Board of Directors for the hub will be established. The Food Hub will have many requirements to meet and open communication will be important for all the agriculture and community stakeholders.

John Massier commented that ADAC's role will be to provide support as needed and ensure the process is successful.

#### 5.4. ADAC Agriculture Area Plan

Lori Fogarty noted that to proceed with an Agriculture Area Plan it would need to be initiated by local government. One question would be to identify if the area plan would be sub-regional or focus on the full Cariboo region. It was noted the budgeting process begins in the fall. We would need more information from Nicole to estimate the cost of completing a plan, noting cost sharing of up to 50% is available through the Investment Agriculture Fund.

John will approach the CRD Chair Margo Wagner and CEO John MacLean for feedback to see if this could be reviewed for the fall budget.

## 6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

### 6.1. Ag Working Group Administrative Report

Lori Fogarty reported the unofficial 2019 ADAC budget is \$4,477.95. Expenditures not yet claimed will bring the total estimated budget to \$3,670.00. This includes funding travel expenses for the new Agriculture in the Classroom ambassador (AITC) to support travel to the Ambassador Training Session in Abbotsford.

R/2019-28

It was moved and seconded via email on June 17, 2019

**That we cover from our current budget the travel costs for a regional Agriculture in the Classroom ambassador to travel to Abbotsford for training in August.**

**CARRIED**

### 6.2. FARMED Rural Dividend Project Development Grant update

The Agriculture Education Program facilitator and Project Management Team has met with teachers and administration from several elementary schools, the junior and senior schools including the school district career preparation coordinator and identified potential program opportunities.

---

The Project Management Team made a presentation to the School District 28 Board of Directors in May to introduce them to the facilitator and share the plans proposed in the Agriculture Education Program

Contact with Agriculture in the Classroom CEO, Patricia Tonn has continued. The AITC initiated a pilot project to rollout the program to other regions of BC, including the Cariboo. An AITC ambassador for the North Cariboo region has been selected and she will participate in the Ambassador Training Program from August 23-25 in Abbotsford.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1. Email communication - Nil

7.2. Upcoming events

August 23-25, 2019	Quesnel Fall Fair / Quesnel & District 4H Council Alex Fraser Park
--------------------	---

September 7, 2019 6:30 pm - Dinner	Hops and Harvest Dinner West Fraser Centre
---------------------------------------	---

## 8. ROUNDTABLE

Tim Lofstrom noted there has been a problem with the Sea Can unit meeting the North American Electrical Standards, but a smaller model is being built. CNC has entered into an agreement to provide curriculum and instruction on cannabis production.

## 9. QUESTION PERIOD

Next meeting: Proposed for the end of September; a specific date will be determined by members via email.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT - 9:30am



M. Rossmann, Chair

/lf