

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 September 23, 2019 at 8:30am

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Martin Rossmann, Chair	Kersley Farmers Institute
Rob Borsato, Treasurer	Quesnel Farmers Market
Roy Josephy	Horticulture
Erin Durrell	Quesnel Cattlemen's Association
Nicole Pressey	Ministry of Agriculture

SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT

Lori Fogarty, Liaison	Agriculture Working Group
Wilma Watkin	Agriculture Working Group
Lynda Atkinson	Agriculture Working Group
Carey Ekelund	ADAC Administrative Assistant

GUESTS

Serena Black	BC Forage Council
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REGRETS

CRD Director John Massier	CRD Liaison
Tim Lofstrom	College of New Caledonia - Quesnel

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

R/2019-29

It was moved and seconded

That the September 23rd, 2019 Agricultural Development Advisory Committee agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

R/2019-30

3.1 It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee meeting dated April 25, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

3.2 Minutes of the July 22, 2019 non quorate meeting (as circulated via email) were received and

reviewed.

4. DELEGATIONS - Nil

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. Cariboo Regional District request for response to Class D & E Meat Inspection Program

Martin advised that there was a sub-committee meeting regarding the Class D & E Meat Inspection Program on Sept 17th, 2019. From this meeting the submission of 6 recommendations was drafted. The CRD requested the ADAC to submit to the CRD Board of Directors their recommendations to be considered in their response to the provincial government.

Sub-Committee Recommendations

1. That producers may apply for a Class D Licence in any region of British Columbia providing they are more than an hour away from a licensed abattoir (Rodear Meats Ltd. located near Big Lake, Chilcotin Harvest located near Red Stone or Kawano Farm located near Prince George);
2. That when assigning slaughter limitations for a Class D Licence, it should be based on the number of animals on the farm and the customer base available to that producer, rather than having the same maximum limit for all producers.
3. That carcass inspection be available and encouraged;
4. That there is an increase in training for butchers to increase capacity for cut and wrap, as this is where there is a choke point in the system;
5. Class D Licensee training should be augmented to recognize the top key zoonotic diseases in an animal and to provide at least enough training for the initial screening of the animal during the slaughter process; and
6. The Meat Inspection Program be regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, rather than 2 different Ministries, to prevent confusion and improve efficiencies in the licensing process.

Discussion on the 6 recommendations as follows;

Nicole recently spoke with a producer who inquired about the sale of Class D meat outside of the Regional District. The producer was concerned that consumers within this region would not be willing to pay true price for the meat whereas consumers in other areas are willing. It was agreed this should be added as a 7th recommendation – that Class D licensed meat can be sold outside of the producer's region.

Some members felt that there is just as much a gap in skilled cutters as there is in slaughter capacity. The licensing to kill is one thing but finding someone to cut is another. Currently it is hard even to find someone for personal cutting. Discussion about adjusting #4 to add training on the kill floor. Training has been done by the Abattoir Association in a few areas for workers on the kill floor, but it was agreed that more training is needed. It was discussed that the committee should be encouraging the provincial government to lobby the federal government (NOC) to include slaughtering and meat cutting as a skilled trade, allowing the provision for funding of training programs. Members agreed to add these ideas into recommendation #4.

Discussion about recommendation #1 and whether measuring by time rather than distance is the norm. Rational for this choice was discussed. Agreed that this change has already been made in regulations prior to this consultation and needs no further action/discussion by the ADAC.

Discussion continued that from Clinton north until the Peace there is a lack of abattoirs, only five for that large area. Members would like to add this information into the introduction to make sure that the importance is communicated. This area is also the largest for beef production, therefore needing increased capacity before the producers will be able to see economic growth.

Erin noted that in order to market beef as certified there must be an auditable chain of custody. She would like to see our slaughter facilities certified so that local producers can market locally as a certified product. Agreed this idea should be taken into the ADAC meeting for the area action plan. Also, this topic to be added to a future agenda rather than part of this current submission of recommendations.

It was clarified that the recommendation in #6 to have the Meat Inspection Program regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture means the Ministry of Health inspectors would not be included. Currently facilities certified under the Ministry of Agriculture have producers with class D licences meaning their slaughter, cut and wrap is all under the Ministry of Health. The recommendation is to move all under the Ministry of Agriculture.

After discussion it was decided to add the following to the recommendations;

#1 The committee feels there is a lack of abattoirs in the area from Clinton North to the Peace

#4 Skills training in the slaughter process needs to be increased. Encourage the Provincial government to ask federal government to change the National Occupation Codes for slaughter and butcher from unskilled to skilled labor.

Add in a new recommendation that they allow meat from Class D facilities to be sold in all regions rather than restricting sale to the same region as the facility is located.

Discussion finished by concurring that the changes will be made to the recommendations, sent out to the committee with a 1-day deadline for further comments and then moved by email vote. If a member is not heard from it will be taken as a positive note.

5.2. Agriculture Area Plan – Tabled

5.3. Regional Food Hub update

The City of Quesnel has advised that the Expression of Interest for the Regional Food Hub Project Manager closed on Sept 6, 2019. The City is proceeding with the review and selection process and will update ADAC when the decision has been finalized.

5.4. Interior Forest Renewal Session report

Martin Rossmann, Lynda Atkinson, and Lori Fogarty attended the session. Brief recap was given.

Members felt this was an important meeting for ADAC to be invited to and participate in, as it is likely one of the first times that agriculture has been represented within forestry meetings. It was suggested that members look at the review process for this report which is open for responses until Oct 11. Nicole notified members that ADAC will be asked to join and speak at a land management plan meeting with Ministry of Forests and stakeholders. ADAC should start considering how they can represent the agriculture community and integrate with forestry on existing land base to further economic development in the region. The idea of bringing in others that use crown land was brought forward. It was suggested that a sub-committee should be formed beforehand to discuss. This could include crown land users for food production including sheep and goat, wild foraging and First Nations groups. Erin noted it would also be worthwhile to

Speak with the Land Stewardship Committee in terms of forage enhancement at the provincial level. Currently, there is not a timeline for this meeting, but Nicole will update.

5.5 ADAC representative update

Erin Durrell is no longer on the board of the Quesnel Cattlemen's Association; she now represents Zone 2 in the BC Cattlemen's Association. She is still the representative on the ADAC for our area cattlemen.

The ADAC representative for the BC Forage Council resigned the position owing to moving out of the area. The BC Forage Council Manager has been resourcing a replacement representative from the BC Forage Council.

Bylaw 5137 for ADAC membership was reviewed as follows:

An Agricultural Development Advisory Committee is hereby established for Electoral Areas A, B, C and I in the north Cariboo of the Cariboo Regional District (CRD); such Committee shall be comprised of not less than five nor more than seven members, appointed by resolution of the Board of Directors, as follows:

(a) one member representing cattle ranching;

(b) one member representing forage;

(c) one member representing horticulture and vegetable producers;

(d) one member representing farmer's markets;

(e) two members representing agricultural economics, agri-forestry, farmers institutes, post-secondary institutes or any other major agricultural sector producing in the north Cariboo; and

(f) one member representing the Agrologist profession.

This is a two-year committee member seat that will be up in April 2020. At that time, a seat could be renewed for the Forage Council or another organization could be nominated for the seat for approval by the CRD Board of Directors. Serena confirmed she would be willing to sit on the ADAC representing BC Forage Council, she feels that the Cariboo Region has the Forage Council's strongest membership and activity and this makes it important for the Council to participate in, and have input into, the ADAC.

R/2019-31

It was moved and seconded

To move to an in camera discussion.

R/2019-32

It was moved and seconded

To move out of in camera discussion.

R/2019-33

It was moved and seconded

That Serena Black be invited to sit on the ADAC board as interim BC Forage Council Representative until April 2020 elections with hopes of finding a producer to sit as representative at that time.

CARRIED

Noted that the secretary position on the ADAC, previously held by Sheri Schweb, is currently empty. Erin Durrell put her name forward for the oversight position as Secretary of ADAC.

R/2019-34

It was moved and seconded

That Erin Durrell be assigned the position of Secretary of the ADAC.

CARRIED

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1. Ag Working Group Administration Report

Budget update: Included in this update was the trip cost for Cindy Sherstan to attend the AITC ambassador program and some administration expenses.

Administration work and the division of labor and budget usage was discussed.

R/2019-35

It was moved and seconded

That ADAC compensates anyone doing administrative work for the committee with details broken down in the invoice.

CARRIED

6.2. FARMED Rural Dividend Project Development – Agriculture Education Program

Carey Ekelund is leaving this project and transitioning her role over to Erin Rossmann. Erin Rossmann as facilitator will be moving forward with the program and is currently working towards organizing a field trip for high school students.

The project management team presented at the Summer Institute workshop for SD 28 teachers. Although there was low attendance it was a great opportunity and sparked some interest.

An interim Rural Dividend report has recently been submitted. Confirmation given that the recent cuts to the Rural Dividend program does not affect this project.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1. Email correspondence

7.1.1 Eric Lamothe: July 16, 2019 - Cariboo Chilcotin Labour Market Survey;

ADAC provided several producers who may be invited to participate in the survey.

7.1.2 Laurie Curry Nazko Band Operations Manager: July 30, 2019 – Agriculture Development

ADAC connected the band with the Ministry of Agriculture for help. The band will be connected with others that may be able to help with the installation of greenhouses.

7.1.3 Holly Jackson: August 6, 2019 – Regional Food Hub Article for Beef in BC magazine

Agreed to contact the new lead for the Regional Food Hub for help with the article.

7.1.4 Taddea Kinkel: September 3, 2019 – Letter of Support City's Food Hub Investment project;

A letter of support was approved by ADAC and provided to the City of Quesnel.

7.2. Upcoming events

September 18, 2019 5:30 – 7pm	BC Forage Council “Pasture Walk” Australian Ranch – 6666 Yorston Rd; 34km south of Quesnel -Martin Rossman attended and was pleased to report that there were 40-50 people in attendance and event went well.
October 17, 2019 October 18, 2019 1:00-5:00pm	Cariboo Agriculture Research Alliance Long Term Forage Crop & Variety Trials Focus Group Session Specialty Crop & Horticulture Crop Diversification Focus Group Session Williams Lake – Pioneer Complex 351 Hodgson Road
October 26, 2019 11:00am – 3:00pm	Roddie Creek Ranch producer field day Joyce and Jeremy Farmer are hosting and will be talking about regenerative agriculture with cattle and sheep.

8. ROUNDTABLE

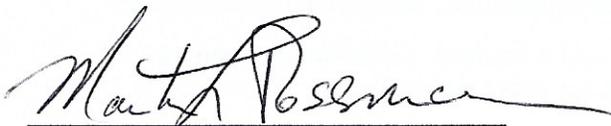
Rob Borsato informed that planning has started for a Soil Conference on January 16-17, in Williams Lake. Partners to be confirmed.

Reminder of the federal agriculture debate on September 24.

9. QUESTION PERIOD

Next meeting – November 21, 2019 in-person meeting at 10 am. Location to be decided and announced at a later date.

10. ADJOURNMENT – 10:00



M. Rossmann, Chair

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