

**Cariboo Regional District**

**AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee, held in the Bowron Room of the Natural Resource Building on November 21st, 2019 at 10:00am

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Martin Rossmann, Chair	Kersley Farmers Institute
Rob Borsato, Treasurer	Quesnel Farmers Market
Marisa Nightingale	Ministry of Agriculture
Serena Black	BC Forage Council

**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**

Emily Columbo	Regional Economic Operations Manager – Cariboo Region Rural Development Unit
Amy Quarry	Regional Food Hub Facilitator

**REGRETS**

CRD Director John Massier	CRD Liaison
Tim Lofstrom	College of New Caledonia – Quesnel
Erin Durrell	Quesnel Cattlemen’s Association
Roy Josephy	Horticulture
Nicole Pressey	Ministry of Agriculture

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Martin Rossmann announced the addition of Bill 52 Changes to the ALC Act and Regulations to section 5.2 of the agenda

R/2019-37

It was moved and seconded

**That the amended November 21st, 2019 Agricultural Development Advisory Committee agenda be approved as circulated.**

CARRIED

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

R/2019-38

3.1 It was moved and seconded

**That the minutes of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee meeting dated July 22, 2019 be adopted.**

CARRIED

R/2019-39

3.2 It was moved and seconded

**That the minutes of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee meeting dated September 23, 2019 be adopted.**

CARRIED

#### **4. DELEGATIONS - Nil**

#### **5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### 5.1. Regional Food Hub update – Amy Quarry; Project Co-Manager

Amy Quarry and Diendra Oliver were contracted in September by the city of Quesnel as Project Co-managers to validate the business plan, develop a list of equipment and facility requirements and produce an implementation plan for the North Cariboo Food Hub. They have been in contact with the Food Hub in Vancouver and recognize that the approach in our region will be quite different because of the different needs in this location.

They are currently working to find which services should be offered and what equipment will be needed. In order to do this, they have been reaching out to all different groups and individuals to identify needs through online surveys. <https://www.sproutkitchen.ca/>

There will be a permanent location in Quesnel and possible satellite locations elsewhere as the province is hoping this will help residents from Vanderhoof through to 100 Mile. One of the key services needed here is a co-packing service. This will enable producers to bring their crops and have them lab tested and packed. This would need the oversight of a trained employee of the facility.

Equipment that they believe will be needed includes; commercial dehydrator, walk-in freezers and coolers, 60L steam kettle, range, juicer, food processor, large scales, GAP certified vegetable station, packaging equipment, label printer. They are trying to focus on equipment that will have the largest range of use in our area and could also mean having a refrigerated truck. The main requirement from the province is that there must be a lab in the facility. It has not been clarified what this needs to encompass. There will also at some point be an investment into some sort of software that can be used to book equipment and space, it is planned to eventually network with the other Food Hubs in the province. It is important to remember that this is a support for agriculture as well as all food related businesses and will move towards that province using more locally grown product in public facilities.

Amy advised that the project is still in the research stage and asked members to complete the survey on the Sprout Kitchen website to help forward the planning and programming of the project.

##### 5.2. Agriculture Area Plan

- John Massier – Tabled
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- Emily Columbo shared information on a number of different initiatives designed to help residents of “cities in transition”. Quesnel has an Economic Development Transition Strategy, which highlights agriculture as one of the sectors to advance.  
[https://www.quesnel.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/reports/92-18-2-quesnel\\_economic\\_transition\\_strategy-final.pdf](https://www.quesnel.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/reports/92-18-2-quesnel_economic_transition_strategy-final.pdf). These initiatives include the Workforce Response Grant, Project based Labor Market Partnership, Job Creation Partnership program. Emily, also advised that strategic planning is working to identify sites that could be used for other agri-food investor projects. Quesnel currently has 3 empty mill sites that have great potential. Investors are typically looking for labor availability, zoned land and a transportation hub. Access to Rural Dividend funding is currently unavailable owing to a one-time reallocation of 25 million dollars. They are still holding the applications from this last year.
- Bill 52 Changes to the ALC Act and Regulations: The CRD Board has asked that the North Cariboo Agricultural Advisory Committee provide its thoughts and guidance on the changes that have occurred. Lynda Atkinson reviewed a report on the ALR changes. Lynda Atkinson and Wilma Watkin will be attending the Farmers Institute Event on November 29, which will focus on the Bill 52 changes to the ALC Act and Regulations. An ADAC sub-committee will meet on December 4th at 9 am to discuss the changes and provide input to ADAC members for review.

5.3. ADAC member representation – Central Cariboo Rural Caucus

ADAC members have been invited to the Rural Caucus meeting tentatively scheduled in February 2020 (19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>) to share information on the ADAC formation.

5.4. Guardians of the Grasslands movie – Erin Durrell - Tabled

5.5. Forage Management Outreach Event Series – Serena Black

Serena announced a new project from the Forage Council. Ministry of Agriculture has funded a two-year contract for a Forage Management Transfer Outreach event series. This will take place in the first two weeks of February. The Forage Council will be presenting on six themes and will be securing partnerships with regional Cattleman’s associations to find venues, secure catering and other logistics. These local partnerships are shown to make these events much more effective. This year’s themes include:

- Managing nutrients for forage production;
- Managing for resilient pastures, climate change and species considerations;
- Building soil health and resiliency in a changing climate;
- Management economics – Forage cost of production, forage supply, marketing;
- Water use and management; and
- Livestock management for a productive land base.

Serena will have drafts in the next few weeks and have the schedule nailed down by end of December.

5.6. ADAC representative updates

Rob reported the Cariboo Agricultural Research Alliance has engaged with the science community and established two research projects; The Multifunctional Pasture Rejuvenation in the Cariboo and Greenhouse Innovations for Market Garden Season Extension.

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, The BC Cattleman’s Association will hold a Town Hall meeting in Quesnel.

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## 6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

### 6.1. Ag Working Group Administration Report

The 2019 ADAC budget was reviewed and allocation of funds discussed. There is a North Cariboo Rural Caucus on Dec 10, 2019 and ADAC will try to get on their agenda to provide an update on 2019 activities.

There was a reminder that the 2-year term for ADAC membership for several representatives will end in April 2020 and they need to decide how to move forward.

### 6.2. FARMED Rural Dividend Project Development – Agriculture Education Program

The Rural Dividend Interim report is ready for submission. The Fox Dairy Field Trip with Correlieu students was a great success. Erin Rossmann, the Agriculture Education Program Facilitator has put forward a proposal for a field day for fall 2020, for consideration of the committee. The Agriculture Education Program Project Management Team provided Non-Instructional Day in early 2019, but there is no longer an opportunity this school year to present at any Non-Instructional Day meetings as the theme has changed. The facilitator will continue to work with district teachers on program implementation.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1. Email correspondence – November 18, 2019 CRD Director Steve Forseth. ADAC has been invited by the Central Rural Caucus for ADAC representatives to attend February 2020 meeting in Williams Lake.

### 7.2. Upcoming events

November 21, 2019 4:00 – 8:00pm	City of Quesnel Official Community Plan Open House City Hall Council Chambers
November 26, 2019 9:00am -12:00pm	District H Farmers' Institute AGM Kersley Community Hall
November 29, 2019 TBA	Cost of Production Workshop – helping farmers develop tools and production costing skills for various crops and livestock production to improve the efficiency and profitability of their farms Cariboo Cattleman's Association – Williams Lake
November 30, December 7 & 14, 2019 10:00am – 3:00pm	Quesnel Christmas Farmers' Market Quesnel & District Recreation Centre
December 16, 2019	Food Security Task Force meeting Williams Lake – by invitation
January 14, 2019	Cattleman's Town Hall
January 16 & 17, 2019	Soils Conference Williams lake
January 18, 2019 9:00am	Kersley Farmers Institute Speakers Workshop College of New Caledonia

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**8. ROUNDTABLE**

Marisa will be trying to schedule a GAP workshop – Rob will speak to the Farmers' Market about helping facilitate this workshop.

**9. QUESTION PERIOD**

**10. ADJOURNMENT – 1:15pm**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Rossmann", written over a horizontal line.

M. Rossmann, Chair

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