

Cariboo Regional District

*AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING*

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee, held in Bowron Room, of the Natural Resource Building on March 9, 2020 at 10:00 am

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Martin Rossmann, Chair	Kersley Farmers Institute
Rob Borsato, Treasurer	Quesnel Farmers Market (conference call)
Matt Ziemer	Horticulture (appointment TBA)
Christa Pooley	BC Forage Council (appointment TBA)
Erin Durrell, Secretary	BC Cattlemen's Association
Nicole Pressey	Ministry of Agriculture
CRD Director John Massier	CRD Liaison

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

Josh Pressey	District Manager-Quesnel Natural Resource District, Ministry of FLNRORD
Elizabeth Sharpe	Communities in Transition Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction Employment Labour Market Services Division
Nadine Waarne	Community and Employer Partnerships Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction Employment Labour Market Services Division

REGRETS

Tim Lofstrom	College of New Caledonia - Quesnel
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1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

R/2020-47

It was moved and seconded

That the March 9, 2020 Agricultural Development Advisory Committee agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

R/2020-48

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee meeting dated February 12, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. ADAC member representation; two-year term member update

The BC Forage Council has confirmed Christa Pooley as their representative to the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee for a 2-year term ending December 2021.

Matt Ziemer has confirmed he will act as the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee representative for the Horticulture sector for a 2-year term ending December 2021.

Nicole Pressey will renew her 2-year term as the Ministry of Agriculture non-voting member of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee, with Marisa Nightingale acting as an alternate.

The proposed member representative information will be forwarded to the Cariboo Regional District for appointment approval.

5.2. Agriculture Area Plan:

Nicole spoke with Gregory Bartle, the Land Use Planner with the Ministry of Agriculture in regards to getting the ADAC website link working on the Ministry listing of Agriculture Advisory Committees (AAC). Nicole also mentioned the Ministry is hoping to get the provincial AAC workshops approved for the 2021 fiscal budget. John Massier mentioned the CRD Chair and CAO are going to a conference in Victoria and planned to bring up the topic of Agriculture Area Plans and find out if other areas have found it worthwhile to complete a plan.

5.2.1 Josh Pressey, the District Manager of the Quesnel Natural Resource District provided an informative presentation on government challenges and opportunities in the region including a forestry update to explain how we got here, where we are today, and where are we going.

Pressey summarized the timber supply review and apportionment and included the criteria used to determine the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC), which is done every 5 years by chief forester and reflects current practices and is not future based. The vegetation resource inventory is used. The current AAC determination is 2.67 million cubic meters (1.25 MCM is green, 1.25 MCM is dead and .17 MCM is deciduous).

The ministry has put many programs in place to help prepare for the next large fires. Controlled burns are very high risk. A question was asked in regards to allowing fires to burn as they had previously. Pressey replied the public was not ready for that at the time. However, the public is now ready to allow more burns, bigger burns and burns at different times.

ADAC member Borsato asked if \$250/1000 board foot is break even? Pressey replied that is only true if log costs are still low and that currently the breakeven cost is \$350-\$380/1000 board foot.

Moving forward, communities are really involved in land management now, to create land usage plans to build a strong ecological land base. Collective land planning takes place under the

Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) run by the Ministry, which outlines how all forest and range practices and resource-based activities are to be conducted on Crown land in BC, while ensuring protection of everything in and on them, such as plants, animals and ecosystems. The Ministry will be going through the planning process and agriculture will be represented in this process.

5.2.2 Elizabeth Sharpe and associate Nadine Waarne provided information on programs related to Social Development and Poverty Reduction's Labour Market Partnership and possible opportunities available to support labour in the agriculture industry and the development of an agriculture area plan. The 4 programs available include:

- Supports for a labour market issue – identify the specific labour market issue you are planning to address with your project;
- Work experience and training;
- Job creation partnership - project based work experience for participants to provide experience and skills, which will lead to employment;
- Project-based labour market training - classroom training and work experience

5.2.3 ALR Changes sub-committee report on residential changes:

The proposed changes will be reviewed by an ADAC sub-committee on March 16th from 9-11 am with a report to the CRD Board of Directors prepared for their next meeting.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AGRI0003-000139>

5.3. Report on ADAC presentation to Central Cariboo Rural Caucus:

A delegation from the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee and support team traveled to Williams Lake on February 26 to present information about the committee to the members of the Central Cariboo Rural Caucus. The delegation presentation was well received and there were many questions from the Caucus members and discussion on the work of the committee.

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

Nicole noted there are new environmental regulations including the requirement to do a soil test after the harvest to ensure actual requirements for added fertilizer. Visiting the Ministry of Environment website is a good starting point and record keeping is key in our area, as enforcement is complaint driven. Support and tools can be provided by the Ministry i.e. soils map, as well as the BC Cattlemen's webinar. The Kersley Farmers Institute may also be a source of information.

5.5. Reports from ADAC member representative organization:

- Farmers' Market – The executive is working with Marisa Nightingale on planning a Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) workshop for its members. The Quesnel Farmers' Market AGM was well attended, with no change in executive. Tim Cawdell was hired as the Farmers' Market manager.
 - BC Forage Council workshops presented throughout the region in February were well attended. Christa attended the Key Line Design session to help with management intensive grazing and water use, including a 30-minute consultation, which will help them implement their new grazing techniques.
 - CRD Director John Massier noted the letter from ADAC to the CRD BoD requesting bylaw changes in regards to membership, is moving through the system.
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- Update on water use regulations: The fee is extended until 2022. But if you wait until after that date you will lose your first in time first in right (FITFIR) date. Water courses are not being closed to prospective applications for rights use. It was noted that in regards to Crown grant patents – whatever rights the crown retained would continue, but all the water rights were granted to the land user.

5.6. Other - Nil

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1. Ag Working Group Administrative Report:

The ADAC information letters were put in the mail on March 2.

The request by ADAC for bylaw changes to membership has been sent to the NC Rural Directors Caucus and is on the agenda for the March 10th meeting.

6.2. FARMED

Rural Dividend Project Development Grant update:

The team working on the Agriculture Education Program have been busy working on arranging careers in agriculture presentations to students at Correlieu Secondary School. The guest speakers included Ministry of Agriculture staff, the owners and operators of Roddie Creek Ranch, Narcosli Cattle Company and Artique Dairy.

The next interim report to Rural Dividend on the progress of the Agriculture Education Program is due May 31st.

It was noted that the FARMED AGM was held on March 7th and there is a change in executive positions. Lynda Atkinson is now the FARMED Chair and Heloise Dixon-Warren is Vice-chair.

The following ADAC administrative activities will be initiated over the spring and summer

- ADAC Budget submission;
- Regional Food Hub – communicate updates to the ADAC members;
- Year-end report to the CRD Board of Directors; and
- Agriculture Area Plan – Start the process of “planning to plan” as outlined by Janine de le Salle of Urban Food Strategies.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1. Upcoming events

8. ROUNDTABLE

9. QUESTION PERIOD

10. ADJOURNMENT – Rob Borsato moves adjournment at 1:40 pm

Next Meeting: October 2020

Agenda Submission Deadline: One week previous to meeting date

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Rossmann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

M. Rossmann, Chair

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