

Cariboo Regional District

**AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee, held via Zoom, on October 5, 2021 at 6:30 pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Christa Pooley, Chair	BC Forage Council
Martin Rossmann, Secretary	Kersley Farmers Institute
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

REGRETS

Matt Ziemer	Horticulture
Tim Lofstrom	College of New Caledonia - Quesnel
Reanne Sanford, Treasurer	Quesnel Cattlemen's Association
Desiree Stobbe	Quesnel Farmers Market

1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30PM

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

R/2021-66

It was moved and seconded

That the October 5, 2021 Agricultural Development Advisory Committee agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

R/2021-67

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee meeting dated April 8, 2021 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

Nigel Whitehead and Shivani Sajwan; CRD Planning Services Management
David Zirnhelt; Cariboo Agricultural Research Alliance Chair

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. Cariboo Agricultural Area Plan and ADAC Expansion

Nigel Whitehead informed the ADAC members that the Investment Agriculture Foundation approved the CRD grant application for \$40,000 for the development of a Cariboo region Agricultural Area Plan (AAP), with the CRD contributing an additional \$40,000 to the project. The CRD is suggesting that ADAC act as the steering committee, owing to the breadth of experience of the committee members. The CRD would also like to work with ADAC to expand the ADAC membership region wide.

Nigel enquired if the ADAC members are in favour of acting as the steering committee for the AAP process? The CRD will put out a Request for Proposals to hire a consultant to develop the AAP under the guidance of ADAC members.

John: At first, I was a bit surprised at the suggestion to expand ADAC membership region wide, but when you think of it, it is a reasonable request. John would like to see the addition of representation from the Central and South Cariboo as well as First Nations, and other sector representation.

Christa: If our committee is in favour of the expansion, I started a list to identify potential candidates. The list was shared with the members and additional candidates were suggested.

After reviewing the list and discussion it was suggested that ADAC reach out to CRD Directors, City Mayors and Councilors, Economic Development Officers and First Nations to provide details of the AAP and request suggestions in regards to the regional expansion of ADAC including potential candidates, and ask for their continued support for the AAP development.

It was noted that with technological advances such as the Zoom platform, there may be a better opportunity to connect regionally, meaning travel and time restrictions will not be as much of a factor as before COVID to the development of a region wide committee.

In response to a question in regards to the size of the committee, Nigel indicated that we did discuss this at the sub-committee meeting; current ADAC membership is at 7 and we could change the bylaw to increase the membership to 13 as a suggested maximum. The plan is that ADAC would expand their scope and act as a steering committee at a higher-level oversight and hopefully, it would not be too much of an extra time commitment for ADAC members. John also noted much of the time commitment of the committee would depend on where the consultant is located.

Martin Rossmann joins the meeting at 7:05pm

As there is not a quorum of ADAC members at this meeting, the following motion was moved and seconded as a recommendation for ADAC members to consider and vote on by email.

R/2021-68

It was moved and seconded

That the ADAC recommend the approval of the expansion of the ADAC membership to increase its scope to include members across the region and act in the role of steering committee for the CRD Agricultural Area Plan development.

If approved, Nigel suggested we proceed with the regional outreach via letter and bring forward the potential candidates for review and additions at the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 18, with finalization of the committee membership occurring on December 10th at the CRD Board meeting. It was also suggested that the committee work with Chris Keam the CRD

Manager of Communications, to set up a news release or communication to the general public, to see if other candidates are interested in working on the committee.

5.2. Strategic Plan Framework

The Strategic Plan Framework has been developed from the information discussed at three Strategic Planning Sessions held between February to April 2021. The Framework has been under review by ADAC members since the end of August and revisions are being incorporated. Comments from committee members include that the plan captures comments from the strategic plan sessions, is inclusive and a good start for guiding the AAP process.

Further discussion is needed on the Vision and Mission and the development of the tactical plan accountability section. After discussion, it was suggested we use the next month or so to synthesize the plan and incorporate revisions or additions and then develop the tactical plan accountability component with the expanded Agricultural Development Advisory Committee, if approved.

5.3. Reports from ADAC member representative organization

Christa: BC Forage Council: Hosted a Research Field Day on September 20th on Multifunctional Pasture Rejuvenation in the Cariboo at Hallis Lake Community Pasture, led by Thompson Rivers University Researchers. The focus was on assessing management methods to address woody encroachment in pastures and pasture rejuvenation practices, including 3 different applications and a drone demonstration by John Church and will be available as a webinar.

Nicole: A seed drill demonstration sponsored by Industrial Forest Services was attended by Nicole and is recognized for clearing the land and planting the seeds. A video of the demonstration is available and ranchers can rent the seed drill from BC Forage Council (PG).

Christa: The BC Forage Council also sponsored a Forage Quality Contest, where participants can submit a maximum of 3 samples/operation and will receive free forage quality tests with their submissions. The contest closed on September 30 and a fall workshop will be organized in November (date TBD), which will share results and have a guest speaker to talk about how to interpret the results to inform winter feeding strategies.

Lynda: We purchased an old seed drill and find it saves so much time and is environmentally better.

Christa: BC Cattlemen's Association AGM in conducted in June 2021 passed a motion on the idea of approaching the Provincial government to recognize the carbon sequestration which occurs on ranchlands.

Nicole. I was not able to attend the Climate & Agriculture Initiative "Field Days on Livestock Surface Water" and steps to plan for water development. Water is going to be a serious issue in regards to climate change. A good topic to keep in mind as we move forward.

Lynda: In regards to water use, we are doing work with preventing leaky dams as a way to conserve water. In August Kersley Farmers Institute conducted a tour of various farms – Dunlevy Ranch, Rocky Point Ranch and North Star House Farm. It was really positive; well attended and a great tour.

John: The CRD connectivity survey is complete and a committee has been formed to meet over the winter and spring and will bring back a report next fall as to how to expand connectivity in the region. Looking at emergency preparedness, the CRD is trying to be pro-active as compared to

reactive in regards to the land slides, wildfires, and floods occurring in the region. The CRD received some COVID funding, which will be allocated to business continuity planning as well as a cash injection into the sub-regional Economic Development budgets.

David: I wanted to help Nicole a little bit. He attended 2 of the 3 sites for the Climate & Agriculture Initiative "Field Days on Livestock Surface Water" session held at his property and 2 others in the Cariboo. The region is not short of forage on the range, but is short of water on the range and we have to match up the available forage to water. Location planning is a new concept, and he is impressed with uptake from the Ministry of Forests. They are pretty excited about this and it is something that started in the Cariboo and now has gone province wide, just like some of the Climate Action initiatives. We can drive our own priorities from existing plans. He attended some of the sessions on agri-technology, which is moving so fast, but there is lots of interest, as it may be supportive particularly in the ALR, where some changes to regulations have occurred. Technology is helpful and if there are advancements, we should try to hone in on technologies that will work i.e., drones, electric fences, etc. It is part of the answer but not the whole answer, as high-tech costs exceed what many of our farms can afford. So, it may be that small and medium farms need less expensive technological solutions. David also attended some of the Regenerative Agriculture and Agri-tech Network (RAAN) virtual agri-tech conference held on September 28-30. Christa noted she took in the carbon sequestration session. They wondered if a recording will be available?

Nicole: Yes, eventually a recording will be available.

Lynda: Believes the Provincial government Ministry of Forests has convened an Advisory Committee on emergency preparedness mainly on the issue of how ranchers and government can better work together. The Horse Council BC was asked to include a representative on the committee. Lynda wondered if regional government is represented as our concern is there is not as much movement as hoped.

John: Margot Wagner has been a representative for the CRD for quite a while. It is an ongoing process.

Nicole: Asked John, if there will be an agriculture representative on the connectivity committee to provide input in regards to e-fences and other agri-technologies?

John: Maureen LeBourdais is the head of the committee – give her a call.

Nicole: David, I hear you about the affordability of technology and new entrants. Some are looking at open-source data and software as a potential opportunity to reduce cost.

5.4. ADAC update to North Cariboo Rural Caucus and CRD Board

It was recommended that ADAC provide an annual update to the North Cariboo Rural Caucus at the November 9th meeting and send a letter to the Caucus in regards to the ADAC budget for the October 12 meeting.

5.5. Food Safety Act - Meat Inspection Regulation: in effect on October 1, 2021

[Meat inspection and licensing - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/food_safety/food_safety_act/food_safety_act_meat_inspection_regulation)

Christa notes we have discussed this at length and commented on the potential high costs of insurance for those who have not previously held a Class D & E license. The new conditions we would encounter is something we all have to deal with.

Nicole: The Licenses are not exactly new, except now the class D license is called Farm Gate Plus

and the product can be sold into the retail market and Class E is called Farm Gate. They are also in the process of developing a recommendation that inspectors and trainers help to educate the insurance providers. Climate change and the litigious nature of the Americans are increasing costs and she feels the insurance industry does not have a full understanding of the work of the producers. There has been some good discussion on the issue at the Mid-Farmers Insurance Institute.

Christa there is an education gap. Also, the change in capacity for the Farm Gate license – before 10 animals could be slaughtered but now that has been reduced to 5. Nicole, do you have a link for the Mid-Farmers Insurance Institute?

Nicole: Here is the link – note the password to view the recording is required: **S3zyAkM&**
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/KpeO0FZ2hnEC8c482Y0wq-1JoTFy7Oef1iGUa0eYki-FSs0d_270MlippX2MD-X3.5QZaVrOGO5DODExK?fbclid=IwAR2ocklKWbvtpGDns8OAAUauyuKUtVcSRGvVzOc5skPNzayMj4tZhqUC8mU

5.6. Water Sustainability Act: [Water Sustainability Act - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/soc/land/water/water-sustainability-act)

Existing **groundwater** users who are now required to apply for a license will be exempt from paying the application fee until March 1, 2022.

Martin: I heard we now have a Regional Ground Water Officer – Dale Cleavers (was the Compliance and Enforcement Officer).

Christa: What would his role be?

Martin: His role is to address complaints to start with. From my understanding he will not be going out to see if people have licensed their wells or dealing with enforcement.

Nicole – Elliot Morton is the Front Counter person who will help with status updates on your application.

David – Some are talking about requesting another extension to the deadline again, but the uptake is minimal and it will cause a lot of problems if enforcement is eminent. If industrial users want “first in time first in right” they need to get their application in to protect themselves. I am glad that people are helping with application status, as we need to keep people informed.

David leaves the meeting: Thanks for the invitation and the work you are doing.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1. Ag Working Group Administrative Report

An unofficial ADAC budget update was provided and it was recommended a request to the North Cariboo Rural Caucus be submitted to provide the needed support for the remainder of the budget year, as a large portion of the annual budget was used to conduct the Strategic Planning Sessions and Framework document.

John: Noted that if the ADAC is expanded, we will need to discuss the budget requirements for 2022.

Nicole: Mentioned there may be a need for additional administrative support.

There was also a reminder that 3 committee member representative terms will be coming up for renewal in December 2021.

6.2. FARMED Rural Dividend Project Development Grant update

Rural Dividend Grant Ag Ed Program: The Project Management Team will be meeting with the NC Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher Ambassador on Friday October 8 to continue the development of plans for the program. Unfortunately, the facilitator is unable to join the meeting as she is working. She has provided some meeting dates and we will arrange a meeting with her to develop a plan for the fall.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1. Email communications
 - 7.1.1 2021 August 19 - David Schmutz; Cariboo district relocation inquiry: Received and follow up ADAC administration and Nicole to provide information and regional links.
 - 7.1.2 2021 July 6 - Joanne Taylor; UBC-Okanagan-Climate Change Adaptation and Food Security Policy Received
 - 7.1.3 2021 June 30 - ?Esdilagh First Nations – ADAC Representative resignation: Received and a letter informing of resignation sent to the NC Rural Caucus.
 - 7.1.4 2021 April 12 - John Salewiski; Wild Fire Service presentation: Received and will keep on the table and see if time permits a presentation to members in the spring of 2022.

8. ROUNDTABLE

John: I think that if the recommendation of the ADAC expansion is approved, we should see if Nigel or the CRD Communications Officer will be able to put out an information piece or news release in regards to the Agricultural Area Plan and ADAC expansion, to inform the public of the activities.

BC Honey Producers are online again and have done a good job on planning for their AGM, Conference and Tradeshow scheduled for the end of October 29 & 30.

<https://bchpaconference.ca/?fbclid=IwAR2jw6QEoAhizW3Z6U4qPDS6yVRmqoiJJcmQmRMIZUksyEgJ8ppWQXGsN1c>

Lynda: We were successful in selling 4 yearlings in Alberta. Also, as the regional alternate for the BC Ag Council with The Co-operators Insurance, I will see if I can get any additional information on insurance with the slaughter issue.

9. QUESTION PERIOD - nil

10. ADJOURNMENT - 8:30pm

Next Meeting: TBA

Agenda Submission Deadline:



C. Pooley, Chair