

Cariboo Regional District

**AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee, held via Zoom on May 17th, 2023 at 7pm

Purpose and Use of Meeting Minutes

The purpose of the meeting minutes is to summarize the discussions that occurred during the meeting and record action items. Comments summarized here represent the opinions of the individuals who made them and not of the Advisory Group as a whole. We intentionally do not associate names with the input recorded in the minutes to support a more open dialogue. A Record of Motions is kept, validating the members' votes to carry motions. Minutes will be used to plan for future meetings and to create documents supporting the Advisory Group and its processes. Advisory Group members are given the opportunity to provide feedback on the minutes. Minutes will be approved at the following meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Christa Pooley	BC Forage Council
Megan Flatt	Cariboo Chilcotin Sheep Producer's Association
Jennifer Roberts	Quesnel Cattleman's Association
David Zirnhelt	Cariboo Cattleman's Association
Martin Rossmann	Kersley Farmers Institute

LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT

Nicole Pressey	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
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DELEGATIONS

Beth Holden	CRD Economic Development
Matt Henderson	UNBC Undergrad Student – School of Planning and Sustainability

REGRETS

Lynda Atkinson	Regional Food and Innovation Hub
Nigel Whitehead	CRD
Shivani Sajwan	CRD

1. CALL TO ORDER

7:04PM

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

R/2023-17

Moved to Electronic Voting

That the May 17th, 2023 Cariboo Agricultural Development Advisory Committee agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

R/2023-18

Moved to Electronic Voting

That the minutes of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee meeting dated April 19th, 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1. Beth Holden – CRD Economic Development

- Hoping to engage ADAC on Agritourism hoping for feedback and ideas. What does Agritourism mean to you? Why did we identify this in our regional plan? What are some opportunities we think of when it comes to Agritourism?
 - The Chair mentions that agritourism has a huge spectrum. There are different rules and leniencies depending on where your property falls, which can be a gray area.
 - A member mentions concerns around biosecurity and protestors.
 - Discussion of expansion from a different perspective such as people doing weddings and other bigger events. Offering accommodation could be a gateway to Agritourism with B&Bs and workshops, which can be less expensive than hotels. Farm tours would also be an idea.
 - The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Liaison mentions that there may be ways for the CRD to support this by making it easy for people to be compliant with the CRD's bylaws. There is also the ALR which they could help people navigate. Problems can be managed or mitigated. Discussion.
 - A member is curious about the insurance piece. If you're opening up your ranch or farm to more people, there's more risk of people getting hurt. Discussion.
 - A member brings up emergency response and diversification in what producers can offer for agritourism. Discussion.
 - The delegate mentions farm tours, wagons, sleigh rides, farmer's markets, farm-to-table dinners, family fun days, etc. These are all great to get people spending local dollars. There are also long-haul opportunities. Maybe a wedding venue, an interesting course like cheese making or sheep shearing, a honeymoon location, or food festivals. Operations could work up to such things but in the meantime offer some of the shorter-term options. Some challenges that could arise are zoning, risk management, the cost to set up and the return on investment, etc. Seasonal downturns are another challenge along with tourism activities maybe interfering with day-to-day operations.
 - The delegate mentions that through her research she wanted to create an inventory of agritourism throughout in the Cariboo, BC, Canada, and different places in the States. Various sites mention different things. How do we make these listings easier for people to find? The CRD wants to encourage people to shop locally and regionally but has to be careful about highlighting businesses or showing favoritism. How can the CRD best approach the topic of stakeholders in Agritourism? Discussion.
 - The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Liaison is confused about why some farmers' markets weren't included on the Triple C ([Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association](#) site). The Chair
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mentioned that she had heard Quesnel City Council decided not to participate in the Triple C/TCCC, so there are gaps around 'Cariboo' and how far Cariboo representation goes. The delegate mentions this mostly pertains to the MRDT ([Municipal & Regional Tax Program](#)). Discussion.

- A member mentions information packets or displays at farmer's markets or tradeshow as places the delegate might look to for further feedback. She also says that from the perspective of a smaller operation, many such locations may be 'hidden', so to speak. She feels it would be great to have a community for smaller businesses.
- The Chair mentions that a manual or checklist could be produced by the CRD, that could be called something like: "Are You Interested in Agritourism?" This survey could help with marketing and help producers invest in agritourism if they are interested. The survey would have questions such as: Do you know about this? Do you know about that? Do you know the regulations? Etc. The Chair mentions that her family had considered doing agritourism on an adjacent plot but are no longer currently considering it. Their greatest challenge was seasonal conflict and a lack of human resources. However, she feels new entrants into this sector should look at diversified operations, which Agritourism could fit into well. Discussion.
- The delegate brings up a few additional strategic goals and highlights her role in them and what she has been involved in. See PowerPoint. The delegate mentions that grants are determined at a Provincial level. Many of these grants are created to help producers. Summary and overview of the [Make the Move](#) page on the CRD website that is currently being worked on. The delegate mentions she hosts two regional education roundtables a year that bring together TRU, UNBC, and CNC as well as various school districts. Maybe these roundtables can become regional and expand into other school districts.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Food liaison mentions there are a handful of producers in the North Cariboo that feel they can get business up into Quesnel. Those producers believe that in South Quesnel there are some properties that can house commercial or industrial inputs for agriculture. They have also spoken to the Quesnel Chamber of Commerce. The liaison offers to facilitate the conversation further. Discussion.
- A member asks if there has been any communication with the BCAA as they have a beef unit they have designed for both elementary and secondary and are wondering how to get that out more to the schools and district. The delegate says this is the first time she has heard of a beef unit and education unit in the Cattleman's association. It is exciting to hear about and she would love to bring it forward to SD28 and SD27 so maybe it could get into the curriculum for next year.

4.2. Matt Henderson – UNBC Undergrad Student in the School of Planning & Sustainability, presenting his Policy Institute of BC Research Project

- Student-led research project being funded through the Planning Institute of British Columbia. This is the first time this kind of project has been launched. Project duration is essentially in the summer months from June 1st to the beginning of September.
- The project's purpose is essentially looking at how food security plays in with the planning process throughout municipalities, regional districts, and up to upper provincial and federal government as everything based around these larger policies. How can we revise some of these policies that were created back in the 40s, 60s, and 70s to keep up with the times? This

will be a preliminary case study that could maybe be picked up and built on more and more. In addition, with the project he is looking specifically at how the current policies that people are currently being regulated by to live on their properties within the ALR area, and how this is hindering our multigenerational farmers from being able to sustain longevity in terms of production. Essentially, he is looking at the question of why there is so much red tape to construct secondary structures for additional family members to live on so they can take over the properties and continue feeding the province.

- How can we make this easier to secure the food that we eat on a daily basis?
- Project Objectives are outlined in the PowerPoint Presentation. They include analyzing current policies and regulations surrounding housing construction within the ALR through the lens of multigenerational farmers, hosting several facilitation tabling events at the Farmer's Market starting June 10th and every other week until August 5th, completing a preliminary analysis of current policies and regulations and identifying potential barriers and areas of improvement, completing a preliminary analysis of public recommendations from the tabling events mentioned above, and completing an executive summary or user guide of what one might need to know about the residence construction process within the ALR.
- In addition, there will be an independent study during the upcoming fall semester that will have a more comprehensive report. In addition, he and his program chair are looking at where to take this to the next level in terms of partnering up with other institutions and research studies that are looking at revisions within the ALC and figuring out how to better support members of the public and producers in the local area. This is still pending. Additional information on this project can be found in the PowerPoint provided by the delegate.
- The Chair brings up that ADAC has been looking more at their role in recommending resolutions to the CRD through to the North Central Local Government Association and to UBCM, so when something like this comes up there is the potential. Our regional district is not the only one facing these hurdles and challenges, so if there is something that feels relevant to bring forward as a resolution, this may be part of the potential next steps.

5. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. Regional Ag Education

- ADAC has begun a regional agriculture education contact list. We have some inspiring models we have found. What we are trying to do now is figure out how grant writing works. Discussion.
 - A member asks if there is a project or something similar, would the funding go towards the ADAC portion of things or the CRD? Is it up to us to carry on? She assumed we were supposed to be advising and if there was a report or some administrative or research, it would be up to the CRD to run with it if that's what they thought should happen. Where does the funding part come in? Is it for them or for our Admin to do more work on behalf of a project? Discussion. The Chair interprets it as the funding would go to them through ADAC, supporting working groups in each School District that want to move forward with projects that encourage agriculture in the classroom setting.
 - Some of the questions ADAC had in a previous meeting were around what kind of influence or
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coordination or collaboration the CRD has with school districts. Discussion. The Chair mentions that ADAC Administration can do an e-introduction with the North Cariboo Agriculture Education Working Group and Beth Holden. Until we know what ADAC's role is and what the potential projects are that may require funding, we don't know what grant types to look for. ADAC Administration will send an email to FARMED regarding coordination with non-profits with similar goals around Agricultural Education. Discussion.

- A member mentioned that FARMED put out a call for people to put their farms on the map, but her understanding is that a very low number of people actually signed up for it. Discussion.

5.2. Communications Material

- Discussion around the logo, brochure, banner, and other public-facing materials. When ADAC chooses a logo, it will go to the Board of Directors for approval, and any other materials produced will have the CRD logo on it along with language that clarifies ADAC is an initiative of the CRD and that ADAC is instrumental in the implementation of the AAP.
- A poll will be sent to members to provide feedback & vote on the C-ADAC Logo.

5.3. CRD BoD and ALC Executive Workshop

- June 22nd is the tentative date for the one-day workshop, but that date will not be confirmed for certain until late in May. There may be an opportunity for an Agrologist and the student delegate to be present. The CRD Liaison confirmed the meeting would be fairly informal and says the plan is to set up a special delegations day open to the public so anyone can come to the meeting. They are trying to line up two or three presentations, one for forestry and one for the ALC for sure, and possibly the Ministry of Transportation. There should be no problem with bringing someone else along like the student delegate or a district Agrologist. Discussion.

5.4. Quesnel FLP Advisory Committee Communications

- Admin recently shared a letter that had feedback from a member around the technical working groups. The letter also had a summary of a discussion we had at an ADAC meeting in April around access to chips and fibre. The response from the FLP Advisory Committee is that access to chips and fibre for the agriculture sector is outside the scope of the FLP. They suggest ADAC bring this item to the attention of the resource district to further a conversation on this item in support of the members of ADAC. Discussion.
- The CRD Liaison says there will be three public open houses or anyone to come in and comment on the FLP. All are held from 6:00PM-8:00PM. They are doing one on May 24th in Nazko at the Community Center, June 7th at the District Senior Center in Quesnel, and June 8th in Wells.
- The CRD Liaison mentions that this is one of the initial FLPs going on. The government is getting behind this project because they have announced another eight districts that will be doing FLPs, but haven't announced which ones. Discussion.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. N/A

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

7.1. Record of Transactions

- Moved to Electronic Voting or the next meeting. It was decided to go electronic.

7.2. PPSS to ADAC May Invoice

- Moved to Electronic Voting or the next meeting. It was decided to go electronic.

R/2023-19

Moved to Electronic Voting

That ADAC accept the May Invoice and Record of Transactions.

CARRIED

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1. ALC Workshop Update – Addressed in 5.3

- Summary.

8.2. REQUEST: ADAC Regional Extension Committee

- Summary.

8.3. FARMED Interactive Website Registration

- Summary.

8.4. FLP Advisory Group Letter Feedback – Addressed in 5.4

- Summary.

8.5. FLP Advisory Group Meeting May 16th Update

- Summary.

9. ROUNDTABLE

9.1. Roundtable

- A member suggests keeping the regular meeting date every month so if something comes up we will still be able to use it. The Chair agrees to keep it on the calendar as a regular meeting date. Ten days to two weeks in advance we will see if there are enough agenda items for a meeting in June and whether there are enough things to be addressed.

10. QUESTION PERIOD

11. ADJOURNMENT

9:10pm

Next Meeting: June 21st, 2023 at 7pm via zoom

Agenda Submission Deadline: June 14, 2023

Cariboo Agricultural Development Advisory Committee (ADAC)

March 15th, 2023

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C. Pooley, Chair

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