

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 October 18th, 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
Lynda Atkinson	Regional Food and Innovation Hub
Megan Flatt	Cariboo Chilcotin Sheep Producer's Association
David Zirnhelt	Cariboo Cattleman's Association
Jennifer Roberts	Quesnel Cattleman's Association
Brianna van de Wijngaard	Horticulture and Vegetable Producers
Tyrone Johnson	Agrobusiness
Robin Hunt	Farmer's Market

LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT

Nicole Pressey	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
John Massier	CRD

CRD STAFF

Shivani Sajwan	CRD
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DELEGATIONS

Duncan Barnett	P. Ag, Local Rancher
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REGRETS

Tammy Briggs	Horticulture and Greenhouse Production
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1. CALL TO ORDER

7:00PM

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

R/2023-29

Moved by Megan, seconded by Jennifer

That the October 18th, 2023 Cariboo Agricultural Development Advisory Committee agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

R/2023-30

Moved by Lynda, seconded by Megan

That the minutes of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee meeting dated September 20th, 2023 be adopted.

Carried

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1. Duncan Barnett – P. Ag Local Rancher, Agriculture/Rural Fringe Challenges and Proposed Solution

- Delegate is in attendance because of his experience with grazing on crown land and the Spoken Lake Subdivision. He felt things could be done better and came up with a proposal to help with that. He wanted to do more research on a few things and talk to some people. He also felt it was better to get the idea out there and see what people thought of it rather than trying to perfect it right away.
- Summary of the proposal of a Local Service Area Function that would be fencing a boundary between crown tenured range and a community or “subdivision”.
- Discussion: Goals it intends to accomplish, pros and cons, how it would be funded, and how the CRD and C-ADAC would help move the proposal forward. Three recommendations are brought forward and discussed.
- Member questions and concerns are addressed. Guest questions and concerns are addressed.
- Suggested next steps are discussed.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests liaison offers details of a Green Lake fencing field day in September 2022 to provide a comparison of a fencing project that was undertaken under different conditions. Summarized the experience using the presentation circulated to ADAC.
- Discussion around welcome baskets or information packets; the CRD in collaboration with ADAC or using existing resources, put an info package together about living in a livestock district, and maybe groups like FIRB (Farm Industry Review Board) could put in information about normal farm practices and legislation with the Right to Farm Act and normal noise, odor, and dust complaints. FIRB takes complaints as well, so when people are unhappy with farming operations, they can go to FIRB and file a complaint. FIRB will consider whether it is a valid complaint or not.

5. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. ADAC Logo – Finalization

- Finalist logos were 4, 5, and 7. It was decided that Logo 7 would be ADAC’s new logo.

5.2. Emergency Response: Drought Response

- The Ministry of Agriculture now has an emergency management branch. The information coming from them is that the understanding is it’s local authorities, First Nations, and the province can declare a drought emergency under the Emergency Management Act and related regulations. Discussion. [Min of Ag and Food Emergency Response Planning](#)
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- Discussion with the Cariboo Regional District about how the CRD would be identifying and declaring and responding to drought. The CRD Planning Department staff member mentions that as of now, if there is an imminent risk or threat to lives, that's the only way the CRD EOC (Emergency Operation Center) would be activated. It was also mentioned, though, that it is dealt with at the provincial level and that in future they will be working in collaboration with the province.
- Discussion.
- A liaison explains that the [Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness](#) (EMCR) is working to update the Provincial Emergency Management legislation and regulations. She mentions a new engagement [website for feedback](#) from various stakeholders. The website will provide an opportunity for everyone to provide feedback to a number of questions as well as provide written feedback. There will be workshops in November also.
- A member mentions an ongoing issue he knows of is that some areas have never been designated drought areas, and until that happens the Federal Government won't recognize them for any programs they might have. He feels that is inadequate and that we still don't seem to have a comprehensive emergency disaster response agriculture program.
- Discussion.
- The Chair feels that the letter discussed last meeting could be a catalyst to improve on how drought is identified in our region and what the criteria are. That conversation during last meeting brought to light some situations in other parts of the province this summer around what triggered water restrictions and how agriculturalists might know or be aware of what those trigger points are. Discussion.
- The CRD has conveyed this to emergency operations and have identified the issue and concern. They are open to working towards it. As of now, though, it's not the case, but soon they will be working at the provincial level with them.
- The Chair wants to know what the next move is. A liaison asks if the CRD can put this as an agenda item on the next ADAC call. If it comes from ADAC to the board, then it becomes a conversation at the board level as well. A subcommittee meeting is suggested to discuss how ADAC would like to present this item to the CRD Board of Directors.
- Drought Sub-Committee meeting members' expression of interest: Christa P., Tyrone J., Jennifer R., Nicole P., Shivani S.
- <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-production/weather/agroclimate-impact-reporter>
- <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/emergencymanagementregulations>
- <https://cariboo-agricultural-research.ca/>

5.3. Electronic Voting: PPSS to ADAC June Invoice, Record of Transactions, Acceptance of Minutes and Agenda

- June-September invoice and Record of Transactions are accepted.

Moved by Lynda, Seconded by Jennifer.

That ADAC accept the June-September Invoice and Record of Transactions.

Carried

5.4. Wood Fiber for Agriculture & Livestock Bedding

- Conversation around wood fiber. Synopsis and review.
- ADAC Chair & Laura Code, Min of Ag were invited by ADAC member Fell to a meeting with TNG's Forestry Working Group (FWG). Laura Code sits on a steering committee that reviews the supply and demand of wood fiber for agricultural use in the province. Code cites Report – [Wood Fibre Use in BC Agriculture \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://gov.bc.ca). Great discussion at the meeting revealed the potential supply of wood fiber, questions about the needs & demands of the ag sector in the region, types of wood fiber, etc. The request from TNG's FWG was that ADAC bring more detailed information back to further inform how they can meet the demand.
- Chair proposes that ADAC write a letter we can share with our members who will share that with the groups they represent, and our industry groups, in an attempt to gather information about details that will be pertinent to offer to the potential partners that could bring together a business model that will supply wood fiber to the agriculture community.

R/2023-32

Moved by David, Seconded by Jennifer.

That ADAC Administration write a letter that can be shared across industry groups to draw more input on fiber.

Carried

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Member Attendance (Terms of Reference and Committee Member Numbers)

- Discussion. Member Term Expiration December 2023, C-ADAC Bylaw adopted by the CRD BoD determines that quorum requirement is 50%+1.

6.2. Electronic Voting: Accepting Agenda, Accepting Minutes

- Discussion tabled until November Meeting.

6.3. Potential Meeting Structure Changes

- Discussion

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

7.1. Record of Transactions (September 20th to October 17th)

- Accepted.

R/2023-32

Moved by Lynda, Seconded by David.

That ADAC Accept the October Record of Transactions.

Carried

7.2. PPSS to ADAC October Invoice (September 20th to October 17th)

- Accepted.

R/2023-33

Moved by David, Seconded by Megan.

That ADAC Accept the October Invoice.

Carried

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1. FLP Advisory Group Meeting (October 26, 6:00 to 8:00)

- The Chair will reach out to a member who has been attending these meetings to see if he will be attending this or if he is unavailable and another member can attend instead.

8.2. Cariboo Regional District News – Board Highlights

- Circulated these to members.

8.3. FARMED Events – Did Anyone Attend?

- These have been very well attended. Summary by member of the Root Cellar workshop and Fire Suppression Workshop. Mention of three workshops coming up that can be found on the FARMED Facebook page.

8.4. Community Futures PASS

- The Chair was asked to have a meeting with someone from the Williams Lake Community Futures. They have a program they call PASS (Planning a Successful Succession). This has been offered to the business community at large and the Community Futures in Williams Lake has been seeing an opportunity to tailor a PASS program to the Agricultural industry. They have asked if some questions could be forwarded to ADAC members to offer insight on what would be beneficial to that program. This will occur in the coming days.

9. ROUNDTABLE

9.1. Roundtable Discussion

- Synopsis of the Regional Extension Committee meetings the Chair has participated in. Synopsis of similar meetings coming up further south. Discussion of the CARA site. A member feels they've had traction on a number of projects and should continue. If there are trials out there, they should be continued. Chair says this has definitely been discussed. She feels it's a good idea to take these projects that already have some traction and not see them left in the dust.
 - A liaison mentions preliminary discussions of water workshops with Bruce Nakka, Certified Irrigation Specialist/Assessor/Designer as the key speaker that is targeted to take place in January. Summary about what the key speaker is able to discuss.
 - A member's mention that the Kersley Farmer's Institute is also doing workshops and a suggestion to avoid setting workshops on the same day.
 - A liaison provides details about a UBCM (Union of BC Municipalities) resolution around Agriculture Land Reserve/Commission exclusion applications. The resolution asked the province to put that ability back into the hands of individual applicants instead of always having to go through local government. That resolution was passed. An update will be
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provided when more information is available. Another interesting one was a BC Wild Fire Service wanting to know about the interest and capacity of rural communities in the BC Interior in the development of rural community wildfire fighting capabilities in areas outside of fire protection boundaries. They are doing some preliminary work. Summary of a couple of initiatives by the CRD.

10. QUESTION PERIOD

11. ADJOURNMENT

9:30pm

Next Meeting: November 15th, 2023 at 7pm via zoom

Agenda Submission Deadline: November 8th, 2023

C. Pooley, Chair

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