



**PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
Agriculture Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes**

DATE: Tuesday, February 21, 2017

PLACE: Pomeroy Sports Centre, 9324 – 96th Street, Fort St. John, BC

PRESENT: Leonard Hiebert, Director, Electoral Area 'D'
Karen Goodings, Director, Electoral Area 'B'
Brad Sperling, Director, Electoral Area 'C'
Heather Hansen, Peace River Forage Association of BC
Jill Copes, Peace River District Women's Institute
Katharina Keuth, Alternate – Peace River District Women's Institute
Colin Meek, Peace River Farmers Institute
Jim Collins, Alternate – Peace River Farmers Institute
Tobin Dirks, Alternate – Peace Region Forage Seed Association
Kathleen Connolly, Member at Large – South Peace
Sharla Pearce, Alternate – BC Grain Producers Association

Guests

Lori Vickers, Ministry of Agriculture

Regional District Staff

Bruce Simard, General Manager of Development Services
Kari Bondaroff, Invasive Plant Manager
Suzanne Garrett, Corporate Services Coordinator

- 1) Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am
- 2) Election of Committee Chair
The General Manager of Development Services called for nominations for the office of Committee Chair for 2017.

Director Sperling nominated Director Hiebert for the office of Committee Chair for 2017. Heather Hansen seconded the nomination.

Director Hiebert accepted the nomination.

The General Manager of Development Services called a second time for nominations for the office of Committee Chair for 2017.

Hearing none, the General Manager of Development Services declared Director Hiebert Chair of the Agriculture Advisory Committee for 2017.
- 3) Election of Vice-Chair
As there were no nominations for the office of Vice-Chair, the Committee, in the absence of the Chair, will appoint an Acting Chair for that meeting, as stated in the Terms of Reference.

Notice of New Business:

Tobin Dirks Genetically modified alfalfa
Jill Copes Abandoned pipelines

Adoption of the Agenda:

- 2) Adoption of the Agenda
MOVED by Heather Hansen, SECONDED by Kathleen Connolly, that the Agriculture Advisory Committee agenda for the February 21, 2017 meeting, including new business and additional items, be adopted, as amended:
Adoption of the Minutes:
M-1 Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2016
Business Arising from the Minutes:
Delegations:

2) Adoption of
Agenda (cont'd)

Correspondence:

- C-1 Site C Clean Energy Project – Agriculture Mitigation and Compensation Plan – deadline for comments March 13, 2017
- C-2 February 7, 2017 Dale London – comments to the Site C Clean Energy Project – Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan.

Reports:

- R-1 November 25, 2016 AAC Chair Report – status of AAC recommendations.
- R-2 Regional Agriculture Plan (a) 2014 Action-Implementation Plan Summary and (b) 2017 updated Agriculture Plan table.
- R-3 January 4, 2017 report re: composting of bagged invasive plants
- R-4 Discussion paper regarding review of ALR applications – comments received from Peace River Regional Cattlemen’s Association; BC Women’s Institute, Peace River Forage Seed Association and Peace River Forage Association of BC
- R-5 January 26, 2017 report re: bagged invasive plant disposal at local transfer stations (handout)

New Business:

- NB-1 Large dugouts
- NB-2 Genetically modified alfalfa
- NB-3 Abandoned pipelines

Items for Information:

Diary and Terms of Reference:

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

3) M-1
AAC Mtg. Minutes

MOVED by Jill Copes, SECONDED by Kathleen Connolly, that the Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 15, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

4) C-1 Site C
Ag Mitigation and
Compensation
Plan

It was noted that the deadline for comments on the Site C Clean Energy Project Agriculture Mitigation and Compensation Plan is March 13, 2017.

and

MOVED by Heather Hansen, SECONDED by Kathleen Connolly, request that “horticulture” and “sheep” commodity representatives be added, as independent seats, to the list on Page 29 under the heading BC Agricultural Compensation Fund Board.

C-2 Dale London
letter

CARRIED.

MOVED by Director Sperling, SECONDED by Colin Meek, That the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board BC Hydro be requested to:

- a) provide clarification on Page 31 – “Table 3 – Sectors Represented, Appointing Entities and Board Terms” does the PRRD agricultural appointee (to represent smaller commodity groups) mean an appointee from the Regional Board or an appointee from one of the regions small agricultural commodity groups (appointed by the Regional Board); and
- b) what is BC Hydro’s definition of “smaller commodity groups”.

CARRIED.

MOVED by Tobin Dirks, SECONDED by Colin Meek, That the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board that BC Hydro be requested to provide a report to the Regional Board indicating the number of Individual Farm Mitigation Plans completed, for disruptions to agricultural land owners and tenure holders, and total cost of compensation paid as noted under Environmental Assessment Act (EAC) Condition #30, Section 2.4 on page 21.

CARRIED.

Correspondence: (continued)

- 4) C-1 and C-2 MOVED by Kathleen Connolly, SECONDED by Heather Hansen,
That the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board that
Nancy Pepper, Chair, Site C Clean Energy Project Agriculture Mitigation and
Compensation Plan Consultation Steering Committee be invited to attend a
Regional Board meeting to provide information on individual farm mitigation plans:
- a) are mitigation plans being completed with those affected landowners and tenure holders directly affected by the Site C Project to ensure they are able to continue their livelihoods and preserve their lifestyles;
 - b) provide clarification "Development and implementation of individual farm mitigation plans are part of BC Hydro's properties rights acquisition process. For clarity, the individual farm mitigation plan is not a separate document." If the mitigation plan is not a separate document how will BC Hydro supply the landowner with any written plan to indicate what will be dealt with and how these issues will be dealt. These plans should be separate;
 - c) provide proof that the individual farm mitigation plans are being provided to landowners and tenure holders, as the Regional District has been made aware that this is not the case.

CARRIED.

MOVED by Colin Meek, SECONDED by Kathleen Connolly,
That the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board that
BC Hydro be requested to confirm that the \$20 million fund established under the
Site C Clean Energy Project Agriculture Mitigation and Compensation Plan will be
utilized only in the affected area of the Peace River Region.

CARRIED.

MOVED by Jim Collins, SECONDED by Kathleen Connolly,
That the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board that
the Terms of Reference for the BC Hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation
Fund Board (Page 33 and Appendix D, page 7) be amended so that the
dissolution of the Board be at the discretion of the Minister of Agriculture and not
the Crown Corporation of BC Hydro.

CARRIED.

MOVED by Jim Collins, SECONDED by Tobin Dirks,
That the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board that
BC Hydro be requested to hold an annual meeting to report out to the public
outcomes of the Agricultural Plan, i.e. funds disbursed, projects approved.

CARRIED.

REPORTS:

- 5) R-2 re: Members reviewed the revised Agriculture Plan and expressed its appreciation to
Ag Plan Ms. Vickers for her work in revising the document and connecting the Plan with
background links to the first draft:
- remove South and North Peace Economic Development Commissions
 - WSA has been completed
- 6) Recess The meeting recessed at 11:58 am
7) Reconvene The meeting reconvened at 12:55 pm
- 8) Ag Plan **Strategy 1 Resources**
(continued) 1.3 Develop policy with AAC around ALR referrals. It was noted that the timeframe
does not fit as the AAC only meets four times / year, this would create a delay in
applications being processed.
1.5 Identify all areas at the interface of urban/rural uses where conflict may occur – to
reduce conflict buffer areas are responsibility of the developer, not the landowner

- 8) Ag Plan (continued) 1.9 remove "weed control" and replace with "invasive plants"
1.12 remove, duplicate

MOVED by Tobin Dirks, SECONDED by Colin Meek,
That the time frame and priority for Item 1.14 Support the Development and Maintenance of agriculture waste plastic product recycling be changed from a time frame of 1 – 4 years to a priority 1.

CARRIED.

Strategy 2 Production

- 2.2 add "other industries" under Partners/Key Players.
2.3 remove, same as 6.6

Strategy 3 Processing

- 3.1 (4) add "advocate for processing where feasible"

Strategy 4 Marketing

- 4.1 (2) add Chamber of Commerce
4.2 Combine (1) and (2), add "protect market access for peace agricultural products" i.e. rural roads, genetically modified alfalfa

Strategy 5 Transportation

- 5.1 add "MOTI, Highway 29 and BC Hydro" under Partners/Key Players

Strategy 6 Communication

- 6.2 Encourage active participation of PRRD in local appropriate events – add staff and elected officials. Under Action 1 add invasive plants at fall fairs, 4-H events. Under Partners / Key Players add list of agriculture events to be provided by producer groups
- Combine 6.2 with 6.8
- 6.3 (2) under Partners/Key Players add "private industry" (for example – training programs provided by Myers North, FCC, CPS).
- write out acronyms
- 6.4 under Partners/Key Players add "service providers" (xplornet, Pris, Telus, etc.)
- 6.6 revise heading to read "Encourage local BCGPA, PRFA, PRFSA, other local groups, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to continue providing research and extension services through provincial, federal and local research stations"
- 6.7 (1) under Partners/Key Players add "industry safety plans, i.e. sour gas"
- 6.9 Support agriculture industry if they come forward with protection - Roll into 6.1 – safety issues such as stolen property
- 6.15 add - support Northern Lights College curriculum – creating programs with agriculture in mind, i.e. wildlife mitigation, soil remediation, etc. Add to Partners/Key Players – Ministry of Education, local educational institutions, workforce training.
- 6.16 under Partners/Key Players add Electoral Area Directors Committee and the Chamber of Commerce

Revisions will be reviewed at the next Committee meeting. It is anticipated that 3 public meetings will take place to enable the public an opportunity to view the document. Once revisions from the public have been incorporated, the Plan would be reviewed/adopted by the Committee with a recommendation to the Board that the Plan be adopted.

Director Goodings suggested that the revised Plan be forwarded to a Committee of the Whole meeting to give the Board an opportunity to review and ask questions, do they agree with the Plan, have AAC members attend as well.

9) R-3 bagged
Composting of
Invasive plants

At its November 2016 AAC meeting the Committee recommended that the invasive plant education program be expanded to include methods for composting bagged invasive plants. The Regional Board approved this recommendation at its December meeting. The recommendation was forwarded to the Manager of Invasive Plants for consideration and action. Upon review it is suggested that an alternate approach to composting be undertaken for the following reasons.

There is very little concrete information and research on this technique for properly disposing of invasive plant material as there are many factors to consider when handling “solarizing” material. The Invasive Plant Council of BC has deemed composting as a non-recommended avenue for disposal and recommends landfill disposal. The more bagged invasive plant material is moved increases the risk of tearing and spreading viable weed seeds. Without concrete scientific information on all of the different invasive plant species and their reaction to the composting method, this could create confusion and misguidance of best management practices.

MOVED by Tobin Dirks, SECONDED by Colin Meek,
That the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board that the following be referred to the Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plant Monitoring Committee meeting scheduled for April 5, 2017, for further discussion and recommendation:

“that the invasive plant education program be expanded to include methods for composting bagged invasive plants.

CARRIED.

10) R-4 Review
of ALC
applications

The Regional Board forwarded the “Discussion Paper regarding the Review of ALR Applications” to the Committee for comment and advice concerning the pros and cons of NOT reviewing ALR applications. The Regional Board invited participating commodity groups of the AAC to provide written comments, indicating the groups position on whether the Regional District should or should not discontinue reviewing and responding to Agriculture Land Reserve applications.

Comments received:

- Protect and enhance agriculture in the region
- Protect agricultural lands to ensure food security, accessibility and sustainability for future generations
- Provides a venue for landowners/occupiers to express concerns
- Stewards of nearly one third of the province’s land in the ALR
- Level of service is important as the Regional District continues to foster a region that balances the needs of a thriving agricultural industry, employment opportunities that result from a strong oil and gas sector, and urban expansion to accommodate this growth in a region that remains one of the gems of this province.

MOVED by Kathleen Connolly, SECONDED by Heather Hansen,
that the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board that the Regional District continue reviewing Agriculture Land Commission applications with regard to Regional District Official Community Plan policy and zoning regulations,

CARRIED.

11) R-5 Update
bagged invasive
plants
(handout)

At its May 17, 2016 meeting the Committee recommended to the Regional Board that that designated bins, for the disposal of handpicked, bagged invasive plants, be placed at all attended solid waste transfer stations.

At its February 9, 2017 meeting the Regional Board resolved that staff be directed to take no further action on expanding the Invasive Plant Program to include free residential disposal of invasive plants at the Prespatou, Buick Creek, Rose Prairie, Cecil Lake, Rolla and Tomslake transfer stations.

NEW BUSINESS:

12) NB-1 re:
Large dugouts

MOVED by Kathleen Connolly, SECONDED by Jill Copes, that the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board that the following guidelines be taken into account during review of Agriculture Non-Farm Use applications with respect to water storage borrow pit applications:

- Invasive plant management plan
- Use of clean seed mixes for remediation
- No interruption of the natural water flow to users down the line, long term picture needs to be taken into account for interruption of water flow to adjacent properties; it may be vacant now, but what about the future
- Industry obtaining lease agreements for water storage, especially if the lease agreement is worded like an agreement for drilling. These agreements are for 25 years and can be ongoing even if ownership changes. Realizing that it is the right of the landowner to enter into negotiations, however the Regional District can refuse the subdivision. There are lease agreements that are well over 50 years and the only item to be re-negotiated is the amount the company pays to occupy.
- Access to these types of sites needs to be considered, will road development hinder adjacent landowners. This is a very real concern if you have no control on what happens next door.
- Concern when all the surveys of the property are carried out during the winter months. Last year was an exceptional year with low snow coverage, most years you would not even see the stubble.
- Keep the nuisance of a neighbouring oil field water station to a minimum
- Discontinue the use of the term "borrow pit" when the intent is clearly for water storage and subsequent sale.

CARRIED.

13) NB-2
GE Alfalfa

Tobin Dirks updated members on steps that the Peace Region Forage Seed Association (PRFSA) has undertaken to keep the Peace Region free of Genetically Modified alfalfa. The Association has been working with other agencies in developing a bylaw to prohibit the growing of this plant. It was noted that the PRFSA will be attending the April 5, 2017 Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plant Monitoring Committee meeting.

14) NB-3
Pipelines

Pipelines do not have to be removed, but should be decommissioned if product is not being pumped through. Landowner can request that the pipeline be removed. Farmers' Advocacy Office is a good source of information.

15) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm

original signed by

Leonard Hiebert,
Chair

original signed by

Suzanne Garrett,
Corporate Services Coordinator