



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

DATE: Tuesday, May 17, 2016

PLACE: Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre, Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Jill Copes, Peace River District Women's Institute
Katharina Keuth, Peace River District Women's Institute, Alternate
Judy Madden, Peace River Regional Cattlemen's Association
Heather Hansen, Peace Region Forage Association of BC
Sharla Pearce, BC Grain Producers Association, Alternate, via teleconference
Kathleen Connolly, Member at Large – South Peace, via teleconference
Karen Goodings, Director, Electoral Area 'B'
Brad Sperling, Director, Electoral Area 'C'
Leonard Hiebert, Director, Electoral Area 'D'

Guests

Lori Vickers, Ministry of Agriculture
Ben Rauscher, BC Oil and Gas Commission

Regional District Staff

Bruce Simard, General Manager of Development Services
Suzanne Garrett, Corporate Services Coordinator

1) Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 10:35 am

Election of Chair:

2) Election of Chair Mr. Simard called for nominations for the office of Committee Chair for 2016.

Director Goodings nominated Director Hiebert for office of Committee Chair for 2016.

Director Hiebert accepted the nomination.

MOVED by Judy Madden, SECONDED by Jill Copes,
That nominations for office of Committee Chair for 2016 be closed.

CARRIED.

Mr. Simard, General Manager of Development Services declared by acclamation
Director Hiebert as Chair of the Agriculture Advisory Committee for 2016.

Adoption of the Agenda:

3) Adoption of the Agenda MOVED by Judy Madden, SECONDED by Heather Hansen,
that the Agriculture Advisory Committee agenda for the May 17, 2016
meeting, including New Business and Additional Items, be adopted, as amended:

Adoption of the Minutes:

M-1 Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2015

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Correspondence:

- C-1 March 22, 2016 letter from the Ministry of Agriculture regarding AAC feedback with respect to its White Paper on Agri-Tourism and Farm Retail Sales in the ALR
- C-2 March 16, 2016 letter from Waterline Resources (referred by Board – March 24, 2016)
- C-3 November 29, 2015 letter from BC Grain Producers regarding genetically modified alfalfa.
- C-4 February 23, 2016 letter from the Ministry of Agriculture regarding Site C Agriculture Mitigation and Compensation Plan.

3) Adoption of the
(continued)

Reports:

- R-1 May 4, 2016 AAC Chair report – status of AAC recommendations.
- R-2 April 8, 2016 OGC Referral – application for ALR Non-Farm Use Borrow Pit expansion for water storage (Painted Pony).
- R-3 (handout) 2015 Invasive Plant Program Annual Report

New Business:

- NB-1 Update on the Regional Agriculture Plan

Items for Information:

- I-1 ALC Performance Indicators
- I-2 2016 Invasive Plan Program updates
- I-3 Country Life BC Magazine – is the AAC interested in a subscription?

Diary and Terms of Reference:

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

4) M-1
AAC Mtg. Minutes

MOVED by Jill Copes, SECONDED by Sharla Pearce,
that the Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 16, 2015
be adopted.

CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

5) Water
Sustainability
Act

Members were advised that the Ministry of Environment will be holding information
sessions on the *Water Sustainability Act* in the region to provide clarification for
producers.

CORRESPONDENCE:

6) C-1 re:
Min. Agriculture
White Paper

Ms. Vickers volunteered to follow-up with Brenda Lennox, Ministry of
Agriculture on the status of the draft criteria for developing local government
bylaws regarding agri-tourism, agri-tourism accommodation and farm
retail sales in the ALR.

7) C-4 re: Site
C Ag Fund

A framework for the Site C Agriculture Mitigation and Compensation Plan is
expected to be submitted to the Regional District in July 2016.

REPORTS:

8) R-1 re: Chair's
Report

Recommendation No. 5 – Large Dugouts. Members were advised that the *Water
Sustainability Act* came into force January 29, 2016. The letter inviting
representatives from the Oil and Gas Commission and the Ministry of Forests,
Lands and Natural Resource Operations to the next AAC meeting to
provide information on the practices/policies and compliance/enforcement, with
regard to large dugouts on private property; and monitoring studies of streams and
creeks will now be forwarded as requested in the resolution from 2015.

9) R-2 re:
OGC referral
Painted Pony

Director Goodings inquired if the AAC wished to provide feedback on ALR
non-farm use applications for water storage borrow pits. Bearing in mind that the
timeline for comments is 21 days. It was suggested that members would have to
provide comments individually as there is no time to schedule a meeting.

Committee members agreed to forward a list of their top concerns – these will be
compiled so planning staff can reference them when evaluating this type of
application. Concerns include invasive plant management, the use of clean seed
mixes, interruption of the natural water flow to users down the line.

10) Recess

The meeting recessed for luncheon at 12:15 pm

11) Recall to Order

The Chair recalled the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

REPORTS: (continued)

- 12) R-3 (handout) 2015 Annual Report
It was felt that public awareness should be increased, there are not many people aware that there is an invasive plant program.

MOVED by Judy Madden, SECONDED by Heather Hansen,
That the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board that designated bins, for disposal of handpicked, bagged invasive plants, be placed at all transfer stations with attendants.

CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 13) NB-1 re: Regional Ag Plan
Members requested that the Regional Agriculture Plan – November 2014 edition, be placed on the next meeting agenda for review.
- 14) Committee Report
MOVED by Judy Madden, SECONDED by Jill Copes,
That the recommendations from the Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting of May 17, 2016 be recommended to the Regional Board for approval.

CARRIED.
- 15) Adjournment
MOVED by Jill Copes, SECONDED by Heather Hansen,
that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm

Leonard Hiebert,
Chair

Suzanne Garrett,
Corporate Services Coordinator