



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

DATE: Tuesday, October 18, 2016

PLACE: Pomeroy Sports Centre, Fort St. John, BC

PRESENT: Leonard Hiebert, Director, Electoral Area 'D', Committee Chair  
Karen Goodings, Director, Electoral Area 'B'  
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  
Fred Lehmann, BC Grain Producers Association, 11:00 am

Guests

Lori Vickers, Ministry of Agriculture

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 10:20 am

As there was no quorum present, the following discussion took place.

**Notice of New Business:**

Director Goodings Committee meeting schedule

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

2) C-1 re: July 11, 2016 Williams Lake Tribute news article announcing that the BC  
BC farmland government has changed regulations to require a permit from the Agricultural  
protected from Land Commission for large scale tree planting on agricultural lands. It was  
reforestation noted that the owners of the tree farm located in Cecil Lake have advised that land  
currently not in tree planting production will be sold.

3) C-2 re: Site The framework for the Site C Agriculture Mitigation and Compensation Plan has  
C Ag Fund been released. The Framework is a condition of the Environmental Assessment  
Certificate and must be developed in consultation with the affected agricultural  
landowners and tenure holders, and the Ministry of Agriculture and provided to the  
Regional District and District of Hudson's Hope for review.

Members reiterated the need to keep compensation funding in the north and in perpetuity. It was felt that producer groups should be encouraged to submit their comments. To increase public access to document, it was suggested that a link to the Framework be added to the Regional District's website. Director Goodings advised that she would bring up the suggestion at the October 20 Electoral Area Directors meeting.

**REPORTS:**

4) R-2 re: Mr. Simard briefly reviewed the Regional Agriculture Plan project to date. In 2012,  
Regional the preparation of an agricultural plan was identified in the Regional District's  
Ag Plan Strategic Plan. The Agriculture Plan would be applied to the entire regional district  
and will reflect the regions agricultural capacity, demonstrate economic,  
environmental, cultural and sustainable community development benefits based  
on a vibrant agricultural sector that serves local, regional and external needs for  
agricultural products. And provide a tool for the Regional Board to support  
agriculture in the region.

The Regional District was successful in obtaining a grant from the BC Investment Agriculture Foundation grant, in the amount of \$45,000, and issued a Request for Proposal for the development of a Regional Agricultural Plan.

**Reports:** (continued)

- 4) R-2 A Discussion Paper was drafted with 10 public consultation meetings taking place in 2013. Following those meetings a draft of the Plan was prepared including suggestions/comments received from various meetings and submitted by residents and producers. The draft was reviewed by the Agriculture Advisory Committee. The Committee developed its own policies and actions and identified priorities.
- It was suggested that the Committee accept the Plan as it is and tweak it over the next few years. It was noted that not all members, and some stakeholders are not happy with the outcome of the Plan. Ms. Vickers volunteered to re-format the November 25<sup>th</sup> edition, provide background links and clearly denote priorities for review by the Committee.
- 5) R-3 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 District has provided a robust review of ALC applications with respect to Official Community Plan (OCP) policy and zoning regulations. At times, with recommendation from the Electoral Area Director, the Board has even held public information meetings for more contentious proposals to ensure a fair opportunity for public concerns to be heard before a decision is made. This has afforded the Board an opportunity to critically consider whether a proposal is in accord with local policies and community preferences, which has been a highly valued consideration by the Electoral Area Directors and the Board.
- Concern was expressed on those applications that the ALC approves and the Regional District refuses. It is felt that local knowledge and review of the applications is better for the region. This item will be referred to the next meeting.
- 6) Recess The meeting recessed for luncheon at 12:15 pm
- 7) Recall to Order The Chair recalled the meeting to order at 12:35 pm
- 8) R-4 Genetically modified alfalfa – Director Goodings will check to see if this has been dealt with.
- NEW BUSINESS:**
- 9) NB-1 re: meetings Timing of and lack of quorum at meetings. It was suggested that the Committee meet more over the winter months. It was noted that the Members at Large positions for the West and North Peace are vacant. If anyone knows someone who may be interested in these positions encourage them to forward a letter of intent to the Regional District.
- Terms of Reference state that Committee may meet quarterly. It was suggested that meetings be scheduled for November, January, April, June and October.
- 10) Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm