



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

DATE: Monday, November 16, 2015
PLACE: Regional District offices, Dawson Creek, BC
PRESENT: Leonard Hiebert, Director, Electoral Area 'D' – Meeting Chair
Jill Copes, Peace River District Women's Institute – via phone
Judy Madden, PR Regional Cattlemen's Association
Heather Hansen, Peace Region Forage Association of BC
Rod Kronlachner, Member at Large – South Peace
Arlene Boon, Alternate Member at Large - North Peace
Fred Lehman, BC Grain Producers Association, 10:50 am

Guests

Karen Goodings, Director, Electoral Area 'B' – via phone
Brad Sperling, Director, Electoral Area 'C'
Dan Rose, Director, Electoral Area 'E' – via phone
Lori Vickers, Ministry of Agriculture
James O'Hanley, BC Oil and Gas Commission

Regional District Staff

Suzanne Garrett, Corporate Services Coordinator

1) Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m.

Notice of New Business:

Jill Copes large dugouts

Adoption of the Agenda:

2) Adoption of the Agenda MOVED by Arlene Boon, SECONDED by Heather Hansen, that the Agriculture Advisory Committee agenda for the November 16, 2015 meeting, including New Business and Additional Items, be adopted, as amended:

Adoption of the Minutes:

M-1 Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2015

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Correspondence:

- C-1 July 16, 2015 letter from the BC Ministry of Agriculture regarding Kevin Knoblauch – Valley Gardens
- C-2 October 7, 2015 letter from the BC Ministry of Agriculture regarding its discussion paper on a draft set of criteria for developing local government bylaws regarding agri-tourism, agri-tourism accommodation and farm retail sales in the ALR.
- C-3 October 20, 2015 letter from the Minister of Agriculture regarding the Site C Agriculture Fund Committee.
- C-4 (handout) November 2, 2015 letter from the Peace Region Forage Seed Association and March 3, 2015 letter from the North Pine Farmers Institute regarding organizations position on roundup ready alfalfa and keeping western Canada free of genetically modified alfalfa seed. (referred from the November 12, 2015 Board meeting)

Reports:

R-1 October 26, 2015 revised AAC Terms of Reference.

New Business:

Items for Information:

Diary and Terms of Reference:

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

- 3) M-1
AAC Mtg. Minutes
- MOVED by Judy Madden, SECONDED by Arlene Boon, that the following correction be made to the Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2015:
- change the date on the first page to read July 13, 2015, and that the Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting minutes of July 13, 2015 be adopted as amended.
- CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 4) C-2 re:
Min. Agriculture
White Paper
- The Ministry of Agriculture is seeking input from local government on the draft set of criteria for developing local government bylaws regarding agri-tourism, agri-tourism accommodation and farm retail sales in the ALR. Deadline for submission of comments is November 30, 2015.
- Discussion points:
- White Paper is focused on agri-tourism, use lands to promote agriculture, i.e. tours, bed/breakfast, etc. and to ensure that activities do not negatively impact agriculture such as a parking lot
 - concern that rules will restrict/impact the ability of farmers to farm, restrictions should not be put in place that would restrict a producer from using lands to supplement farm income provided it is an agricultural use
 - the intent of the paper is to advise local government so it does not prepare bylaws that would contradict allowable uses, bylaw will need to fit standards established by the White Paper
 - need definition i.e. large, extensive commercial zone
 - interpretation, who is going to enforce?
 - Suggested that the white paper be revised to take into account the differences between Zone 1 and Zone 2 in the peace region
- MOVED by Arlene Boon, SECONDED by Heather Hansen, That the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board that the following comments be forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the September 2015 Discussion Paper and Proposed Minister's Bylaw Standards regulating Agri-tourism and Farm Retail Sales in the Agricultural Land Reserve:
1. Request clarification on the definition of "large commercial" referred to in 1.1 Purpose and Goals, #5.
 2. What agency will police approvals, will there be approvals for each event? And what agency will enforce, i.e. music festival with 10,000 people?
 3. ALR Zone 2 approvals – how does the Agricultural Land Commission plan on referring approvals back to the local government (Regional District), will a process be implemented?
- CARRIED.

- 5) C-3 re:
Site C Ag
- BC Hydro, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Energy and Mines are seeking input from agricultural stakeholders regarding the development of a Fund Framework for an Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan for the Site C Clean Energy Project, including the establishment of a \$20 million Agricultural Compensation fund.
- It was felt that the fund should be established "in perpetuity" to offset any long term impacts that are not on the horizon at this very moment, i.e. food security, there is a need for a long term vision.

- 5) C-3 continued MOVED by Judy Madden, SECONDED by Arlene Boon,
that the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board:
- a) that the Electoral Area Directors' be authorized to participate on the Site C Agriculture Fund Committee to develop Terms of Reference, to assist in determining how the Agricultural Compensation Funds would be administered; and
 - b) that the Regional District recommends to BC Hydro that the Agriculture Compensation Fund be set up in perpetuity to offset any long term impacts identified in the future.

CARRIED.

- 6) C-4 re:
GM alfalfa
(handout) At its November 12th meeting, the Regional Board referred the letters regarding position statements surrounding genetically modified alfalfa to the Committee. Genetically modified alfalfa has already been introduced into the United States and Eastern Canada, with a plan to introduce it into Western Canada.

Many associations, representing virtually all of the growers and marketers of seed for forage grasses and legumes are working to keep it out of the Peace Region of BC and Alberta in order to preserve international forage seed markets. The main concern is that international market opportunities will be greatly reduced as European and Asian countries will ban contaminated seed.

MOVED by Judy Madden, SECONDED by Heather Hansen,
That the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board that a letter be forwarded to the Peace Region Forage Seed Association in support of their efforts to stop the introduction of genetically modified alfalfa into the Peace Region of British Columbia and Alberta.

CARRIED.

(NAYS – Fred Lehman)

- 7) Recess The meeting recessed for luncheon at 12:00 pm
- 8) Recall to Order The Chair recalled the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

REPORTS:

- 9) R-1 re:
Terms of
Reference Members reviewed the Terms of Reference, revised from the October 7, 2015 Regional Board meeting.

MOVED by Judy Madden, SECONDED by Arlene Boon,
That the Agriculture Advisory Committee, with approval from the Electoral Area Directors, forward the following suggested revisions to the AAC Terms of Reference to the Regional Board for approval:

Under 2.5 Membership

All four Electoral Area Directors will sit as non-voting liaison members of the AAC
(it is noted that at the request of the AAC all Electoral Area Directors be present at meetings)

Under 3.2 Procedures

Delete the last two sentences in the clause and replace with "In the event of an Electoral Area Director holding the position of Chair they shall be non-voting.
(it is felt that should a commodity group member be Chair they would not be able to speak to any issues, resulting in that commodity group not being represented)

CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

10) NB-1 re: Large dugouts Members were advised of concerns regarding a large dugout in the Townsend Creek area (Pink Mountain/Jedney), located on private property, which is disrupting the natural water flow into the creek. Trenches have been constructed. Do the large dugouts require a licence? Are there any parameters to prevent these types of dugouts. It was noted that a dam cannot be constructed in natural watercourses,

Are there any agencies conducting studies on large dugouts? Do these dugouts require approval to divert water from streams/creeks?

Agriculture versus industrial dugouts. BC Oil and Gas Commission does not regulate dugout on private property. What type of monitoring has been done? Has the Oil and Gas Commission and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations developed any practices/policies for monitoring streams and creeks across the region. Do they have plans for compliance and enforcement.

MOVED by Jill Copes, SECONDED by Rod Kronlachner,
That the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board that upon enactment of the *Water Sustainability Act* in 2016 that representatives from the Oil and Gas Commission and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations be invited to an Agriculture Advisory Committee 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.

CARRIED.

11) NB-2 re: Right to Farm Act review The Ministry of Agriculture is undertaking a review of the Right to Farm Act. Local government is being asked what tools are effective. Ms. Vickers will inquire if there is an update that can be shared with the Committee.

MOVED by Judy Madden, SECONDED by Arlene Boon,
That the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Regional Board that any information received from the Electoral Area Directors Committee and/or Development Services department regarding the review on the Right to Farm Act be referred to the Agriculture Advisory Committee.

CARRIED.

12) Adjournment MOVED by Fred Lehman, SECONDED by Rod Kronlachner,
that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm