



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

DATE: Monday, July 13, 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
Ruth Veiner, Alternate - Peace River District Women's Institute
Jim Collins, Alternate – Peace River Farmer's Institute
Judy Madden, PR Regional Cattlemen's Association
Rod Kronlachner, Member at Large – South Peace
Greg Neave, Member at Large - North Peace

Guest

Brad Sperling, Director, Electoral Area 'C', 1:00 pm

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 10:05 a.m.

Notice of New Business:

Jill Copes proposed referendum on water
Jim Collins attendance at meetings

Adoption of the Agenda:

2) Adoption of the Agenda MOVED by Jill Copes, SECONDED by Greg Neave, that the Agriculture Advisory Committee agenda for the July 13, 2015 meeting, including New Business and Additional Items, be adopted.

Adoption of the Minutes:

M-1 Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2015

Business Arising from the Minutes:

BA-1 Future of the AAC – Terms of Reference

Correspondence:

C-1 April 16, 2015 letter from the Ministry of Natural Gas Development regarding the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act. (referred by the Board)

Reports:

R-1 June 25, 2015 Chair's report regarding the status of the May 19, 2015 AAC meeting recommendations to the Regional Board.

New Business:

Items for Information:

I-1 June 16, 2015 letter to BC Bison Association regarding notice of resignation.

Diary and Terms of Reference:

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

3) M-1 AAC Mtg. Minutes MOVED by Don Dunbar, SECONDED by Judy Madden, that the Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2015 be adopted.

CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- 4) Item #6 re: revised Terms of Reference
Members reviewed the draft Terms of Reference, revised/updated by the Electoral Area Directors' Committee.

MOVED by Jill Copes, SECONDED by Jim Collins,
That the Agriculture Advisory Committee forward the following suggested revisions to the AAC Terms of Reference to the Electoral Area Directors' Committee, for consideration:

Under Purpose 1.1
add another bullet "that the AAC may forward agriculture related issues to the Electoral Area Directors' Committee for discussion and consideration.

Under Membership 2.4
clarify that re-appointment applies only to the primary member, not the alternate, and that this policy starts at time of adoption and is not retro-active to time already served by existing members.

Under Procedures 3.7
add "That whenever possible meetings will strive to alternate between Dawson Creek and Fort St. John."

Under Procedures 3.9
change to "Peace River Regional District current Procedure Bylaw."

CARRIED.

The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Electoral Area Directors' Committee for its an outstanding job

Members were advised that Committee meeting agendas and Terms of Reference are available for viewing on the Regional District's website.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 5) NB-1 re: proposed water referendum
In response to a question on why the proposed water referendum had not been referred to the Committee for dissemination out to their respective organizations, Chair Hiebert advised that in response to the general public's voiced concerns over the Alternate Approval Process, the Regional District will be going to referendum this fall seeking support for a proposed sub-regional water function. Information will be available in the near future.

- 6) Recess: The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:15 pm

- 7) Reconvene: The meeting reconvened at 1:00 pm

- 8) NB-2 re: funding
Director Sperling advised members that the Peace River Agriculture Development Fund (PRAD) was seeking a letter of support regarding the province's \$20 million fund for the Peace Region's agricultural industry. The fund is one of several conditions on the approval certificate for the creation of BC Hydro's Site C Dam. The fund was established specifically to compensate agricultural producers whose land may be impacted by the development of the Dam.

Currently very little information is available, i.e. who will administer/distribute the funds, criteria for eligibility, etc. It is felt that there is a need to ensure that the funds are delivered and administered locally, from the Peace Region.

New Business: (continued)

8) NB-2 re: funding (continued) MOVED by Judy Madden, SECONDED by Greg Neave, That the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends to the Electoral Area Directors' Committee that it supports a letter being forwarded to the Honourable Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture requesting that the BC Hydro \$20 million fund for the Peace Region's agricultural industry be delivered and administered locally from the Peace Region.

CARRIED.

9) NB-3 re: meeting attendance Discussion ensued regarding meeting attendance. It was felt that the 2 meeting absence, without good reason, should be enforced as stated in the Terms of Reference. It was noted that current appointments expire in September 2015. A request for new members will be forwarded to commodity groups as identified in the Terms of Reference. The package will include the revised Terms of Reference.

10) Adjournment MOVED by Greg Neave, SECONDED by Rod Kronlachner, that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm

Leonard Hiebert,
Chair

Suzanne Garrett,
Corporate Services Coordinator