



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT  
Agriculture Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes

MA-5

Draft

DATE: Tuesday, October 20, 2009  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Regional District offices, Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Director Wayne Hiebert, Electoral Area 'D'  
John Kendrew, Peace River Forage Association of BC  
Judy Madden, Peace River Regional Cattlemen's Association  
Katharine Keuth, Member at Large – North Peace  
Jill Copes, Peace River District Women's Institute

**Staff**

Debbie Kunz, Assistant Manager of Development Services  
Jodi MacLean, Project Planner, 11:45 a.m.  
Suzanne Garrett, Corporate Services Coordinator

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

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

2) Adoption of the Agenda MOVED by Jill Copes, SECONDED by Judy Madden,  
that the Agriculture Advisory Committee Agenda for the October 20, 2009  
meeting including New Business and Additional Items for the agenda, be  
adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

**Minutes**

M-1 Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2009

**Reports:**

R-1 August 28, 2009 report from Wayne Hiebert, Committee Chair,  
regarding the status of Committee recommendations forwarded to the  
Regional Board.

R-2 ALC / OGC Delegation Agreement – list of issues / concerns.  
Referred from August 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

R-3 March 2009 Oil and Gas Activities within the ALR: an audit. Referred  
from the August 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**New Business:**

NB-1 Bringing unwanted wildlife into agricultural areas – collared grizzlies /  
cougars. (J. Copes / K. Keuth)

NB-2 October 19, 2009 email from Gwen Johansson regarding an update  
on the Landowner Office "Farmers Advocate" (handout)

NB-3 Update on the Rural Official Community Plan and South Peace Fringe  
Area Official Community Plan

**MINUTES:**

3) M-1 MOVED by Katharina Keuth, SECONDED by Judy Madden,  
Ag. Adv. Cmte. that the Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of August 11,  
Mtg. Min. of 2009 be adopted.  
Aug. 11, 2009

CARRIED.

Nov 12 2009

# Draft

## REPORTS:

4) R-1 re:  
Chair's Report

During the discussion on the protection of groundwater and aquifers members were advised that in 2008 the Province released "Living Water Smart", BC's water plan. The plan provides a road map for water management in BC and makes a number of commitments that will be achieved over the next few years. The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands has developed an Agriculture Plan "Growing a Healthy Future for BC Families."

Strategy 8 of the Plan identifies the need to integrate agriculture in provincial water management policies and programs. A preliminary draft document entitled "Agriculture and BC's Water Plan" has been drafted to address and identify water strategies, i.e. reserve water for agricultural lands, secure access for livestock water, to name a few.

MOVED by Judy Madden, SECONDED by John Kendrew, that the draft document entitled "Agriculture and BC's Water Plan" be forwarded to all Agriculture Advisory Committee members for their review and comment.

CARRIED.

5) R-2 re: ALC  
/ OGC Delegation  
Agreement

At its August 11, 2009 meeting the AAC forwarded a recommendation to the Regional Board:

*"that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources; and the Minister of Agriculture and Lands be invited to attend a Regional Board meeting to discuss the agriculture industry's difficulties as a result of the Agricultural Land Commission's Delegation Agreement with the Oil and Gas Commission."*

The Regional Board amended the recommendation to read:

*"that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources; and the Minister of Agriculture and Lands be invited to attend a Regional Board meeting to discuss the agriculture industry's difficulties as a result of the Agricultural Land Commission's Delegation Agreement with the Oil and Gas Commission, **after a list of the issues has been developed.**"*

MOVED by John Kendrew, SECONDED by Judy Madden,

- a) that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources; and the Minister of Agriculture and Lands be invited to attend a Regional Board meeting to discuss the agriculture industry's difficulties as a result of the Agricultural Land Commission's Delegation Agreement with the Oil and Gas Commission, after a list of the issues has been developed; and
- b) that the following list of issues and concerns (listed in order of importance) identified by Committee members be discussed with the Ministers:

1. There is a big question as to whether the ALC should be delegating their authority over agricultural lands to any other body or organization. The OGC has a mandate to expedite oil and gas activity in the area. This often conflicts with the needs and concerns of surface landowners – particularly those concerned about the future use of our agricultural lands for farm purposes.

# Draft

## Reports: (continued)

- 5) R-2
2. Many ranchers expressed concern that, with the constant staff changes within the OGC, and the limited agricultural knowledge and experience of most of that staff, the implementation of the Delegation Agreement has been inconsistent. Also that the OGC staff often use the Delegation Agreement to treat agricultural lands not included in the ALR differently than that within the ALR boundaries; sometimes to the point of steering the oil and gas industry to the "other side of the field" where it is outside the ALR.
  3. If another Agreement is drafted it must include clauses that emphasize respectful / reasonable **negotiation** with the landowner, all references to "notification" must be removed. Notification is insufficient in that it gives the OGC and industry an excuse to by-pass negotiation.
  4. If the decision is made to continue with an Agreement it is important that it be made clear that any amendment(s) concerning the use of agricultural lands be forwarded to stakeholders with ample time allowed for public input prior to enactment.
  5. Other concerns expressed were related to the Appendices in the Delegation Agreement:
    - a) is industry considering the agricultural concerns as expressed in Appendix II of Agreement. There is a need to show proof. A checklist should be used to check off items in Appendix II;
    - b) the performance of the ALC when dealing with agricultural land being considered for development by the oil and gas industry, the acres per ¼ section legislated for industrial development, and allowing industry to exceed those acreages;
    - c) the placement of oil and gas developments on a given land base, often resulting in unnecessary alienation of a piece of the parcel.
- CARRIED.
- 6) R-3 re: Oil and Gas Activities w/n ALR: an audit
- Members discussed the Audit Report on Oil and Gas Activities within the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR). The audit report provided an independent assessment of the Oil and Gas Commission's performance in carrying out its responsibilities, as set out in Parts 2, 6, and 7 of the Delegation Agreement.
- MOVED by John Kendrew, SECONDED by Jill Copes, that the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommend to the Regional Board that the following recommendations contained in the Final Report for OGC/ALC Delegation Agreement Audit be endorsed using stronger language:
1. that the OGC develop a process to track whether owners of pipelines are reclaiming the disturbed areas and submitting a Schedule B report within 24 months as required under the Delegation Agreement.
  2. that the OGC and ALC develop best management practices to guide operators in the stripping and stockpiling of soil for well sites, facility sites, and associated roads.
  3. that the OGC and ALC review their processes for assessing proposals for facilities associated with oil and gas development.

CARRIED.

**Reports: (continued)**

- 6) R-3 (continued)      **MOVED** by Judy Madden, **SECONDED** by Jill Copes, that the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommend to the Regional Board that Appendix 1, page 1 in the ALC and OGC Delegation Agreement be updated to include and consider new technologies being used by the oil and gas industry, i.e. multiple pad well sites.

CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 7) NB-1  
Unwanted wildlife      Committee members expressed concern that nuisance animals, i.e. collared bears and cougars are wandering into Peace Region agricultural areas from across the Alberta border. These wildlife are a concern as they are creating problems for local residents, i.e. a grizzly bear had to be shot after it was found loitering in a populated area.

**MOVED** by Katharine Keuth, **SECONDED** by Judy Madden, that the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommend to the Regional Board that a letter be forwarded to Alberta Environment, Northern Region requesting information on why nuisance wildlife of any kind are being transplanted into Northern BC/Alberta.

CARRIED.

- 8) NB-2 re: Oct  
19, 2009 email  
from G. Johansson  
(handout)

Members reviewed the October 19, 2009 email from Gwen Johansson regarding a number of issues.

Landowner Office or "Farmers Advocate" – will report to a board of three members, one from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, one from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and one from the Regional District.

**MOVED** by Judy Madden, **SECONDED** by John Kendrew, that the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommend to the Regional Board

- a) that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources stating that the direction the Ministry is pursuing for the establishment of a Landowners office by implementing a Board consisting of 3 government representatives is unacceptable; and
- b) recommend that all three members of the Landowner Advocate Board should come from northeast BC with no government affiliations.

CARRIED.

- 9) NB-3a) re:  
Update on the  
Rural OCP

Mrs. Kunz advised members that Mr. MacLean is in the process of drafting a Rural Official Community Plan (OCP) – a general statement of the broad objectives and policies of the Regional District respecting the character of existing and future land use and servicing for the area covered by the Plan. The area in question covers numerous communities located outside the boundaries of the existing North, South and West Peace Fringe Area OCP's. A survey has been mailed out to 500 residents requesting input on a number of issues. Numerous community meetings have been scheduled as well. It is anticipated that writing of the draft policy will commence in January or February of 2010.

**New Business:** (continued)

10) NB-3b) re: Mrs. Kunz updated members on the status of the South Peace Fringe Area  
SP Fringe Area OCP. The first consultant for the project has relinquished its contract. The  
OCP Regional District has engaged the services of Focus Corporation to continue  
with the project. Focus has hired Felice Mazzoni as their planning manager  
and noted that Mr. Mazzoni used to be employed as a North Peace Land Use  
Planner for the Regional District.

11) Committee MOVED by Judy Madden, SECONDED by Katharine Keuth,  
report that the recommendations from the Agriculture Advisory Committee  
Meeting of October 20, 2009 be recommended to the Regional Board for  
approval.

CARRIED

12) Adjournment: MOVED by John Kendrew, SECONDED by Judy Madden,  
that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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Wayne Hiebert,  
Chair

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Suzanne Garrett,  
Corporate Services Coordinator

Nov 12 2009