



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
Agriculture Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

DATE: Tuesday, February 16, 2010
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Regional District offices, Dawson Creek, BC
PRESENT:

Ruth Veiner, Peace River District Women’s Institute – Meeting Chair
Director Lori Ackerman, City of Fort St. John
Judy Madden, Peace River Regional Cattlemen’s Association
Katharine Keuth, Member at Large – North Peace, 10:20 a.m.
Jill Copes, Peace River District Women’s Institute
Margrit Leuenberger, BC Grain Producers Association, 10:15 a.m.
Maurice Fines, North Pine Farmer’s Institute
Bob Purdon, Agrologist, BC Oil and Gas Commission, via teleconference
Bruce Simard, General Manager of Development Services
Suzanne Garrett, Corporate Services Coordinator

Guests

Debbie Kunz, Assistant Manager of Development Services, 10:30 a.m.
Jodi MacLean, Project Planner, 10:30 a.m.

Mrs. Veiner volunteered to chair the meeting in the absence of Committee Chair Wayne Hiebert.

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

2) Adoption of the Agenda **MOVED** by Jill Copes, **SECONDED** by Maurice Fines, that the Agriculture Advisory Committee Agenda for the February 16, 2010 meeting including New Business and Additional Items for the agenda, be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

Minutes

M-1 Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2009

Delegations:

D-1 Debbie Kunz, regarding an update on the SP Fringe Area OCP.
D-2 Jodi MacLean, regarding an update on the Rural OCP

Correspondence:

C-1 January 4, 2010 letter from Alberta Sustainable Resource Development regarding relocation of wildlife.
C-2 February 23 and 24, 2010 Peace Water Workshop.

Reports:

R-1 November 13, 2009 report from Wayne Hiebert, Committee Chair, regarding the status of Committee recommendations forwarded to the Regional Board.
R-2 December 14, 2009 report from Tim Caton, Chair, Northeast Invasive Plant Committee regarding December 8th meeting recommendations.

New Business:

NB-1 Reducing urban sprawl on lands within the ALR (K. Keuth)
NB-2 BC Assessment forms to qualify for farm classification (J. Copes)
NB-3 Water Management (R. Veiner)
NB-4 Farmers Advocate Management Advisory Committee (R. Veiner)
NB-5 Pipelines (M. Fines)
NB-6 Reclamation of soils from well sites (M. Fines)

MINUTES:

- 4) M-1
Ag. Adv. Cmte.
Mtg. Min. of
Oct. 20, 2009
- MOVED by Judy Madden, SECONDED by Director Ackerman,
that the Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of October 20,
2009 be adopted.
- CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- 5) Item #5
ALC / OGC
Delegation
Agreement
- MOVED by Maurice Fines, SECONDED by Jill Copes,
that the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommend to the Regional Board
that the Regional District take an active role in the next review of the ALC /
OGC Delegation Agreement.
- CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

- 6) D-1 re: update
on SP Fringe Area
OCP
- Ms. Debbie Kunz, Assistant Manager of Development Services was in attendance to provide members with an update on the South Peace Fringe Area Official Community Plan with a review of the work plan schedule and timelines. An advisory committee comprised of rural residents was established. Work completed to date includes a number of public open houses, distribution of a community survey, school visits, an area preference mapping exercise, and a bus tour of the plan area have been hosted. The consultant, Focus Corporation, are compiling data and gathered information, to draft a preliminary working copy of the Official Community Plan. The draft will be presented to the advisory committee and AAC for input. A technical committee will be established, inclusive of local municipalities, provincial agencies and First Nations to provide input and review the draft plan. Following their review three open houses will be scheduled for public review of the draft plan. From here the plan will be revised and forwarded to the Regional Board for review. The plan will then be referred to the Agriculture Land Commission, public hearings will be held – the plan will be revised, if necessary, then the Plan will be sent to the Minister of Community Development for approval.
- 7) Update on the
NP Fringe Area
OCP
- Ms. Kunz also noted that the North Peace Fringe Area Official Community Plan By-law No. 1870, 2009 has received second reading by the Regional Board. Two public hearings have been scheduled for March 9th at the Charlie Lake Community Hall and March 10th at the Baldonnel Elementary School.
- 8) D-2 re: update
on Rural OCP
- Mr. Jodi MacLean, Project Planner, provided an overview on the status of the Rural Official Community Plan. The Rural Area Official Community Plan (OCP) sets goals, objectives and policies concerning land use for the outlying communities in the North, South and West Peace areas. Public consultation program includes the distribution of a survey to 600 random households (19% returned), 23 public meetings were held in the rural area, and input forms (mail, email, phone, fax, web and personal). A draft plan will be developed utilizing information gathered during the public consultation. The draft will go through the same process as the South Peace Fringe Area OCP.

It was suggested that the plan should include provisions for small Home Based Business (HBB), do not want to see large operations with fourteen trucks but also do not want to see small operators hampered by too many regulations. One suggestion was using the Environmental Farm Plan format as a guide to assist with regulating HBB's. Another suggestion was a designated recreational area where snowmobiler enthusiasts or ATV's could use without destroying crops, fences, etc.

Members thanked Ms. Kunz and Mr. MacLean for their presentations.

CORRESPONDENCE:

9) C-2 re: Peace Water Workshop Discussion ensued regarding the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Peace Water Workshop, scheduled for February 23 and 24, 2010 in Dawson Creek. Concerns were expressed regarding insufficient notice of the meeting and the designation of one person as representative for all commodity groups.

It was felt that the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) has no right to delegate how water is used in this part of the country. The draft agenda outlines the meeting as "informational." There is a need to stress the importance of protecting water resources.

MOVED by Director Ackerman, SECONDED by Judy Madden, that the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommend to the Regional Board that when working with senior levels of government, industry and municipalities, that the value of water for quality of life be recognized for all stakeholders.

CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

10) NB-1 re: urban sprawl Members discussed the reduction of urban sprawl on lands within the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR).

MOVED by Katharina Keuth, SECONDED by Director Ackerman, that the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommend to the Regional Board that new residential developments on quarter sections be discouraged and the development of existing vacant properties in rural residential areas be encouraged.

CARRIED.

Mr. Bob Purdon, Agrologist, Oil and Gas Commission introduced himself and his background.

11) Recess The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

12) Reconvene: The meeting reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

13) NB-2 BC Assessment forms to qualify for farm classification Members were advised that if a farm is sold, the property reverts back to a residential tax classification. The new owner has to re-apply for farm classification. Members briefly reviewed the Farm Assessment Review Panel 2009 Report.

MOVED by Maurice Fines, SECONDED by Margrit Leuenberger, that Agriculture Advisory Committee members review the Farm Assessment Review Panel 2009 report and forward their comments for compilation and discussion at the next AAC meeting.

CARRIED.

14) NB-3 re: Water Management Ms. Veiner advised members that she received a telephone call from a concerned citizen regarding water being stored in a dugout that smells like sulphur dioxide. Ms. Veiner noted that she will discuss the issue with Director Hiebert and report back to the Committee.

New Business: (continued)

15) NB-4 re: Farmers Advocate Mgmt. Cmte. In March 2009 the Honourable Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, announced a number of initiatives to improve the relationship between rural residents and the oil and gas sector, including the creation of the office of an independent Farmers' Advocate to be located in Dawson Creek. The Farmers' Advocate Office will report to a Farmers' Advocate Management Committee, comprised of four individuals, one each representing the Regional District, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and a landowners' representative.

At its February 11, 2010 meeting the Regional Board supported the nomination of Judy Madden as the Landowner Representative to the Farmers' Advocate Management Committee.

16) NB-5 re: Pipeline abandonment Discussion ensued regarding pipeline deactivation and abandonment process. Pipeline easements are registered on the property owner's title. When the pipeline is no longer in use there is a process that must be followed to remove that pipeline easement from the land title. This process is not being followed by industry.

Mr. Purdon noted that if the land is in the ALR, within two years the surface is to be reclaimed to Land Commission standards.

Concern was expressed that if the pipeline is abandoned, who is responsible for the contaminants in the line.

In the Oil and Gas Commission Information Letter #OGC09-06 it specifies the steps to be taken during deactivation / abandonment of a pipeline. "If requested by the landowner, company/operator facilitates the removal of legal easement or encumbrance from landowner's land title for abandoned pipeline or section of pipeline at the company's expense. The application for removal of legal easement or encumbrance must be submitted to the Land Title Office within 12 months of abandonment".

17) Committee report MOVED by Jill Copes, SECONDED by Judy Madden, that the recommendations from the Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting of February 16, 2010 be recommended to the Regional Board for approval.

CARRIED

18) Adjournment: MOVED by Judy Madden, SECONDED by Katharina Keuth, that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Ruth Veiner,
Acting Chair

Suzanne Garrett,
Corporate Services Coordinator

February 25, 2010