



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018

PAGE NO.

ACTION

AGENDA – March 8, 2018

Approve

Supplementary Agenda

Receive

MINUTES

2-11

Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes
- January 11, 2018

Receive

REPORTS

12-30

Jennifer MacIntyre, Planner I
- ALR/ALC Revitalization Stakeholder
Consultation

Recommendation
(Page 16)

DISCUSSION ITEM

Beef Workshop Update

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**
(Committee Of The Whole)**Thursday, January 11, 2018**

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Chris Beach
Eileen Benedict
Shane Brien
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom
Rob MacDougall
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen

Directors Absent Thomas Liversidge, Village of Granisle
Gerry Thiessen, District of Vanderhoof

Alternate Director Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 11:40 a.m.,
returned at 11:50 a.m., left at 12:00 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 11:24 a.m.

AGENDAMoved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Miller**AG.2018-1-1**

"That the Agriculture Committee Agenda of January 11, 2018 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**MINUTES****Agriculture Committee**
Meeting Minutes
-November 9, 2017Moved by Director Benedict
Seconded by Director Brien**AG.2018-1-2**

"That the Minutes of the Agriculture Committee Meeting of November 9, 2017 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Seeds Planted in 2 Months – 2017!

- Nov 1 - started a brand new role in the region as the Agriculture Coordinator
- Have been establishing resources and starting to “plant the seeds”
- This is a review of the first 7 weeks prior to the holiday break
- During this time have “planted many seeds” and wanted to share the progress

Building Relationships

- Creating and strengthening relationships with Agriculture Stakeholders, producers and all levels of government
- Recognize Northern Development Initiative Trust’s (NDIT) funding partnership
 - very informative meeting with NDIT
 - gained a greater insight into NDIT and where regional agriculture projects might fit into NDIT funding opportunities
- Working with, and appreciate RDBN Grant Writer to leverage funding
- Met with Ministry of Agriculture staff
 - Smithers
 - Prince George
- As a past Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) employee very conscious of Ministry role and working together
- Met with local Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) Range Officers in Burns Lake and Vanderhoof
- FLNRORD has also added Rural Development and has formed an exciting working relationship with staff in Vanderhoof
- Re-establishing working relationships with individuals at the Investment Ag Foundation
- A former Ministry associate First Nations Agrologist currently the Agri-First Canada Project Manager who is working on a province wide project “First Nations Food Systems” funded through FN Health Authority and has 73 communities participating in the project and some within the RDBN

Meetings on Emergency Preparedness

- Working with RDBN Protective Services staff in emergency services planning
- Met with FLNRORD Range staff and MoA staff to discuss 2017 and what “learning tools” might be brought forward from the wildfire events
- Registered in Emergency Management Justice Institute courses
- Agriculture Coordinator Workplan
 - Livestock brochures
 - emergency mock situation round table session
 - RDBN Agriculture Emergency Plan
- Investigating raising the awareness of small mixed farms in their preparation for emergency events
- Utilizing guides that BC Ministry of Agriculture has produced for:
 - BC Beef Producers
 - BC Dairy Producers
 - BC Small Mixed Farms
- While travelling within the region, it has been like picking out puzzle pieces and making connections
- Meeting with producers and agriculture organizations
 - goal to learn about agriculture strengths and issues
 - Issues - sort to fit within workplan
 - logistically can not address all issues

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION (CONT'D)

- Once an issue has a “fit in the work plan”
 - task to research resources
 - where can partnerships be formed
 - what/is funding available
 - what other pieces of the issue need to be tracked down to find solutions and make them actionable items.
- The view of agriculture summarized in: “It All Starts Here, Inside, Outside and Underground!”
- A view of BC Agriculture Fresh to Me, Fresh To You
 - represents how the Farmers of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako supply Fresh From BC's Farmers.
- Agriculture Awareness and Promotion is an activity practiced wherever travelled to deliver the message of “Buying local preserves My Agriculture, My Community, My Health & My Future”

Regional Sustainable Food System Focuses on:

- Local seasonal foods
- Health of the population
- Building communities
- Local economic development
- Supporting local producers, processors, distributors & retailers
- As the Agriculture Coordinator - role is built on Regional Agriculture Sustainability
 - Environmental Health
 - Economic Vitality
 - Social Equity & Human Health
- The overlaps of these 3 themes have:
 - Food processing, distribution and marketing
 - Food production
 - Food consumption
- Regional Sustainable Food Systems focuses on:
 - Local seasonable food
 - how could the seasons be extended
 - climate change opportunities
- Health of the population
 - includes working with schools and First Nations communities
- Building Communities
 - large region
 - goal is to work with every community
- Local economic development
 - new opportunities
 - building agriculture businesses
 - agricultural support for businesses
- Supporting local producers, processors, distributors & retailers
 - strengthening agriculture
 - more local produce in retail outlets
 - Going back to: “Buying local preserves My Agriculture, My Community, My Health & My Future.”

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION (CONT'D)

Farmers' Market

- Attended the Bulkley Valley Farmers' Winter Market and met some of the individuals associated with the market
- Met some of the participants of the Burns Lake Farmers' Market
- Heard successes and issues at both markets
- Would like to bring all of the region's Farmers' Markets together for a strategic planning workshop where ideas can be shared and each individual market could work as small groups to address local market strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
- Farmers' Markets are a great resource for communities as fresh local produce promotes healthy eating.
- Need to support and grow the regions Farmers' Markets.

Garlic Festival???

- Lots of garlic is being grown and some producers have added some value-added garlic products to their garlic marketing
- Climate change may allow soft neck garlic growing, which adds more value-added market potential
- While visiting garlic producers asked about organizing a local garlic festival
- Garlic festivals are happening throughout BC. Why not in the RDBN?
- Would like to establish a non-profit society
 - Choose a high-visibility site
 - invite regional garlic producers
 - local entertainment
 - encourage some "garlic cooking" and have a fun one-day event
 - First year would have to source funding
 - Second year Garlic Festival could be eligible for NDIT's "Fabulous Festivals and Event" funding opportunity

Honey Production

- Honey production is a producer group which works on quite an individual basis
- One issue commonly expressed by producers was the sourcing of queen bees
 - One solution - importing queen bees from other countries
- By Law in BC, Beekeeping is regulated under the Animal Health Act
- Role of RDBN Agriculture Coordinator:
 - Apprised a few non-registered apiarists who to contact to complete registration
 - Not policing
 - Concerned about the health of the bee industry and protection of the bee colonies within the region.

Haskap Berries

- An emerging agriculture product - Haskap Berries
- At least 3 growers in the region and a potential distillery to make such products as Haskap Liqueurs
- To sustain a distillery will mean more berry production
- One issue is the supply of root stock
- The industry is growing in BC and the region is part of the growth
- Working with FLNRORD currently planning a Distillery and Brewing Workshop
 - When date established will promote within the region.

6

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION (CONT'D)

Craft Brewery Expansion

- Definite interest in craft brewery expansion, distillery and possibly a grain malting plant
- One of the speakers at Distillery & Brewing Workshop will be from the Gambrinus Malting Plant in Armstrong
- Have the potential to increase grain production and malt a variety, for example Honey Malt for local brewery industry or possible exportation
- With a malting plant, they do have grain beds that do not always meet quality standards and this grain is accessible for livestock feed

Ideas

- Have received calls and ideas to research
 - Current idea is Laying Hens and establishing an egg grader to support "Local produce"
 - These hens are pasture fed but potential flock would be housed birds
 - BC Egg Marketing Board and quota allocation are one of the issues being researched
 - How to achieve quota allocation in the RDBN and permission to run an egg grading facility
- This is an actionable item - working on finding some solutions and growing an industry

Exciting News for March!

- The Beef Industry within the Regional District is the largest producer group
 - Building relationships with Regional Cattlemen and BC Cattlemen's Association
 - Attending Cattlemen's AGM in Jan & Feb, 2018
- Have been in contact with the General Manager of the BC Cattlemen's Association
- Spoke in regard to two issues:
 - 1) BC Livestock Premise ID's
 - a) How it assisted in the 2017 Wildfires
 - b) How there is a need to promote them in the region
 - 2) Proposed Prince George Beef Cattle processing plant
- Proposed Beef Strategy Workshop
 - General Manager of BC Cattlemen's Association plans to be in attendance to announce exciting news for the BC Beef Industry
 - RDBN cattle producers will get an early preview and strategize how they can take advantage of the opportunity
- A past presentation from the Shavings Committee to the RDBN Agriculture Committee identified the issue of a lack of shavings provincially and is a growing issue in the livestock industries
 - Insufficient bedding, wet and muddy conditions not only affect animal health and feed efficiency but the excess tag, (manure and dirt clinging to the hide) can be an issue at the slaughter plants
 - The Nechako Valley Cattlemen's Association has a 3-year contract with PAC-BIO, which will be ending in August 2018
 - Bio-generator plants & wood pellet mills are reducing shavings available, increasing the cost and producers are running with a minimal amount
 - An option to address the lack of shavings has been to shift calving times to later in the spring
 - Having kiln-dried shavings is not only important for beef in corral bedding packs and calving areas but also for dairy, swine, horse, poultry and other livestock
- This is an issue identified in the job application process
- Recognize and familiar with the issue, now finding the resources to find a solution!

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION (CONT'D)

Potential New Business!

- Livestock Wood Shaving Mill
 - Source a drying Kiln
 - Requires storage for dried shavings
 - Loading and trucking facility
- FLNRORD, NDIT and RDBN Agriculture Coordinator piecing together the resources to find a solution
 - Couple of potential business owners in discussion with NDIT.
- Current Nechako Valley Cattlemen's Association shaving contract is 1,000 loads per year at 7.6 tonnes per load
- New opportunities in beef industry could mean beef backgrounding and increasing feedlots which could push the beef shaving usage in the region to potentially over 150,000 tonnes per year
- Short-term solution is getting a Livestock Shaving Business running at this minimal capacity
- Long-term is sourcing the fibre and possibly increasing agro-forestry agriculture

Freight Farms

- Lots of enthusiasm for the role of Agriculture Coordinator and have discovered a huge potential for the Region
- Introducing Freight Farms!
 - Farming in a shipping container
 - 365 days/year
 - Over 1 acre of growth achieved in one container
 - Growing leafy greens, lettuces, kale, swiss chard, etc. or herbs and many other unit tested products in a vertical, hydroponic system
 - The containers originate in Boston, Massachusetts, United States
 - Ready to arrive on site, hook up water and electricity
 - Unit takes 5-10 gallons of water per day
 - Uses 125 kWh of electricity per day
 - Single-phase power
 - Many units have been converted to run on solar energy
 - Freight Farms has units throughout the United States, Caribbean, Europe, Vietnam, the United Arab Emirates and Canada
 - Units have run successfully in temperatures from -51 °C to +54 °C
 - Unit is heated with LED lights and are divided into two zones
 - Planting and seeding zone
 - Vertical Growing zone.
 - Each unit can house 4,000 plants and can be harvested 52 weeks/year
 - Unit is computer controlled and with their computer program "FarmHand" you are in contact with your unit wherever you go
 - Freight Farm offers a 2-day farming course and work closely with Freight Farmers for the success of their Freight Farm business
 - Each Freight Farm is 40' x 9' x 8'. The unit cost and delivery to RDBN with Freight Farm computer and training is approximately \$100,000 US
 - Business models show a unit could potentially pay for itself in 2 years
 - WHAT COULD BE THE POTENTIALS HERE?
- This is where partnerships are starting to see results.
- FLNRORD has developed a non-profit funding model and are presenting to NDIT
- One non-profit group looking at this currently
- Have started a promotions list that included First Nations Communities, and School Districts. (For example, SD #91 Nechako Lakes is working on a marketing project and FLNRORD and RDBN Ag Coordinator are planning a meeting to show a Freight Farm Business model)
- Stated to CAO "Challenged to work on having at least 10 units in the RDBN within 6 months"

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION (CONT'D)

Seeds are Growing! Where will they grow in 2018?

- Many other puzzle pieces to find and make the connections
- This position has so far been a fantastic opportunity searching for puzzle pieces, creating the connections with resources and working on the successful completion of actionable items
- Over the past two months "Seeds are starting to grow"
- "Puzzle pieces" are connecting and "seeds are planted" and those still to "plant" just leave the question
 - *Where will they grow in 2018!*

Director Fisher mentioned the importance of identifying and being aware of the needs and drivers of regional agriculture communities and the RDBN responding to support community needs.

Director Beach spoke of connecting with the Burns Lake Community Garden in regard to the possibility of a Freight Farm. Alternate Director McGuire also noted that the Village of Granisle may be interested. Discussion took place in regard to small scale container farming products currently available. Ms. Evans spoke of opportunities in connecting with the Farmers' Market in Burns Lake.

Director Fisher commented that developing emergency management workshops throughout the region and combining them in conjunction with fire smart initiatives. Ms. Evans noted that staff are developing a plan for moving forward within the communities and noted that she will be working with commercial and small mixed farms to prepare for emergency events. Chair Miller mentioned that there are potential funding opportunities identified by the Union of B.C. Municipalities for education in regard to emergency management.

Discussion took place in regard to establishing an egg grader to support local producers. Director Fisher spoke of Day Break Farms an established egg producer in Terrace. Ms. Evans noted that the intent is to support smaller operations in getting their eggs to local markets. She has had a request from a local producer requesting information in regard to moving forward with egg production.

PowerPoint Presentation
-Agriculture Coordinator
Update

Moved by Alternate Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Greenaway

AG.2018-1-3

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator's PowerPoint Presentation."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Canada's Agriculture Day

Discussion took place in regard to the following ideas for promoting Canada's Agriculture Day in the region:

- Utilizing the RDBN website for local regional agriculture initiatives
- Encourage supporting/eating local produce
- Education in regard to "where our food comes from"
 - Did you know "what buying local" means and the impact to the community
- Focus on agriculture and connection to the land and peoples food that is consumed

REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Be proactive and host community lunches with local produce
 - Alternate Director McGuire encouraged the 3 E's
 - Educate, Encourage, Engage
 - Supporting an additional agriculture day in the region in early May when local communities are planting their gardens to promote the growing season in the region

Director Repen spoke of growing agriculture capacity in the Regional District. Chair Parker identified the importance and need to support local production and then look at investigating and moving forward with expanding production beyond local markets. Director Miller spoke of developing the ability to store and process food in the region. He noted the need to educate people in regard to the land base supporting the food supply chain for the populace in the region, province, national and internationally.

Director Bachrach questioned if there has been research conducted in regard to how large the local market currently is, how large the local food production to the local market is and where there is room to grow to outstretch demand. Ms. Evans noted that the local seasonal product is well supported but without local storage facilities, residents rely on imported produce during non-growing months. She commented that the large beef industry in the region does have a substantial amount being exported. Ms. Evans spoke noted that depending on the product there are different levels locally consumed and exported.

Canada's Agriculture Day
Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Moved by Director Beach
Seconded by Director Greenaway

AG.2018-1-4

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator's January 2, 2018 memo titled "Canada's Agriculture Day, Tuesday, February 13, 2018."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Fraser Lake Biomass Ash
Project

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Lindstrom

AG.2018-1-5

"That the Agriculture Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors write a letter of support for the Fraser Lake Biomass Ash Project's application to the Rural Dividend Application."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Miller spoke of the opportunity provided to the region from the Fraser Lake Biomass Ash Project.

REPORTS (CONT'D)**Invitation to FPInnovations
to Attend a Future RDBN
Board Meeting**

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Miller

AG.2018-1-6

"That the Agriculture Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors write a letter to FPInnovations BC Provincial Leader inviting them to attend a future Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board meeting to provide an update in regard to the Fraser Lake Biomass Ash Project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Regional Beef Producers
Strategic Planning Workshop
-March 2, 2018**

Moved by Alternate Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Newell

AG.2018-1-7

"That the Agriculture Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to proceed with planning the Regional Beef Producers Strategic Planning Workshop March 2, 2018; and further, that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize applying for grant opportunities to contribute funding toward the cost of this event."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Agriculture More Than Ever

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director MacDougall

AG.2018-1-8

"That the Agriculture Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to proceed with registering the RDBN as a Partner with Agriculture More Than Ever."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Climate Change Regional
Adaptation Program**

Moved by Alternate Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Beach

AG.2018-1-9

"That the Agriculture Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to prepare an RDBN Expression of Interest for the Climate Change Regional Adaptation Program for the April 1, 2018 funding intake for Canadian Agricultural Partnership program funding."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Miller spoke of a report that the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) received in the past in regard to Climate Change Regional Adaptation which contained a good analysis and good modeling for the region. Chair Miller also identified the impact of weeds to the agriculture community.

Ms. Evans commented that if the RDBN is successful with its application the time line for forming a committee will be fall/winter 2018.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

**BC Ministry of Agriculture
-Agricultural Advisory
Committee Workshops**

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Miller

AG.2018-1-10

"That the Agriculture Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize registering for the BC Ministry of Agriculture Agricultural Advisory Committee Kelowna Workshop; and further, that, staff proceed with booking flights and hotels for the Chair and Agriculture Coordinator."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Agriculture Report &
Correspondence**

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Beach

AG.2018-1-11

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the following:
-Agriculture Coordinator's January 2, 2018 memo titled "Columbia Basin Agriculture Forum;"

CORRESPONDENCE

-the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development re: Zero-Energy Hydraulic Ram Pump for Off-Grid Irrigation;
-Northern Development Initiative Trust – 2017 Q4 Newsletter."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to the very interesting research from FLNRORD in regard to Zero-Energy Hydraulic Ram Pump for Off-Grid Irrigation.

**SPECIAL IN CAMERA
MEETING MOTION**

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Miller

AG.2018-1-12

"In accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Board of Directors that matters pertaining to Section 90 (1)(a), personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality (Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee), may be closed to the public therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Petersen

AG.2018-1-13

"That the meeting be adjourned at 12:18 pm."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



MEMORANDUM

To: Board Directors
From: Jennifer MacIntyre, Planner I
Date: February 28, 2018
Re: ALR / ALC Revitalization Stakeholder Consultation

INTRODUCTION

On January 4, 2018 the Minister of Agriculture established an independent Advisory Committee to provide strategic advice and policy guidance on revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). The Advisory Committee will be responsible for delivering recommendations to the Minister through consultation and engagement with stakeholders and the general public.

A final report from the Advisory Committee will be provided to the Minister in fall of 2018. Legislative changes are targeted for late 2018 or early 2019.

Themes

In order to help stimulate discussion, a Discussion Paper (see attached) has been created by the Advisory Committee. The paper identifies some of the important themes the Committee would like to discuss along with any other issues or ideas stakeholders wish to raise. These themes are organized below.

1. A Defensible and Defended ALR
2. ALR Resilience
3. Stable Governance
4. Efficacy of Zone 1 and 2
5. Interpretation/Implementation of the Act and Regulation
6. Food Security and BC's Agricultural Contribution
7. Residential Uses in the ALR
8. Farm Processing and Sales in the ALR
9. Unauthorized Uses
10. Non-Farm Uses and Resource Extraction in the ALR

Consultation Timeline

The Advisory Committee has set up three different consultation opportunities; 1. Participate in a regional stakeholder meeting; 2. Submit a formal written submission, and; 3. Complete the online survey. The deadline to make comments to the Advisory Committee is April 30, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has been invited to participate in a regional stakeholder consultation in Prince George on March 14th 2018. The Director of Planning, Jason Llewellyn and the Chair of the RDBN Agricultural Committee, Mark Parker, plan to attend this meeting.

The proposed preliminary comments below, as amended by the comments from the Agriculture committee, will be presented verbally to the stakeholder consultation meeting on March 14th. After the regional stakeholder meeting, staff will finalize proposed comments to be submitted as the RDBN's formal written submission. These written comments will be presented to the Board at its April 19th meeting for consideration.

THEME 1: A DEFENSIBLE AND DEFENDED ALR

Urban Expansion into the ALR

- The RDBN is not subject to the speculative application pressures to allow urban land use and residential development as it exists in southern BC. Such speculative applications would not likely receive RDBN Board support. However, it can be expected that local governments will from time to time take proactive steps to plan for necessary growth. In many instances this growth can only occur on ALR lands. The ALC is encouraged to respect the local government planning process and give appropriate consideration to local land use planning objectives.

THEME 2: RESELIENCE

Support for the ALR

- While the RDBN is not always in agreement with the decisions of the Northern Panel relating to non-farm use and subdivision applications, the RDBN is generally satisfied with the ALC decision making process. The decisions give primary consideration to the protection of ALR lands; however, this is exercised in a reasonable manner giving consideration to local context.

Additional uses of land in the ALR

- The Regional District supports the recent changes to the ALC Regulation that allows more non-farm uses. In the RDBN's opinion these uses are reasonable and allow farmers to supplement their income. Also, the RDBN Board tends to be supportive of non-farm use applications that allow farmers to supplement their farming income. This is important in maintaining viable farming operations in the north.

Small Acreage Agriculture

- Many types of farms do not require large tracts of land, and many of the farmers interested in this type of agriculture cannot afford large parcels. There is a need

to provide small acreages for legitimate agriculture. The RDBN understands and shares the ALC concern that there is currently little ability to ensure that these lands will not be used primarily for rural residential development. However, the RDBN believes that the issue is important to our region and the ALC is encouraged to work with local governments to identify innovative ways to allow small producers access to small parcels of productive agriculture lands.

THEME 3: STABLE GOVERNANCE

Reconsideration of Decisions

- The RDBN has previously expressed a concern to the ALR regarding the ALC Chair's excessive use of his ability to direct the Executive Committee to reconsider an application decision made by a Regional Panel pursuant to s.33.1 of the ALCA. The RDBN has no concern with the ability of the Chair to require such reconsideration. The RDBN's concern was that the frequency of use of this power was threatening to erode the legitimacy and independence of the North Panel. The RDBN is encouraged to see that this power is being less frequently exercised.

THEME 4: EFFICACY OF ZONE 1 AND 2

Support for Zones 1 and 2

- The RDBN supports the division of the ALR into 2 zones. The factors impacting agricultural land use and pressures on the ALR in the north are vastly different from those impacting southern BC. The reality is that a single set of rules for BC would be designed to address the ALR issues that exist in southern BC. The fact that many of the rules would not be appropriate for northern BC would not factor into the decision making process. Therefore, the existence of 2 zones allows the ALC some ability to develop the Act and regulations in consideration of the needs of northern BC.

Support for the North Panel

- The RDBN supports the manner in which the regional panels are established. The RDBN is strongly against any change that would further remove the ALC decision making authority from the local regions.

THEME 5: INTERPRETATION/ IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACT AND REGULATION

The Exclusion Process

- The Exclusion Application Process requires the applicant to advertise in the local newspaper and post a sign on the subject property before applying for exclusion with the ALC on the application portal. The local government is responsible to monitor the public input process and receive public submissions. Unfortunately, local

governments are typically unaware of the pending application and are surprised by the public inquiries and public comment. Also, the notice in the newspaper does not provide meaningful information regarding the proposal or location of the subject property. This creates a number of issues. Local governments spend unnecessary time tracking down the applicable application, and confirming the details of the application to answer questions. The public is unnecessarily inconvenienced by the process and local governments appear incompetent as the public expects that they would be aware of the application and its details. The ALC should evaluate the Exclusion Application Process to ensure that local governments are formally made aware of applications prior to advertising. Also, the information requirements for newspaper notice should be improved.

THEME 6: FOOD SECURITY AND BC'S AGRICULTURAL CONTRIBUTION

No comment.

THEME 7: RESIDENTIAL USES IN THE ALR

Section 3 (1)(b.1) of the ALR Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulations

- In 2015 the regulations for Zone 2 were amended to include the following provisions:
 - (i) *one secondary suite in a single family dwelling,*
 - (ii) *either*
 - A. *one manufactured home, up to 9 m in width, for use by a member of the owner's immediate family, or*
 - B. *accommodation that is constructed above an existing building on the farm and that has only a single level, and*
 - (iii) *a second single family dwelling, but only if the parcel is at least 50 ha in size and if the total area occupied by all residences and other residential structures, roads and service lines, and all land between them, is 4 000 m² or less;*

This section is problematic in the RDBN's opinion. It is not practical, in most instances, to build a new dwelling above a previously built single story building. Determining whether a parcel exceeds the 4000 m² restriction is a highly subjective process that consumes much local government and ALC staff time. Clarifications on how to interpreting this section would be beneficial.

THEME 8: FARM PROCESSING AND SALES IN THE ALR

No comment.

THEME 9: UNAUTHORIZED USES

Compliance and Enforcement

- The RDBN recommends that ALC enforcement staff initiate communication with the RDBN regarding enforcement efforts in the region. RDBN input can help the

- ALC identify priority enforcement issues and coordinate efforts.
- The North Panel should consider not providing conditional approvals to applications unless there is the practical ability to ensure compliance to those conditions. This may require consultation with the RDBN prior to decision making where necessary.

THEME 10: NON-FARM USES AND RESOURCE EXTRACTION IN THE ALR

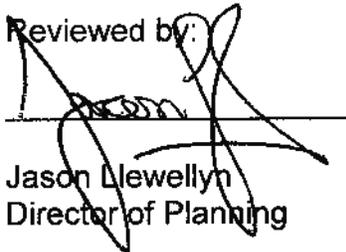
The RDBN supports flexibility in ALR regulations and non-farm use applications to allow non-farm uses that allow farmers to supplement their farm income where those uses do not have a notable impact on the operation of the farm.

Recommendation:

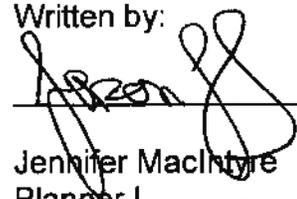
That the Agriculture Committee consider and provide feedback regarding the preliminary comments to be provided to the Ministry of Agriculture's Advisory Committee outlined in the Planning Department staff report dated February 28, 2018.

Board Directors – All/Directors/Majority

Reviewed by:


 Jason Lewellyn
 Director of Planning

Written by:

 For.
 Jennifer MacIntyre
 Planner I

Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Committee
Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission
Discussion Paper for Stakeholder Consultation and Public Engagement

Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Committee

The Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Lana Popham, was tasked in her mandate letter with "Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)". To deliver on this important commitment, the Minister established an independent advisory committee to provide the Province with strategic advice and policy guidance.

The Minister announced the Minister's Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) members on January 4, 2018. The Advisory Committee has been tasked with delivering to the Minister a set of interim recommendations by spring 2018. The guiding principles for the Advisory Committee's work include:

- Focus on the future of the ALR and ALC
- Evaluate policy issues that inhibit the purposes of the ALR and ALC
- Evaluate what is working well
- Develop recommendations that:
 - work toward improving the purposes of the ALR and ALC;
 - clearly identify the issues, goals and objectives that will strengthen the ALR and ALC in pursuing the purposes;
 - suggest a strategy on how to achieve the goals and objectives;
 - include, where possible, data/information that validates the issue as defined; and,
 - are legally sound and are achievable.

Stakeholder Consultation and Public Engagement

The Advisory Committee is responsible for delivering recommendations through consultation and engagement with stakeholders and the general public, with secretariat support from the Ministry of Agriculture (the Ministry). In examining measures to revitalize the ALC and ALR, stakeholders and the public will be asked to consider the purpose of the ALC as set out in Section 6 of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (the Act):

- (a) to preserve agricultural land;
- (b) to encourage farming on agricultural land in collaboration with other communities of interest; and,
- (c) to encourage local governments, first nations, the government and its agents to enable and accommodate farm use of agricultural land and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws and policies.

The Advisory Committee consultation and engagement activities in early 2018 will include:

- Providing this background Discussion Paper with a view of seeking opinions and feedback on issues that will lead to the revitalizing of the ALR and ALC;
- Regional meetings to hear opinions and feedback directly from key stakeholders in farming and ranching communities. Meetings are expected to be held in Abbotsford, Cranbrook, Fort St. John, Kelowna, Kamloops, Nanaimo and Prince George; and,
- An online consultation process/survey to seek opinion and feedback from other stakeholders and interested parties.

The Advisory Committee will use the consultation process, along with other information, to develop its recommendations to the Minister. The recommendations may include changes to the current legislative, regulatory, and administrative framework that guides the ALR and the ALC.

It should be noted that this Discussion Paper is intended to stimulate conversation during the consultation process. It is not intended to direct participants toward specific issues, questions or outcomes.

Revitalization Objectives

To date, the Advisory Committee has identified three general objectives:

1. Preserve the productive capacity of land in the ALR;
2. Encourage farming of land in the ALR for uses related to agriculture and food production; and,
3. Strengthen the administration and governance of the ALR and ALC to both increase public confidence and to ensure that land use regulation and land use decisions are preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming and ranching in the ALR.

Common Issues/Themes

Upholding the integrity of the ALR, the ALC and the agricultural land base is critical. This conversation seeks to ensure there is a legacy of farmland for future generations of British Columbians. Common issues and themes raised to date include:

1. A Defensible and Defended ALR:

During the past 45 years, the ALR boundary has been refined through early boundary reviews, local government land use planning exercises and over 48,000 individual applications. The ALR boundary is often viewed as temporary and adjustable. The perspective that the ALR is available for urban uses perpetuates land use pressure on farmland. Continued speculation of this nature results in a focus on applications made by individual landowners to modify the ALR and detracts from pro-active work such as focussing on regional-level land use planning, analysis of permitted uses and the preservation and encouraging farm use mandate.

2. ALR Resilience:

Pressure for non-agricultural uses persists on the ALR land base and on the administrative body (the ALC) that oversees it. The ALR, ALC, and agriculture in BC should be stable and resilient for generations to come.

3. Stable Governance:

The ALC governance and decision making model can be easily changed through legislative amendments and changing government direction. The ALC's independence is often threatened from interests outside of the ALC. Independence is vital to strengthening the ALC and ALR into the future. More information about ALC governance can be found on the [ALC Operations & Governance](#) webpage.

4. Efficacy of Zone 1 and 2:

The passage of Bill 24 in May 2014 introduced amendments to the Act that included the division of the ALR into Zone 1 and Zone 2.

Zone 1: Includes Vancouver Island, South Coast, and Okanagan Panel regions.

Zone 2: Includes Interior, Kootenay, and North Panel regions.

In Zone 1, land use decisions are based on the agricultural purposes of the ALC laid out in section 6 of the ALC Act. The Act considers preservation of agricultural land, encouraging farming in collaboration with other communities of interest; and encourages local governments, First Nations, and other agencies to enable farm use and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws and policies.

In Zone 2, the Commission is required to consider the agricultural purposes of the Commission (Section 6 of the Act as identified above), as well as Section 4.3 of the Act pertaining to economic, cultural and social values, and regional and community planning objections.

More information about Bill 24 amendments can be found on the [ALC Act and ALR Regulation](#) webpage. For example, the Regulation was amended to include additional uses that allow a residential lease for a retiring farmer to remain on their property subject to conditions, and to allow a second single family dwelling if the property is at least 50 hectares and subject to conditions of siting of structures.

5. Interpretation/Implementation of the Act and Regulation:

As drafted, parts of the Act and Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation (the Regulation) are 'permissive', which means that it lists the activities that are permitted in the ALR without requiring approval of the ALC; it does not list what activities are not permitted. In some instances, definitions, criteria, thresholds, and intent of the Act and Regulation are interpreted differently by local governments, ALR land owners, farmers and ranchers and the general public across the province. There is a need for clearer regulations and consistency in interpretation. The ALC is not aware when a permitted activity takes place or when a permitted activity is misinterpreted.

6. Food Security and BC's Agricultural Contribution:

Concern over the source and quality of food we eat has raised public attention to the issue of food security and to the long-term ability of the ALR to provide a safe and adequate agricultural land base to accommodate continuous, secure food production for domestic consumption and export. Often agriculture's vital role in the BC economy and the potential for export and trade opportunities is forgotten in the discussion around competing land uses. More information on BC's Agrifood and Seafood Sector contributions can be found on the Ministry of Agriculture's Agriculture and Seafood Statistics webpage.

7. Residential Uses in the ALR:

Additional dwellings, farm worker housing, "mega homes" and 'lifestyle estates' in the ALR occupy agricultural land. In some circumstances additional dwellings are necessary for intensive agricultural operations; however there is also demand on the ALR for additional dwellings solely for residential purposes. When there is a subdivision of ALR land, it is usually for development of another parcel and residence. In addition, the large footprint occupied by "mega homes" and acreages purchased for lifestyle estates (with little or no agricultural production) has raised concerns about use of arable land for housing and increased residential assessment values of ALR land. While not currently legislated provincially, some local governments have adopted restrictions on sizing and siting of residential uses in the ALR.

8. Farm Processing and Sales in the ALR:

The Regulation permits landowners in the ALR to process and retail farm products on a parcel of land subject to criteria that attempts to ensure that the product is associated with the farm or a registered co-operative. The Regulation affords farmers and ranchers the ability to produce "value added" products (e.g. berry processing, alcohol production, farm stands). Processing and retail facilities range in size and sometimes incorporate other ancillary uses such as parking lots, food services, patios, galleries, event spaces, meeting rooms, etc.; however, there is concern that some facilities are occupying large areas of arable ALR land with little connection to agricultural production on the farm. There is also concern that ALR land is purchased for the other ancillary permitted uses, but there is no agricultural production (i.e. building a retail store with extremely limited farm products for sale).

9. Unauthorized Uses:

Agricultural land is sometimes used for unauthorized non-agricultural uses and some landowners expand beyond what is permitted. ALC Compliance and Enforcement officers currently handle between 300 to 400 files annually related to complaints, investigations, or actions on unauthorized uses. Some of these unauthorized uses include illegal filling (e.g. dumping soil, construction waste, concrete), commercial uses (e.g. commercial truck parking, recreational vehicle storage, scrap vehicle yards), and residential uses (e.g. additional dwellings). These activities may directly damage the agricultural land base and in some cases the damage is permanent. These activities can sometimes be more damaging to agricultural land than applications for exclusion considered by and approved by the ALC.

10. Non-Farm Uses and Resource Extraction in the ALR:

Other activities, from agri-tourism and agri-tourism accommodation to resource extraction such as oil and gas and aggregate (sand and gravel) can take place in the ALR. Concerns about cumulative impacts of these activities and remediation of agricultural land have been raised.

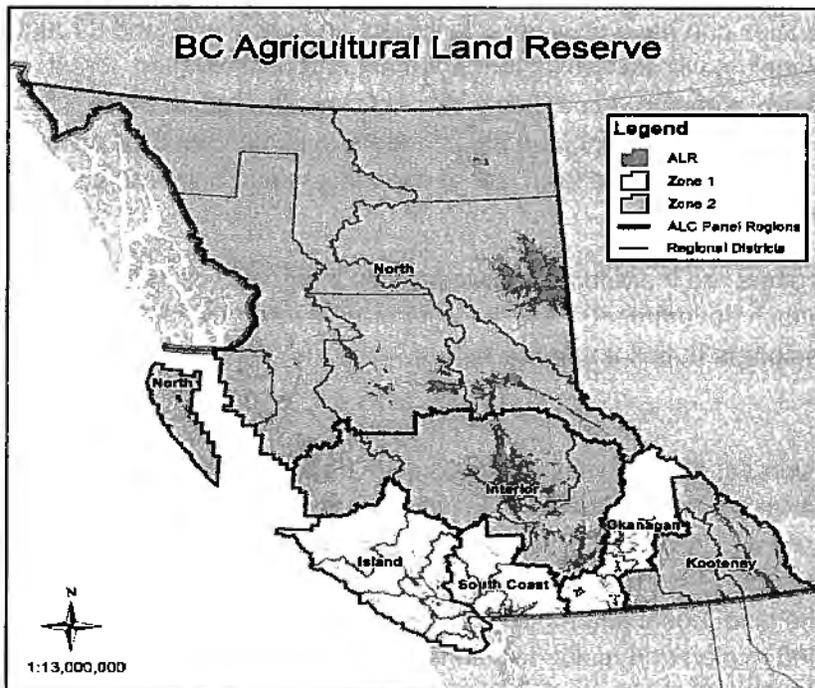
Background

BC's current approach to the ALR attempts to balance the needs of farmers and ranchers to carry out their daily work with the need for land use decision-making that best supports Government's goals and objectives for the ALR.

The ALR

The ALR was a bold initiative in 1973 that acknowledged that BC has a limited agricultural land resource which should be available for current and future generations of farmers and ranchers to operate agricultural businesses for local consumption and export. Soil is most fertile in valley bottoms where other competing land uses including urban development also take place. The ALR was established in the face of rapidly expanding urban areas and non-farm development in rural areas.

Approximately five percent of BC's land base is within the ALR, a provincial zone within which agriculture is recognized as the priority activity. The ALR includes public (Crown) and privately held land in all regions of the province.



The ALC

The ALC is an independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming in BC. The ALC occupies a distinctive role within the Canadian legal system. While it is part of “government” broadly defined, it is not part of any government ministry. The ALC is instead part of the Canadian community of independent administrative tribunals, vested with important statutory powers, whose members are obliged to exercise those statutory powers in accordance with the law.

The *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (the Act) empowers the ALC to delegate certain decision making powers, allowing local government and other authorities to make non-farm land use and subdivision decisions in the ALR. For more information, see the [ALC Delegation of Decision Making webpage](#).

The ALC has been preserving agricultural lands for 45 years through its land use planning work with local governments and decision making on land use applications. The ALR forms the foundation for the business of agriculture in BC. When the ALR was designated it was done so with a long-term focus knowing that pressures on this limited resource would only increase with time. The ALR and the ALC enjoy strong and consistent public support.

The ALC is mandated to encourage others, including the provincial government and its agents, to take the interests of the ALR and agriculture into account when generating new policies, participating in land use planning initiatives, changing legislation and regulation, and planning for future developments.

Government ministries and agencies can have considerable impact on agricultural land through such things as transportation planning, wildlife habitat management and conservation, forest and water management and energy planning. Accordingly, the ALC is both proactive and collaborative in working with ministries, supporting and helping them to implement their plans, bylaws and policies to enable and accommodate farm use of agricultural land and/or to support uses compatible with agriculture.

As set out in the Act, Commissioners are individuals knowledgeable in agriculture, land use planning and local and First Nations governments, and are supported by an ALC staff secretariat to carry out Commissioners duties under the Act.

The Legislation

The *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (the Act) sets the legislative framework for the establishment, administration, and procedures of BC's agricultural land preservation program. The Act is the high-level statute that sets out principles and broad rules for the protection of agricultural land in BC. The Act takes precedence over, but does not replace other legislation and bylaws that may apply to the land. Local and regional governments, as well as other provincial agencies, are expected to plan and make decisions in accordance with the provincial policy of preserving agricultural land.

While the purpose of the Act has remained generally the same with some minor changes over 45 years, there have been a series of major changes to the Act and Regulation as well as the ALC's structure and operations over the past 3.5 years. For more information about these changes, please see the [ALC Act and ALR Regulation](#) webpage.

The Regulation

The Regulation identifies specific land uses allowable on farmland in the ALR without an application to the ALC. Current examples include such things as growing plants and raising animals, putting up buildings necessary for farm use, selling agricultural products direct to the public as well as specified farm and non-farm activities such as the construction of buildings for alcohol production, farm product processing, agri-tourism activities, gatherings for events, agri-tourism accommodation, additional dwellings, home based businesses, composting operations, deposition of fill and removal of soil, and others. The Regulation is a permissive regulation, meaning that it lists the activities that are permitted in the ALR without requiring approval of the Commission. Any activities not permitted by the Regulation require an application to and approval of the ALC.

The Regulation also sets out the process for making an application to include and exclude land from the ALR, use ALR land for activities not permitted in the Regulation and subdivide land within the ALR. The Ministry maintains the Act and the Regulation.

Local Governments and the ALR

Approximately 150 BC local governments have lands in the ALR, some extensive, and others not. Local governments play an important role in enabling farm businesses to thrive on protected farmlands, therefore contributing to the local, regional and provincial economy. The ALC supports coordinated and collaborative planning with local governments to ensure agricultural lands are protected and available to provide food and other agricultural products for generations to come.

Through the *Local Government Act* (LGA) and the *Community Charter*, which fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Province has delegated community planning and zoning bylaw powers to local governments, provided they are consistent with the Act and the Regulation. For more information, see the [ALC Working with Local Government](#) webpage.

Public Feedback

The Minister of Agriculture has directed the Advisory Committee to consider the future of BC's land base for agriculture and farming, fairly and without bias, in order to improve the ALR and the ALC. While the ALR and the ALC generally enjoy strong public support, the issues, themes and information in this Discussion Paper highlight some of the areas for improvement and for strengthening BC's agricultural land preservation system.

On behalf of the Advisory Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture will provide further information to the public through news releases during the stakeholder consultation and public engagement process. Feedback from stakeholders and the public will help the Advisory Committee provide substantive recommendations to the Province for revitalizing the ALR and the ALC. For questions about how to provide input and feedback, please email ALR_ALCRevitalization@gov.bc.ca.

Written Submissions

In addition to regional stakeholder consultation meetings, there are several ways to provide written feedback to the Advisory Committee by:

- **Mail:**
 - Minister's Advisory Committee
 - Revitalization of ALR and ALC
 - C/o Ministry of Agriculture
 - PO Box 9120
 - Str. Prov. Govt.
 - Victoria BC V8W 9B4
- **Email:** ALR_ALCRevitalization@gov.bc.ca
- **Online survey:** An online survey will be initiated in February 2018 to seek feedback from the general public.

Appendix 1 – Ministry of Agriculture News Release

For Immediate Release

2018AGRI0002-000009

Jan. 4, 2018

Ministry of Agriculture – NEWS RELEASE

B.C. farmers, communities, public to shape revitalization of the Agricultural Land Reserve

VICTORIA - An independent committee with members from diverse agricultural backgrounds and experiences will lead the revitalization of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) through an authentic and meaningful consultation process with stakeholders and British Columbians, Minister of Agriculture Lana Popham announced today.

"I am proud and grateful to have attracted British Columbians with the knowledge, expertise, passion and experience that the committee members possess for agriculture," said Popham. "The ALR and the ALC are incredibly important to the health and economic well-being of our province's future, and making it easier and more efficient for the commission to fulfill its mandate of protecting farmland and encouraging farming is a commitment the B.C. government is delivering on."

The nine-member Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Committee will provide strategic advice, policy guidance, and recommendations on how to help revitalize the ALR and ALC to ensure the provincial goals of preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming and ranching in British Columbia continue to be a priority. The committee will be chaired by Jennifer Dyson, with members from throughout the province with diverse agricultural knowledge and experience.

"As we embark on this consultation, our collective mandate is to ensure that the ALC and agriculture is positioned for the future," said Dyson. "I am asking that each of our review committee members listen to what is being said, honestly, impartially, professionally and in a principled fashion. I am looking forward to the conversations."

Beginning in early 2018, the committee will:

- Share a consultation paper to seek opinions and feedback on revitalizing the ALR and ALC;
- Host regional meetings to hear opinions and feedback directly from the local farming and ranching communities in Abbotsford, Cranbrook, Fort St. John, Kelowna, Kamloops, Nanaimo and Prince George; and
- Open an online consultation process to seek public opinion.

The committee will use the input it receives during the consultation process to develop recommendations for the provincial government's consideration. The recommendations may include changes to the current legislative, regulatory, and administrative framework to revitalize the ALR and the ALC. Any legislative changes that support the revitalization of the commission and the reserve are targeted for late 2018 or early 2019.

The ministerial mandate letter for the Minister of Agriculture identifies as a priority the revitalization of the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission, an independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming and ranching in British Columbia.

Contact:

Dave Townsend

Government Communications and Public Engagement Ministry of Agriculture

250 356-7098

250 889-5945 (cell)

Appendix 2 – Minister’s Advisory Committee Members: Biographies

Jennifer Dyson (Chair)

Jennifer Dyson has been involved in many aspects of agriculture; as a producer, consultant, chair, commissioner and industry member. Dyson has participated in the Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment, Environmental Farm Plan Working Group, and Island Agri-Food Initiative. She was appointed to the Agricultural Land Commission in 2008 and served as chair of the Island Panel until 2017. Dyson served the agriculture industry, province and federal government as the executive director of the Agricultural Workforce Policy Board formed to respond to human resources challenges. Dyson was one of a handful of people who formed the Island Farmers Alliance and served as the Western Women’s representative appointed by the BC Agriculture Council to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Dyson and her family operate an innovative water buffalo dairy and direct farm market in the Alberni Valley.

Vicki Huntington

Victoria Huntington is a native of Vancouver and has a degree in political science. She spent much of her early career in the RCMP security service and subsequently working with ministers of the Crown in Ottawa. She served five terms as an elected councillor in the municipality of Delta. Huntington was elected as an Independent MLA for Delta South in May 2009 and re-elected in May 2013. She was the first Independent elected to the BC Legislature in over 60 years and her re-election as an Independent is a first in modern BC political history. She recently retired in 2017. Huntington served as band manager for the Gitanmaax Indian Reserve in Hazelton, subsequently becoming a policy assistant to the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. She was vice-chair of the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC) and its representative on the Provincial Treaty Negotiating Team. Huntington has shown a particular interest in environmental and agricultural matters.

Chief Byron Louis

Chief Byron Louis has over 25 years of knowledge and experience, at various levels of the political spectrum. First, elected to Council in 1991, then designated as chair of the Okanagan Nation Fisheries Commission in 1995 and as a title and rights advisor at the Tribal Council and regional level, and political liaison designate with U.S.-based tribal, public and private utilities (hydroelectric generation) and state and federal authorities. Over the course of his career he has served in various facets of political office involving natural resource management, economic development, public works, community planning, liaison and strategic development and negotiation with various levels of senior government and the private sector. Louis continues to work extensively on First Nations social and economic issues and interests and is currently Ministry of Agriculture serving his fourth term as Chief of the Okanagan Indian Band. In 2015, he took on the role of director with the New Relationship Trust, an independent non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening First Nations in BC through capacity building.

Lenore Newman

Lenore Newman holds a Canada Research chair in Food Security and Environment at the University of the Fraser Valley, where she is an associate professor in the department of geography and the environment and the director of the Centre for Food and Farmland Innovation. She runs a research program focused on farmland preservation, agriculture on the rural/urban fringe, culinary development, and food innovation, and consults widely on how to protect the world's farmland while growing the agricultural industry. Her opinion pieces on the future of farmland use and other food-related issues have been published in the *Globe and Mail*, the *Vancouver Sun*, and the *Georgia Straight*. Her first book, *Speaking in Cod Tongues: A Canadian Culinary Journey*, was published in 2017. She holds a PhD in environmental studies from York University. Newman is a member of the Royal Society of Canada's New College, and the patron of the Newman Heritage Farm. She splits her time between Vancouver and the Sunshine Coast.

Chris Kloot

Chris Kloot was born and raised on a dairy farm in Chilliwack. Today, with his wife and sons, he owns and operates a poultry farm in Rosedale, just east of Chilliwack. Recently, the pair became partners in the purchase of a vacant dairy farm with the intent to branch into dairy farming, as all three of their sons work on dairy farms and display a natural affinity for the industry. Kloot is also a real estate agent, and is serving his first term on Chilliwack City Council. His tremendous passion for agriculture has been recognized by the council. Kloot is the chair of the city's Agricultural and Rural Advisory Committee and was instrumental in the implementation of the Farm Home Plate bylaw in 2017. He is a member of the Chilliwack Agricultural Commission and devoted to the promotion and success of agriculture and agri-business in Chilliwack. You may recognize him as one of the lead roles in the flashy humorous action trailer of the "Chicken Squad", a savvy innovative online marketing campaign to promote BC Chicken and share accurate facts to educate consumers about Canadian chicken growing practices. This was produced in 2014 by the BC Chicken Marketing Board and BC Chicken Growers Association.

Shaundehl Runka

Shaundehl Runka has worked in land-use planning and resource management in British Columbia since the early 1990s. With a background in geography, Runka operated as a consultant dealing with a broad range of land- and water-use issues, across all regions of the province. In 2001, Runka joined the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) as a policy analyst, ending her career there in early 2017 in the policy planner position. Runka gained extensive experience interpreting the *Agricultural Land Commission Act*, regulation and policies and in working with Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) stakeholders throughout the province on a day-to-day basis. During her tenure at the ALC, she participated in legislative and regulatory reviews and carried out an extensive re-write of ALC policies to reflect government direction and the commission mandate. Runka was raised in the Okanagan Valley, has lived in Vancouver for

30 years and is co-owner of a family farm in Baldonnel in the Peace region. Her professional life has taken her to all regions of the province.

Irmi Critcher

Irmi Critcher and her husband Barry own and operate a first generation grain and oilseed farm.

The 1,600 hectare farm is located near Taylor, in the Peace River District. Critcher has always taken a very active role on the farm and jointly manages it with her husband. They have been farming for over 25 years and grow wheat, barley, oats, canola, peas and grass seeds. Critcher has been the past president of the BC Grain Producer's Association and has held director positions on provincial and federal agriculture Industry boards including the BC Grain Industry Development Council, Investment Ag Foundation and Grain Growers of Canada. She has chaired numerous committees within these associations including Localized Crop Research, Environment and Climate Action Initiatives.

Arzeena Hamir

Arzeena Hamir is a farmer and agronomist from the Comox Valley. She earned her bachelor's degree in crop science from the University of Guelph and her master's degree in Sustainable Agriculture from the University of London, England. In 2007, she spoke at her first city council meeting to save the Garden City Lands in Richmond. Since then, she has advocated for community food security, farmland conservation and supports for new farmers. She is currently president of the Mid Island Farmers Institute and a director of the Investment Agriculture Foundation.

Brian Underhill

Brian Underhill worked in varying capacities at the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) since 1980 and most recently, he was the ALC's deputy chief executive officer, before retiring in 2015. In his leadership role, Underhill was responsible for the management and administration of the ALC staff secretariat which included functions related to land-use planning, policy development and interpretation, as well as compliance and enforcement and land information services. Underhill worked closely with the chair of the ALC and its appointed commissioners, providing strategic advice and recommended courses of action. He also performed statutory land-use decision-making duties, consultation and co-ordination with local governments throughout the province and collaboration with provincial government ministries, agencies and other administrative tribunals to ensure consistency between policies and legislation and community and regional planning and the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and regulations. By way of his experience at the Agricultural Land Commission, his background in geography and resource management studies and extensive travel throughout the province, Underhill has developed considerable knowledge of land-use issues in relation to community planning and the agriculture industry. Underhill resides in Vancouver and has a special interest in promoting education and awareness of farmland protection and how it is related to the provincial policy to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming throughout British Columbia.

Appendix 3 – Background Information

- Farm Credit Canada Reports
<https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/about-fcc/governance/reports/2016-fcc-farmland-values-report.html>
- ALC Annual Reports
<https://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alc/content/library/commission-reports>
- ALC Act and the ALR Regulation and Recent Amendments
<https://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alc/content/legislation-regulation/the-alc-act-and-alr-regulation>
- ALC's Delegation of Decision Making
<https://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alc/content/about-the-alc/working-with-local-governments/delegation-to-local-governments>
- ALC's Working with Local Governments
<https://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alc/content/about-the-alc/working-with-local-governments>
- ALC website Library
<https://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alc/content/library>
- ALR Values and Benefits
<https://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alc/content/alr-maps/living-in-the-alr/alr-values-and-benefits>