

# 2018 B.C. Local Government Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshops

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## *Summary of Proceedings*



**Regional Workshop 1:** February 21st, 2018  
Newlands Golf Course and Country Club, **Langley, BC**

**Regional Workshop 2:** February 27th, 2018  
Coast Capri Hotel, **Kelowna, BC**

Strengthening Farming Unit  
Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch  
BC Ministry of Agriculture

## Table of Contents

### Regional Workshop 1: Langley

1. Introduction
2. Workshop Agenda
3. Presentations
  - a. Topic 1: How your AAC can Strengthen Farming in your Community
  - b. Topic 2: ALR Revitalization Initiative
4. Discussion Sessions
  - a. Session 1: AAC Opportunities and Challenges
  - b. Session 2: Topics of AAC Importance
5. Panel Session
6. Showcasing Local Food
7. Workshop Attendees

### Regional Workshop 1: Kelowna

1. Introduction
2. Workshop Agenda
3. Presentations
  - a. Topic 1: How your AAC can Strengthen Farming in your Community
  - b. Topic 2: ALR Revitalization Initiative
4. Discussion Sessions
  - a. Session 1: AAC Opportunities and Challenges
  - b. Session 2: Topics of AAC Importance
5. Panel Session
6. Showcasing Local Food
7. Workshop Attendees

### Reference Material

1. Appendix A: AACs - Strengthening Farming in Your Community Presentation. Kyle McStravick, Alison Fox, and Gregory Bartle, Ministry of Agriculture (Langley and Kelowna workshops).
2. Appendix B: ALC presentation on Fill. Katerina Glavis, ALC Senior Agrologist (Langley Workshop).
3. Appendix C: Peace River Regional District AAC Presentation. Leonard Hiebert, PRRD Area Director (Kelowna workshop).

# Regional Workshop 1: Langley

## 1. Introduction

Willow Minaker, Director of the Strengthening Farming Unit, Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch, Ministry of Agriculture, welcomed the group and presented opening remarks. She noted:

- This is the eighth Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop, beginning in 2003.
- Approximately 65 people attending, representing about 17 different local governments from across the province, as well as representation from the Agricultural Land Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture.
- This is the first of two 'regional' AAC workshops this year. The second will be held later this month in Kelowna.
- Fifteen years ago at our first AAC Workshop there were 19 AACs across the province; now there are 44.
- The goal today is to facilitate discussions to explore how AACs can bring value to your community - whether an AAC was established 20 years ago or they are in the planning stages.



## 2. Agenda

### 2018 Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Workshop (South Coast)

Wednesday February 21, 2018 – from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Newlands Golf and Country Club, Langley BC

#### Participant Agenda – **FINAL**

**THIS YEAR'S THEME: AAC roles and responsibilities - *from the ground up!***

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- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>9:00am</b>  | <b>Registration and morning refreshments</b>   |
| <b>9:30am</b>  | <b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> - Ministry of Agriculture   |
| <b>9:45am</b>  | <b>Topic 1: How your AAC can strengthen farming in your community</b><br>Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) staff presentation with Q + A on AAC roles and responsibilities  |
| <b>10:45am</b> | <b>Nutrition Break</b>   |
| <b>11:00am</b> | <b>Topic 2: ALR Revitalization</b><br>Presentation & Q + A session. An opportunity to provide input into the process   |
| <b>12:00pm</b> | <b>Lunch</b>   |
| <b>1:00 pm</b> | <b>Discussion Session 1: AAC opportunities and challenges</b><br>Facilitated table discussions to explore AAC opportunities and the types of challenges that keep AACs from using its full potential.  |
| <b>2:00pm</b>  | <b>Nutrition break</b>   |
| <b>2:15pm</b>  | <b>Discussion Session 2: Non-farm use of agricultural land: Lessons we can learn on Fill</b><br>Speaker presentation and discussion to explore lessons learnt  |
| <b>3:15pm</b>  | <b>Panel Session: Bringing value to your AAC</b><br>Facilitated panel discussion exploring successful mechanisms to bring greater value to your AAC. Panelists to include AAC members, local government elected officials, Regional Agrologists and ALC staff. |
| <b>4:15pm</b>  | <b>Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks</b> – Ministry of Agriculture   |
| <b>4:30 pm</b> | <b>ADJOURN</b>   |



### 3. Presentations

#### *Topic 1: How your AAC can Strengthen Farming in your Community*

Ministry of Agriculture's Kyle McStravick, Land Use Planner and Alison Fox, Land Use Agrologist, presented on local governments AACs; speaking on general components to more the complex. Topics included types of AACs, composition, terms of reference, best practices, open meetings, AACs in Regional Districts, indicators of effectiveness, and ideas to enhance effectiveness (see [Appendix A](#)). A questions/discussion session with the group followed, including a particular focus on how to work more effectively with Boards:

- **Question:** We feel very constrained and can't initiate things with our Board. The Board has limited interest. How can we change this?
- **Response:** (1) Its difficult. AGRI and ALC staff can provide presentations and hard information about agricultural economics and contributions to local economies to help LGs see the value of their ag sector and the need to have good advice surrounding it. (2) Take Board members on a tour of area farms so they can have a direct connection to it. (3) If there is a problem the Board is dealing with, come up with a solution to it so that the Board can see the value of utilizing their AAC fully.

#### *Topic 2: ALR Revitalization Initiative*

Kim Grout, CEO of the ALC, spoke about the Minister's independent advisory committee gathering input on ALR revitalization via nine by-invitation meetings around the province. Kim stated that there is a discussion paper available on the revitalization website and provided an overview of the themes. She confirmed that the general public can provide input via the website and survey. She also clarified that the ALC is an observer and AGRI is providing secretariat services. Kim highlighted that this venue was an opportunity for participants to provide input into this process.

Audience input included:

- Size and siting of houses in the ALR should be regulated provincially, not municipally.
- Concern about breweries and distilleries – what happens if they fold or sell out to Molson's?
- Stores in the ALR are often not playing by the rules.
- On-farm processing – at some point, all processing moves off of the farm for a variety of reasons. What happens to the processing facilities then? There is a big incentive to get non-farm use of these facilities which is a bad thing.
- The housing issue destroys the value of ALR lands for agriculture.
- Exception taken to concept of creating small lots on the ALR next to urban uses as a buffer. We have enough small lots already.
- Concern that cannabis production will take up land that could be used for food production.
- Without processing, farm production dies (blueberry example).
- If farmland is expected to be lost or impacted by an outside use, require an independent agricultural impact study ahead of time. Use this to primarily prevent and secondarily mitigate deleterious impacts.
- Concern about the length of time it takes for an application to be processed.
- Give local government staff information from the ALC application prior to the local government processing it.
- Increase the application fee portion that goes to local government.

- Give more notice and time for stakeholder consultations (at least 3 months) due to scheduling needs for Council, AACs and staff.
- Undertake proactive planning with local governments about defensible boundaries and compliance.
- Interpretation of the Act and Regulation varies. There should be a more formal process to get an 'official' interpretation.
- Non-food producing products *should not* get a tax break.
- Non-food producing products *should* get the tax break. Agriculture is agriculture and non-food horticulture is a large economic driver in the ALR.
- Support for residential restrictions coming from ALC, not local government.
- On farm processing and on-farm sales should be approved and inspected by the ALC regularly.
- Change the legislation to make ALC enforcement easier and cheaper.
- If you are engaging in ongoing non-compliance you should lose your farm tax status.
- Support for more restrictive residential use regulation.
- Require realtors to advertise accurately and honestly.
- More help on evaluating if a second residence is necessary.
- Need incentives for food production.
- Utilize large setbacks to make it difficult for cannabis operations to locate in ALR.
- Events are creating headaches for local governments.
- Taxation is not addressed in the white paper. While it isn't the ALC's mandate, it is a big issue impacting the ALR.
- Should require seasonal worker housing to be removed when it is no longer needed. Alberta already does this.
- Food sustainability vs economic viability. These might be two separate conversations.
- Two zones in the ALR is bad. It starts the "me too" arguments in the lower mainland.
- Don't 'adjust the boundary' any more. It's been done enough already since the start of the ALR.

## 4. Discussion Sessions

### *Session 1: AAC Opportunities and Challenges*

Chris Zabek, Regional Agrologist for the Ministry of Agriculture introduced this discussion session to explore AAC opportunities and challenges. Participants were assigned to a table and a list of key topics and prompt questions were coordinated by table facilitators. Each table presented their main points at the end of the session.

Poster size sheets were generated at the table discussions:

#### **Sheet 1 – Role of AACs**

- Bridging the gap between urban and rural
  - Awareness
  - Answering questions from Council
  - Roundtable to bring up issues that AAC wants to raise with Council
- Educational events
- Issues of importance to farmers may get pushback from staff or Council (i.e. ag water rates)
- Not dealing with applications in all cases (timing issues, etc.)
- Soil applications – sent to environmental committee (MR)
- Liaison with committees built into consultation process
  - Talk about issues and get advice from different commodity groups
  - Share resources i.e. Tri-Cities AAC

**Sheet 2 – Role of AACs cont.**

- Composition – real farmers, not developers, agrologists, academics, community representatives, chamber of commerce, agriculture representatives
- Looking at bigger picture rather than site-by-site
- Difficult to start in areas with stunted agriculture
  - Disbanded and rewrote TOR
  - Role to enhance agriculture (long term)
- Better understanding in community that they can bring issues to AAC or city
  - Role of social media
  - Getting the word out – community
- Dealing with current issues
- Community events – harvest festivals, etc.
  - Have public engagement in the TOR

**Sheet 3 – Role of AACs cont.**

- Interaction with local government – varies widely
- AAC recommendations → ALC
  - Sometimes discussion included
  - Sometimes just recommendations

**Sheet 4 – Information and Training**

- View sites/site visits
- Technical info from agrologists (provincial and consultants), LG and RD staff
- AAC members carry personal/local knowledge
- Presentations from applicants
- Hands-on farming useful
- Updates (annually?) on developments/changes to ALC regulations etc.
- Help to understand AACs role in ‘big picture’
- KEY: training on processes, LGA, and other legislation
- Confidentiality/private info on decisions

**Sheet 5 – Information and Training cont.**

- Resource panel to bring in outside knowledge (hope?)
- What non-farm uses are OK?
- Agricultural use of non-ALR land?
- LG processes?
- Shape AAC to existing local knowledge
- Webinars for AACs (share info between AACs?) – helpful when building from scratch
- ‘Farmable Now’ website
- KEY: orientation to the legislation

**Sheet 6 – AAC Vitality**

- Promote as individuals but not as a committee
- “Creature of Council”
  - Difficult to proactively engage Council
  - Would like Council to give us more work
- Lack of diversity limits proactivity
  - Would benefit from greater links with broader community representatives (i.e. FN and FL) and commodity diversity
  - Allow urban people to hear and engage gets rids of the ‘us vs. them’ mentality
- TOR is key to AAC make-up
  - Review it each year
  - Cannot be just farmers
- Agenda – similar to Council agendas and allow delegations

**Sheet 7 – AAC Vitality cont.**

- Provide an annual report on what was accomplished and recommendations for next year
  - Sets up the next year clearly
  - Use strategic planning and TOR
- Use roundtable to allow additional member input

- Allow public comment → agenda
- AAC became dysfunctional over time due to poor committee makeup
  - Restart with a better TOR
  - ToL melded two committees (ec and ag) which led to positive outcomes and constructive discussions.
  - Processors – positive contributions

#### **Sheet 8 – AAC Vitality cont.**

- Provide agenda package well in advance
- Addition of new focus can cause confusion at first (i.e. food security)
  - Focus needs to be all agriculture
- Good staff support is CRUCIAL
  - Need a talented chair
- Recording minutes – motions only vs. conversation impacts engagement – conversation provides voice and rationale
  - Strategic planning – use to identify issues/projects that council may then endorse

#### **Sheet 9 – AAC Vitality cont.**

- Like getting feedback on why a decision was made as it was.
  - This would help with learning and overall understanding
- Staff roles – some are more hands on
- Communication is key in both directions, and also out to the community

#### **Sheet 10 – Emerging Issues**

- Housing
  - Size
  - TFWH
- Growing cannabis
- Supportive policies
- Agricultural Economic Development Strategies
- Fill placement
- How to activate farmland (particularly small lots)
- Agricultural accessory uses to supplement farming (small lots)
- Agri-tourism impacting non-ALR properties or ALR properties
- Foreign ownership
- Demand for agricultural processing facilities
- Housing demand
- Water supply and cost
- Trails – conflict between agriculture and recreational users

#### **Sheet 11 – Structure and Function of AACs**

- What structure and/or relationship with LG can help AACs make the most valuable contributions to the AAC?
- Select committee – have a Council member that advocates for AAC
  - Need for strong AAC advocate on Council – advantage to a councillor as chair could be a stronger voice
- Having co-chairs can provide opportunity for different voices to speak to Council

#### **Sheet 12 – Structure and Function of AACs cont.**

- Regional Districts can be set up differently
- Ex. Committee where chair cannot be an agriculture person and cannot create initiatives to bring forward
- Ex. Commission set up under economic development – more power?
  - Can create initiatives and bring them forward
- Relationship between AAC and LG/RD varies. Some AACs can bring their own initiatives forward, but some LG/RDs do not allow this.

#### **Sheet 13 – Structure and Function of AACs cont.**

- Some AACs have other committee members attend (i.e. environmental committee rep)
- KEY: relationship between AAC and the LG/RD – ‘buy in’ is key in order to be effective
- Having a work plan is key to keeping committee on track and focuses purpose. Can add to it throughout the year as need.

#### **Sheet 14 – Structure and Function of AACs cont.**

- Professional expertise/advisors
  - Staff liaison
  - Ministry



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o ALC</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Size of committee           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Too large – can be challenging to have everyone speak and to get things done</li> <li>o Too small – not diverse</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Diversity of people on committee – mix of ag and non ag</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Sheet 15 – Structure and Function of AACs cont.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure challenge – not a decision making body</li> <li>• Funding for AACs is important           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Supports staff – ex. Admin staff</li> <li>o Other needs that arise</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Sheet 16 – Difficult Recommendations</b> [NOTE: handwriting difficult to interpret]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of members on AAC differ</li> <li>• Need a reminder of what is appropriate</li> <li>• Conflict of interests – staff with their responsibilities and members with applications</li> <li>• Always consider:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Consistency</li> <li>o Negative impacts on agriculture</li> <li>o Benefit to agriculture</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Sheet 17 – Difficult Recommendations cont.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of presence of applicants in meetings</li> <li>• Argument of ‘unfarmed’ land</li> <li>• One department vs. the other (staff)</li> <li>• No feedback</li> <li>• Ways to improve:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Go back to purpose the of agriculture and AAC</li> <li>o Send them (AAC?) on site visits</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Sheet 18 – Difficult Recommendations cont.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personality matters</li> <li>• Agriculture impact studies</li> <li>• Personal involvement           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Knowledge or not applicant [NOTE: no longer self-explanatory in meaning]</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Situations of hardship</li> <li>• Only provide information</li> <li>• AAC does not give land use issues [NOTE: no longer self-explanatory in meaning]</li> </ul>          |
| <p><b>Sheet 19 – Difficult Recommendations cont.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need of regulations</li> <li>• Classification of soil</li> <li>• Is the farm use improved in the long term?</li> <li>• Are they actively farming?</li> <li>• Have reports peer-reviewed</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Sheet 20 – Difficult Recommendations cont.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don’t believe</li> <li>• Signage</li> <li>• Build conditions into the development permits</li> <li>• Permit in steps</li> <li>• Bond significant</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Sheet 21 – Difficult Recommendations cont.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agrologist at pay well [NOTE: no longer self-explanatory in meaning]</li> <li>• Ask the right questions</li> <li>• List of questions for AAC</li> </ul>  |

## *Session 2: Topics of AAC importance: Non-farm use of agricultural land – what lessons can we learn from fill projects*

Dieter Geesing, Regional Agrologist for the Ministry of Agriculture, introduced Discussion Session 2. Dieter reminded participants that the “fill issue” can be used as an example or training opportunity that has aspects transferable to other issues that an AAC member may be faced with. Katerina Glavas, Agrologist with the ALC, made her presentation on fill (See [Appendix B](#)). Table discussions followed with each table presenting their main points. Questions that were raised included:

**Question:** What lessons did you learn from the presentation?

**Question:** What aspects are transferable to other applications?

**Question:** Do you have a positive or regretful experience in hindsight? Do you have examples where applications differ from what has been planned/ proposed and how it has been implemented? (It can go both ways: positive surprises, disappointments).

**Question:** Do you have experience with projects that were a success/failure and possible reasons why they are a success/failure?

**Question:** How can decision-making be improved?

**Question:** What role can each stakeholder play to make sure decisions are made in a smooth, effective, consistent, appropriate and scientifically sound manner?

**Question:** How can AAC members be better prepared to come to the best decision?

Poster size sheets were generated at the table discussions:

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| <b>Sheet 1 – Fill and Non-Farm Use</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Applicants often lie</li><li>• Richmond hired a Fill Bylaw Officer</li><li>• AACs review applications</li><li>• Drainage often used as rationale for fill</li><li>• Accessory uses related to wineries</li><li>• Non-farm uses sold as beneficial to agriculture (i.e. sand storage for cranberries)</li><li>• Good idea to inspect/ground truth early in the implementation</li></ul>   |
| <b>Sheet 2 – Fill and Non-farm Use Cont.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AAC – want to see a farm plan prepared by a professional<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Assist with creation of plan (not everyone writes well)</li><li>◦ Does the applicant have a farming history in the area?</li><li>◦ Use trigger level beyond which it goes to council</li><li>◦ Require geotechnical report, traffic report, surveying</li></ul></li><li>• Non-compliance happens too often<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Ticketing/fines will not prevent non-compliance – need to maintain and enhance legal options</li></ul></li><li>• Very few examples of successful non-farm use applications that were beneficial to agriculture</li></ul> |
| <b>Sheet 3 – Fill and Non-farm Use Cont.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Just say no to fill</li><li>• Communication between LG and ALC is key</li><li>• LG can develop their own fill policy</li><li>• Signage (on the site) for public so they can easily find out whether a fill site is legal with contact info readily available</li><li>• LG has option to forward all fill proposals to the ALC as non-farm use apps</li><li>• LGs can do their own permitting for fill with conditions etc.</li></ul>   |
| <b>Sheet 4 – Fill and Non-farm Use Cont.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow up can be challenging and so is monitoring</li><li>• Log-book process used by LG → if fill is leaving the community they have to identify where it is going. If site is in a different LG, they get notified</li></ul>  |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification of fill operation for surrounding property owners</li> <li>• The process is too slow – the site gets degraded more and more as we are trying to deal with it. Better coordination is needed between LG and all of compliance and enforcement to stop illegal activity sooner.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Sheet 5 – Fill and Non-farm Use Cont.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion about delegating authority to enforce ALR contraventions to give more enforcement tools</li> <li>• Consistency between bylaw enforcement between LG and ALC</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Sheet 6 – Fill and Non-farm Use Cont.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-farm use - follow up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Only on complaint basis after the land has been ruined</li> <li>○ More incentive to just do the use and ask for forgiveness only when someone complains</li> <li>○ Non-farm use may support broader agriculture industry</li> <li>○ Confusing how certain uses are permitted (i.e. green house) but large houses are not</li> <li>○ Turnover in property owners and uses</li> <li>○ Collaboration with ALC for enforcement</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ancillary use – retail sales (50% rule), can sell plants but not soil or amendments to the plants</li> </ul> |
| <b>Sheet 7 – Fill and Non-farm Use Cont.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses supporting farm should be allowed, but not paving over</li> <li>• Farm waste management – bringing outside waste onto farm</li> <li>• Non-farm uses reflecting overall pressure on the land base</li> <li>• AAC recommends → ALC rejects → why? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Full scope of proposal and how it relates to everything else happening on site</li> <li>○ AAC is informed about what is happening in community</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |

## 5. Panel Session

Chris Zabek, Regional Agrologist for the Ministry of Agriculture, also facilitated this panel discussion with five panelists to discuss how AACs can bring value, and be more effective, with their local government Councils and Regional Boards. Chris started by introducing the panel members and then proceeded to ask a series of prompted questions including their involvement in agriculture, their experience with AACs, and how best to prepare for AAC meetings. Several questions were also raised from the floor. The panelists included:

- **Mike Bose** is the AAC Chair and one of the original members of the Surrey AAC. He is a farmer from Surrey, BC.
- **Craig Speirs** is a Councillor with the City of Maple Ridge. He is a long-standing council member on the Maple Ridge AAC.
- **Carla Stewart** is Senior Policy Planner with the City of Surrey and has played an active staff role in support the City's AAC.
- **Kamelli Mark** is a Regional Planner with the provincial Agricultural Land Commission.
- **Dieter Geesing** is a Regional Agrologist with the Ministry of Agriculture.

## 6. Showcasing Local Food

Local B.C. apples were provided during the workshop for participants to enjoy.

## 7. Workshop Attendees

| Participant    | Representing        |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Siri Bertelsen | Abbotsford          |
| Ryan Perry     | Abbotsford          |
| Debbie Evans   | Bulkley Netchako RD |

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Walter Goerzen     | Chilliwack          |
| Gillian Villeneuve | Chilliwack          |
| Carl Godtschieder  | Comox Valley RD     |
| Jodi MacLean       | Comox Valley RD     |
| Nancy Chong        | Delta               |
| Mike Schneider     | Delta               |
| Alex Cauduro       | Delta               |
| Alison Stewart     | Fraser Valley RD    |
| Brittany Ekelund   | Hope                |
| Ken Vander Hoek    | Kent                |
| Darcey Kohuch      | Kent                |
| Bill Hardy         | Maple Ridge         |
| Amanda Grochowich  | Maple Ridge         |
| Theresa Duynstee   | Metro Vancouver RD  |
| Carole Paulson     | Metro Vancouver RD  |
| Hannah Wittman     | Metro Vancouver RD  |
| Mayta Ryn          | Nanaimo RD          |
| Anne Berry         | North Saanich       |
| Lisa Grant         | Pitt Meadows        |
| Mike Manion        | Pitt Meadows        |
| Leo Captein        | Pitt Meadows        |
| Graeme Muir        | Port Coquitlam      |
| Julia Dykstra      | Power River RD      |
| Minhee Park        | Richmond            |
| Teresa Murphy      | Richmond            |
| Lynn Kemper        | Richmond            |
| Lorne Lewis        | Sunshine Coast RD   |
| Mark Lebbell       | Sunshine Coast RD   |
| Carla Stewart      | Surrey              |
| Mike Bose          | Surrey              |
| Martin Hilmer      | Surrey              |
| Gay Hahn           | Surrey              |
| Melisa Gunn        | Township of Langley |
| Aubrey Jensen      | Township of Langley |
| Dave Kang          | Township of Langley |
| Bob Andrews        | Township of Langley |
| Nolan Killeen      | Township of Langley |
| Tim Knight         | Township of Langley |
| Kim Grout          | ALC                 |
| Kamelli Mark       | ALC                 |
| Sara Huber         | ALC                 |
| Kelsey-Rae Russell | ALC                 |
| Shawna Wilson      | ALC                 |
| Chris Zabek        | AGRI                |
| Dieter Geesing     | AGRI                |

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Kyle McStravick | AGRI |
| Willow Minaker  | AGRI |
| Alison Fox      | AGRI |

# Regional Workshop 1: Kelowna

## 1. Introduction

Willow Minaker, Director of the Strengthening Farming Unit, with the Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch, Ministry of Agriculture, welcomed the group and presented opening remarks. She noted:

- This is the eighth Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop, beginning in 2003.
- Approximately 60 people are attending, representing 16 different local governments from across the province as well as representation from the Agricultural Land Commission and Ministry.
- This is the second of two 'regional' AAC workshops this year. The first was held earlier in the month in the Township of Langley.
- Fifteen years ago at our first AAC Workshop there were 19 AACs across the province. Now there are 44.
- The goal today is to facilitate discussions to explore how AACs can bring value to your community - whether an AAC was established 20 years ago or they are in the planning stages.





## 2. Workshop Agenda

### 2018 Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Workshop (South Coast)

Wednesday February 21, 2018 – from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
Newlands Golf and Country Club, Langley BC

#### Participant Agenda – **FINAL**

**THIS YEAR'S THEME: AAC roles and responsibilities - *from the ground up!***

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- |                |  |
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| <b>9:00am</b>  | <b>Registration and morning refreshments</b>   |
| <b>9:30am</b>  | <b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> - Ministry of Agriculture   |
| <b>9:45am</b>  | <b>Topic 1: How your AAC can strengthen farming in your community</b><br>Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) staff presentation with Q + A on AAC roles and responsibilities  |
| <b>10:45am</b> | <b>Nutrition Break</b>   |
| <b>11:00am</b> | <b>Topic 2: ALR Revitalization</b><br>Presentation & Q + A session. An opportunity to provide input into the process   |
| <b>12:00pm</b> | <b>Lunch</b>   |
| <b>1:00 pm</b> | <b>Discussion Session 1: AAC opportunities and challenges</b><br>Facilitated table discussions to explore AAC opportunities and the types of challenges that keep AACs from using its full potential.  |
| <b>2:00pm</b>  | <b>Nutrition break</b>   |
| <b>2:15pm</b>  | <b>Discussion Session 2: Non-farm use of agricultural land: Lessons we can learn on Fill</b><br>Speaker presentation and discussion to explore lessons learnt  |
| <b>3:15pm</b>  | <b>Panel Session: Bringing value to your AAC</b><br>Facilitated panel discussion exploring successful mechanisms to bring greater value to your AAC. Panelists to include AAC members, local government elected officials, Regional Agrologists and ALC staff. |
| <b>4:15pm</b>  | <b>Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks</b> – Ministry of Agriculture   |
| <b>4:30 pm</b> | <b>ADJOURN</b>   |

### 3. Presentations

#### *Topic 1: How your AAC can Strengthen Farming in your Community*

Ministry of Agriculture's Kyle McStravick and Gregory Bartle, both Land Use Planners, spoke for 30 minutes presenting information on AACs. The general topics include: What is an AAC, starting a new AAC, AAC best practices, the work of an AAC, traits of effective AACs and final thoughts. The presentation covered information for those with a range of knowledge on the subject. Participants indicated that the vast majority (approximately 95%) had been involved with AACs for over three years. A 15 minute question period followed. Themes included:

- A local government compared AAC recommendations to ALC decisions to determine consistency. It was suggested that if other local governments wanted to pursue this it should be included in the Terms of Reference (ToR).
- ALC staff indicated that receiving AAC recommendations along with the local government comments when reviewing ALC Applications were very important and greatly appreciated.
- Another topic included AAC providing an educational role including farm tours for Councils.
- The question of how the role of an APC format AAC related to the regular APC was raised and the importance of having clear direction in the ToR.
- A statement was raised claiming provincial legislation was not developed for large-scale dairy farms and that further legislation is required to prevent agricultural pollution.
- A statement was raised that the diversity of an AAC was critical.
- A statement was raised that there was lots of environmental biodiversity on farmland and that greater attention by the province is needed to address protecting it.
- A question of how the Ministry of Agriculture is working with Ministry of Environment to address environmental pollution was raised. Ministry staff indicated that there are a number of committees working together, recognizing there are always opportunities for greater collaboration.

#### *Topic 2: ALR Revitalization Initiative*

ALC CEO Kim Grout spoke on behalf of the Minister Lana Popham's Advisory Committee and mandate to revitalize the Agricultural Land Reserve. The ALR Revitalization Discussion Paper and consultation process on the project was reviewed. Kim took comments from participants while two ALC staff took notes on behalf of the Advisory Committees. Topics included (not a comprehensive list):

- Further ALR boundary reviews.
- A position on cannabis farm gate sales.
- Greater ALC enforcement, resources, and tools.
- Clarifying the definition of 'Temporary' in the provincial legislation.
- Clarifying abattoirs as a farm use in the ALR.
- Pursuing greater policy/regulatory flexibility for buffers.
- Explore regulatory/policy options regarding the cumulative impacts of development on the ALR.
- Clarifying agri-tourism regulations.
- Providing stronger regulations regarding environmental assessment.
- Providing stronger regulations to protect agricultural 'landscapes'.

- Providing stronger regulatory tools for ALR property owners regarding surface rights and the oil and gas industries.
- Review the necessity for two ALR Zones.
- Reduce regulatory 'hoops' for farmers in the ALR.
- Create a companion legislation (to the ALC Act) to address all of the other issues agricultural operators are facing in the ALR.

#### 4. Discussion Sessions

##### *Session 1: Sharing AAC Stories of Successes and Challenges*

Gregory Bartle, Ministry of Agriculture Land Use Planner, facilitated this discussion session. Five speakers gave 5-10 minute presentations about their stories of AAC successes and challenges over the past few years. Each speaker took 1-2 questions after each presentation. Following the 5 speakers, the remainder of the hour (20-25 minutes) included break-out table discussions to speak further about AAC stories of successes and challenges. The speakers included:

- **Darin Schaal**, Planner and AAC staff liaison, City of West Kelowna.
- **Frank Kappel**, AAC Chair, District of Summerland.
- **Claire Daniels**, Planner and AAC liaison, Regional District of Squamish-Lillooet.
- **Leonard Hiebert**, Electoral Area D Director and PRRD AAC Chair and farmer. (See [Appendix C](#) for presentation).
- **Yvonne Herbison**, AAC Vice Chair, City of Kelowna.

##### *Session 2: Topics of AAC Importance*

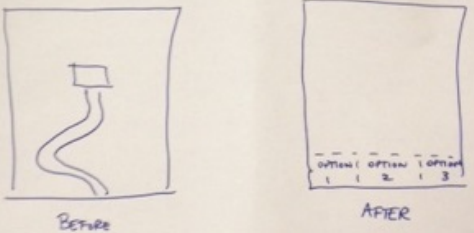
Laura Code, Ministry of Agriculture Regional Agrologist in the North Okanagan, facilitated this session and introduced Dave Birchmore, Compliance Officer with the ALC. Dave presented on compliance and enforcement issues in the ALR and took questions. Following his presentation, group discussions followed with two 20 minute time periods on three significant topics. These topics were: residential size and siting, soil and fill/drainage, and agricultural recycling.

19 poster size sheets were generated at the table discussions:

###### **Sheet 1 - Residential Use Size and Siting**

Group 1:

- Sensitive to cultural differences
- ALC should set a maximum
- Consistency
- Public consultation
- Local government can look at variances with a provincial standard
- Monster homes not generally owned by farmers
- Siting near the property line vs, middle of property
- Residential footprint should include all 'non-farm' amenities, i.e. Pools, tennis courts
- Percentage of value the land is actually worth
- Percentage of value the land is actually worth -> residential value not to exceed a certain value
- Maximum impact and cumulative impact
- Local government needs to be able to be involved in the process
- Consistency with a provincial standard

|  |  |
|--|--|
|   |  |
| <p><b>Sheet 2 – Residential Use Size and Siting</b></p> <p><u>Trends</u></p> <p><i>RDNO</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not great pressure yet</li> <li>• 2nd dwelling -&gt; commercial use -&gt; events</li> <li>• “Long term problem:</li> </ul> <p><i>Spallumcheen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests for 2nd dwellings</li> </ul> <p><i>Penticton</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2nd dwelling requests in order to have rental income to afford farm</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Sheet 3 – Residential Use Size and Siting cont.</b></p> <p><i>Peace River</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult to get 2nd dwelling –multi-generations retiring</li> <li>• ALC denies 2nd dwelling</li> <li>• Large acreages (160 acres)</li> <li>• Urban owners of farmland inflate prices for farmers</li> <li>• Succession planning critical</li> </ul> <p><i>Thompson–Nicola</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # small farms are down</li> <li>• Large farms up – farm receipts \$1M up</li> <li>• 40 -&gt; 160 acres -&gt; better dwellings</li> <li>• 50 acres + secondary suites</li> </ul> <p><u>Provincial consistency</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lots of Regional Districts don’t have building permits – voluntary bldg bylaws</li> <li>2. Variability between ag land &amp; size makes provincial regulations of siting challenging.</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>Sheet 4 – Residential Use Size and Siting</b></p> <p><u>Trends</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home-plate policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Minimum setbacks</li> <li>◦ Square footage maximums</li> <li>◦ 2nd dwelling limited to 60% size of 1st dwelling</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>AAC Influences</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AAP recommendations for size, site placement</li> <li>• Best practices and consistency in applying home-plate recommendation bylaws</li> </ul> <p><u>Main Challenges</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competing goals and objectives to consider.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Sheet 5 – Soils</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil and removed bylaw – amount, I.P.</li> <li>• Land not being used for agriculture and accepting fill, debris etc.</li> <li>• Require permit, fee is low</li> <li>• Provides opportunity for education and posting</li> <li>• No net loss top soil policy</li> <li>• Consider impacts to drainage and topography</li> <li>• Environmental issues need to be considered</li> <li>• Lack of collaboration with ALC</li> <li>• Soil removal for fish farm and found a good sue for top soil</li> <li>• Soils knowledge</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Sheet 6 – Soils #1</b></p>   |  |

#### Soil Deposit bylaw (Kelowna)

- ➔ Permits
- ➔ ALC notification
  - Soil from development
  - Landowners may have to remove fill - \$
  - Valuable to have knowledge of drainage and fill with AAC members
  - Reports: soil agrology vs. drainage
  - Challenge: cost and request for reports
  - Regional Agrologist for expertise
  - Trucks – don't know if soil is being moved legally
  - Traceability of soil

#### Sheet 7 – Soils cont.

- Trucking companies
  - Should know bylaws
  - Make sure permits are in place
- Yes -> education
  - Educate landowners (not ALC farmers)
  - Educate trucking companies
  - Keep soil on site for other uses -> incentives
- Soil remain close to extraction site -> for remediation
- Health
  - What is in soil
  - Where soil is from/going

#### Sheet 8 - Soils #2

- Kelowna – soil permit process
- Lack of knowledge – landowners -> not aware of rules (muni., prov.)
- Peachland – up 50m3 permit
- Fill required to remediate
- Challenge:
  - Catch before it happens
  - What kind of fill?
    - Appropriate
    - Needs inspection

#### Sheet 9 – Soils #2 cont.

- Challenge – no follow up after permit
- Ability to regulate in ALR
- # Implications of fill e.g. Environment
- Challenge:
  - ➔ Freshet
  - ➔ Slope stability, substance
- Compost:
  - ➔ Leaching, H2O flow, drainage
  - ➔ No control
- Reclamation

#### Sheet 10 – Soils #2 cont.

- Where does LG authority end and ALC authority begin?
  - Does LG have authority to regulate a use permitted in the ALR?
- Impacts to adjacent properties
- Requirements for fill quality
- Soil workshops
  - Options for non-soil based
  - Options for appropriate soil based commodities

#### Sheet 11 - Recycling of non-organic waste

##### Trends in recycling

- Pesticide containers (landfill/burn) (non in N. Cariboo)
- Nursery containers
- Silage production

- Grain bags (big bulk bass/fertilizer) take to landfill/transfer station
- Collaboration of...
  - Fertilizers
  - Plastic contaminants/cost of transportations
- Growers supply collection
  - Fence post
  - Garage receptacles
  - Drainage tile/weeping
- No increase (anecdotal) of plastics
- Looked at pilot projects
- Need partnerships

#### Sheet 12 – Recycling p. 2

- Industry/MFR collection programs
  - because low return of containers vs sale
- Twine & wrap – no good collection system (soft plastics)
  - Large distances
  - Low volume
- Remote ag ops
  - Burning/burial
- Opportunities to collaborate with other Industries
  - Clustering
  - Lots of talk/discussion
  - Needs economies of scale
- Increase of costs prohibitive

#### Sheet 13 – Recycling p.3

- Ag Plastic row crops
  - Developing bio-degradable and price competitive
- Opportunities
  - New product
  - multi-materials – use
    - costly
  - Off shore sales -> need to be cleaner
- Recycling – significant
- Vegetables – yes
  - Row cover
  - Irrigation
  - Nursery production – flats
- Producers
  - No solution
  - Bag it
  - Take it landfill (north BC)

#### Sheet 14 – Recycling p.4

- Is 'clean farms' a national program? [www.cleanfarms.ca](http://www.cleanfarms.ca)
  - What is happening
    - Pesticides
    - Plastics
  - Does not seem to be much across the board
- Plastics recycling costs borne by ag but not created by them (public)

#### Sheet 15 – Recycling p.5

- Groundcover/Nursery
  - Biodegrade doesn't necessarily mean recycling
- Problematic products
  - Pesticides
    - Sit there for ages
    - People have to hold onto them
    - More regular collection
- Recycling products



- Plastic silage/ hay bags
- Can't be burned – twine
- Product separation not efficient
- Plastics – is it single use? Yes mostly
- What can be recycled?
- What product is safe?
- Suppliers take plastics back
- Remote/rural communities need Ag transfer stations – economies of scale

#### Sheet 16 - Recycling p. 6

- Identify Barriers to Recycling
  - Language Barrier
    - Indo-Canadian Ownership vs English/French
- Has there been much done in research to find Examples (Europe)
  - Peace River has but not widespread European
  - Recycling fees on pesticide but not plastics
  - Biodegradable... needs research
    - Product development
    - Potato starch dishware
- Lot of ag burn + bury
- Rural – economy of scale not there
- Needs larger area (i.e. provincial)
- Alberta has provincial recycling
  - Is it a program of O&G?

#### Sheet 17 – Recycling p.7

- Consolidation/Cooperation
  - Partnerships w. transfer stations
    - More frequent pickup
    - Spring/fall
  - Household waste generally to landfill
- Greater collaboration
  - Cost sharing provinces to Regional Districts
- Significant issue?
  - Yes

#### Sheet 18 – Non-organic waste 1

- TNRD
  - Solid Waste management plan goes to MOE for approval
  - Can't find end user for ag plastic
  - Hoping for pilot project (maybe already been done)
- What can't they find an end user for the recycled plastic?
- No facilities for recycling locally

#### Plastic sources:

- Silage bales --> hundreds of tons of plastic from bales
  - No deposit for these plastics like there is for beer cans and bottles
- Product packaging
  - Lots of retail packaging for food safety
    - Vertical integration w. package manufacturers owning retail outlets + dictate packaging requirements
  - Not good support for recycling
- What about biodegradable plastic?
- Alberta may have a recycling program
  - Fighting among provinces makes it harder to find solutions
- Maybe Europe too?
  - Transport costs lower in more dense places

Penticton FN has a big collection of construction debris... do they run a recycling program?

#### Sheet 19 – Non-organic waste 2

#### Sources:

- Pesticide containers

- A company specializes in recycling these
- Construction debris
- Pallets
- Treated posts (fence, crop supports)
- Baler twine
- Old equipment/farm machinery
- Irrigation equipment (pipe, line)
- Plastic from cold frames
- 'modified atmosphere pressure bag' for cherries
- Clam shells
- Perforated plastic bags for veggies
- Why do we emphasize residential recycling over commercial/ag?
- Local government bylaws prohibiting burning of certain materials
- Perhaps the LG can offer an industrial chipping program (as Kelowna does)
- Cannabis producers will have a different kind of waste: lights, ballasts, marijuana stalks, planter pots, etc.
- Barriers:
  - Cost/funding
  - Transport
  - Facilities won't accept it
    - Not enough facilities
    - An environmental levy should be placed at the manufacturer level to make recycling facilities possible
- Is biodegradable silage wrap coming?
- Is this a significant issue? Yes

## 5. Panel Session

Nicole Pressey, Ministry of Agriculture Regional Agrologist in the Cariboo, facilitated this panel discussion with five panelists to discuss how AACs can bring value, and be more effective, with their local government Councils and Regional Boards. Nicole started by introducing the panel members and then proceeded to ask questions. Anne Skinner, Regional Agrologist for the Central Okanagan area stood in for Jim Forbes who was unable to attend and provided Jim's notes as well as her own comments. The panelists included:

- **Dennis Lapierre**, AAC Chair for the Regional District of North Okanagan and an agricultural producer from Falkland, BC.
- **Sam Quinlan**, Chair of the Squamish Lillooet Regional District's Area B AAC and an agricultural producer of hops.
- **Melanie Steppuhn**, Planner with the City of Kelowna and has played an active staff role in support the City's AAC.
- **Liz Sarioglu**, Land Use Planning Manager with the provincial Agricultural Land Commission.
- **Jim Forbes** is the Ministry of Agriculture's Regional Agrologist for the Thompson Nicola/Interior region.

The panelists went on to describe their AACs and spoke on how they think their AACs are working well and a few suggestions on how their AACs could be improved. Some of them also went into further detail about how their AACs might pursue more active initiatives and how an AAC could bring further focus to farming issues and concerns with local government Councils or Regional Boards.

## 1. Showcasing Local Food

A selection of B.C. Okanagan apples were displayed for participants to eat throughout the day. The group was cordially challenged at the end of the workshop to try and guess all six varieties provided in which they succeeded in naming.

## 2. Workshop Attendees

| Participant        | Representing         |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| David Mutch        | Central Kootenay RD  |
| Janelle Taylor     | Central Okanagan RD  |
| Leo Gebert         | Central Okanagan RD  |
| Andreas Wins-Purdy | Central Okanagan RD  |
| Chris Kloot        | Chilliwack           |
| Jeff Ricketts      | Kelowna              |
| Yvonne Herbison    | Kelowna              |
| Domenic Rampone    | Kelowna              |
| Ed Schiller        | Kelowna              |
| Jill Worboys       | Kelowna              |
| John Janmaat       | Kelowna              |
| Melanie Steppuhn   | Kelowna              |
| Laura Bentley      | Kelowna              |
| Mike Reiley        | Coldstream           |
| Vicki Gee          | Kootenay Boundary RD |
| Roly Russell       | Kootenay Boundary RD |
| Mark Koch          | Lake Country         |
| Paul Dupuis        | Lake Country         |
| George Swarchuk    | Lake Country         |
| Dennis Lapierre    | North Okanagan RD    |
| Laura Frank        | North Okanagan RD    |
| Kathleen Connolly  | Peace River RD       |
| Leonard Hiebert    | Peace River RD       |
| Matt Faucher       | Peachland            |
| Blake Laven        | Penticton            |
| Rod Hollett        | Penticton            |
| Paul Gardner       | Penticton            |
| David Doran        | Spallumcheen         |
| Gerry Popoff       | Spallumcheen         |
| Ed Hanoski         | Spallumcheen         |
| Jan Bakker         | Spallumcheen         |
| Brian Upper        | Spallumcheen         |
| Christine Fraser   | Spallumcheen         |
| Claire Daniels     | Squamish Lillooet RD |
| Sam Quinlan        | Squamish Lillooet RD |
| Frank Kappel       | Summerland           |
| Julie Sardinha     | Summerland           |
| Denise MacDonald   | Summerland           |
| Erin Carlson       | Summerland           |
| John Greenall      | Thompson-Nicola RD   |
| Shirley Culver     | Thompson-Nicola RD   |
| Michelle Tsutsumi  | Thompson-Nicola RD   |
| Regina Sadilkova   | Thompson-Nicola RD   |
| Jan Bath           | West Kelowna         |
| Sheri Paynter      | West Kelowna         |
| Darin Schaal       | West Kelowna         |

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Nicole Pressey    | AGRI |
| Laura Code        | AGRI |
| Anne Skinner      | AGRI |
| Jim Forbes        | AGRI |
| Willow Minaker    | AGRI |
| Gregory Bartle    | AGRI |
| Kyle McStravick   | AGRI |
| Kim Grout         | ALC  |
| Lindsay McCoubrey | ALC  |
| Liz Sarioglu      | ALC  |
| Dave Birchmore    | ALC  |

## Reference Material

1. Appendix A: AACs - Strengthening Farming in Your Community Presentation. Kyle McStravick, Alison Fox, and Gregory Bartle, Ministry of Agriculture (Langley and Kelowna workshops)
2. Appendix B: ALC presentation on Fill. Katerina Glavis, ALC Senior Agrologist (Langley Workshop)
3. Appendix C: Peace River Regional District AAC Presentation. Leonard Hiebert, PRRD Area Director (Kelowna workshop)



Ministry of  
Agriculture

## **2018 AAC WORKSHOP APPENDIX A**

# **Agricultural Advisory Committees — Strengthening Farming in Your Community**

AAC Workshop, February 2018

Strengthening Farming Unit  
Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch  
Business Development Division  
B.C. Ministry of Agriculture

# Contents

1. What is an AAC?
2. Starting a new AAC
3. AAC Best Practices
4. Work of AACs
5. Traits of Effective AACs
6. Final Thoughts, Questions





# 1. Agricultural Advisory Committees

- Advisory body
- Appointed by Council or Regional Board
- Operates under Council or Board's Terms of Reference
- Day-to-Day & Broader Issues



## 2. AACs Across the Province

- There are now 44 AACs in BC!
- Ministry of Agriculture and ALC staff assist when requested
- A number of new AACs established in the past several years



# Existing AACs

- **Okanagan/Columbia Shuswap**

- Central Okanagan RD
- Coldstream
- Kelowna
- Lake Country
- North Okanagan RD
- Penticton
- Spallumcheen
- Summerland
- West Kelowna

- **Interior**

- Cariboo RD Electoral Area North
- Kamloops
- Thompson Nicola RD

- Squamish-Lillooet RD, Lillooet and Electoral Area B

- **Kootenay**

- Central Kootenay RD, Electoral Areas A, B, and C Creston Valley

- **North**

- Bulkley Nechako RD
- Northern Rockies Regional Municipality
- Peace River RD

# Existing AACs

- **Island**
  - Alberni-Clayoquot RD
  - Capital Regional District, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area
  - Central Saanich
  - Courtney
  - Comox Valley RD
  - Cowichan Valley RD
  - Islands Trust (Gabriola Island)
  - Langford
  - Metchosin
  - Nanaimo RD
  - North Cowichan
  - North Saanich
  - Powell River Regional Economic Development Society
  - Saanich Peninsula, Peninsula & Area Agricultural Commission (PAAC)

# Existing AACs

- **South Coast**

- Abbotsford
- Chilliwack
- Delta
- Hope
- Kent
- Langley (Township)
- Maple Ridge
- Metro Vancouver
- Pitt Meadows
- Richmond
- Squamish-Lillooet RD  
Electoral Area C  
(Pemberton Valley)
- Sunshine Coast RD
- Surrey

# 3. Starting an AAC

Organizational choices:

- Should it be a formal body or community group?
- Is it a Select or Standing Committee?
- How about an Advisory Planning Commission?





# Formal Committees

An AAC may exist as one of three types of formal body:

1. A ***Standing Committee***
2. A ***Select Committee***
3. A farming focused ***Advisory Planning Commission*** (APC) tasked with agricultural issues.

# AAC Composition

- Number of Councilors
- Advisory role
- Outside voices
- Diversity
- Chair?



# AAC Terms of Reference

- ToR should be reviewed on regular basis and updated from time to time
- May include:
  - Purpose of the AAC
  - Membership
  - Meeting Procedures
- Strengthening Farming Program website includes a model AAC Terms of Reference



### 3. AAC Best Practices

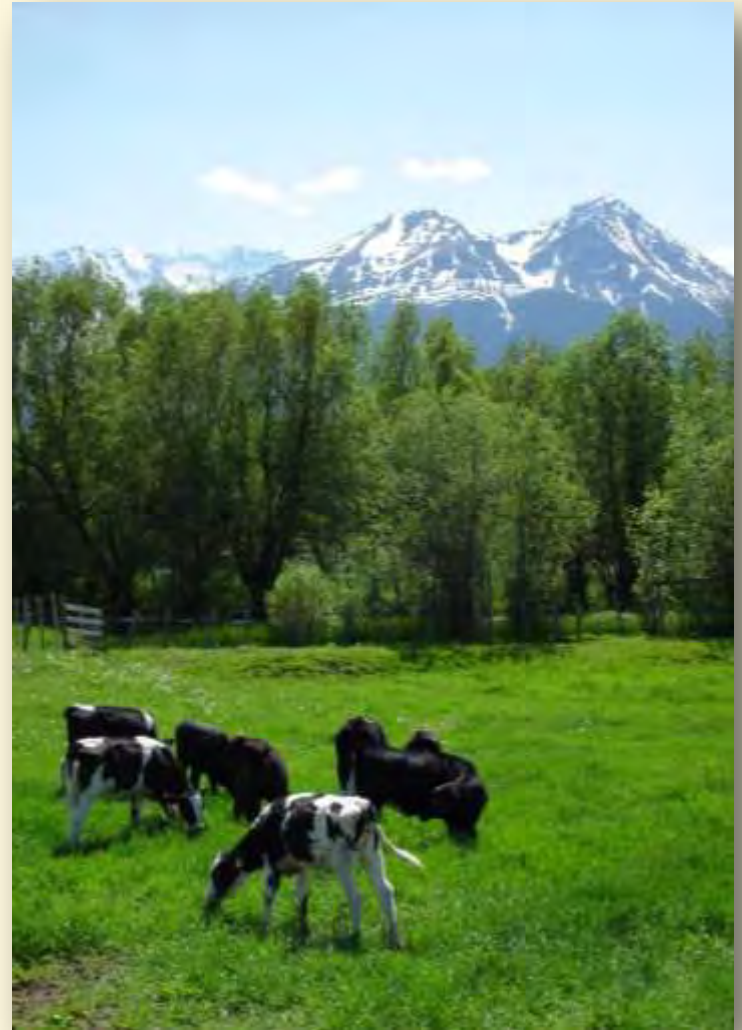
- Meeting times reflect farming schedules
- Clear conflict of interest guidelines
- Frequent contact between AAC & staff liaison (monthly emails)
- AAC tackles applications (reactive) and broader issues (proactive)





# AAC Relationships

- Effective relationship between the AAC and council or regional board
- AAC liaison to other committees
- Connect with the farm community beyond AAC members...



# Farm Community Links

- Appoint farm representatives to committees
- Input from farmers' institutes
- Ministry of Agriculture and ALC staff contacts
- Council or board member as farm/ranch liaison
- Staff person focussed on agricultural issues
- Farm tours and on-farm workshops for staff, politicians and/or the public



# Open Meetings

- Community Charter requires meetings of Council to be 'open' which includes committees of Council.
- Manage meetings carefully to allow considered discussion and opportunities to speak.



## 4. The Work of an AAC

- Day-to-day (Reactive) roles
  - Zoning Amendments & ALR applications
  - Comment on urban edge development
- Long range (Proactive) roles
  - Providing input into OCP and zoning bylaw reviews
  - Create awareness (e.g. farm tours)
  - Agricultural Area Planning
  - Study impact of recreation on agriculture



# Reactive Work of an AAC

- Review proposed
  - Community plans
  - Policies
  - Bylaws
- Provide input on
  - ALR applications
  - Rezoning applications
  - Water management issues
  - Other proposals that impact agriculture

# Proactive Work of AACs

- **Creating awareness – farm tours** with elected officials and other members of the community – most AACs
- **Reviewing water rates applied to the farm area** – and making a recommendation to Council to lower them
- Acting as the steering committee or assisting with an Agricultural Area Plan or Economic Development Strategy
- Studying the impacts of recreation on agriculture



# Committees in Regional Districts

- Can provide a broader regional perspective
- Can address different issues than municipal or electoral area AACs
  - Regional co-ordination
  - E.g. irrigation, dyking and drainage



# Indicators of AAC Effectiveness

- AAC purposes are clear
- Meeting governance is clear & direct
- Open communication among AAC members
- A relaxed atmosphere
- Chair & members attend prepared
- Interested and engaged members
- Minutes are complete and concise
- Periodic assessment of committee's work
- Recognition and appreciation of members so they feel they are making a contribution
- Local government accepts the AAC advice as a valuable contribution to decision making

# Ideas to Enhance AAC Effectiveness

- Cultivate good relationships with Council/Board, staff and other stakeholders
- Craft clear and concise recommendations to Council/Board.
- Provide education and agricultural awareness to the community
- Keep AAC members engaged by providing education to members

# Final Thoughts

- AACs are often the voice of the agricultural community within local government
- AACs can provide valuable input into the decision making process of Councils and Boards and can have a positive impact on planning for agriculture in their communities.



Photos: Picture BC (centre and right)



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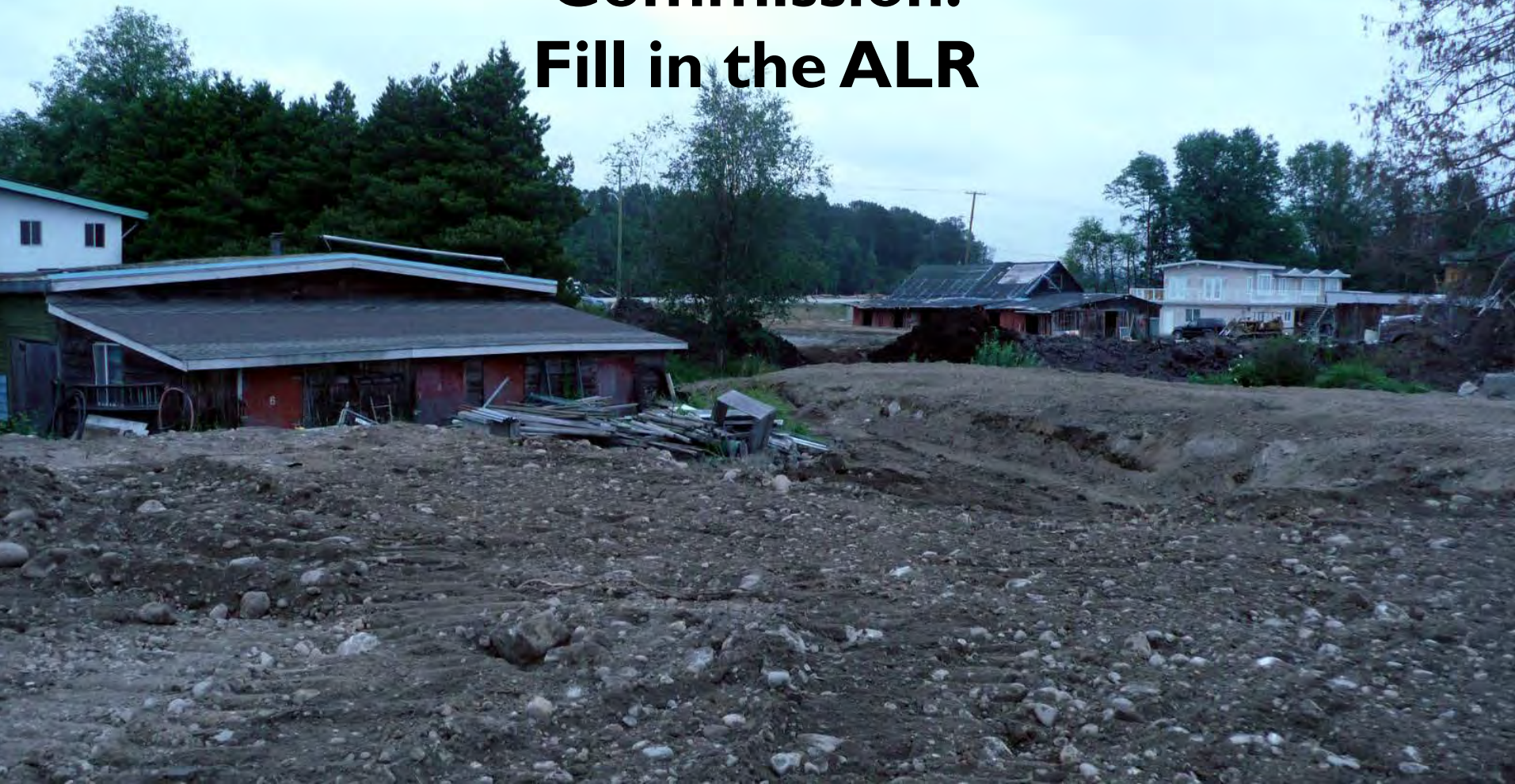
# Questions and Comments?



Strengthening Farming Unit  
Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch  
Business Development Division  
B.C. Ministry of Agriculture



# **Agricultural Land Commission: Fill in the ALR**





# Fill in the ALR

- Filling is an allowed activity in the ALR:
  - Designated Farm Uses;
  - Notice of Intent (NOI); and
  - Non-Farm Use to Place Fill Application

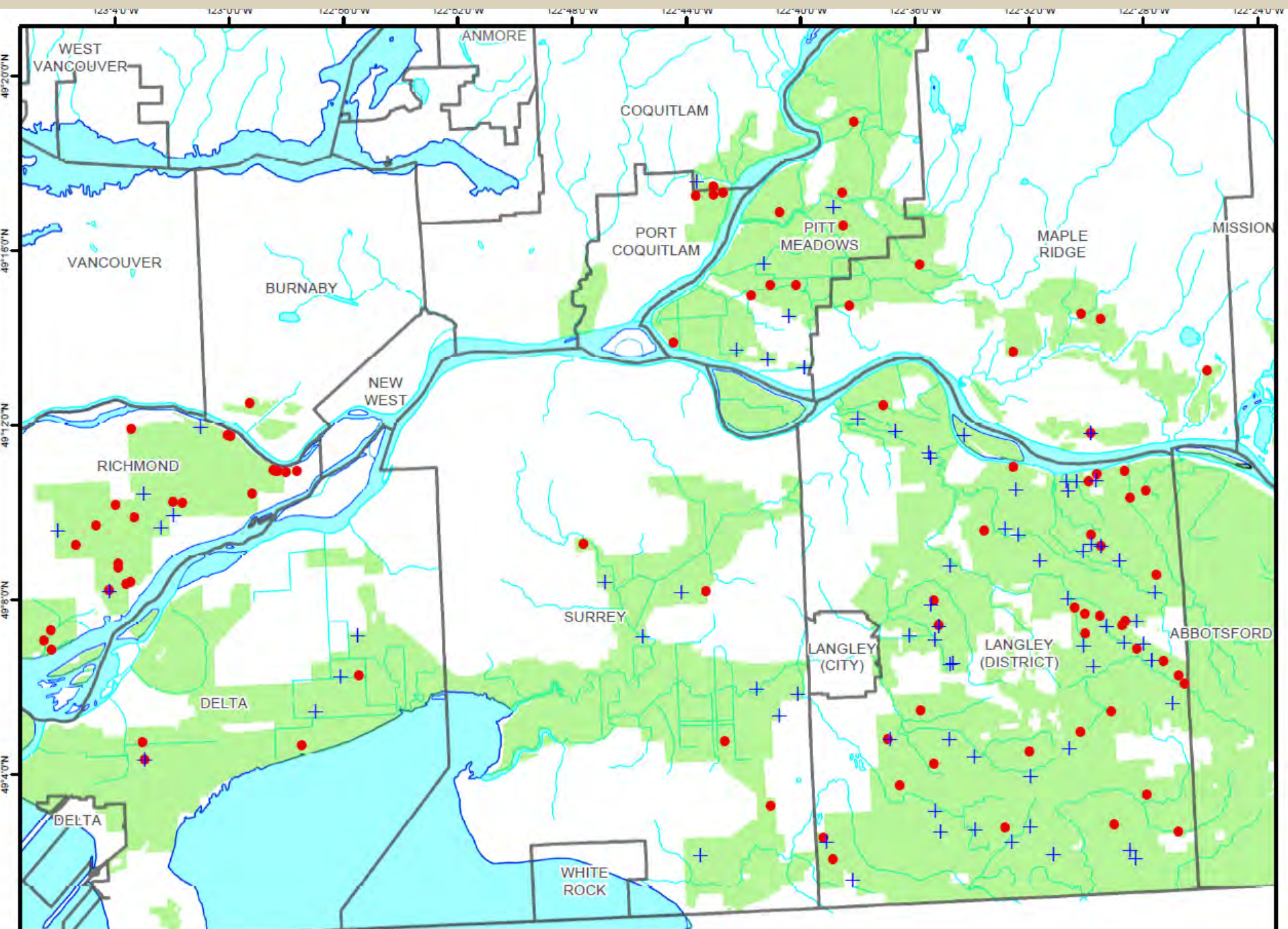


# Fill in the ALR

- Majority of the applications are in the South Coast region
- Applications are primarily to improve high water table or topography
- Filling can improve agricultural capability if completed under supervision; however....

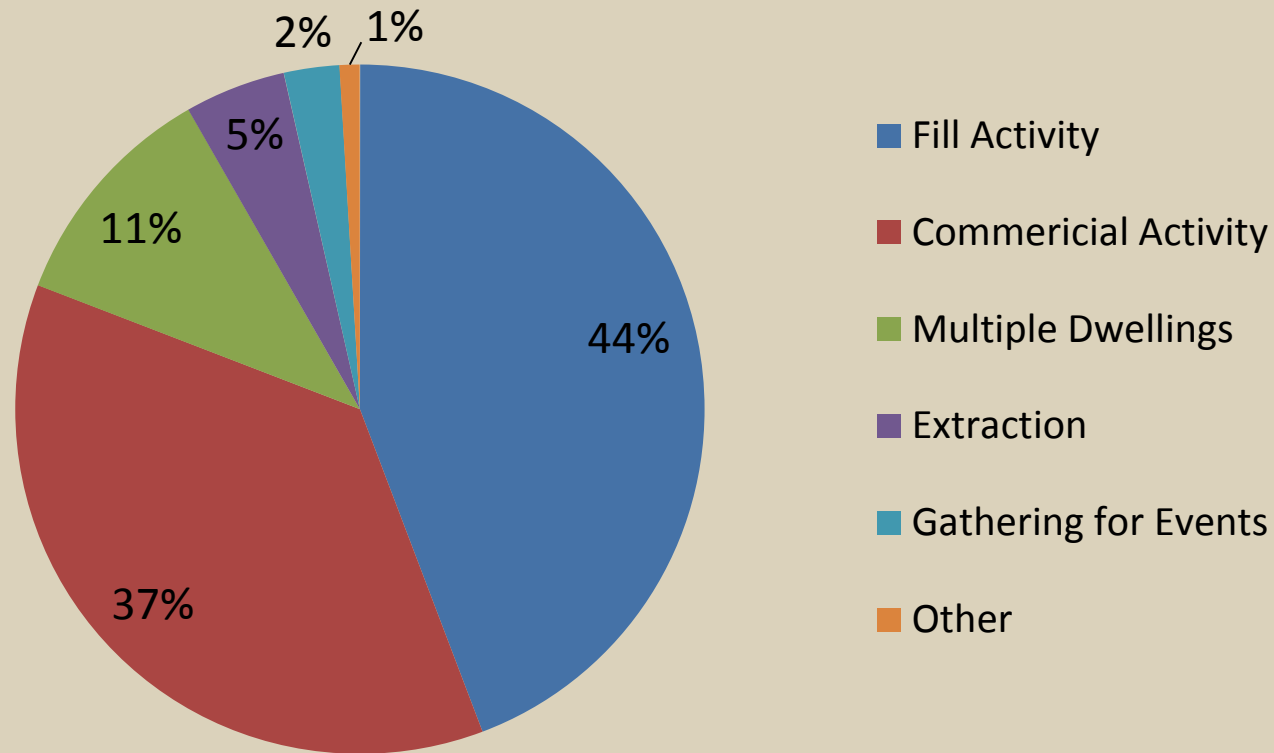
# Fill in the ALR

- Dumping of construction and demolition debris
- Poor quality fill (stony soils, clay)
- Excessive volumes of fill (e.g. 7 meters above grade)
- Loss of topsoil
- Drainage problems on adjacent properties
- Unauthorized fill



# Priority issues

2016/17 C&E Files by Type











**ALC**

Concrete for a farm road

















5 meters



Date & Time: Tue May 30 16:09:33 PDT 2017

Position: +049.70185° / -124.88614°

Altitude: 6m

Datum: WGS-84

Azimuth/Bearing: 338° N22W 6009mils (True)

Elevation Angle: -15.2°

Horizon Angle: -06.6°

Zoom: 1X













# Problems: Fill in the ALR

- Driven by development (excavated material from building sites, subdivisions)
- Cash incentive - landowner receives tipping fees ranging from \$50 to \$200/load
- Average fill site receives 6,000 truck loads
- Tipping fee increases with poorer quality material

# Problems: Fill in the ALR

- More monitoring – 4 new C&E Officers, new Staff Agrologist,
- Local Government Collaboration
- Stricter conditions on approved fill application sites
- Changes to the Act and Regulation???
- Develop a draft fill policy
- Soils Advisory Group



# Problems: Fill in the ALR

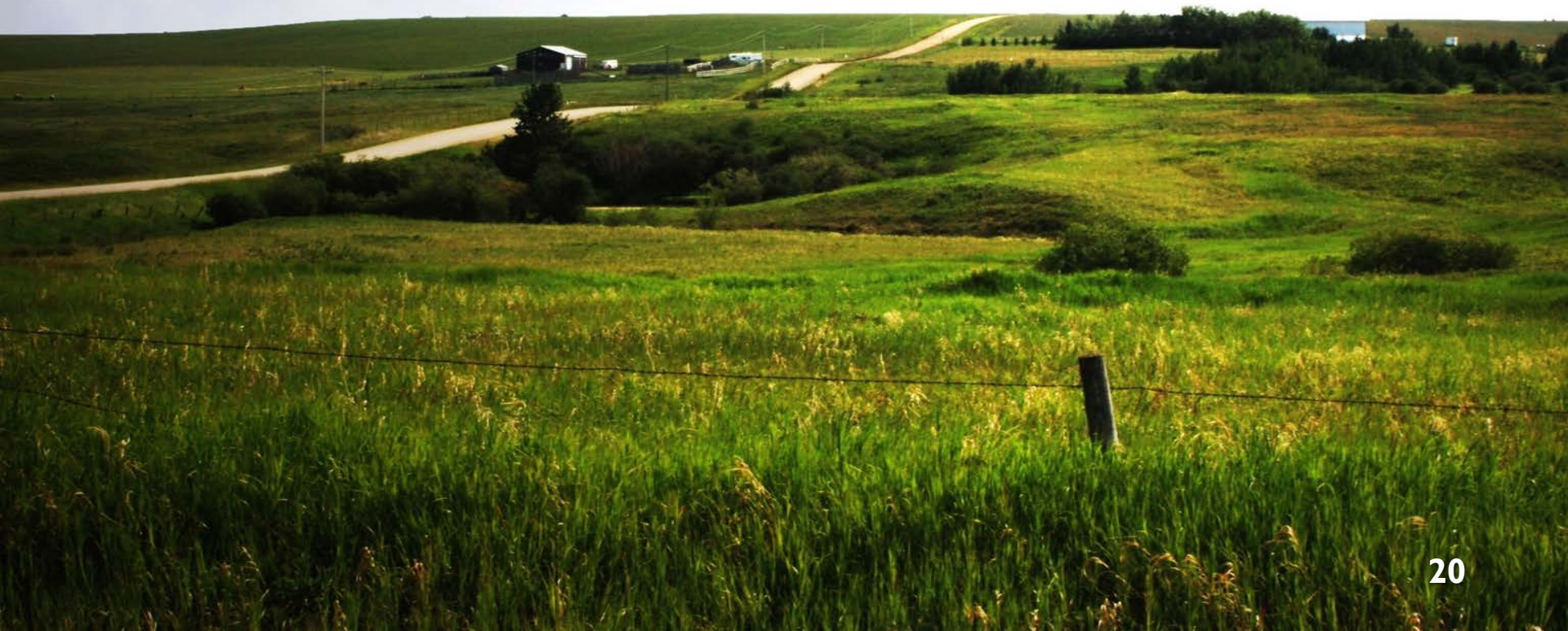
- Comprehensive study on the impacts of fill in Metro Vancouver to be published within the next couple of weeks
- Developed a fill policy to guide applications

# Fill Policy

Fill Policy to address the following:

- Definition of fill
- Need vs. Want – when is fill necessary
- How much fill is necessary
- Adequate security bonding

# Questions?



**2018 AAC WORKSHOP  
APPENDIX C**



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

# Agricultural Advisory Committee

diverse. vast. abundant.





## Who We Are

- The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) was established in 1987 when the lands formerly included in the Peace River-Liard Regional District were divided into two regional districts.
- The PRRD serves a population of 58,264 that reside in seven incorporated municipalities and four rural electoral areas.
- The PRRD is the largest Regional District, encompassing 120,000 square kilometers.





Peace River Regional District

120,000 km<sup>2</sup>

British Columbia

944,735 km<sup>2</sup>

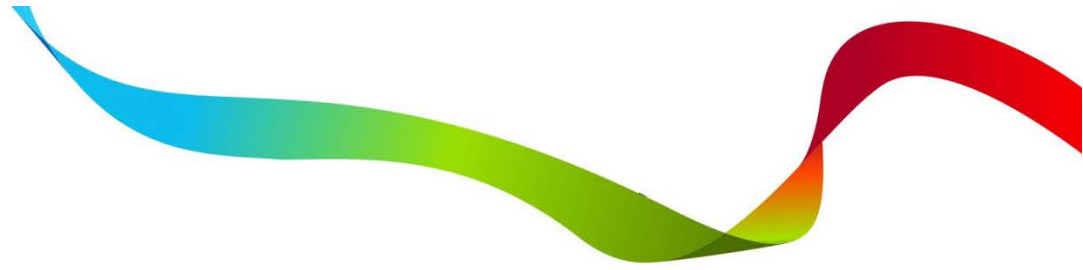






## **How the AAC came about in the PRRD**

- Allan Blair from the Ministry of Agriculture attended a Regional Board Meeting as a delegation.
  - In 2001 the PRRD received a letter from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries inquiring if there was interest in establishing an AAC for the Peace Region.
  - The letter was referred to the Rural Issues committee (now known as the Electoral Area Directors Committee).
-



- The Rural Issues Committee asked staff to send out a survey to other Regional Districts requesting information on Committee Costs, Terms of Reference, Structure samples, Relationships with the community and the Board, and if there were any pitfalls that should be avoided in setting up the AAC.
- On January 2002, the Rural Issues Committee recommended to the Board that an AAC be established, with a maximum budget of \$10,000.00, to include payment of travel expenses for AAC members.
- April 2002- The Regional Board approved the Terms of Reference and membership list for the AAC.
- The first AAC meeting was held on August 12, 2002.



- Original Terms of Reference and Membership List



2005 AAC\_TOR.pdf



644822BC.pdf



## **AAC Successes**

Input to the Board on various initiatives such as:

- Weed Control
- Grain Shipping
- Managing ATV's and Snowmobiles on Private Land
- Domestic Water Protection
- BC Assessment- split assessments, retirees wishing to stay on their land
- Meetings with the ALC
- Official Community Plans within the Region
- Neonicotinoid Pesticides- relating to Bees
- Genetically modified Crops and Zones



- Agriculture Plastics
- Regional Ag Plan
- Large Water Disposal Site(Frac water)
- Flaring
- Crop Insurance
- BC Hydro Rates
- Farmers Advocate(landowner advocate-oil and gas industry)

If the AAC decided to take on a project, it would need to be approved by the Regional Board before any work could be done with the project.





## Challenges

- Succession of members from different Producer/Commodity groups and member at large positions, currently have one member at large still vacant.
- Attracting different organizations to participate; eg. No members of the Farmers Market have joined (could not find any registered groups, although the Market is active every weekend).
- At times the AAC would like to have more control than the Board allows (forgetting that they are an advisory committee at the request of the Board).



- Demographical location of some commodity/producer groups.
- The Geographical location in general- the distance some members have to travel to the meetings can be up 300+kms round trip for a 3-4 hour meeting.





## PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

### HEAD OFFICE

Box 810 1981 Alaska Avenue  
Dawson Creek, BC  
V1G 4HB

Tel: 250-784-3200  
Toll Free: 250-670-7773  
Fax: 250-784-3201  
Email: [prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca](mailto:prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca)

### BRANCH OFFICE

9505 100 Street  
Fort St. John, BC  
V1J 4N4

Tel: 250-785-8084  
Toll Free: 250-670-7773  
Fax: 250-785-1125  
Email: [prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca](mailto:prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca)

### WEBSITE

[www.prrd.bc.ca](http://www.prrd.bc.ca)

### Chair of AAC

### Director Hiebert

[Leonard.Hiebert@prrd.bc.ca](mailto:Leonard.Hiebert@prrd.bc.ca)

**250-219-8098**